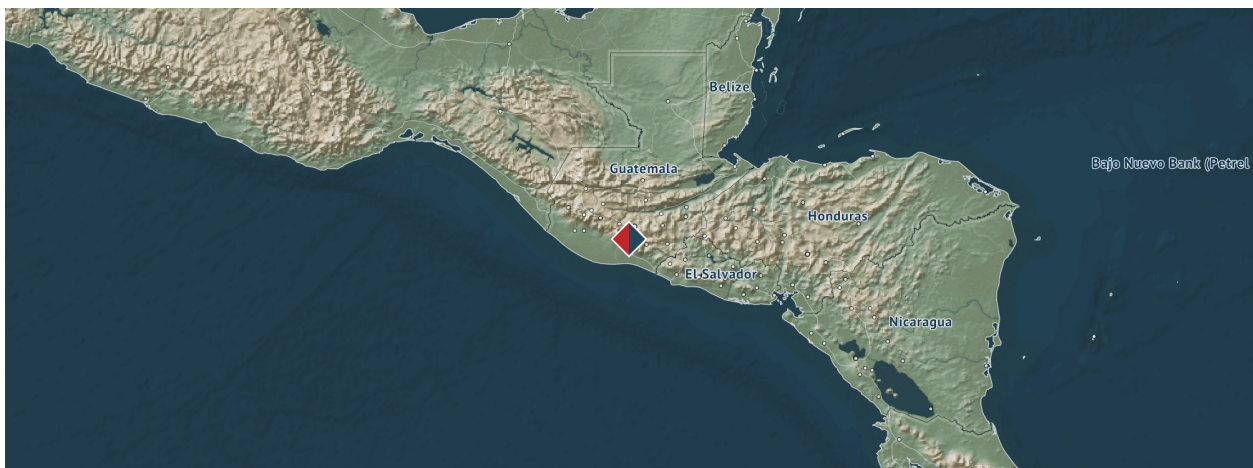




## Conflict Factsheet

### Resource Conflict in Montaña Las Granadillas in Guatemala

Type of conflict <b>Main</b>	Intensity <b>1</b>
Conflict Locality <b>Central America</b>	Time <b>2003 –ongoing</b>
Countries <b>Guatemala</b>	Resources <b>Biodiversity, Agricultural / Pastoral Land, Water, Forests</b>

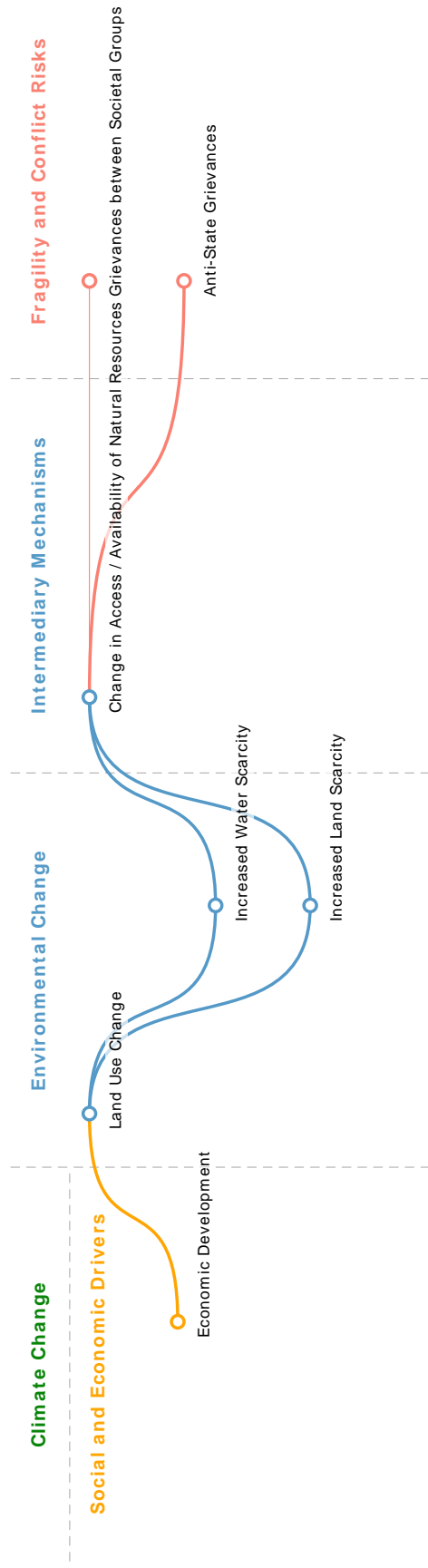


### Conflict Summary

To cope with logging and illegal logging, and the obstruction of access to water sources by the owners of haciendas in Montaña Las Granadillas, located in the province of Zacapa, Guatemala, the rural population affected created the Association to Protect Montaña Las Granadillas (APMG) in 2003. Although dialogue had developed between the local population and high-level authorities of the executive branch, logging continues in Montaña, endangering the watershed's capacity and, therefore, the local people's food sovereignty and future food supply.



