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**DEPARTAMENTO DEL INTERIOR
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PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA
TÉCNICA INTERNACIONAL



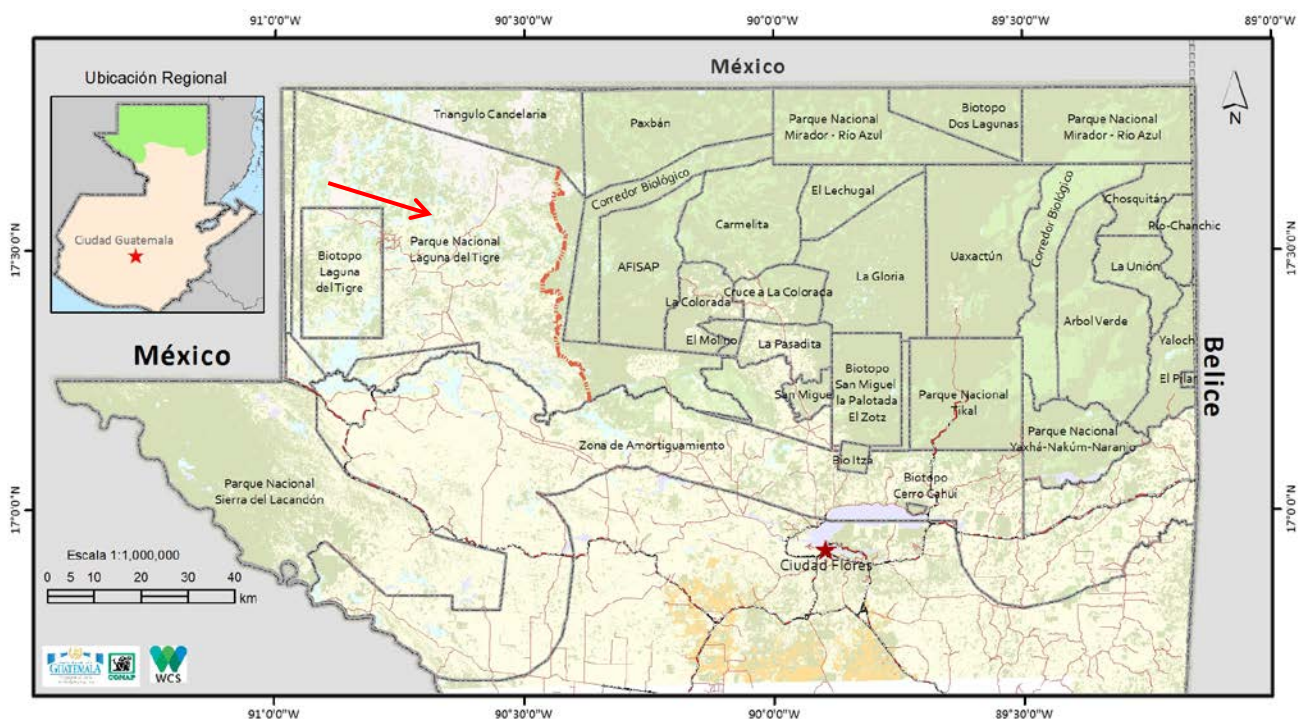
DOI-ITAP

Factsheet

Guatemala-The Shield

The Laguna del Tigre “Shield” Protecting the Maya Biosphere Reserve’s Economic Potential

Since 2005, partnership between the U.S Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP), the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) and Guatemala’s National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) has strengthened the “Shield” of eastern **Laguna del Tigre National Park** one of the most important protection strategies underway in Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve.



The Shield consists of a multifaceted approach to minimize and prevent the deforestation and land speculation within Laguna del Tigre National Park from spreading eastward across the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR). At stake are decades of GoG and USG investment to strengthen the MBR, as well as the reserve’s crucial contributions to the economic and social stability of the Department of Peten. The Shield helps to protect the MBR’s successful community forest concessions, while safeguarding the potential for sustained economic growth based on natural resource management and tourism across the Eastern MBR.



