



Launch of the children's book *Rocío and the Belled Forest* at the National Children's Congress in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (HONDURAS), October 11, 2023 —Yesterday, the book [Rocío and the Belled Forest](#) was launched during the National Children's Congress of Honduras. The story promotes values such as cooperation, teamwork, environmental protection, child leadership, and girls' empowerment. There were 128 girls and boys from the 18 departments of Honduras that participated in the event, which offered participants the opportunity to learn about how the National Congress functions and present bills that will benefit Honduran children.

The book tells the story of Rocío and the residents of Akoapa, who are facing serious problems related to their river drying up and their forest being cut down. As the story unfolds, they realize that the only way to address the situation is with the collaboration of the entire town.

The story was written by **Iliana Monzerath Licona Leiva, Mónica Alexandra Torres Rojas, and Lissy Mariela Rodríguez Villalvir**—members of the [Youth Legislative Impact Honduras](#) program formed by ParlAmericas, the Honduran Women's Political Forum, and the National Congress in 2022. It was illustrated by Martanoemí Noriega and designed by Arleth Rivera.

As part of the activities surrounding the book launch, the authors gave a reading at the United Nations Park El Picacho for the child members of Congress and presented their reflections on the book and its message in the National Congress.

The book, which includes a [learning guide](#) with reflection questions and activities to accompany the reading, will be distributed free of charge to various educational institutions, libraries, and social organizations by the National Congress of Honduras and the Honduran Women's Political Forum. It is also available in digital format in [Spanish](#), [Garifuna](#), and [Portuguese](#).

The publication of the book was a joint effort by ParlAmericas and the Honduran Women's Political Forum with the support of the Government of Canada.

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