

Report Back 2024:

Mangrove Recovery Project



Green Island Challenge



Mangrove Restoration

The mangrove is the most deforested tree in the tropics, and the restoration of mangrove ecosystems is fundamental to the GIC's efforts to protect Guanaja's most endangered species. Since 2021, the restoration demonstration site initiative has required patience, knowledge, and long-term community contributions. To date, the GIC has successfully restored two hectares of mangroves in Laguna Manowar, Guanaja.

How it started

Following the success of our projects with turtles and parrots, the GIC decided to carry out restoration work on the mangrove ecosystem in the northeast of the island, as the impact of Hurricane Mitch in 1998 is still visible and noticeable. This project involves ongoing land preparation through the excavation of canals to ensure the proper balance between salt and fresh water; a red mangrove nursery to give propagules a head start; youth-led transplants; and long-term care of the mangroves and canals through the creation of alternative employment. Youth Participation

Each year, young people from local high schools participate in some stage of the Mangrove Restoration process.

From land preparation and transplanting emerging mangroves to clearing trash from the area, young people in Guanaja are often immersed in the challenging task of successfully reforesting mangroves.

Alternative Livelihoods

Mangrove restoration requires constant attention. This is where GIC's strategy of generating employment in the conservation sector comes into play.

By offering payments, we are creating jobs that not only generate a sense of community and care for the mangroves, but are also sources of long-term employment on an economically challenged island.

Results

After three years of maintenance, the mangrove restoration project shows signs of success. More than 75% of the propagules have formed roots, the young are active year-round, and we have a well-established and dedicated team of young adults working to maintain the health of the mangroves. Our first transplants are already almost a meter tall.

Mangrove Restoration Photos:

