



# Restoration Barometer

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## Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc.

2022 Pledge Implementation Progress Report

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# 2022 1T.ORG PLEDGE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

## Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc.

Thriving Together: Fresh Del Monte's Approach to Farming with  
Biodiversity

### Reporting period

November 2021 – May 2022

### Pledge status

Fully on track

### Intervention locations

**Costa Rica, Guatemala**



## Progress summary

The project that Del Monte maintains with GIZ, Resilient agricultural production through multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable landscapes, aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in Costa Rica and Guatemala within the value chains of conventional bananas and pineapples, using multi-stakeholder partnership with local organisations, government agencies, communities, and others to achieve three key purposes:

1. Restoration of productive landscapes and economic development of communities
2. Conservation of water resources in watersheds
3. Education for sustainable development in communities near our operations.

Though at an early stage, there have been excellent results with the working groups of both countries, where it has been possible to identify possible connectivity routes for landscape restoration, with an emphasis on the conservation and sustainable use of water resources in the basins. This will result in an important input for decision-making at the business level and will generate significant support for other actors. This project not only benefits conservation, but also the communities surrounding the project area. The process of planting trees has not yet started, but it is planned to reforest around 300 hectares. It is expected that more than 20 communities will benefit from this project.

In Costa Rica, an education programme we support, EDUCAPILA, gained momentum, promoting environmental awareness around La Amistad International Park, the largest national park in Costa Rica at 479,000 acres and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park is the home to two-thirds of plant and animal species found in Costa Rica. To date, this initiative detected 468 bird and 31 mammal species across project areas in Costa Rica and Guatemala. In partnership with the Local Council of Rio Cañas Biological Corridor, we are supporting the design of a Water School to promote awareness and the need to conserve water resources across the Cañas river basin.

In another developing programme within this GIZ collaboration, we are working to define areas of ecological importance in Costa Rica and Guatemala. We are establishing connectivity routes – connecting biological corridors where there are interruptions – in three areas, each aligned with a Fresh Del Monte growing division – the banana and pineapple divisions in Costa Rica and the banana division in Guatemala. Within these areas, there are studies including a series of markers to track the health of each area of importance. Preliminary studies in 2021 determined that wildlife refuges maintained on our property, such as "Montaña El Tigre," are protecting a high degree of diversity among flora and fauna. Cameras were added on the property to observe animal life, another data input on the health of the ecosystem. 2021 observations in southern Costa Rica identified four of the six endangered feline species, indicating strong ecosystem health.

Additionally, work in Montaña El Tigre has made the reserve available for eco-tourism, advancing our progress to reaching our community investment goal of contributing to a green economic recovery. The work on the reserve involved training of young men and women from neighbouring communities in wildlife identification, and most importantly developing the management plan to obtain regulatory permits to allow the reserve to officially receive visitors.

More than a quarter of our owned land (9,500+ hectares) is designated as protected forests throughout our farms, which benefit biodiversity and the health of our soil and ecosystems. We don't grow in these designated areas – we support and maintain native forests. Some of these areas are formally designated as wildlife refuges by the local government and others are segments of land within our farming areas called biological corridors, which allow species to move freely throughout our operations, reducing the risk of habitat fragmentation. We work to reforest along waterways in our farms, as this allows for the protection of key ecosystem services and increases the environmental health of the greater watersheds where we operate.

## Implementation method

On-the-ground restoration through own operations or supply chains

### Financial support to:

- Project with GIZ Resilient agricultural production through multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable landscapes

## Ecosystems and restoration interventions concerned

### Forests and woodlands:

**Land / water protection / Conservation actions**

**Planting/seeding/natural regeneration of buffers** (mixed stands of native species)

**Planting/seeding corridors of mixed stands of native species**

**Restoring cultural forest ecosystems**

**Passive natural regeneration**

**Assisted natural regeneration**

**Re-establish hydrologic connectivity or physical processes for watersheds**

**Planting on steep slopes and along waterways to avoid or recover from erosion**

**Silviculture**

**Replacing non-native species with native species to increase diversity transformation**

(continuous cover, gap creation and natural regeneration or under planting)

**Watershed protection and erosion control**

**Nucleation or cluster planting**

(planting of small patches of trees as focal area for recovery)

**Planting or direct seeding with native spp.** (interplanting w/ nurse crop, taungya, planting group, framework species, or Miyawaki methods)

## Policies and strategies

**Global Environmental Policy:** Fresh Del Monte Produce is committed to continually improve our efforts to protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change, responsibly stewarding water resources, minimising waste and conserving vital ecosystems. This policy aims to provide an overarching vision for sustainability and environmental protection at Fresh Del Monte and to establish a framework for how our team members must address environmental concerns during the establishment, design and operation of all our facilities worldwide.

