We are this kind of organization...
By providing inspiration and possibility we help a diversity of life to flourish, including our own.
What We Do and Why

We believe that the preservation of biological diversity, ecosystems, and natural places is critically important to the survival of us all—people, plants, and animals alike. In addition to the intrinsic value of nature and wildlife, biological diversity and healthy ecosystems provide humankind with many of the things that sustain our lives, including clean air and water, fertile soil, a stable climate, food, medicines, materials and technologies, and a diversity of genes and species—not to mention recreational opportunities and natural beauty.

EcoLogic collaborates with the rural poor in Central America and Mexico and helps local communities identify, evaluate, and prioritize their conservation and natural resource needs. We then work with them to obtain what they need—skills, financing, materials, access to decision makers and experts, hands-on experience, and other forms of support—to restore and conserve the tropical ecosystems where they live and on which they rely for basic necessities and well-being.

One of our fundamental beliefs is that the people who live near or in a threatened ecosystem are those who are best positioned to repair and protect that system for the long term. Or, put another way, we believe that when people understand that their quality of life is reliant upon the health of their natural environment, and they have a direct hand in identifying and creating ways to protect and sustainably use their natural resources, both nature and people are served.

In all of our work, EcoLogic acts strategically, community by community, building on common interests and goals, to create alliances that will lead to cumulative, positive impacts—impacts that are not just local, but on a regional scale and beyond. It is through collaboration that we believe humankind will achieve positive, sustainable change. And though the threats are imminent and the challenges real, we are confident that through mutual cooperation and respect we still have time to conserve and protect our one shared planet, Earth.
Thank you for your support of EcoLogic.

EcoLogic was founded in 1993 to answer the critical need for an organization that protects ecosystems and natural environments, while never forgetting that the local people are central to the solution, not the problem. Since that time, our organization has worked in some of the most economically poor but environmentally rich areas of Latin America, seeking ways to protect those environments while also helping the people who rely on them. As Greg Ch’oc, an EcoLogic board member and Q’eqchi Maya, observes in these pages, “We are a part and parcel of the ecosystem where we live. . . . We don’t see ourselves as separate. Both must thrive together.”

An annual report provides the opportunity to reflect on the past while also looking ahead. EcoLogic is in an important period of transition. We are positioning ourselves to be a model conservation organization, identifying and implementing conservation strategies that are tailored to the particular areas where they are applied, while at the same time gaining insight into techniques for replicating such programs elsewhere. And we do so always within a framework of community-led environmental stewardship. To become even more effective, we are also strengthening our project analysis and internal management, mapping out our organization’s “Theory of Change” for public dissemination, and completing a new five-year strategic plan, to begin in 2012.

The year 2010 also marked the beginning of a new era of leadership at EcoLogic as we took on the respective roles of founding director and managing director. Sharing the management responsibilities of EcoLogic, as we do, has its challenges but also its rewards. We both believe deeply and passionately in the mission and impact of EcoLogic, and as we move forward in the coming year, we are grateful for our respective strengths and for the ability to divide our labor to capitalize on our individual abilities. We are also appreciative of the creativity and can-do spirit we see in the incredible team of professionals at EcoLogic, whom we are fortunate to call colleagues and friends.

EcoLogic would not succeed without your support—the support of individuals and institutions that believe in our mission and the way we carry it out. In this time of looking forward, we value your feedback more than ever. We want you to communicate with us about what you like and don’t like, what you want to hear more about, what inspires you, and what you think really matters about where we work and what we do.

We are not the first to tackle these challenges, but we have a successful approach to finding solutions, and no organization is more deeply committed to making positive and lasting change for tropical ecosystems and the communities that live in them.

Please feel free to come by our headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, or our regional office in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, to meet us and share your ideas as well as your commitment to lasting and positive change.

