

## Project Update: March 2009

Preliminary experiments to control the seed bank of the invasive plant species *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Rubus niveus* have been carried out using pre-emergent herbicides under laboratory conditions. Five different herbicides were applied to soil samples containing seeds of both species. The products Butaclor (concentration: 2.2 %) and Oxadiazon (concentration: 0.6%) have proven to be very effective preventing the germination of both species. Next we will test these two products in the field.

Plants are also being grown in the nursery to use in the competition experiments; the areas in the forest that will be used for the experiments have been cleared. Unfortunately this year is the second driest since climate records were begun, and I am waiting for the rains or the mist season before planting.