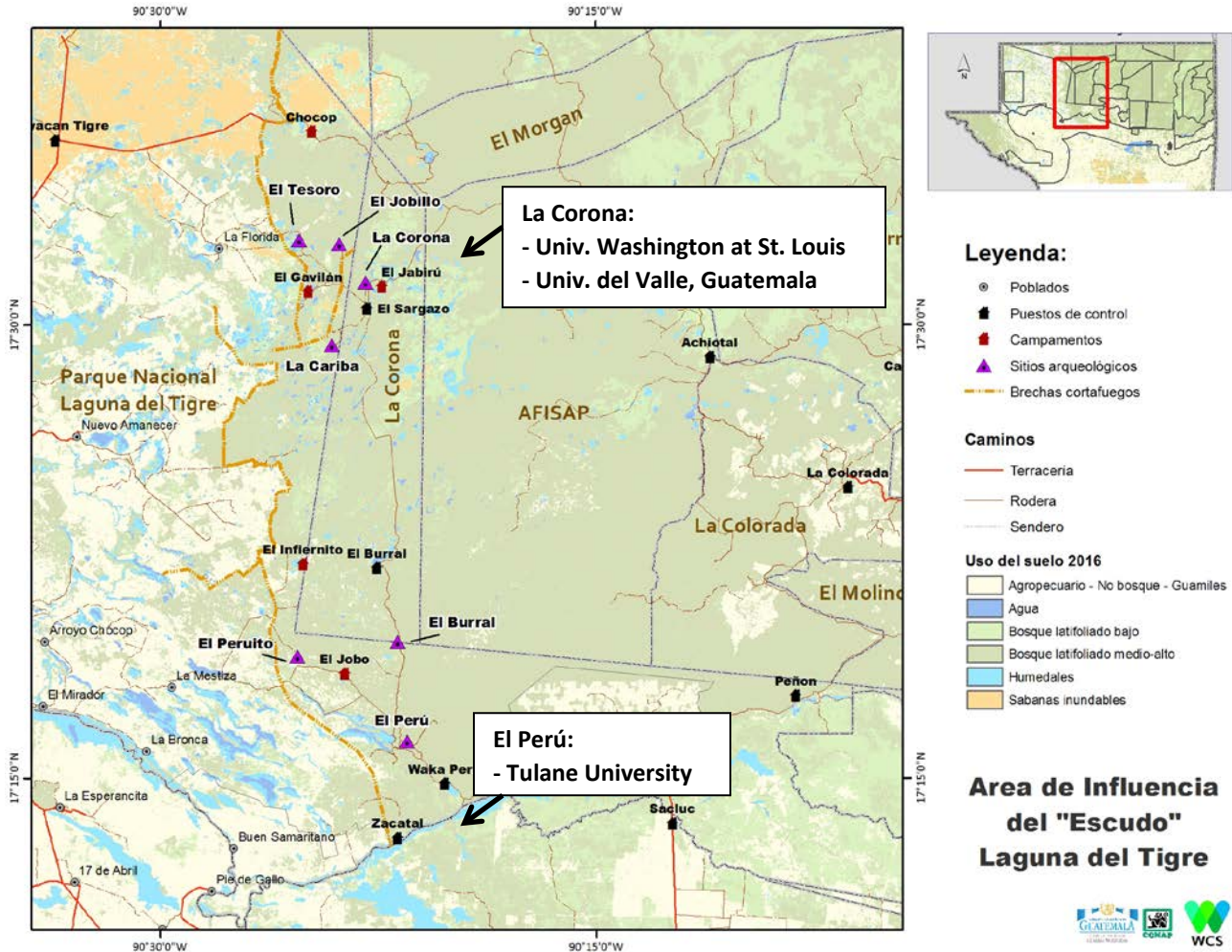
Scarlet macaws at a nesting site in La Corona (Photo Chris Packham / WCS)

The Shield also plays a key role in protecting Guatemala’s natural and cultural patrimony. All of Guatemala’s remaining scarlet macaw nesting sites are located within the intact jungle to the east of the Shield, as are the ancient Maya cities of La Corona, and El Perú-Waká, both of which benefit from DOI support, as strategically-located sites. Further to the east of the Shield are the iconic ancient Maya cites of Tikal, Yaxhá, and El Mirador, another beneficiary of DOI support.

Shield Components

The multi-faceted approach to this Shield includes:

- Permanent presence in strategically located field camps
- Constant patrolling and seasonal fire prevention activities
- Annual over flights to identify threats
- Support for archaeological projects led by US-based and Guatemalan universities
- Partnerships with rural communities to build social resiliency against threats



Funding and Implementing Partners

The Program is financed by U.S. Congress Direct Apportionment (via USAID) and the Department of State (DOS) under CAFTA-DR Free Trade Agreement - Environmental Cooperation Agreement (FTA-ECA).

DOI's implementing partners for these efforts include the Wildlife Conservation Society, Balam Association, and the Environmental Justice Forum of Petén.



Contact Information / DOI-ITAP

Cynthia Perera, DOI-ITAP Deputy Director, cperera@ios.doi.gov

Roan Balas McNab, DOI-ITAP In-Country Coordinator: rmcnab@wcs.org

Bayron Castellanos, DOI-ITAP In-Country Coordinator: bcastellanos@asociacionbalam.org