Peter Kalil
Managing Director

Shaun Paul
Founding Director
EcoLogic puts its heart into what it does. The staff work closely with local populations, they respect them, and they listen to the people. And I come from Latin America, where I know women’s voices are often ignored. I’ve seen how EcoLogic works to empower local people, not just the men but the women, too. Twice I went on EcoLogic-sponsored trips to Guatemala and saw groups of women from the community participating in the projects and having control over the specifics. We all have to value and protect these beautiful places—they are so important for us to live well. Getting everyone involved makes a big difference, and that’s what EcoLogic does.”

— Norma Ferriz

Friend and regular donor to EcoLogic since 2005
“It moved my heart,” says Regional Program Director Gabriela “Gaby” González about a site visit she made shortly after joining EcoLogic, in October 2010. “We went to a remote village a few hours from Livingston, Guatemala. EcoLogic had just started helping the people build a nursery for guama (Inga edulis) trees to increase their crop yields. After hiking for a couple of hours, we arrived at a village in the jungle. It was preciosa—a place full of natural beauty. We were quickly surrounded by young children. I remarked to one, ‘What beautiful land you have,’ and he said back to me, ‘Yes, but without a future.’”

Born in Quetzaltenango (or Xela), Guatemala, and raised by parents with an abiding love for trees and natural places, Gaby grew up with an understanding that “you have to give back to the world.” She earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in business administration from Rafael Landívar University in Quetzaltenango and then worked at the university for seven years as the director of finance and administration. Her brother, who works for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), told her of an opening at EcoLogic, “an American environmental nonprofit that was known for respecting people.”

As the regional program director for EcoLogic, Gaby appreciates working at an organization that “strikes a balance between helping people and protecting the natural world.” Almost a year after the site visit to Northern Guatemala, she reports that the guama trees have grown to saplings and the people are transplanting them with this season’s crops. “I realized during the visit that by helping families grow enough food for both the table and to sell for additional income, EcoLogic helps give children hope. That’s an important part of our mission: helping people believe that there can be a better future.”

* An agriculture technique known as agro-forestry or intercropping uses certain tree species, such as guama (Inga) and Andean alder (Alnus) to help food crops grow without chemical fertilizers by fixing nitrogen and providing leaf litter to enrich the soil. These species also thrive with heavy pruning and so provide a fuel wood crop as well.
SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

Since 2009, EcoLogic has welcomed ArtCorps fellows to project sites in Guatemala and Honduras. Professional artists volunteer as ArtCorps fellows for a year to two years to support the environmental, public health and human rights initiatives of organizations in Central America such as EcoLogic and our local partner organizations. ArtCorps fellows use creative approaches to educate, empower and mobilize communities.

These are but a few examples of the successes we had in the past year.

**Planted Tens of Thousands of Trees**
Constructed greenhouses and nurseries and planted tens of thousands of trees in targeted reforestation efforts, including biological corridors for species and buffers for parks and conservation areas.

**Trained Park Rangers**
Trained dozens of “forest guardians” (park rangers) to watch over forests and protected areas.

**Community Organizing**
Conducted meetings, negotiations, and learning exchanges within communities and among natural resource stakeholders to improve management, protection, and sustainable-use practices.

**Forest Carbon Project**
Identified a forest carbon project in Chiapas, Mexico, in our Carbon Plus Program and began data collection and analysis in collaboration with national and local partners.

**Fuel-Efficient Stoves**
Helped local people build hundreds of fuel-efficient wood stoves to reduce firewood consumption and improve health conditions.

**Sustainable Fishing Practices**
Worked with coastal fishing communities to identify and adopt sustainable fishing practices.

**Fought Climate Change**
Helped Sichuan and Xinjiang provinces in China exceed carbon-offset goals by more than 50 percent. In 2008, we became part of a payment for environmental services (PES) pilot project that aligned with our organizational goals and gave us the opportunity to see how our expertise could apply in a different part of the world. The successes in the past year resulted from installing drip-irrigation systems in farmers’ fields, planting trees in areas prone to desertification, and building methane-powered stoves using human waste as fuel. Importantly, both provincial governments continue to put in place these positive environmental practices.

