Restoring Ecosystems and Biodiversity using Analog Forestry

Atlantida, Honduras

June 24-27, 2014
Showcase of Analog Forestry and Policy dialogue for decision makers (government, NGO leaders, institutions)

June 29-July 3rd 2014
Practical methodology for how to implement Analog Forestry for practitioners and community leaders

Summary Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The restoration of degraded lands in Latin America and indeed the world over is of the utmost importance. The lost of forested lands that buffered the effects of climate change, provided the environmental services essential for life, and offered livelihoods for the people and communities that protected them must be addressed. Every person, organization, community, nation, and international organization has a role to play. The challenge is to link those with the capacity to support in the field demonstrations by those with the capacity to create forest management examples that simultaneously address environmental, economic, and community needs.

A proven practical methodology that is used in degraded land restoration in over 21 countries and four continents is Analog Forestry. This system of achieving mature ecosystem restoration by has been accepted by numerous institutions, NGO's and community practitioners and provides an alternative to unsustainable practices and contemporary approaches to conservation.

Building upon the International Analog Foretry Network (IAFN) involvement for the last several years in practical implementation of mangrove restoration, kitchen gardens and Analog Forestry Biological Corridors, the Tree Project (TTP) hosted a 4-day Showcase of Analog Forestry and Policy Dialogue from June 24-27th, 2014. This conference resulted in Analog Forestry being recognized by a larger range of Honduran decision-makers and an endorsement of the Department of Environment to a previous commitment within the Honduran National Climate Change Strategy to preserve the function, structure and composition of ecosystems that provide resilience to the impacts of climate change through tangible goals to sustain restoration and rehabilitation efforts of degraded areas through the application of Analog Forestry:

> *"Forestería Análoga (FA) ha sido reconocida en la estrategia Nacional Cambio Climático del GobiernoHondureño como un objetivo estratégico de adaptación al cambio climático para preserver a largo plazo la función, estructura y composición de los ecosistemas, para mejorar su capacidad de adaptación ante el cambio climático como un lineamiento estratégico: ¨Establecer los marcos de acción para sustentar las iniciativas nacionales de Restauración y Rehabilitación de áreas degradadas, especialmente mediante la forestería análoga¨."*
>
> *~ Secretario de Estado en los Despachos de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente*

Following the completion of the Institutional Policy Dialogue, a 4-day Analog Forestry Training session was held with more than 35 participants ranging from professional foresters and technicians to farmers from the 5 municipalities in the area (SanFrancisco, El Porvenir, Masica, Esparta and Arizona). The training covered the practical methodologies for how to implement Analog Forestry on the ground, with specific

considerations for the local ecosystems bordering the Mangrove estuaries of the Northern Honduras Atlantic Coast.

At the close of the "Restoration of Biodiversity and Productive Forests using Analog Forestry" Training, there was an interest and commitment of several farmers to begin Analog Forestry on their lands. Also a proposal was developed outlining a 9-point course of action toward building greater ecological resilience into the peri-urban communities represented by MAMUCA (The Municipal Association of Municipalities of Central Atlantida, Honduras). The proposal sets out practical and achievable goals and actions to adopt the use of Forest Gardens as high biomass and biodiversity reservoirs, using Analog Forestry designs. This could become a lighthouse project for the other municipality districts along the Atlantic seaboard.

Working at both the policy level and building the implementation skills, the Tree Project and its partners have succeeded in broadening the exposure of Analog Forestry to multiple levels of the implementation chain. Now there are more than 40 institutional decision-makers and over 35 trained technicians who have had the exposure to consider and implement community-wide adaptations to Climate Change needs, develop approaches to restore and protect Photosynthesis Biomass, develop actions to confront concerns regarding African Palms. The Tree Project will follow up, build upon the interest and host further events planned for the Analog Forestry Centre in La Union, Atlantida, Honduras.

Thank you to the following people:

Dr Ranil Senayaka, founder and senior trainer, IAFN-SriLanka
Lorena Gamboa, senior trainer IAFN-Ecuador
Bob Sutton, past Executive Director IAFN
Kitty Garden, program coordinator, IAFN-Costa Rica
Armando Jimenez, AF practitioner, Honduras
Kiera Perera, Volunteer - USA/SriLanka
Photographs submitted by many colleagues

Photo Gallery from the Policy Forum & Showcase

Photo Left:
Dr. Senanayake & Ms. Arnold with Introductions
Photo Right:
Welcome given by Ms. Martinez Director of MAMUCA.

Photo Left:
Dr. Senanayake & Ms. Gamboa present on Soil Biodiversity
Photo Right:
Why Biodiversity is important.

Photo Left:
Mr. Jimenez, presents on local restoration work in his community of Salado Barra
Photo Right:
Small Group Discussions

Photo Left:
Group Presentations

Photo Right:
Local Priorities gathered.

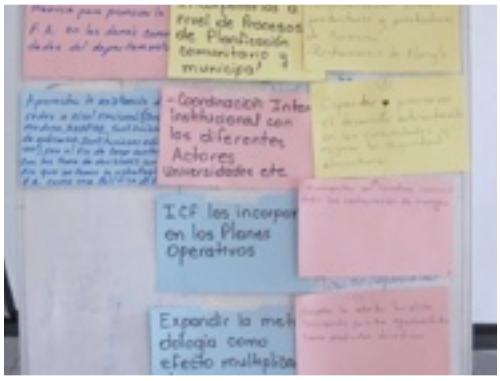

Photo Left:
Visit to CURLA plant collections

Photo Right:
Tree Project & IAFN team

Photo Left:
Ms. Arnold interviewed by Honduran Media

Photo Right:
AF Principle #11: Respect Maturity: Elder watering nursery

Photo Left:
Epiphytes rescued from Central Park trees being cut

Photo Right:
CURLA plant nursery

Photo Gallery from the Analog Forestry Training

Photo Left:
IAFN team traveling to visit different restoration sites
Photo Right:
Restoration nursery, Salado Barra, Honduras

Photo Left:
Walking through Mangrove Ecosystems

Photo Right:
Producer session during the training

Photo Left:
Seed exchange during training

Photo Right:
Afternoon session given by Ms. Martinez Director of MAMUCA.

Photo Left:
Ecological Valuation session

Photo Right:
Splendid meal given by producer's family

Photo Left:
Youth band sings songs about the planet

Photo Right:
Another wonderful fish meal.

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE TRAININGS

The presentations are all posted as downloadable PDF files on the Tree Project Website (www.thetreeproject.ca) , click on the titles below to link to the website and download the presentations:

1. The Role of Mangroves in a Changing Climate
2. Adaptation Planning for Climate Change: It is biomass that facilitates agriculture to resist changes in climate
3. A Way Out of the Current Global Crisis : Looking beyond the current appreciation of Climate Change & Biomass
4. Local Organic Markets using Participitory Guarantee Systems

The full report may be requested by email to The Tree Project .