

EcoLogic Development Fund advances conservation of critical natural resources in rural areas of Latin America by promoting sustainable livelihoods that affirm local cultures and by strengthening community participation in natural resource management.

Since 1993, EcoLogic has helped over 700 communities in Latin America to improve their well-being and become stewards of their land. Collaborating with local partners, EcoLogic has established sustainable livelihoods and strengthened community participation in natural resource management, creating more than 5,000 jobs and providing support for the conservation of over 6 million acres of critical wildlife habitat and the protection of over 1,200 water sources.

www.ecologic.org

EcoLogic Launches CarbonPlus Program to Engage Communities in Carbon Credit Markets

Deforestation and forest degradation are the second most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for 20 percent of emissions, and surpassed only by energy production, according to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The conversion of forests for agriculture alone accounts for the majority, or 14 percent of global forest emissions.

With rising concern about the effects of climate change, the international community seeks effective and efficient means to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), the greatest contributor to climate change. Along with reducing carbon emissions, carbon sequestration, or the removal and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, is more frequently being used by governments, businesses, organizations and even individuals to offset emissions. Offset activities include investments in renewable energy, landfill emission methane conversion, and forest carbon storage. According to the World Bank, carbon offsets exceeded \$13 billion in value in 2008, and Point Carbon estimates the size of the carbon market is many times this level.

A 2007 report from McKinsey Quarterly identified reforestation of degraded lands as one of the most cost-efficient methods for reducing carbon emissions. Three distinct types of forestry offset projects exist, which include: reforestation of areas that have been deforested for over 10 years; improved forest management that minimizes the im-



EcoLogic's forest carbon projects aim to restore degraded forests and protect watersheds while providing compensation to local communities.

pact of timber removal from commercially managed forests; and conservation of existing forests that helps to avoid deforestation of those lands.

EcoLogic has become a leader in creating forestry carbon offsets from projects that also provide opportunities for poor, rural communities to be compensated for restoring and protecting their natural resources. Since plants take up carbon as they grow and mature, protecting and restoring tropical forests—with their fast growth rates and high wood densities—provide a natural source of carbon sequestration and storage.

Creating Real Change on the Ground

EcoLogic currently specializes in community-

(CARBON—continued on page 4)

Supporters Like You Save Money by Saving Water

In honor of World Water Day on March 22, EcoLogic launched a special campaign encouraging supporters to take action and reduce their consumption of water. EcoLogic's Water Day website provided visitors with information on the Global Water Crisis and ways in which they can save a vital natural resource for the planet while saving money for themselves. The site also featured the World Water Day pledge, which allowed supporters to demonstrate their commitment to water conservation with a few simple steps. The campaign was a success, with hundreds of people visiting the site and signing the pledge.

Visit our World Environment Day website and learn how you can combat climate change. •

EcoLogic Submits Petition to Protect Rare Hummingbird

On April 1, EcoLogic submitted a petition to US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to begin the process of placing the Honduran Emerald hummingbird on the Endangered Species List. An effort on behalf of EcoLogic, The Hummingbird Society, The Hummingbird Conservancy, and others the petition contained 8,065 signatures.

Legal recognition of its threatened status will assist efforts to urge the Honduran government to develop conservation measures that ensure viable habitat remain. The Honduran Emerald (*Amazilia luciae*) is found solely in the rare dry-thorn forest of Honduras, which is fragmented and rapidly being destroyed by expanding agriculture. The bird is listed as critically endangered by IUCN. •

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Green, Chair
MD (Retired)

