

The EcoLogic Landscape

EcoLogic empowers rural people to restore and protect tropical ecosystems

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About Our Bi-National Project

The Cross-Border Alliance for Healthy Fisheries,

EcoLogic's first bi-national project, brings together rural fishing communities in the lower Sarstún River Basin along the Caribbean border of Belize and Guatemala. With our local partners, EcoLogic collaborates with fisherfolk from both sides of the border to improve livelihoods and protect the region's rich coastal ecosystems. EcoLogic's local partners on this project are the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) in Belize, and the Mayan Association for Well-Being in the Sarstún Region (APROSARSTUN) in Guatemala.

Read more at ecologic.org/binational

BI-NATIONAL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Natural Resources Don't Recognize National Borders

Cleopatra Méndez is EcoLogic's Bi-National Project Coordinator. She is from Livingston, Guatemala, and joined EcoLogic in the spring of 2014. Cleopatra has a bachelor's degree in natural resources management from Mount Hood Community College in Oregon, and previously served as Coordinator of the Tri-National Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGOH), a network of local NGOs that work to conserve the Gulf.

What is your role with EcoLogic?

I coordinate EcoLogic's bi-national project in the Sarstún region. My role is to provide support and oversight on the ground for EcoLogic's work in these important coastal and marine ecosystems. This area is vital to conserve—it's home to many endangered species, and places on both sides of the border have been recognized under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as wetlands of international importance.

Why do you think it is important that this is a cross-border project?

At the end of the day, natural resources don't recognize national borders! To conserve this region, it will be key to strengthen relationships among local stakeholders in both countries.

What do you think are the greatest challenges currently facing the people and the environment in the area?

Some environmental challenges are unsustainable fishing methods, like trawling and gill nets, as well as illegal cross-border fishing, and a growing population of fisherfolk, which together put a lot of pressure on the ecosystems. Deforestation and illegal logging are also problems—but most people only cut down trees because they don't have any other source of income. Another



Cleopatra Méndez,
EcoLogic's Bi-National
Program Coordinator

challenge, especially on the Guatemalan side, is that the governments do very little for this region. For example, there is a federally protected area on the Guatemalan side of the river, but authorities do not implement the regulations. People feel like no one is taking care of them or showing them respect.

How do you think EcoLogic's work in the area is making a positive difference in local people's lives?

EcoLogic has great respect for what communities want to do, and we focus on building capacity. EcoLogic and our partner, APROSARSTUN, train people in management and making business plans, so they can become successful in developing their own ideas. For example, in one Guatemalan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Natural Resources Don't Recognize National Borders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community, a group of fisherfolk came up with a very small project: buying coolers to help them store fish longer, to keep the catch fresh to reach markets to sell. Their business has been doing great!

What do you think have been the project's greatest successes so far?

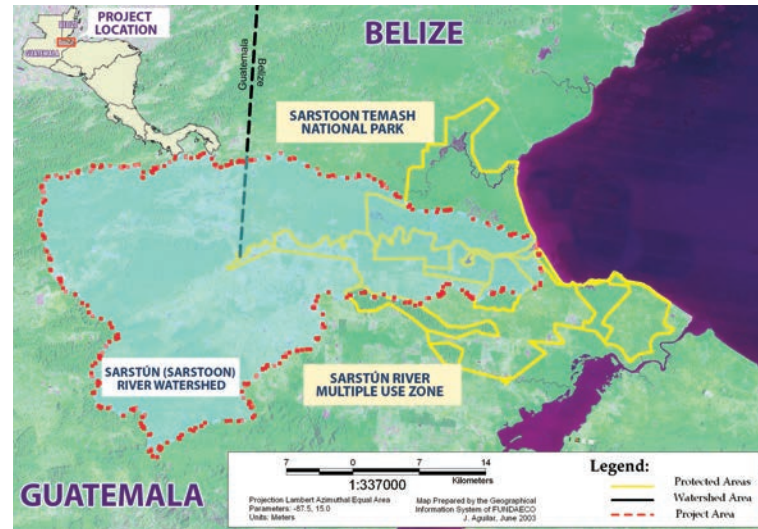
I would say that our biggest accomplishment is a learning exchange we held in July 2014. Community members from both sides of the border traveled to Mexico, where they met with two successful grassroots fishing cooperatives. The fisherfolk from our project area learned that the Mexican communities had worked to establish fish refuges (or fisheries replenishment zones) that are managed by the local fisherfolk, which is something we're trying to do with our project, and that was inspiring. Afterward, participants shared what they had learned with their communities. Instead of me reporting, people heard from their peers—and those who presented assumed leadership roles. This is an opportunity for people to make

