

# International Analog Forestry Network

Quarterly E-Bulletin, Issue No. 1, September 15th, 2011



IAFN-RIFA

Etapa climax

Tercera etapa de serial

Segunda etapa de serial

Incremento de la estabilidad del suelo  
biodiversidad del suelo  
y profundidad del horizonte A

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## New IAFN Secretariat Office in Quepos, Costa Rica!

The board of the International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN) met in September 2010 in Londres de Aguirre, Costa Rica after the last meeting held at the Falls Brook Centre in New Brunswick, Canada in September 2007. The event was organized by the Dutch association BothEnds ([www.bothends.nl](http://www.bothends.nl)). Two fruitful meeting days gave way for the discussion of a considerable number of issues, one of which was the potential establishment of a secretariat office in Quepos, Costa Rica; along with the employment of a coordinator to work alongside Milo Bekins, chairman of the IAFN. Thanks to funding provided by the organization with BothEndsand Cordaid, the plan has become a reality and Milo has made all of the arrangements required to establish this new office in Quepos.

The functions of the office are to maintain a list of ongoing and future analog forestry projects and to provide funding opportunities for these. In addition, the office will evaluate grants, business plans, microcredit loans for self-sustaining IAFN participants and members through organizations like Accion Internacional. The coordinator and the chairman will also carry out Analog Forestry training and consultation. We will be maintaining a comprehensive database of plant species in collaboration with other Analog Forestry organizations all over the world. Finally, our office is dedicated to communicating with the public through multiple venues including an updated website, a newsletter, and local publications. We welcome everyone to find out more about the analog forestry methodology, IAFN's work internationally, and what it means to become a member. Milo Bekins, chairman of IAFN, will be in charge of this headquarters along with the assistance of Eduardo Aguilar Espinoza, project coordinator, and an intern, Aislin Livingstone.

- The office is located in Quepos on the second floor of the commercial building across from the EscuelaCorea. To learn more please visit [www.analogforestrynetwork.org](http://www.analogforestrynetwork.org).



# Chairman's Message

The International Analog Forestry Network, IAFN, is a partnership of community based organizations (CBO's) created in 1996. As you know, our primary objective is to restore ecosystems, environmental stability, biodiversity, and human well-being; all through research, knowledge exchange, and the application of the Analog Forestry system. This forest management system restores ecosystems impacted by anthropogenic intervention by establishing designed forest ecosystems, using mixed exotic crops and native species which are analogous in ecological function and architectonic structure to the natural forest.

You, as organizations and individual members, take these learned principles and apply them to your local bioregion. We have had numerous Analog Forestry workshops and will continue in the future to do so. Through these workshops, professionals and local community leaders learn the techniques of Analog Forestry and the benefits of crop diversification for the rural farmer. Forest Garden Products (FGP's) are crops grown by some of these farmers whose practices have been inspected and certified under the IAFN's Certification Standards; and contribute to biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and environmentally stable organic agriculture. An important aim of the IAFN is to develop markets in developed nations for FGP's to benefit the farmer in the third world.

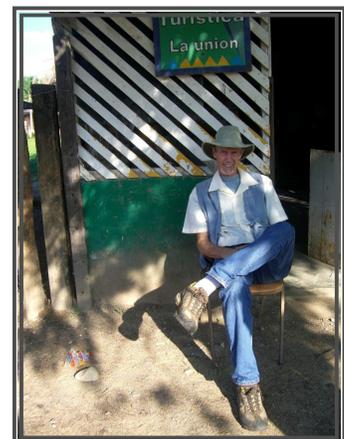
The Board of Directors voted in the board meeting in September, 2010, unanimously to house our new secretariat offices in Quepos, Costa Rica thanks to the approval of a seed money grant by CORDAID.org a partner of BothEnds. We have just opened the office in August 2011 with a team of myself, our new coordinator, Eduardo Aguilar, and an intern provided by FBC, Canada to assume the important duties of grant proposals, distribution and exchange of AF information, promoting membership, organizing the promotion and organization of capacity building events, and maintenance of the website. Our Board of Directors is active in committees and sub-committees for the implementation of objectives such as: capacity building training workshops as mentioned above, workshops for inspectors of the IAFN certification system, a data base of information concerning the planting, production, harvesting periods of plants within our AF systems, and promotion of carbon sequestration protocols in member countries to address the issue of global warming.

