



Sustainable development requires integrated consideration of economic well-being, the environment and equity. The Osa and Golfito Initiative (INOGO) is designed to build on many previous efforts by integrating the sociocultural dimensions of the Osa and Golfito region with both its marine and terrestrial ecosystems. We search for sustainable solutions that protect the environment while addressing related social and economic issues including education, health, social equity and infrastructure.

## Mission

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INOGO – an acronym formed by the initiative’s name in Spanish – is working to develop resources and processes to support community-led sustainable human development and environmental stewardship in Costa Rica’s Osa and Golfito region.

## Goals

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- To work in collaboration with Costa Rican leaders, organizations, and institutions to support community-led sustainable development in the Osa and Golfito region, through facilitation and capacity building efforts, such as Caminos de Liderazgo
- To develop tools to help local leaders assess the progress in the Osa and Golfito region
- To provide regional stakeholders, and other interested parties, with useful decision-making information that facilitates information exchange and coordination.
- To continue to explore additional innovations that could contribute to the community led sustainable development of the region, such as:
  - Additional hospitality training for youth to gain access to the local job market
  - Studies in sustainable palm oil production, with demonstration plots exploring best practices

## WE ARE

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A collaboration between people and institutions in the U.S. and Costa Rica, facilitated by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

## WE REACH

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- Local community organizations
- Public and private sector institutions
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Civil society groups



## Developing Leadership

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With the goals of developing leadership skills, creating a tourism offering based in the vibrant culture of the region and developing an economy that will safeguard biodiversity, the Caminos de Liderazgo program began in May of 2014. This program is a collaboration between local leaders and entrepreneurs, the CRUSA Foundation, INOGO, SINAC and RBA with the support of businesses such as Nature Air, Travel Excellence, Swiss Travel and Horizontes. The program works with about 30 regional leaders to promote the development of rural community tourism, which provides both economic development opportunities and serves as a vehicle for environmental stewardship in sensitive biological corridors. Caminos de Liderazgo was developed in response to both the direct requests from entrepreneurs in the region and evaluations done by INOGO and CRUSA.

## Supporting the Next Generation

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The Stanford Environmental Leadership and Language Program (SELAL), led by Professor Bill Durham, began with an initial pilot program in January 2015. Working with the Technical High School of Puerto Jimenez and many other local partners, SELAL is a month-long, intensive program that trains local high-school students in environmental leadership, ecotourism, and English language skills. Through such training, SELAL seeks to improve the employability of local youth in the ecotourism sector, increase youth leadership in local conservation efforts, and improve community identity.

## Palm Oil Innovation

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The Experimental Sustainable Palm Laboratory (LAPA) inaugurated its pilot farm in December 2014. LAPA, led by Professor Rodolfo Dirzo, will evaluate two innovations in crop diversification and increased sustainability in oil palm plantations: the cultivation of epiphytes growing on the trunks of palms in mature plantations, and the impacts of intermingling other crops within the palm plantations. The palm laboratory will consider the potential for additional crops to provide an additional revenue source for farmers, as well as how the diversified plantations can improve resistance to pathogens.

## Monitoring our Progress

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In Phase II, INOGO will be supporting the development and testing of a Monitoring System aimed at providing local leaders with a basis for assessing the progress in the Osa and Golfito cantons. This effort was inspired by the Phase I process of developing Alternative Futures Scenarios, facilitated by GeoAdaptive in collaboration with INOGO, in which local stakeholders came together to define their vision of a “preferred future.” This INOGO Phase II Program is being developed in direct response to stakeholder requests at the end of Phase I for tools and other means of clarifying pathways forward towards their consensus long-term vision for the region. The monitoring work will also include an evaluation of the *Caminos de Liderazgo* program.

### For more information:

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