sustainable change in their communities. Most fisherfolk here are full of hope that we will be able to work together to help their situation improve.

What is your greatest hope or dream for the future of the bi-national project?

One of my biggest dreams is that the governments of Guatemala and Belize will recognize the shared importance of this area and work together. We need cooperative management plans for the watersheds and coastal marine ecosystems.

This region also faces huge threats, like oil drilling in Sarstoon Temash National Park on the Belize side. I hope that we will be able to preserve the richness of this area even in the face of those threats.



EcoLogic's Cross-Border Alliance for Healthy Fisheries Project is located in the Sarstún River Basin in Guatemala and Belize.

What inspires or motivates you to keep doing the work that you do?

In Guatemala we have a saying, "Never forget where you come from." I am from a fishing background, and my greatest dream is to help these fisherfolk, who are just like my family, to have a better future. I grew up in this beautiful place, and it is a huge gift. I hope that we can preserve it for the future.

LOCAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MAMUCA, HONDURAS

Thanks to Your Support, Innovation Award-Winner MAMUCA Turns Pollution into Prosperity

Meet Bestalina Martínez, the president of the Municipalities of Central Atlántida Department (MAMUCA), EcoLogic's local partner on our **Towns for Environmental Corridors and Communities** project in northern Honduras. Bestalina will attend EcoLogic's annual benefit on October 23, where she will lead a discussion on **"Women Leading Innovative Conservation in Central America"** as one of our 10 expert facilitators.

At the event, Bestalina also will be recognized as the winner of EcoLogic's **Innovation Award**, a \$10,000 prize generously provided, in part, by the Kendeda Fund. The funds have helped MAMUCA develop a business plan and expand a community "store" to which people bring recyclable materials, like aluminum cans and plastic bags, in exchange for food and other household items.



Bestalina Martínez

The award funds have helped MAMUCA to increase the selection of items in the shop, located in the community of La Unión. Based on the success of the original store, MAMUCA recently opened a second one in the nearby community of Santa Ana! In addition to educating community members about recycling and conservation, the stores are creating local jobs, making them both environmentally and economically sustainable.

"MAMUCA seeks to both conserve natural resources and respond to the needs of the local communities," Bestalina said after the award was announced. "Thank you to EcoLogic for always supporting us in the conservation of our natural resources and in helping us find ways to meet our basic needs."

EcoLogic is able to help groups like MAMUCA turn their ambitions into reality thanks to your support. You can help more innovative dreams take shape at ecologic.org/donate

Turning the Tables: Living Within Natural Limits

MC: Jordan Rich, WBZ NewsRadio
October 23, 2014, 6:30–9:15 PM

The Commander's Mansion • Arsenal Mall • Watertown, MA
Space is limited! Advance purchase required by October 15.

Reserve your seat at the table and learn more about this unique event at ecologic.org/turningthetables

EcoLogic's 2014 annual benefit, "Turning the Tables: Living Within Natural Limits," will be held on October 23, 2014. This a one-of-a-kind evening will bring together 10 experts on timely topics that touch on the intersection of conservation, culture, and development. Modeled on a Jeffersonian dinner, conversations at each table will be guided by one of our 10 experts on 10 topics ranging from the effects of climate change to sustainable fashion. We are excited to welcome such an incredible wealth of knowledge and diversity of perspectives to the EcoLogic community!

