



## New Forests Project

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### January Update 2007

#### The World Seed Program

The World Seed Program has successfully shipped 37 seed packages to 18 different countries since October of 2006. These seeds have gone to small scale reforestation projects being implemented by schools, religious groups, NGOs, municipalities, and other organizations and individuals around the world.

The New Forests Project will continue to provide seeds to these small scale efforts, but our program's new coordinator, Pia Iolster, is also investigating alternative ways to support other important projects. One area of interest would be to support groups that are



A WSP beneficiary in Kenya stands beside his nursery grown with NFP nitrogen fixing seeds.

initiating reforestation with local species. This will not only provide the benefits of traditional reforestation projects but can also support the maintenance of local biodiversity. Pia is reviewing specific projects in Africa and Latin America that are promoting reforestation with native species and is identifying ways to support them, most likely by initially funding the purchase of native seeds or seedlings.

Finally, The World Seed program is in the process of improving its list of seed species for its beneficiaries. The new list will offer seeds that can adapt to a wider range of geographic areas such as higher altitudes, and a better selection for high-demand regions, such as Africa. All this will allow NFP to better serve its beneficiaries by offering a wider range of species that can adapt to the specific requirements of each individual project.

#### Clean Water Initiative

The New Forests Project has been supporting the Chlorine Bank in Honduras and El Salvador for four years. After expanding from one to five locations the Chlorine Bank is now established enough to make a large push for further sustainability and expansion.

Last October the New Forests Project purchased and organized the import of 96 NORWECO Water Purification Devices and

3,240 pounds of the NORWECO Chlorine Tablet to Honduras and El Salvador. After two months we are happy to say that AHJASA has successfully imported this essential and durable water technology.

ASSA in El Salvador is expected to have access to their 48 NORWECO water chlorinators within the coming two weeks.

These devices and chlorine tablets will be distributed by AHJASA and ASSA to rural communities at a reduced cost, increasing access to safe water for rural populations and the financial independence of our partner organizations.

Also, thanks to the support of the New Forests Project, in November of 2006 AHJASA was able to organize and hold their most successful National Conference to date. Participants from communities across Honduras attended this gathering in Siguatepe, Honduras. Conference participants took part in interactive workshops and exchanged ideas and contacts about improving access to safe water and sanitation in their small and isolated communities.

Also in attendance at the Asamblea Nacional were other New Forests Project partners from El Salvador (ASSA), Nicaragua and Guatemala. These participants took place in the second annual FANCASA (Federacion Centroamericana de Sistemas de Agua) Conference where they made plans to further strengthen this important regional network of support.

Thanks to our support AHJASA was able to film a short eight minute documentary which will serve as a fundraising and marketing tool in 2007. This documentary which will be posted on the New Forests Project webpage

is a recollection of interviews of various rural people and water associations' members who have benefited from our water projects and from the Circuit Rider Program in Honduras.

The New Forests Project is hoping to make great strides in the expansion of its Clean Water Initiative in 2007. Our partner in Honduras is in the preliminary of its largest expansion to date. This expansion will involve the maintenance of a cluster of five Water Treatment Plants and the training and mobilization of 87 communities, providing services to more than 61,000 residents in the Southern region of Honduras (Nacaome and Valle).



Ana Caal from Agua del Pueblo demonstrates a household water connection in a rural community in Telemán, Guatemala.

Finally, we are proud to announce that its Chlorine Bank in Honduras and El Salvador was nominated as one of the 30 semi-finalists out of a pool of 231 applicants for the St. Andrew's University Prize for the Environment. The selection of 6-10 finalists will take place in March 2007.

### **Fundraising**

*Foundations:* The New Forests Project is pleased to announce that in December of 2006 it secured a \$10,000 grant from the Unity Avenue Foundation! This money will be used towards the expansion of the Circuit Rider Program in Central America in 2007.

So far this year the New Forests Project has submitted proposals for the support of its Clean Water Initiative to the Wallace Genetic Foundation, Sam Rubin's Foundation, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation and Andrew Irwin Porter Foundation.

*Online Giving:* We are also pleased to announce that during the month of December our online donation program brought in over \$1,000, the highest online monthly sum to-date. Other noteworthy donations made as a result of our end-of-year

*Individual Donors:* As a result of our direct mail acquisition in 2006 the New Forests Project was able to increase its pool of donors. In 2006 NFP added 1800 new names to our list of donors bringing out total number to almost 5,000 active donors. This effort generated \$40,000 in revenue.

As we move forward with this acquisition effort in 2007 we expect this number will continue to increase. We hope to reach the goal of 10,000 names by 2010.

## **Contact Us**

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A woman and her daughter pose in Las Verapaces, Guatemala, one of Agua del Pueblo's beneficiary communities of a new water system.