So, as you can see this is a close knit group of like-minded individuals forming local and bio-regional CBO's promoting and dedicated to Analog Forestry for the betterment of biodiverse ecosystems, crop management and economic sustainability for poor farmers; all the while bringing these Forest Garden Products to consumers throughout the world. We will be contacting all of our member organizations and individual members for more information and how you can help us.

Respectfully Yours,



Milo W. Bekins F.  
IAFN Chairman  
Quepos  
Costa Rica, Central America



## Forest Garden Products (FGP) Certification

The FGP certification system arose as a need to guarantee the quality and status of products derived from the application of Analog Forestry (AF), or similar silvicultural methods. It understands and respects the dynamics of all ecosystems as well as the improved well being of rural communities. Currently, FGP products from AF production systems are being certified in Asia, and South America.

FGP certification goes beyond organic. Not only does it preclude the application of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers and GMO's, it also uses a system of bio-indicator evaluation to confirm the sustainability of the production area. In this way, soil fertility is increased, local biodiversity enhanced, and the erosion of soil reduced, which in turn has a positive effect towards improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities.

The Forest Garden Products (FGPs) label promises to the consumer that the FGP standards are met. These cover: organic status, use of the Analog Forestry methodology, and Fair Trade requirements have been fulfilled. It also rewards producers committed to maintaining or enhancing land sustainability within their systems of production. FGP certification allows farmers and producers to access specialized and conscientious markets including premium prices to compensate their efforts in complying with FGP standards.

FGP Inspection & Certification in Sri Lanka is the first company to inspect and certify according to FGP standards.

**Lorena Gamboa**



For more information please visit us at:  
<http://www.forestgardencertification.com>

## Milo Bekins Faries ' Trip to Spain!



*Milo with AFMed members in Mallorca, Spain*

In late July 2011, Milo Bekins Faries (IAFN President) went to Mallorca, Spain to capacitate the team of the Analog Forestry Mediterranean Network (AFMED) in the methodology of Analog Forestry (AF). Milo spent the first days of his trip visiting some of the typical Mediterranean habitats in preparation for the training course.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, a conference was held at the theatre of the "Club de Opinión del Diario de Mallorca" to spread the concept of AF in Mallorca. Milo's presentation entitled, "Restoring biodiversity stimulating the local economy is possible: Analog Forestry", was a great success. Around one hundred people attended the conference. Congratulations Milo!

The last three days of stay were devoted to AF training of the AFMED team.

From the Mediterranean, we would like to thank Milo for taking the time to cross the Atlantic and train our team. Muchas gracias!

**Elena Bulmer**

President, AFMed  
Mallorca, Spain



# CENDEP

## Centre for Nursery Development & Eru Propagation

CENDEP is a community based organization that is active mainly in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon and recently in the Central African sub-region promoting the domestication of non wood forest products and restoration of degraded forest areas using analog forestry. It is also involved in promoting value chain development for non wood forest products like honey and *Gnetum* spp.

CENDEP started to implement Analog Forestry in Cameroon in 2008 with support from the Netherlands International Committee for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN NL). The organization includes its Analog Forestry activities around degraded forests that serve as watersheds. Thus, it uses Analog Forestry to restore communal watersheds. Support for this work has been consistent since 2008, though the major support was from IUCN NL. In 2010 and 2011, the Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSG) and the New Englands Biolabs Foundation respectively, have assisted CENDEP in extending analog forestry activities to new communities in the North West region of Cameroon.