**Land and Water Suitability Analysis Policy:** This Policy enumerates the material risk assessment that must be evaluated by the local operation before submitting a request for capital investment for a proposed new agricultural development. Fresh Del Monte Produce will generate the required studies using qualified specialists and recognised laboratories.

### Operations:

- Reduce our Scope 1 + 2 emissions by 27.5% compared to 2019 levels (SBTi approved).
- Reduce our Scope 3 Emissions by 12.3% compared to 2020 levels (SBTi approved).
- Reduce our absolute Scope 1 CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from vessel shipping by 10% compared to 2019 levels.
- Plant and/or donate 2,500,000 trees by 2025.
- Implement regenerative and soil health management practices in 100% of owned and Associate2 Growers' farms
- Monitor 100% of protected areas annually by conducting an inventory of species in each of our reserves

Contributing to the health and well-being of our communities and the environment is both a responsibility and a benefit for our business. To further our commitment to sustainability across our company, we set new goals in 2021 in several areas. These build on our earlier goals from 2019. We depend on healthy workers living in thriving communities, as well as clean water, nourishing soil and robust biodiversity for the success of our operations. As a result, we've enacted programmes that support many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for many years, including responsible land use, clean water, health and education.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)

## Funding

### About US\$ 100,000, disbursed towards

- Carbon finance, including for insetting and/or offsetting
- Purchases of inputs, such as seeds or saplings
- Development or purchase of planning or monitoring tools
- Capacity building, such as awareness or training activities
- Donation of materials or technology
- Policy or technical expertise
- Staff-time

The partnership project with Del Monte and GIZ, Resilient agricultural production through multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable landscapes, has a budget of US\$ 100,000. This enables the collaboration of technical experts hired by GIZ, such as sociologists, biologists, geologists, educators and forest engineers. It will help to generate inventories of flora and fauna and in the areas, establish connectivity routes, restoration of rivers, identification of different public-private actors, such as communities surrounding the project, associations, educational centres, state institutions and private external companies close to the project, among others. The intention is to get these stakeholders involved in the project and passionate for the initiative to continue beyond the period established for this project. Additionally, with GIZ, important technology is obtained to improve measurement and monitoring. This includes the purchase and installation of trap cameras to generate a more accurate inventory of fauna, use of drones and planting verification programmes, and collaboration with educational institutions for the implementation of education programmes for the student population located in schools near the project.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)



## Technical planning

Our goal is to plant and/or donate 2,500,000 trees by 2025. From 2016 to 2021, 1,629,156 trees have been planted (65% of the goal achieved). We encourage programmes and projects (for example, the alliance with GIZ) to increase this figure and empower those responsible for each division involved.

We annually generate a Corporate Sustainability Report detailing all the projects, objectives and goals achieved at the company level.

More than a quarter of our owned land (9,500+ hectares) is designated as protected forests throughout our farms, which benefit biodiversity and the health of our soil and ecosystems. We don't grow in these designated areas – we support and maintain native forests. Some of these areas are formally designated as wildlife refuges by the local government and others are segments of land within our farming areas called biological corridors, which allow species to move freely throughout our operations, reducing the risk of habitat fragmentation. We work to reforest along waterways in our farms, as this allows for the protection of key ecosystem services and increases the environmental health of the greater watersheds where we operate.

As part of our partnership initiative with GIZ, we will actively engage external stakeholders in landscape-level conservation in Costa Rica and Guatemala, including owners of neighbouring lands, other agricultural companies, water users, local community organisations and local inhabitants. We will establish participatory landscape management programmes that enhance ecosystem services to benefit our local communities, ensure the sustainability of critical water resources for our agricultural operations and enhance the resiliency of the local landscape to climate change.





## Ecosystem restoration principles considered

- 1 Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Rio Conventions.
- 2 Promote inclusive and participatory governance, social fairness and equity from the start and throughout the process and outcomes.
- 3 Include a continuum of restorative activities.
- 4 Aim to achieve the highest level of recovery for biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, and human well-being.
- 5 Address the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation.
- 6 Incorporate all types of knowledge and promote their exchange and integration throughout the process.
- 7 Build on well-defined short-, medium- and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals.
- 8 Tailor to the local ecological, cultural and socioeconomic contexts, while considering the larger landscape or seascape.
- 9 Include monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout and beyond the lifetime of the project or programme.
- 10 Build on policies and measures that promote its long-term progress, fostering replication and scaling-up.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)

## Monitoring Process

We record and control the number of trees donated and planted (making special emphasis on native species), as reported by each division to our Corporate Global Sustainability Program Manager.

For the project with GIZ, there are drones, consultancies with technical experts, including sociologists, biologists, geologists and forest engineers, among others; while mapping programmes and flora and fauna inventories are in process.

