

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Jean Lindgren, Development Manager
Project title	Revegetation/Restoration Project
RSG reference	9505-1
Reporting period	21st March 2011 – 10th March 2012
Amount of grant	£3,000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:mail@planetdrum.org">mail@planetdrum.org</a> or <a href="mailto:talk2animals@comcast.net">talk2animals@comcast.net</a>
Date of this report	8 March 2012

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
In 1999 the original project objective was to re-vegetate and stabilise 8 km of severely eroded hillsides bordering Bahia de Caraquez and the Rio Chone.		This part of the Revegetation/ Restoration Project is nearing completion.		The success of the re-vegetation process has proven itself many times during the past 12 years. All the sites we've restored have withstood heavy rains and experienced no devastating mudslides. Besides serving as an erosion buffer, this strip of restored land is also a "wild corridor" of habitat for native plants and animals. We find native animals in our re-vegetation sites on a regular basis.
<b>Objectives for 2011-2012</b> Produce native trees for re-vegetation at the greenhouse.			Over 5,000 native trees representing over 12 different species were produced.	Over the years we have adapted the tree species we work with to select trees that are most resist to the harsh conditions of areas that have been de-vegetated.
Focus on native species that are desired by local populations for planting and care taking.			3,000 fruit bearing trees were produced.	Fruit producing trees are very popular with local populations and residents are often times more willing to assist with their planting than non-fruit producing trees.
Share our experience in ecosystem restoration with local residents, national and international visitors.			A record number of visitors came to the greenhouse this year.	Local school children came to learn and help us at the greenhouse. We also received many national visitors and multiple international groups as well as dozens of volunteers who came to work with us.
Expand re-vegetation project beyond 8 km corridor that borders Bahia de Caraquez		In 2011-2012 we were able to provide trees to residents at km 16-20 as well as to the Punta Gorda Nature Reserve, located 8 km		New regions were covered by our Revegetation Project this year. As a result more areas of Dry Tropical Forest are being restored and more people are learning about and benefiting from our work. Five new communities located outside of Bahia received over 1,500 trees that were planted by the residents of those areas. Trees that were given to

		south Bahia.	of		the Punta Gorda Nature Reserve were planted by volunteers of the Global Student Exchange that works in conjunction with Planet Drum Foundation.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Low levels of volunteer help in August-November 2011 made it difficult for our local planters to prepare large numbers of new re-vegetation sites to plant in early 2012. Only three new re-vegetation sites, accounting for 800 trees, were created, in addition to watering and maintenance at our existing sites. Fortunately, last minute help from a friendly city councilman assisted in the delivery of trees to outlying communities that had previously received very little attention. Those residents happily received the trees and assisted in planting. As a result we were able to deliver and ensure planting of all 5,000 trees that were produced at the greenhouse in 2011.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- To stabilise the eroded hillsides in Bahia de Caraquez and along the Rio Chone to prevent further severe erosion and devastating mudslides.
- To restore wildlife corridors of native dry tropical forest vegetation that link with extant forest in this area and increase the biological diversity resulting in a healthier ecosystem.
- To provide hands-on experience in ecologically sustainable practices so that the residents of Bahia de Caraquez and neighbouring communities can continue working from this base for their own benefit and that of the ecosystem.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

In addition to participating in our workshops and events, residents regularly request information, assistance and/or trees from us as they undertake ecological projects in their neighbourhoods. Local teachers bring their students to our greenhouse to learn about native plant species and they often help with planting and maintenance. More and more residents and landowners are requesting re-vegetation work in their neighbourhoods and on their private property, in addition to requests from neighbouring cities.

