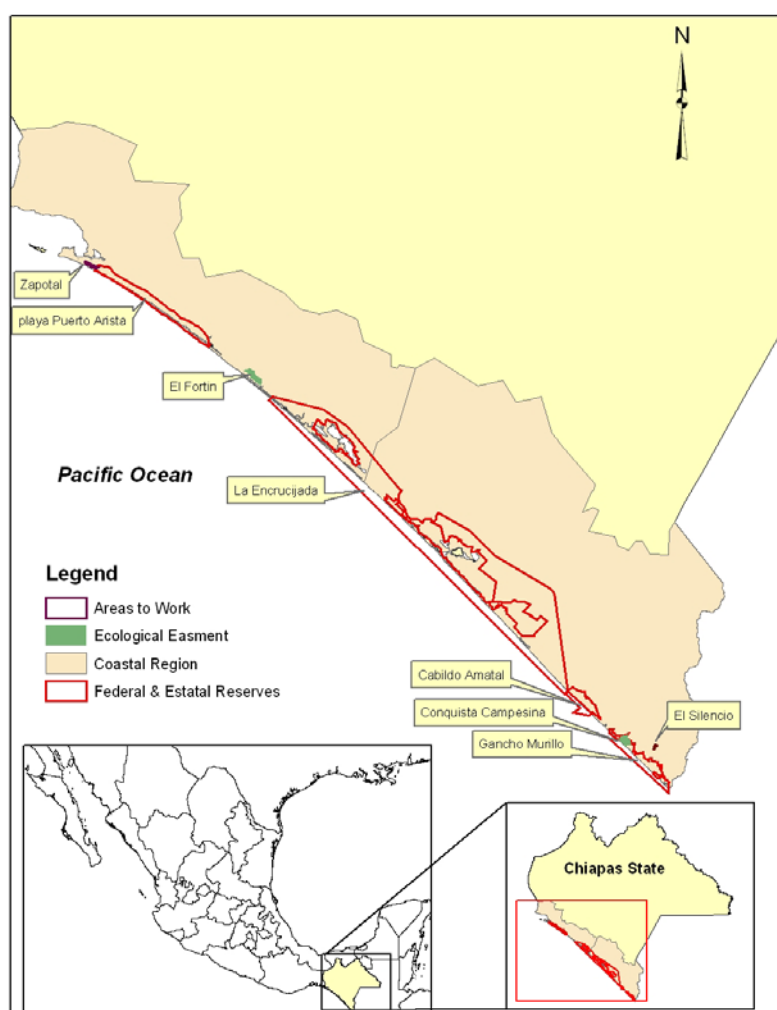


# Establishment of El Zapotal and El Silencio conservation easements in the Pacific Coast of Chiapas, southern México.

## A Tropical Forest Forever Fund Grant

GCBO has teamed up with Pronatura Sur to protect an extensive wetland corridor along the Pacific Coast of Mexico in the state of Chiapas. The Pacific Coast of Chiapas is composed of a large system of mangroves and wetlands, as well as many micro-watersheds and rivers flowing from the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. These important watersheds feed the coastal lagoons and estuaries, the most extensive and diverse in all of Mexico. This valuable ecosystem provides for unique biodiversity, homes to millions of migratory waterbirds, and provides for human livelihoods, as well as protection from hurricanes and heavy storms.



**Figure 1. Wetland corridor on Pacific Coast of Chiapas.**

Since 2001 Pronatura Sur A.C. has been working to protect an extensive wetland corridor along the coast. The conservation organization has used a variety of “tools” such as land use planning, habitat restoration, and protection mechanisms, including land easements and acquisition.

The TFFF grant will support efforts establishing two perpetual easements on 720-acres of private lands, linking four large conservation areas: La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve and Playa Puerto Arista Sanctuary, and two State Protected Areas, Gancho-Murillo and Cabildo Amatal.

Along the Pacific coast of Chiapas, there are two federal Protected Areas; La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve and Playa Puerto Arista Sanctuary, also two State Protected Areas: Gancho-Murillo and Cabildo Amatal. Pronatura Sur is currently establishing two land conservation easements that will provide a continuous link between these protected areas.



**Figure 2. El Zapotal located near the large federal protected area.**  
**370 acre tract**

**Figure 3. El Silencio location on the North side of a State protected area.**  
**350 acre tract**

