

## **COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES OF ARENAL NATIONAL PARK: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS**

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This project is an analysis of local perspectives surrounding landscape and the management of natural resources in La Fortuna de San Carlos, Costa Rica. La Fortuna is a product of the conservation system and the increase of a tourism-based economy in Costa Rica, where socioeconomic development is increasing with an environmental conscience. Understanding the values and perceptions of the local population can help nearby Arenal National Park and other conservation institutions help the local community and better manage natural resources. This analysis looks for patterns in the interview responses of local participants about their personal practices with natural resources, perceptions of Arenal National Park, and changes in the community since the National Parks' establishment. Quantitative surveys and qualitative quotes to provide context suggest that local people perceive their values of natural resources as different from the objectives of Arenal National Park. The park and community need more collaboration to strengthen their relationship and to better natural resource management in the area.