

LA PASIÓN RIVER · PETÉN, GUATEMALA

Restoration connecting nature, community and responsible production

A Nature-based Solutions model from the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

The La Pasión river is the environmental, social and cultural backbone of Sayaxché, Petén, in northern Guatemala. Its 354 kilometres cross one of Mesoamerica's most biodiverse territories, connecting 65 communities as part of the **Mesoamerican Biological Corridor** — a strategic axis for

regional ecological connectivity. Today, its riparian zones are being actively restored through a multi-stakeholder model that demonstrates how responsible production and conservation can advance together.

THE PROJECT

The La Pasión River Riparian Restoration Project, in Sayaxché, Petén, launched in May 2025 with a goal of restoring 210 hectares of degraded ecosystems along the river.

Phase 1 targets **70 hectares in 2025** using native species grown in a nursery within El Rosario National Park — capacity of 75,000 plants.

Core actions:

- ✓ Reforestation with native regional species
- ✓ Integration of smallholder farmers into sustainable practices
- ✓ Riverbank stabilization and flood risk reduction
- ✓ Biodiversity recovery and water quality improvement
- ✓ Sustainable livelihood strengthening for local communities

Aligned with:

- ✓ Guatemala's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- ✓ UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ✓ IUCN Nature-based Solutions (NbS) principles
- ✓ GREPALMA Zero Deforestation Commitment

WHY IT MATTERS?

Nature-based Solutions in action

A real-world NbS model delivering measurable outcomes for climate, biodiversity and water — aligned with GCF and EU Green Deal priorities.

Strategic corridor for global biodiversity

Riparian zones along the La Pasión River are part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, a critical axis for regional ecological connectivity and species conservation.

Replicable governance model

The multi-stakeholder Mesa can be adapted to other Mesoamerican river basins — a scalable blueprint for territorial co-governance.

Responsible production + conservation

Demonstrates that agro-industrial supply chains and ecological restoration can be designed to advance together.

Community resilience at the centre

65 communities depend on the La Pasión River. This project protects their water, livelihoods and cultural heritage — including 28 Maya archaeological sites in the basin.

210 ha

Total restoration goal

70 ha

Phase 1 - underway
2025 - 2026

75,000

Plants in forest nursery

65

Communities in basin

354 km

Length of La Pasión river

THE RESTORATION ROUNDTABLE

A multi-stakeholder governance body with its own institutional life — bringing together public institutions, private sector, civil society and international cooperation around a shared territorial objective.

Municipality of Sayaxché

CONAP · INAB · MAGA · MINEDUC

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

GIZ · FAO · Heifer International

Fundación NPV · Asociación BALAM

ARCAS · Apostolic Vicariate of Petén

ADIRP Sayaxché · NAISA

GREPALMA · Grupo HAME (REPSA)

Phase 1 funder: Olenex · MARIPOSA Initiative
Coordinated by: GREPALMA · Grupo HAME (REPSA)

AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN

Phase 1 is underway. The model is proven. The remaining 140 hectares represent a concrete investment window in ecological restoration, climate resilience and sustainable territorial development.

We are looking for partners:

- **Financial:** Scale restoration from 70 to 210 ha
- **Technical:** Strengthen local capacities and monitoring
- **Strategic:** Position this model as a regional reference
- **Communication:** Amplify the initiative's reach and impact



Watch the project in action



Nature-Based Solutions in Action

<https://youtu.be/dW8oYBLxg04>

Scan QR or click link to watch the video

*"From the **green heart of Guatemala** to the world — restoring today for climate, biodiversity and water."*

Join us to scale restoration!

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