### Conceptual Model



### Context Factors



Biodiversity, Agricultural / Pastoral Land, Water, Forests



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## Conflict History

### The Association to Protect Montaña Las Granadillas (APMG)

In 2003, the Association to Protect Montaña Las Granadillas (APMG) was created, comprising people from the communities nearby Montaña Las Granadillas, to address diverse problems, such as legal and illegal logging, the use of large private land areas for livestock and monocrops, deforestation and obstruction of access to water sources, among others. Their actions are geared to protect water sources in Montaña Las Granadillas, since they argue that Montaña Las Granadillas is the main and actually only water source for the local population.

### APMG's alliances and actions

Since the beginning, APMG has been backed by the Lutheran Church in Guatemala (ILUGUA), and works in alliance with diverse organizations and collectives of the region, taking such actions and initiatives as lawsuits, protests and field visits. As a part of its actions, APMG has blocked the way to prevent legal and illegal logging trucks, and some of its members have been sued for their work to protect La Montaña. In November 2009, the Memorandum of Commitment by Council No. 19 was signed by the authorities and the local population. This commitment contained protection of natural ecosystems for Montaña Las Granadillas, providing for the necessary studies regarding forestry licenses granted previously, to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and biodiversity in Montaña Las Granadillas.

### APMG members criminalization

Over time, there has been dialogue among the parties involved in the conflict, including public authorities and private stakeholders, to promote the defense of economic, social and cultural rights in Zacapa and in the region. However, starting in 2010, members of APMG have been threatened and criminalized, with legal accusations and police arrests (GAM, 2011; PBI, 2013). For instance, in early 2010 some members of APMG were sued for their work to protect La Montaña, especially blocking highways. APMG has explained that these accusations are untruthful and baseless and called for them to be corrected.

### Human rights protection in question

On 24th of October 2011, at APMG's request, a thematic hearing with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IHRG) led the IHRG to issue recommendations for the Guatemalan Government, such as, for example, to declare the area as a Spring Water Protection Reserve to guarantee the inhabitants' human right to water. Further, they recommended for the Government of Guatemala to ensure the security, safety and protection of human rights for the communities defending and protecting Montaña Las Granadillas and prohibit clear-cutting, in order to preserve water sources. At the same time, in 2011 a hearing with the Criminal-law Court of Zacapa was held against eight human rights advocates who are defending Montaña Las Granadillas (GAM, 2011).

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## Resolution Efforts

The APMG was created as a peaceful civil-society movement resulting from deforestation of Montaña Las Granadillas and its impacts on the region's water resources, and enforcing the human right to water and protesting and appealing to international human rights agencies. Conflict resolution modes have therefore



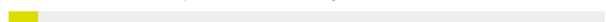
been primarily political and legal. There have been attempts at dialogue between the local population and authorities that have reached no agreements. In 2010, the situation got worse when local residents were threatened through the local media (PBI, 2013). Against this background, the conflict remains alive.

### Intensities & Influences



#### INTENSITIES

International / Geopolitical Intensity

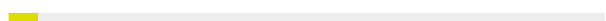


Human Suffering

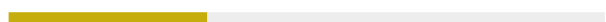


#### INFLUENCES

Environmental Influences



Societal Influences



Violent Conflict

No



Salience with nation

National



Mass displacement

None



Cross Border Mass Displacement

No



### Resolution Success

Reduction in geographical scope

There has been no reduction in geographical scope.



Increased capacity to address grievance in the future

There is no increased capacity to address grievances in the future.



Grievance Resolution

Grievances have been completely ignored.



Causal Attribution of Decrease in Conflict Intensity

There has been no reduction in intensity





## Entry Points for Resilience and Peace Building

### Dialogue

2

Over time, there has been dialogue among the parties involved in the conflict, including public authorities and private stakeholders, to promote the defense of economic, social and cultural rights in the region. However, these dialogues have reached no agreements.

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### Mediation & arbitration

2

At APGM's request a thematic hearing with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IHRM) was held. The IHRM recommended for the Guatemalan Government to ensure the security, safety and protection of human rights for the communities defending and protecting Montaña Las Granadillas and prohibit clear-cutting, in order to preserve water sources.

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### Treaty/agreement

3

In 2009, authorities and the local population signed a memorandum for the protection of natural ecosystems, and to provide the necessary studies regarding forestry licenses granted previously, to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and biodiversity in Montaña Las Granadillas.

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### Promoting social change

2

In 2003, local communities created the Association to Protect Montaña Las Granadillas (APMG) to cope with the deforestation of the mountain and its impacts on the region's water resources. The civil-society movement has been backed by the Lutheran Church in Guatemala (ILUGUA), and works in alliance with diverse organizations and collectives of the region.

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## Resources and Materials

References with URL

[GAM – Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo. Apoyo jurídico \(2011\). Defensa de la Montaña las Granadillas, Zacapa, Guatemala, Audiencia Temática en la CIDH.](#)

[PBI – Peace Brigades International \(2013\). Monthly information package on Guatemala.](#)

Further information

<https://factbook.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/resources-conflict-montaña-las-granadillas-guatemala>