As Analog Forestry is a new concept, the organization has invested considerable

efforts in convincing the local people/ authorities to accept it. The major challenges in implementing Analog Forestry have been to cause the local people to change their way of thinking as well as resolving their conflicting interests over communal resources.

Communal efforts in promoting Analog Forestry have often been thwarted by cattle farmers who continue to graze their cattle in "protected areas" where



*Members drying and bagging eru*

the technology is being used. It is expected that as the economic and social benefits become apparent adopt will be faster. Some of CENDEP's key stakeholders are forest resource users, small scale farmers, school children, local councils, and traditional and administrative authorities.

For more information please visit:  
[www.cendep.org](http://www.cendep.org)

**Eric Fondzenyuy Wirsiy**



# Analog Forestry in New Brunswick, Canada

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Falls Brook Centre is located on 400 acres of Acadian forest temperate hardwoods in the Maritime Region of Canada. This is a region that has snow cover from November to April and temperatures down to -30degrees Celsius. Summers are hot and rainy, with a strong growing season.

The 400 acres serves as a training and education centre for students, community groups and others interested in organic agriculture, forest stewardship, renewable energy and community development. The land had been severely over-cut, high graded and left in ruts, with trees cut down as blinds for hunters. One of the founders, Jean Arnold, began with arborist Geoff Ritchie and biologist Sally Puleston, to restore the land based on sound ecological practices and using Analog Forestry as the primary methodology. Located at the foothills, the land is wet and topsoil is limited. Trees and shrubs have been planted as windbreaks, wildlife attraction, erosion control, and to experiment with species not native to the area but native to the next warmer zone in the region. Forest nurseries, seed collection and propagation has been incorporated in all endeavours. Growth is slow to establish but over 20 years there is now an emerging mixed forest with cedar, pine, birch, maple, beech, poplar, ironwood, serviceberry and the introduced oaks, butternut, and ashes. Wetland gardens and forest trails are established with over 12 km of trails marked for species identification and forest walking pleasure.

On one recent visit of local naturalists, 34 different birdsongs were identified. Moose and bear as well as a range of night crawlers (raccoons, skunks, porcupines and the smaller mammals) abound. The land is a haven for wildlife with many berry bushes, both wild and cultivated, orchards, and brooks. This garners an appreciation that we are sharing our space with many other beings as well as a place for Analog Forestry to be taught and practiced, and contributed in temperate climates to its more wide spread application in more tropical regions of the world. For more information please visit: [www.fallsbrookcentre.ca](http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca)

## Jean Arnold

Executive Director  
Falls Brook Centre, Canada

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**FALLS  
BROOK  
CENTRE**



Oak Leaves



Acadian Forest

## Using Analog Forestry for Mangrove Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, & to Increase Community Resilience on the North Coast of Honduras

The Falls Brook Centre (Canadian NGO and active IAFN member) is working along the north coast of Honduras to establish a Mangrove Restoration Training and Livelihood Development Centre. The project aims to demonstrate on a small scale how restoration of buffer zone forests can contribute to improved food security and community livelihoods.

In the north coast of Honduras, mangrove forests are a fundamental ecosystem necessary to support biodiversity and native species. However, they are disappearing for different reasons including the extraction of natural resources for use by the local population, as well as the anthropogenic encroachment, and population growth. The destruction of habitat in this area is increasingly frequent, fishing catch has reduced noticeably, and pressures on the ecosystem are continuing to intensify.

Honduras ranks third on a global level in terms of impacts caused by climate change in recent years. More specifically these impacts include severe storms and hurricanes which have destroyed many coastal areas. Wetland systems act as natural protection between oceans and coastal communities but currently this ecosystem is not fully capable of serving its function as it has been severely degraded. Creating a natural buffer zone in these areas in the north coast would augment their resilience.