**Protected Fresh Water Sources**
Improved monitoring, protection, and management of fresh water sources, including wooded watersheds, lakes, marshes, rivers, and streams.

**Supported Small Farmers**
Provided seeds, training, and expertise to small farmers in Northern Honduras and Guatemala to successfully use guama (Inga edulis) and Andean Alder (Alnus acuminata) trees to raise food crops without chemicals and provide an alternative fuel wood via regular pruning.

**SwissRe Award**
Near the close of 2010 we received notice that we had placed second in the SwissRe award competition for exceptional programs that “raise awareness of the ecological, social, and economic significance of water sources and watersheds in developing and emerging countries,” and would receive a $50,000 to our project—a watershed management initiative in Honduras.

**Shared Critical Knowledge and Expertise**
Teamed with peer organizations ELTI of Yale University, Forest Trends, and Rainforest Alliance to offer a workshop on the identification and management of projects that use payment for environmental services (PES) mechanisms. More than 50 leaders and technicians from Central American community organizations and nonprofits attended the week-long course, which focused on PES programs for water, carbon, and biodiversity.
Board of Directors
2010
Bill Green
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Nicholas A. Shufro
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Ecology Development Fund
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The Smithsonian Institution
Enrique Leff
United Nations Environment Programme
Joshua Mailman
Sirius Business
Frances Moore Lappé
Small Planet Institute
Ian Todreas
Eastern Regional Group (ERG)

Interns and Volunteers
2010
Sarah Coleman
Barrie Golden
Pat Goudvis
Andrea McIsaac
Margaret Mulcahy
Andrea Savage
Elizabeth Teague

Donors
In 2010, 332 donations under
$1,000 combined to provide
$22,470 in support to our
programs. We are grateful to
these loyal donors who continue
to sustain our work.

Ecology extends its sincerest
thanks to the following individuals
and organizations who contributed
$1,000 or more in 2010.

Individuals & Institutions
Anonymous (2)
Arntz Family Foundation
ASOPROGAL
Atkinson Foundation
Citi Foundation
David L. Webb and Carolyn Gordon
Fernando Paiz
Flora Family Foundation
Fondo para la Conservación
de los Bosques Tropicales
Forest Trends
Fundación Natura
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Keneda Fund
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
New England Biolabs Foundation
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Oak Foundation
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Deborah Atwood
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The Blue Oak Charitable Fund
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Future
US Fish and Wildlife Service—
Neotropical Migratory
Birds Act
US Fish and Wildlife Service—
Wildlife Without Borders, Latin
America and the Caribbean
Virginia Wellington Cabot
Foundation
Wallace Genetic Foundation

Ambassadors
Donations provided to Ecology’s
Ambassador Campaign are used
for general operating support.

The investment that Ambassadors
are making toward the Campaign
allows Ecology to build its capa-
city, which has a direct impact
on our programs in Mexico and
Central America.

Ambassadors-at-Large
($10,000+)
Bill Green and Linda Green

Consul General
($2,500–$4,999)
Susanna Bagdley Place and
David Place
Ian L. Todreas

Chargé d’Affaires
($1,000–$2,499)
Alfred and Sally Alcorn
Carol Madsen
Carra Cheslin
Dan Tunstall
Jean-Mari Peltier
Kathrin Winkler
Lauren McGregor and
George Romanik
Lisa Leff
Martha Taub
Monica M. Austin
Nicholas A. Shufro
Ray Grenier

Corporate Sponsors
The Nation
The Sustainability Group
Trillium Asset Management
Corporation
Wainwright Bank
Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee

In-Kind Contributions
Playa Viva Sustainable Resort
(David Leverthall)
Susanna Bagdley Place
and David Place
Eco-Elegant Design
Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning
and Dialogue
48HourPrint
**Summarized Statement of Activities for 2010 Fiscal Year (US$)**

