

The Role of Native Peoples in Managing Natural Disasters¹

Arnaldo Bueso²

Abstract

The leading role of native peoples in natural disaster management within the framework of the *Promotion of Food Security and Social Inclusion in the Lempa Region of Western Honduras Program* (PROSADE LEMPA) involves:

- Actions aimed at reducing the imminent risk to remnant forests and the most vulnerable populations due to "Natural Disaster" caused by fires and pests.
- The participation of key actors such as indigenous peoples, government, civil society, private enterprise and international cooperation in fire management.
- Systematization of PROSADE LEMPA's experience with vulnerable populations most affected by natural disasters.

Brief description of the Program.

The program is run by CARE International, benefiting around 40 thousand people living in the 4 municipal groupings of the Lempa Region of Honduras.

Among these municipal groupings, the following are represented and prioritized: Association of municipalities of the Frontera de Intibucá (ANFI), and the grouping of the municipalities of San Andrés, San Francisco, Erandique and Gualcince Lempira (CAFEG, MOCLEMPA and MANCOSOL).

The main objective of this new project, PROSADE-LEMPA, is to eradicate the exclusion, vulnerability and extreme poverty conditions in Honduras. Therefore, interventions will focus on small-scale women farmers who do not benefit equitably from the economic growth of societies, as well as the Lenca indigenous peoples.

In total, 252 communities, 23 municipalities, two departments and 7,560 families, equivalent to approximately 40,000 people, are directly benefited.

The components of this innovative new program include: food availability and access, improved health with good hygiene and sanitation practices, food security governance, a drought early warning system and humanitarian aid.

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² Executive Director, CARE Internacional, Honduras