### Metrics monitored

Restoration intervention progress

Area under restoration

Effects on biodiversity

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)
- The project with GIZ is in its initial stages, it is expected in the short term to be able to make more formal disclosures of the progress of the program

## Area of land

**Costa Rica: 250 hectares under restoration**

**Guatemala: 50 hectares under restoration**

An annual control of the global operations tree planting in forest areas is carried out, detailing the number of trees and the species. For the project that Del Monte has with GIZ, it is expected to be able to reforest 300 hectares in total, the reforestation process has not yet started but it is expected that work will progress in the coming months.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)

## Climate

**144,504 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e of removal** for pineapple and banana operations in Costa Rica

(currently no carbon neutrality certification in Guatemala)

### Estimation method

- Existing national reference levels/greenhouse gas inventory systems
- Emissions and removal factors obtained from open-source tool – IPCC
- Independent carbon certification standard(s): SCS GLOBAL SERVICES AND CTG

The banana and pineapple operations in Costa Rica are certified by recognised external organisations (SCS Global Services) as carbon neutral; the forest areas are owned by the company, and joint efforts are made to maintain their protection. Annual monitoring and reviews are carried out to guarantee the measurements of carbon removals, training is provided to all personnel and environmental activities are carried out to raise awareness not only among workers but also in the communities near the operations.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)
- The project with GIZ is in its initial stages, it is expected in the short term to be able to make more formal disclosures of the progress of the program

## Biodiversity

100% of the total hectares under restoration aims to recreate, enrich or protect native, primary or intact ecosystems

Through the alliance with GIZ, Del Monte plans to establish connectivity routes for landscape restoration, with an emphasis on the conservation and sustainable use of water resources in the basins, this initiative will act as an input for decision-making. In addition, it is expected to support other public and private external actors; the communities surrounding the projects will be involved and educational programmes will be established so that the student population knows about the species of flora and fauna found in the areas of interest.

In the pineapple operation (south of Costa Rica) there are 5,575 hectares of forested areas accounted for as part of the digitised inventory process by 2021, which is carried out with the support of the operation's Smart Farming unit. The areas recognised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica are around 823 hectares. Therefore, 15% of the forested areas correspond to areas officially recognised by the ministry as private wildlife refuges.

### Supporting documentation

- [Fresh Del Monte Newsroom](#)
- The project with GIZ is in its initial stages, it is expected in the short term to be able to make more formal disclosures of the progress of the program



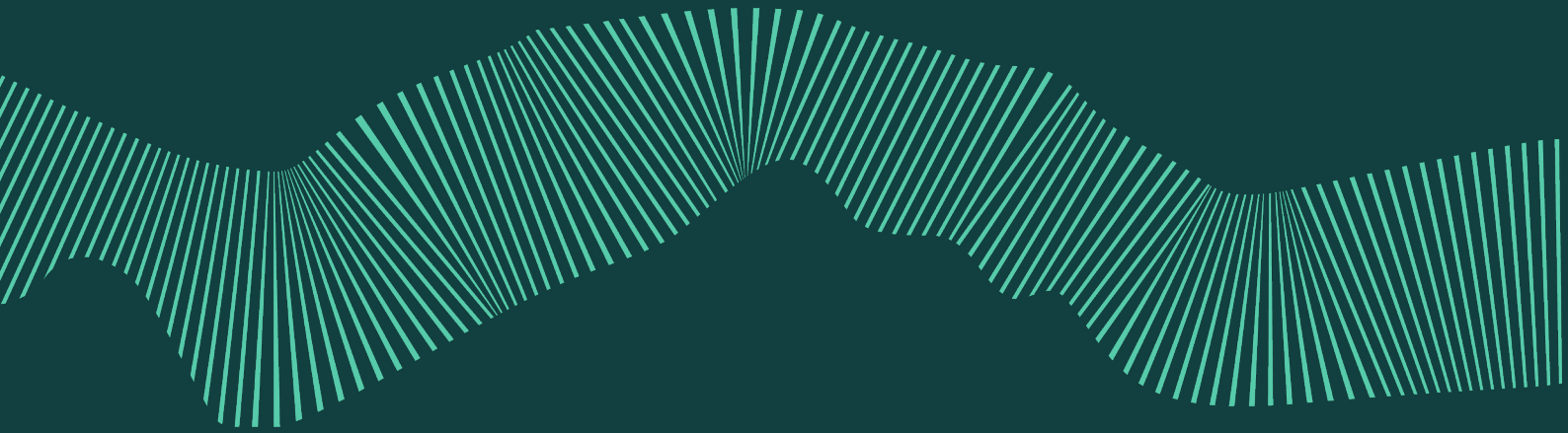


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