In the Refugio de Vida Silvestre Cuero y Salado, using the Analog Forestry methodology, restoration work emphasizes on the use of native mangrove species and associate species to restore the structure and function of degraded mangrove habitat. Community members have a key role in determining Analog Forestry formulas, ecological value and analysis, mapping and design through workshops and planning sessions. Native and productive

species within the mangrove ecosystem are incorporated in the design and include examples of ferns, epiphytes, and vines as well as a wide diversity of associate tree species. The community nursery has successfully propagated and planted 19 native species and employs a team of 13 local women "*Equipo Vivero*" who take turns watering and maintaining the nursery. Local children enthusiastically collect seeds and take them to the "*centro de acopio de semillas*" (seed collection centre) for a small payment, they are also instrumental in helping fill bags with soil and planting their seeds.



*'Equipo Vivero' by the nursery*

A pilot project demonstration site has been developed comprising a total area of 12.5 hectares in a variety of vegetation communities, some of which are in the process of natural regeneration, while the rest of it is a heavily impacted by human activities. Initial plantings of red mangrove have been thriving in the area as are a number of associate species planted further upland.



*Local children holding red mangrove seedlings*

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*Successful Red Mangrove plantings by the Río Salado*

After the success of a 2 year pilot project in the Refugio de Vida Silvestre Cuero y Salado, Falls Brook Centre has recently expanded their work to two additional protected areas along the north coast of Honduras including the Parque Nacional Nombre de Dios and the Parque Nacional Cuyamel. In addition to community nurseries and planting sites, all three locations will include



*Participants at an Analog Forestry workshop in Cuero y Salado*

components of environmental education and implementation of family/community gardens to further enhance local food security and the educate communities of the urgent importance of protect biodiversity of their mangroves.

**Jennifer Sylvester**

## IAFN Accredited Trainers

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In order to maintain the best in quality capacity building for Analog Forestry, we have established a system of accreditation for AF trainers. We now have an examination to be taken and passed along with certain AF design criteria that must be met in order to be classified an Accredited IAFN Trainer. Our Training and Curriculum committee has taken on the task of evaluating the exams and AF designs of the potential trainers.

With this system in place we can maintain faithfulness to the principles of AF in the Training of Trainers along with the training of farmers groups, while at the same time provide the best quality and curriculum that we can.

The following countries have registered accredited trainers, please note that we will be uploading the list of accredited trainers to the website along with the criteria protocol.

Cuba  
Sri Lanka  
Costa Rica  
Honduras  
Cameroon  
Togo  
Ecuador

If any of you are interested to know more of this system please contact our Secretariat coordinator, Eduardo Aguilar Espinoza:

[eduardo@analogforestrynetwork.org](mailto:eduardo@analogforestrynetwork.org)

(011) (506) 2777- 7259



**IAFN-RIFA**

## Biodiversity Restoration and Community Development in the Eastern Province of Guantanamo

Guantanamo is not just a military base; it is also a city and a province on the eastern tip of the island of Cuba. About 15km outside of the city of Guantanamo, there is a zone called Paraguay; this particular zone has xerophytic characteristics, featuring an annual average rainfall of 400mm and average temperatures of 36°C. In the last decades, the region has been largely dedicated to sugar cane and cotton plantations, water- and nutrient-intensive crops. Years and years under this regime have left the soil in Paraguay bare, eroded, saline, and infertile.

In 2000, the Cuban government put the state-owned Forest Enterprise of Guantanamo in charge of reforesting 340ha of former industrial agriculture land in this zone. They constructed 14 households that became home to the 14 'forest farmers' in charge of reforesting the area.

At first, the results were poor. Farmers were following the same monocultural model that had previously ruined this very land; planting a single species of tree without taking any actions to restore soil fertility, moisture, and biodiversity.

Low levels of soil nutrients and increased salinity make the conditions for recreating a forest difficult. It is for this exact reason that in 2007, Falls Brook Centre, an environmental education and training centre based in rural New Brunswick, chose this zone to start an Analog Forestry project. As Jean Arnold, Falls Brook Centre's executive director would say: "If we were to choose a fertile and well-irrigated zone to demonstrate the potential of Analog Forestry, then people would think

Analog Forestry can only be done in easy conditions. By succeeding at it in a very harsh climate, we are demonstrating that if it can be done here, it can be done anywhere else."