**SUPPORT & REVENUE**

- Grants and Contributions: 1,810,920
- In-Kind Donations: 29,840
- Contract Income: 173,087
- Interest Income: 3,111
- Loss on equipment: (1,558)
- Rental Income: 12,300
- Loss on investment in subsidiary: (32,064)
- **Total Support & Revenue**: 1,995,636

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services: 1,384,399
- Management & General: 192,299
- Fundraising: 374,539
- **Total Expenses**: 1,951,237

**Change In Net Assets**: 44,399

Net Assets – Beginning Of Year: 1,436,168

Net Assets – End Of Year: 1,480,567

**Statement of Financial Position at End of 2010 Fiscal Year**

**ASSETS**

- Current Assets
  - Cash: 1,638,700
  - Pledges and Accounts Receivable: 504,698
  - Advances: 1,011
  - Loan receivable: 3,200
  - Prepaid Expenses: 8,008
  - **Total Current Assets**: 2,155,617

- Other Assets
  - Deposit: 6,033
  - Investment in Subsidiaries: 72,370
  - Pledges receivable, long-term: 94,488
  - **Total Other Assets**: 172,891

- Fixed Assets
  - Property & Equipment Less Depreciation: 57,224
  - **Total Fixed Assets**: 57,224

- **Total Assets**: 2,385,732

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

- Current Liabilities
  - Accrued Expenses: 891,331
  - Loan Payable: 9,212
  - **Total Current Liabilities**: 900,543

- Long-Term Liabilities
  - Note payable: 4,622
  - **Total long-term liabilities**: 4,622

- Net Assets
  - Unrestricted: 893,881
  - Temporarily Restricted: 586,686
  - **Total Net Assets**: 1,480,567
  - **Total Liabilities & Net Assets**: 2,385,732

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**Kendeda Fund Invests for the Future**

In late 2009, we were pleased to learn that the Kendeda Fund would provide up to $3 million over the course of five years to help EcoLogic “build a sustainable and diverse financial base.” A private foundation that first donated to EcoLogic in 2006, the Kendeda Fund supports organizations that work to answer the question of how humanity can “live within the limits of the natural world in ways that promote community, equity, and health.” The Kendeda Fund characterizes its investment in EcoLogic “as an important channel to benefit communities and ecosystems throughout Central America.” We welcomed the commitment, particularly as the Kendeda Fund approaches the relationship as a partnership—offering guidance and expertise during quarterly meetings—in much the same way EcoLogic partners with organizations in locations where we work.

This is an exciting opportunity for us to build our capacity and improve our ability to fund and engage in the projects vital to furthering our mission. After receiving the funding, we made critical investments, developing a long-term financial sustainability plan, and hiring staff to increase our capacity around institutional and online giving. While this has meant that for the time being our budget appears a bit “top heavy,” these are critical steps to gaining a broader base of allies and supporters as we build for the future and seek to replicate our work in more places of need throughout Central America and Mexico.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the Kendeda Fund and to engaging with the growing community of benefactors and friends the relationship fosters.
Tell us about your background.
I'm Q'eqchi' Maya and was born on the Rio Grande Maya Reservation, but lived most of my life here in Punta Gorda. After high school, I spent two years in the US at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico studying computer science. I came back to Belize and taught at the local high school for a couple of years, and then, in 1994, I won a scholarship to study for a year abroad and went to the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College at the University of Regina in Canada. It was there I was exposed to the international indigenous movement. The curriculum included classes that dealt with indigenous peoples’ struggles at the global level. I had heard of an international movement while in Punta Gorda, but I wasn't aware of the intensity at the global level. It was amazing to see there was a unified position, and it gave me a framework for looking at what was happening in Belize at the time. Land was being expropriated, oil companies and mining companies were granted concessions on the land of indigenous people. These companies weren't being policed, and they destroyed our land. I recognized then that what we experience in Belize is not an isolated occurrence.

That understanding really motivated me when I came back to Belize, and I joined the Q'eqchi' council. I was elected president of the council in 1998.

