



New Forests Project

www.newforestsproject.org
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NFP Fall Update 2007

NFP Web Site Improvements

The Staff at NFP has been working hard to reorganize the content, update information and add new features to the New Forests Project web page. The goal is to make the website more visually attractive and to include graphical data such as maps and charts that will make it more interactive and user-friendly. This improvement has a double purpose: To help our donors track where their contributions are being invested, and to facilitate the access to information for our beneficiaries.

The new updated version of our website will be available in English only by December, but we expect to add the Spanish and French version in the near future.

WSP Update

The World Seed Program is continuing with its efforts to decentralize its seed distribution. Apart from the first four groups receiving larger shipments of seeds, we currently have nine other groups who have sent in their applications to act as seed distributors for the New Forests Project. We are evaluating these applications and those who qualify will be included as participants of the decentralization process and will be receiving larger shipments of seeds in the near future.

The first shipment of young *Ficus natalensis* trees was delivered successfully to the Mwangwe Rural Development Association in August. Quoting their letter of gratitude: “The rural community was so excited that within eight hours they had taken all the seedlings and started planting them.” This first shipment covered 5 percent of their needs and through our fundraising efforts we hope to be able to increase this number.

In addition to this, the World Seed Program has provided small grants to two other groups in Africa. One group is in Nigeria and has already carried out two training sessions on reforestation for local leaders and community members. The other group is in Congo and has received funds to purchase nursery equipment for community members.

The summer fundraising effort, that went out as a letter to our high donors, to raise funds to support the two projects in Africa and two in Latin America, already has generated almost \$5,000 of the needed funds. The World Seed Program is also busy contacting foundations and corporate giving initiatives to try to raise the remaining funds and support similar initiatives in the future.



A woman planting seedlings of *Ficus natalensis*, a native species in Uganda, provided by New Forests Project

Clean Water Initiative Update

During this fall season, the Clean Water Initiative has focused many of its efforts on fundraising and creating a strong support network. The CWI has also been trying to keep close track of specific needs of the projects in Central America, for example water system technology and general financial support. In September, a shipment of chlorine reactor tablets was sent out to El Salvador. These reactors are used to measure the amount of chlorine present in the water. Also in September, the CWI raised well over \$1,000 of emergency relief funds for the damaged water systems and caused by Hurricane Felix in Honduras.

The Clean Water Initiative has been very involved in reaching out to create a strong support network. In early September, the CWI made contact with the Honduran Embassy and was given the opportunity to participate in the Honduran Independence Day celebration. During the celebration the CWI passed out flyers in Spanish urging the local Honduran-American community to get

involved in their fellow country men's health and well-being. The event was successful in raising awareness about water and sanitation issues in Central America and it even caught the attention of the Ambassador.

In late September the CWI was approached by the Pan American Health Organization, (PAHO), to engage in an exchange of information and research about water and sanitation methods in Central America. This exchange has already resulted in many helpful contacts and sources of information. The CWI hopes to work more closely with the PAHO sometime in the near future.

New data has just been analyzed showing that our coordinated effort with two local water associations in Honduras and El Salvador, (AHJASA and ASSA), has resulted in the provision of reliable water to more than 325 communities in need in Honduras and El Salvador, and in the last two years, CWI has installed additional 50 water systems benefiting more than 35,000 people in need.



From left to right, David Hernández, Ambassador Rodolfo Flores Bermudez of Honduras with NFP Director Erick Toledo, during the Honduran Independence Day celebration in Manassas, Virginia.

Fundraising & Outreach Update

Fundraising Update

New Forests Project is focused on diversifying our fundraising efforts by attracting the attention of various foundations and corporate giving programs. We expect that this will help expand both our World Seed Program and Clean Water Initiatives. Last September, Adriana Freiburger and Erick Toledo, traveled to Boston to make a formal presentation to the Unity Avenue Foundation to expand the Chlorine Bank Program in Honduras and El Salvador.

We also submitted applications to the Saint Andrews Prize and are grateful to Arch Chemicals for nominating the New Forests Project to receive the Committee Encouraging corporate Philanthropy Award.

Outreach Update

Last August the Director of the NFP participated in TV interview in the Latin Pulse (www.linktv.org), a half-hour bilingual English/Spanish magazine that examines Latin American issues. Erick joined two other experts from the Rainforest Action Network and XXXX, to provide their input on the topic of natural resources management and water contamination in the regions. The program was televised for two consecutive weeks on August and September and is posted on the Latin Pulse website.

New NFP Staff Member

The New Forests Project is pleased to welcome our new Program Assistant, Charles Guedenet. Charles is a graduate student at the George Washington

University in International Development Studies, and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. Charles will be assisting in all aspects of the World Seed Program and the Clean Water Initiative.

NFP Advisory Committee

During the Board of Director's Meeting last September, the New Forests Project launched an initiative to create a special Advisory Committee to provide support to its staff, help develop our next 5 year Strategic Plan, build strategic alliances with key organizations, and increase access financial resources & grants. The Committee will be made up of International Center Board Members and other experts in the subjects of reforestation, water and sanitation and fundraising. The reaction from the Board members was very positive and several members want to be a part of the Committee. We are very excited because of the enthusiasm our Advisory Committee members have shown us and hope that this initiative helps make our programs stronger and more effective.

For more information please feel free to contact us

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