

Project Update: April 2012

Thanks to RSG support, we have concluded the demographic monitoring of one population of Palma Real (*Dioon caputoi*). This will be valuable information for the next objective we have already begun.

People within the community have been trained to grow Palma Real along with Agave. We have had a couple of meetings with the owners of land where these plants are found. In the first meeting, we talked about our demographic findings, particularly, including suggestions about wild seed management involved in the cultivation of these plants. In the second meeting, we took some people from the communities to travel to Xalapa, Veracruz, where they visited the beautiful and important Botanical Garden "Francisco Javier Clavijero". In the garden, specialists in ornamental plant cultivation (MsC. Carlos Iglesias Delfín and PhD. Andrew Vovides) gave informative talks about cycad nurseries and other gardening topics.

Finally, we began with the field work, taking foliar tissue samples of five populations of *Agave potatorum* and we have done some DNA extraction tests to begin the population genetics study.

