

RESULTS SUMMARY

Youth in Honduras take the lead in forest monitoring to defend forests and promote sustainable land use

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Eyes in the Sky, Feet on the Ground: Monitoring and sustainable development in the El Cangrejal river watershed
	<i>Partner:</i>	Jóvenes hondureños por el desarrollo educativo (GUARUMA)
	<i>Country:</i>	Honduras
	<i>Period:</i>	From January 1st, 2023, to December 31st, 2025

CHANGE

Guaruma, a youth organisation based in Honduras that promotes environmental awareness and stewardship through educational and leadership programmes and hands-on training for children and young people, has launched its own forest monitoring programme to combat deforestation and support sustainable land use practices. This marks a significant shift from their previous limited role in an initiative led by another organisation towards independent action, empowering them to lead environmental conservation within their community.

CONTEXT

Previously, Guaruma partnered with the Pico Bonito National Park Foundation (FUPNAPIB) and Forests of the World (FoW) to do fieldwork for forest monitoring in Pico Bonito National Park. This collaboration provided essential experience and insights into forest monitoring techniques, including the use of alert systems for detecting deforestation and forest fires. Now, forest monitoring has become an integral part of Guaruma's activities, promoting natural resource conservation and rural development.

CONTRIBUTION

With the conclusion of the partnership with FUPNAPIB, Guaruma leveraged its acquired expertise to launch its own independent monitoring initiative focused on the El Cangrejal watershed, supported by FoW. Guaruma has acquired necessary hardware (computers, GPS, drone) and built capacities for forest monitoring. This programme enhances their autonomy, allowing them to address local environmental challenges directly. Guaruma is satisfied with having the necessary tools and equipment for forest monitoring.

IMAGES



Using Forest Watcher to monitor deforestation. Photo by Guaruma.



Guaruma members documenting field observations. Photo by Guaruma.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

After initiating its own forests monitoring programme, Guaruma engaged children and young people, using satellite-based alert systems to identify and inspect changes in the field. The initiative has included our field trips evaluating eight deforestation and/or fire alerts in situ, using Forest Watcher to log the information (photos, geolocation, damage description) and secure this for their own database. Seven Guaruma coordinators attended two capacity-building workshops on forest monitoring tools facilitated by FoW technical advisors. Hardware acquired included computers, radios, GPS, drones, printer, phone and backpacks. The coordinators later afterwards passed the acquired skills on to 29 children and young people enrolled in their programme. Meetings were held between the Guaruma Board and parents.

LESSONS

Guaruma is increasingly recognized as a leader in environmental education and support for local organisations in El Cangrejal. Educational centres acknowledge its leadership in environmental education. While Guaruma is committed to producing custom maps for local community needs, progress in developing such maps has been slower than anticipated, indicating a need for further development. Monitoring data are currently used only for local communication, not legal actions against illegal activities. Strategies are needed to use the data for legal cases without compromising the safety of Guaruma's coordinators, children and youth. Effective use of data in legal contexts could help stop illegal deforestation and other unauthorised activities. Guaruma has started close collaborations with the Municipality of La Ceiba in cases of emergency and large forest fires, contributing to more effective response to illegal activities and fires in the future.

EVIDENCE

Video about Guruma's forest monitoring activities in collaboration with FoW, by Karen Andersen, FoW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of4O3nZsoHE>; Guaruma's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Guaruma/?locale=es_LA; Guaruma's YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@guaruma_org; and Guaruma's guide for environmental promoters used in its educational programmes, including a section on forest monitoring: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/ab59ba7a75.html>. Guaruma's efforts have led to the development of a robust set of skills among its coordinators, children and youth, with plans to share these with other youth organisations to replicate their success.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

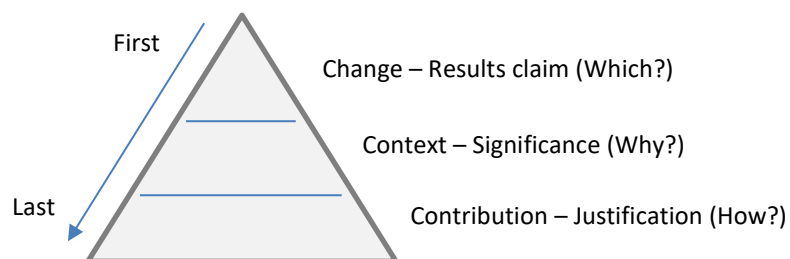
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project’s contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities:* Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- *Lessons:* Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- *Evidence:* A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- *Domains and development strategy:* Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.

