El Zapotal & El Silencio Conservation Easements

Project Title: El Zapotal & El Silencio Conservation Easements
Location: Mexico
Coordinates: 14°40'37.03"N 92°13'44.82"W
Size: 3,281 acres
Grant Amount: $9,980
Date: 2010
Partner: Pronatura Sur A.C.

Summary and Background:

GCBO has teamed up with Pronatura Sur A.C. 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.

Since 2001 Pronatura Sur 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.

Figure 1. Wetland corridor on Pacific Coast of Chiapas.

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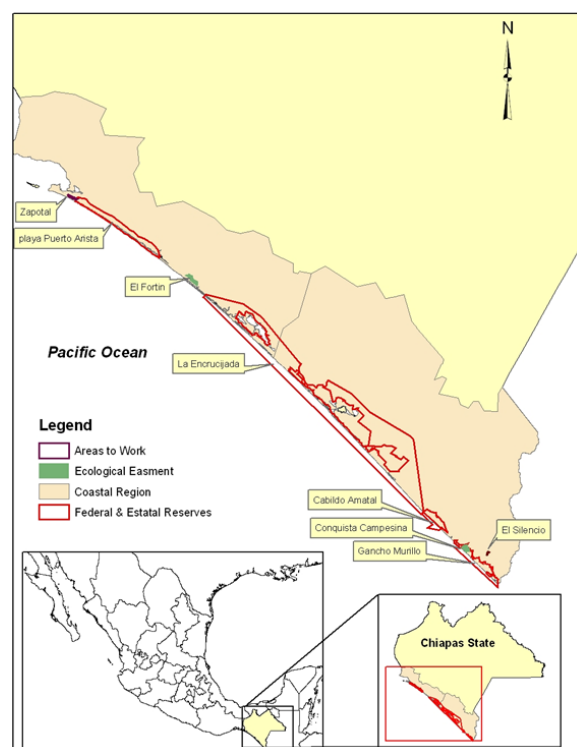
Figure 2. El Zapotal located near the large federal protected area.
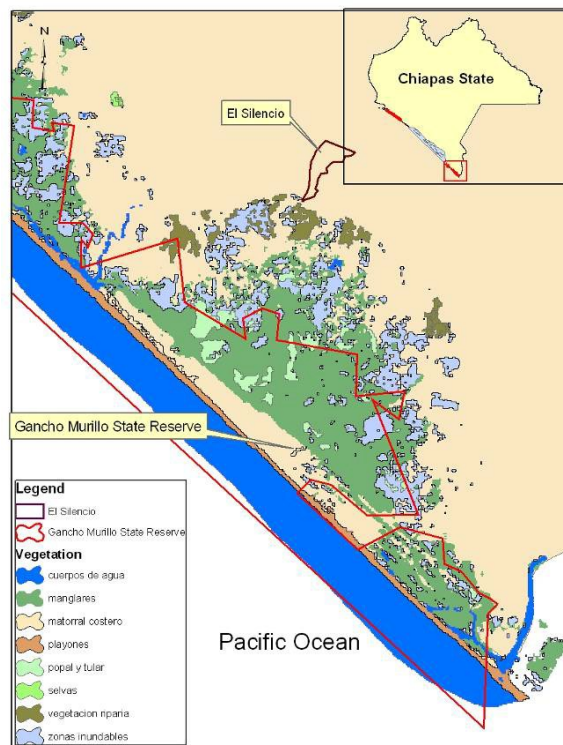370 acre tract

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