

Project Update: June 2011

Work has covered multiple areas. The Parra re-vegetation site has been completed and is the largest to date with just over 700 native trees planted on a series of hills which surround Dr. Parra's property. A new site is being created in Jorge Lomas barrio where we planted 470 trees last year. The land owner, Don Carlos Salazar, is very keen on continuing to participate in the re-vegetation project.

Ramon Cedeño, a local planter who has been working in our re-vegetation project for years, and various visiting groups of volunteers from the Global Student Embassy organisation have planted 1,300 trees at Punta Gorda. They are re-vegetating strategic areas in the forest around and near water drainages, which retain moisture throughout the dry season.

Also, Orlando Arias, the re-vegetation/restoration project's field foreman, has been contacted by individual residents interested in receiving trees. Several of them want to be responsible for the entire process of transporting, planting and caring for the trees. They have agreed to let us check in on the work periodically to advise them and ensure that they doing their part.

The sites we planted this past rainy season are doing fantastically well and the greenhouse is in excellent shape. Nearly 3,000 trees have been delivered and planted so far this year. We are continuing to expand the selection of native trees that we work with to secure a solid base of natives that have a proven high survival rate in extremely poor conditions (disturbed soil, hillsides, direct sun, very little water, etc).

Aside from the usual field work, in February 2011 we participated in the 12th anniversary celebration of Bahia de Caraquez Eco-City Declaration. We had a table at the open house and gave free fruit trees to the public. We arrived with a batch of 80 trees though we were unsure how interested people would be in getting a tree to plant. The first batch flew off the table and we sent a truck for another load which also disappeared almost immediately. Planet Drum Foundation achieved excellent public relations. A picture of our table appeared in the news article about the open house the next day in the regional paper El Diario Manabita.

In the coming months, we will be assisting with tree planting at Punta Gorda, collecting more native tree seeds, and growing more saplings for 2012 in the greenhouse.



Left: Clearing trail and digging holes for planting trees at Dr. Parra revegetation site. Right: Collecting compost for a community garden project that Orlando has spearheaded in his neighborhood, Bellavista.



Left: Loading trees to be delivered to Punta Gorda. Right: Planet Drum Foundation's table at the Eco-City celebration Open House.