Before our annual benefit, we asked a few of our 10 expert guests:

How do you think EcoLogic is making a difference?



Jennifer Varekamp, MassArt:

"EcoLogic is doing incredibly important work by partnering with communities in rural areas and identifying the issues that are pertinent to them.

I find in my own experience that a top-down approach cannot work. EcoLogic's approach is geared towards long-lasting, tangible solutions—not just a quick fix."

Jennifer Varekamp is a costume and clothing designer and an Associate Professor in the Fashion Department at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She will facilitate a conversation on "Fashioning an Eco-Chic Future," which will examine the environmental impact of the fashion industry and explore sustainable alternatives.



Lauren Sullivan, REVERB:

"It is so important that rural communities are given the power to create long-lasting and meaningful mechanisms to sustain their land. The process that EcoLogic uses

is about collaboration to recognize the intrinsic value of the natural world."

Lauren Sullivan and her husband, Adam Gardner of the alternative rock band Guster, are the co-founders of REVERB, a non-profit organization that makes artists' tours and concerts more environmentally sustainable while also conducting grass-roots outreach and education with music fans around the country. Lauren's topic at "Turning the Tables" will be "Greening Rock and Roll."



Patrick Barron, UMass Boston:

"EcoLogic is working locally and multi-generationally, and bridging cultural, political, and age gaps to come to a solution. Opening these

boundaries in general is very important, and working with marginalized groups is vital."

Dr. Patrick Barron explores the dialogue of nature and culture in environmental thought and writing in his own poetry and in translations of Italy's literature of the earth. He is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He will lead a discussion on "Poetry and Ecology."

For more information about the event or sponsor opportunities, contact Alexa Piacenza at apiacenza@ecologic.org

We would like to extend our thanks to our generous sponsors:



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Meet our 10 Hosts and their 10 Topics

- **Prof. Patrick Barron**, UMass Boston: *Poetry and Ecology*
- **Vilas Dhar**, Next Mile Project: *Development Based on Human Rights*
- **Wendy Holding**, The Sustainability Group: *Investing for Social Impact*
- **Dr. Joe Levine**, Author and Educator: *What's New with Rainforests?*
- **Vivien Li**, Boston Harbor Association: *Rising Tides of Climate Change in Boston*
- **Bestalina Martinez**, MAMUCA: *Women Leading Innovative Conservation in Central America*
- **Frances Moore Lappé**, Small Planet Institute: *Food as Culprit and Cure in the Climate Crisis*
- **Bud Ris**, Former President & CEO of the New England Aquarium: *Can We Be Hopeful about Climate Change and the Oceans?*
- **Lauren Sullivan**, REVERB: *Greening Rock and Roll*
- **Jennifer Varekamp**, Mass College of Art: *Fashioning an Eco-Chic Future*

Learn all about these incredible experts at ecologic.org/turningthetables!

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

"I support EcoLogic because of its holistic approach to the well-being of both communities and ecosystems. EcoLogic's commitment to deep engagement with the people they serve ensures that the communities' voices and their needs are part of the solution, leaving them with tools and values that persist beyond the boundaries of the projects themselves. As a longtime member of the business world, I am particularly impressed with EcoLogic's determination to maintain a learning organization that is always seeking new and more effective ways to pursue its mission." — *Kathrin Winkler*

Kathrin Winkler is Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer at EMC Corporation. She has been an EcoLogic board member since 2009, and will step off the board this December. We offer our deep gratitude to Kathrin for her incredible dedication and support.



Become an Ambassador!

Pledge to involve friends, family and colleagues in supporting EcoLogic's activities by giving an outright gift or collectively raising \$1,000 or more. Please consider joining the Ambassadors or renewing your pledge now to help us meet our 2014 goal of \$25,000 by December 31st. For more information: jfield@ecologic.org or **617-607-5142**.

EcoLogic's work is made possible by the generous support of our donors.

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all of you!

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