How did you find out about EcoLogic?
I first heard of EcoLogic when I met Shaun Paul, the founding director, in 1996 at a meeting of various groups working to protect a conservation area from a Malaysian logging company that was trying to clear-cut the jungle. Shaun took an interest in the Sarstoon Temash National Park Steering Committee (STNPSC)—what later became the Sarstoon-Temash Institute for Indigenous Management, or SATIIM—and EcoLogic began helping us in very valuable and concrete ways that no other group was doing at the time.

How was your experience with EcoLogic different than with other organizations?
EcoLogic provides hands-on support. In my experience, I have seen other organizations come in and ask, “How is the project going? What are the challenges? How can we help?” But they won’t help us do things. We were a new organization and didn’t know a lot of the nitty-gritty aspects of development work, and EcoLogic helped us figure out how to do many different things. For example, I didn’t know how to contract with consultants—how to determine costs or how you reflect them in budgets for a funder. I didn’t know what information was needed. We had to conduct assessments of soil, geology, and hydrology. We needed to do a socio-economic assessment and to look at traditional knowledge and document it. EcoLogic helped us figure out what we needed to do and showed us how to do it.

Why did you decide to join the EcoLogic board of directors?
The board felt that I would contribute a valuable perspective, having 15 years of experience as an indigenous leader and working very directly on the problems that EcoLogic works to solve. North American organizations often make assumptions without realizing it. For example, a “protected area” is something largely incomprehensible to indigenous people. Our culture doesn’t have the concept of conservation the way western societies do. We have what we call “sacred sites.” We are part and parcel of the ecosystem where we live. We use it sustainably—and we want it to be used sustainably by others. We don’t see ourselves as separate. Both must thrive together.
How It Works

Composting latrine

Going to the bathroom is dirty business if you don’t have the right plumbing. Groundwater gets contaminated. Diseases spread. Mangroves die off, as do the fish and wildlife that rely on them.

But not with a composting latrine, where liquids are channeled through a layer of rocks and eventually reenter the water table, while solids go to a separate receptacle where they are treated with sawdust or leaf litter and allowed to decompose for six months. Using composting latrines means drinking water is uncontaminated by sewage, compost is available for crops, mangroves stay healthy, and wildlife thrives.

Fuel-efficient wood-burning stoves

Using a wood-burning stove is hard work. Cutting, Hauling, Stacking, Stocking, Clearing ash. It’s tough on trees, too. In contrast to a family’s traditional stove—or worse, fire pit—fuel-efficient stoves can reduce wood use by up to 60 percent. Fuel-efficient stoves also have effective burning and chimney ventilation systems, which mean cleaner air inside and outside of the home.

That’s more trees in the forest. Cleaner air. And healthier families with more time and money for other essentials.

A reforestation “compass”

It’s not easy to “regrow” a forest, but the right tools can help. An A-shaped frame, reminiscent of a draftsman’s compass, makes sure transplanted trees are adequately spaced apart. The “A” is opened and locked at a predetermined width, then one leg is placed where the last tree was planted, and the other leg indicates the next tree’s spot. Even if the area spans uneven terrain, the compass ensures the spacing is consistent. Meanwhile, water in a bottle on a string acts like a level to help the user stay at a given altitude and not plant the trees up or down the slope.

As the trees grow, they improve soil quality, prevent mudslides, and eventually seed the recovery of the forest. And regrowing a forest? That makes a big difference for everyone.
We are this kind of organization...

EcoLogic works in many different communities, cultures, and ecosystems throughout Central America and Mexico, and each place has its unique issues and needs—not to mention value and beauty. The photos on our covers represent some of the many faces and places that make up EcoLogic. To learn the stories behind these photos and the work we do, please visit our photo gallery:

www.photos.ecologic.org

The Gulf of San Miguel consists of more than 30,000 hectares of mangroves . . .

In few places is the struggle between poverty and the natural environment more compelling than in Central America and Mexico . . .

EcoLogic works to protect threatened ecosystems in Central America, including a community managed forest in . . .