Also, many of the trees we plant are fruit-bearing and provide residents with an additional food source they can use for themselves and/or sell in the local markets. Our projects employ local residents and our bioregional approach to ecosystem restoration has inspired several residents to start their own ecologically-oriented businesses which are very successful.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. As we complete the work on the 8 km area around Bahia, we plan to begin building the necessary infrastructure to expand restoration work to the adjacent cities of San Clemente, San Jacinto, San Vicente and Canoa, located north and south of Bahia de Caraquez. Re-vegetation is very much needed on approximately 300 ha [about 740 acres] of the most seriously eroded land within

and surrounding these cities. We are in contact and working out plans with residents of those cities as well as government officials.

This expansion will enable us to extend the diversity, abundance, employment, and security to many more Ecuadorians and a much larger section of the watershed. It targets this ecosystem that supports a large segment of the population occupying one of the most impoverished geographic regions in Ecuador.

## **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

Regular field reports and project updates are posted on Planet Drum Foundation's website and readily available to everyone. Website: [www.planetdrum.org](http://www.planetdrum.org). We frequently consult with other restoration groups working in Manabi Province and share our results and processes. Also during this past year, many groups, national and international, who heard about our work in Bahia de Caraquez, have come to see it firsthand and learn more about it. Locally, our work is promoted through media outlets as well: newspaper articles about developments in our projects, coverage on the radio, and occasional open houses held in conjunction with the local government authorities.

## **7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The Revegetation/Restoration Project has been ongoing since 1999. RSG's funding has been used since 21 March 2011 when we received it and continued through February 2012. We anticipate that completion of the current revegetation work and expansion of it in neighbouring cities will take at least 10 years.

## **8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Our budget figures are based upon the exchange rate on 8 March 2012: \$1.00 US = £ 0.633326 GBP

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Local Planters	£1,405.76	£ 1,392.68	<£ 13.08 >	
Institute Land	£1,250.36	£ 1,308.45	£ 58.09	Due to our local planters' availability, we were able to get more done here. (This is the start of our expanded work further inland from our current 8 km re-vegetation area.)
Tools/Equipment	£ 156.32	£ 75.37	<£ 80.95>	Fewer new tools needed to be purchased.
Water/Transport	£ 62.52	£ 243.20	£ 180.68	Less rainfall this past year created the need to purchase more water.
Construction (Greenhouse)	£ 62.52	£ 7.60	<£ 54.92>	Most of the greenhouse expansion work was completed by the time the grant funds arrived.
Fencing	£ 62.52	£ 30.40	<£ 32.12>	We were able to reuse fencing from other sites.

<b>Total</b>	£3,000.00	£ 3,057.70	
Bank Transfer Fees		£ 60.80	
<b>Total</b>		£ 3,118.50	

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

- To complete the work on the original 8 km long re-vegetation strip of land.
- To continue discussions with residents and government officials of San Clemente, San Jacinto, San Vicente and Canoa and work out detailed plans for restoration work.
- Preparation for expansion of the revegetation project will require the building of additional greenhouses in order to grow saplings closer to the areas where they will be planted. At the appropriate time, more planters and construction workers will need to be hired for the greenhouses, trail building to/within revegetation sites, site preparation, and planting/maintenance.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, since we received RSG's grant, we have prominently displayed RSGF's logo on the main Ecuador Projects page of Planet Drum Foundation's website. Also, all visitors to our re-vegetation sites in Bahia de Caraquez and participants in our presentations in San Francisco, California USA have been informed of RSG's funding of the project.

**11. Any other comments?**

All of our projects are directly based on restoring and maintaining natural systems while delivering human benefits. The Revegetation/Restoration Project conserves and increases biological diversity thus enabling a fuller expression of the services the ecosystem can provide and greatly benefitting the residents and community as a whole.

The sites we have re-vegetated are attracting many visitors, individuals interested in the processes we use as well as local/international tours.

The Global Student Exchange, based in Marin County, California, USA, has used our revegetation project as a model for the work they are beginning to do in Ecuador and Peru.



Left: A young Bahian learns about tree planting. Middle: Clay explaining our work at the February 2012 Open House. Right: Orlando delivering trees to one of the outlying communities.