*Young boy with a seedling*

In order to start working with Guantanamo's small farmers, Falls Brook Centre has partnered with the Cuban National Forest Institute and its provincial Research Station based in the province. This partnership and funding from the Canadian International Development Agency initiated the project "Biodiversity Restoration and Community Development in the Eastern Province of Guantanamo." The goal of this project is to recreate a forest that would be analogous to the climax forest in terms of structure and ecological function. Restoration efforts will take into account the

populations' needs and interests by selecting species that are culturally relevant and can provide nutritional and economic benefits. Transforming degraded land into a diverse forest will not only provide habitat for natural wildlife, it will also provide clean water, climate regulation, food, and a source of income for the surrounding communities.

Three years have gone by and the 14 forest farmers and their families are actively involved in the project. The Cuban National Forest Institute technicians make regular consultations to provide training and advice. They have also received visits from members of the *International Analog Forestry Network*, and 14 youth interns from Falls Brook Centre.

Some farmers and members of the Forest Institute have even had the chance to

participate in Analog Forestry training sessions in Costa Rica and Canada. The entire zone has been mapped and Analog Forestry designs have been developed by the farmers and technical teams. There are now 3 Analog Forestry demonstration parcels in 3 zones with differing levels of salinity. Most of the farms have their own small nurseries producing a variety of seedlings to replant their farms according to the Analog Forestry model.

None of this work could have been done without the support of the surrounding communities. In fact, three community groups have been formed to raise awareness of biodiversity. Volunteers have even started community nurseries, taking advantage of their easier access to water to produce seedlings for the 14 farms. After-school groups have been formed where children and youths can learn about the benefits of forest restoration and preservation.



*Resident beside a micro-nursery*

All of these accomplishments are very impressive considering the farmers have no access to water! The farmers have to bike to town to get water to meet their basic needs; they must rely on their own ingenuity to obtain the extra water needed to grow plants in a very dry zone. With financial support from the project, they have built wells and tanks to capture rain water. In order to increase their rain catchment capacity they have used rooftop

shingles that contain asbestos. Knowing the danger posed by asbestos-contaminated water to human and animal health, project staff members recognized a new challenge: to provide safe access to clean water on the 14 forest farms.

In 2010, Falls Brook Centre received an extension to CIDA's funding and is now constructing a water system that will bring water to the farms. Everyone involved in the project believes that the secure access to water will give an incredible boost to the project's results. The farmers know a lot about Analog Forestry, and they will soon have the means to put it in practice.



*Children from the community beside seedlings*

Before 2015, the Cuban government is hoping to have at least 29.4% of the island's area covered in forest. Falls Brook Centre and its partners are very proud to say that a part of it will be an analog forest that will benefit future generations.

**For more information please visit:**

[www.fallsbrookcentre.ca](http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca)

**Julia Girard**



## IAFN Executive Board Meeting October, 2011

This October the IAFN secretariat will be hosting a much anticipated board meeting for the network at Finca Fila Marucha, Londres, just 19 km from the newly formed secretariat office in Quepos, Costa Rica. All of the board members will be traveling from around the globe to attend a three day discussion addressing themes such as the IAFN's strategic plan, Forest Garden Product certification, and the organizational structure of the network, including the role of the secretariat. On the third day the IAFN's new office in Costa Rica will be launched in an open forum with other major NGOs at the IUCN headquarters in San Jose. This will also be an opportunity to introduce the new secretariat coordinator, Eduardo Aguilar-Espinoza, who is a biologist by profession, as well as an experienced project coordinator.

Finca Fila Marucha, owned and operated by Milo Bekins Faries, is a demonstration site for Analog Forestry as well as an AF education and training centre.



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