

## Project Update: February 2011

In the last few months one of our main activities at the Botanical Garden has been the planning a training course for local landowners in sustainable agriculture, gardening, and tourism (set to begin in April 2011). Another project has been to reinforce the biology curriculum at the local university, where our staff visited the campus to deliver lectures, later followed up with a visit to the garden. Using special materials created by visiting scientists and volunteers, students learned textbook concepts such as mutualisms while observing local examples such as *Cecropia* trees (with extrafloral nectaries) and biting Aztec ants (defending the plant against herbivores). Recently, our website has been updated, providing a vital educational tool for rainforest plants. Finally, collaboration with local schools has always been a part of the work of the botanical garden.



Plant art at the orchid garden with local 11-13 year olds