Nicholas Shufro,
Vice-Chair, Treasurer
PriceWaterHouse Coopers, LLC

Shaun Paul, President
EcoLogic Development Fund

Louise Bowditch, Secretary
*SEED Haiti Community
Development Loan Fund*

David Barton Bray
Florida International University

David Crocker
Salomon Smith Barney

Lisa Leff
*Trillium Asset Management
Corporation*

Jabes Rojas
*Strategic Diversity and
Development Consultant*

Marcela de Rovzar
Procura

Dan Tunstall
World Resources Institute

W. Russel G. Byers, Jr.
Chair Emeritus, W.R.G. Byers, Ltd.

U.S. STAFF

Shaun Paul
Executive Director

Barbara Vallarino
Director of Development

Bryan Foster
CarbonPlus Program Director

Melissa Haley
Operations Manager

Eric Jacobson
Communications Officer

David Kramer
Program Officer

Jessica Massanari-Sapp
Operations Associate/
Executive Assistant

Gina Rindfleisch
Program Officer

Christina Sullivan
Development Associate

REGIONAL STAFF

Sebastian Charchalac
Regional Director

Claudia Gonzalez
Regional Program Manager

Yaira Allois
Program Officer for Panama

Kenya Mejia
Program Officer for Honduras

Mario Tuch
Regional Administrative Assistant

Francisco Tzul
Program Officer for Guatemala

Rafael Sambula
Pico Bonito Forests, LLC

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Promoting Resilient Communities

It feels as if the world is a far less certain place these days, with a global financial crisis creating instability in our daily lives and climate change threatening our natural environment and our livelihoods. Both are powerful forces at the global scale as well as regionally and locally, and both require responses from international agencies, national governments, neighborhoods, and individuals.

EcoLogic is proud to be providing solutions that make vulnerable communities more resilient to financial troubles and the variable effects of climate change. By strengthening local governance, protecting natural resources, and establishing sustainable livelihoods, we are ensuring that rural families can maintain a healthy standard of living in spite of encroaching pressures that threaten their well-being. And by using a grassroots approach that puts the needs and interests of the people first, we create long-term motivation and investment from project participants, enabling lasting change through our work.

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Bryan Foster as our new CarbonPlus Program Director, who will continue to build and expand our portfolio of forest carbon projects. These projects offer compensation to the people living in and around some of the world's most critical habitats for ensuring the protection and restoration of these lands. While they are compensated for maintain-

ing sources of carbon sequestration and storage, local people also benefit from protection of their own natural resources and the environmental services they provide, including freshwater supplies, production of raw materials, and mitigation from extreme weather events. Our methodology for establishing carbon credits is one of ten approved under the Kyoto Protocol for large-scale reforestation projects, and Bryan will continue to help us ensure that our methods and documentation continue to meet the highest standards.

Thank you for supporting our work to improve the resilience of communities. We cannot succeed without the passion, efforts, and commitment of people like you. Together we can improve the lives of the rural poor and ensure the conservation of Earth's precious natural resources.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Shaun Paul".

Opportunities and Challenges for Indigenous Peoples to Receive Compensation for Protecting Forests

Earlier this month, EcoLogic participated in the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) 7th Annual Conference. Held April 2-6 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the theme of the conference was "Fostering Local to Global Partnerships: Setting the Agenda for the Future of Indigenous Philanthropy." In attendance were Executive Director Shaun Paul, Program Officer for Institutional Development David Kramer, and Guatemala Program Officer Francisco Atanacio Tzul Alvarado, making his first trip to the United States.

EcoLogic hosted a panel entitled "The Challenges and Opportunities of Putting REDD into Practice," moderated by Shaun and featuring Francisco and Jeff Campbell of the Christensen Fund. The term "REDD" refers to "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation," a mechanism meant to provide incentives to avoid deforestation using carbon markets. Jeff offered a critique of REDD from the policy perspective, and Francisco presented examples from indigenous communities in Guatemala working

with EcoLogic, with contrasting views on the potential benefits and disadvantages of establishing a REDD project. The event was attended by 60 conference participants, representing a cross-section of grantmakers, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations from the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

REDD policy remains highly contentious, with many arguing for the management of carbon projects to be given to national authorities to facilitate monitoring and evaluation across a country's entire national landscape, while others are arguing for the rights of local people to manage projects at the local level, free from potentially cumbersome and corrupt national schemes.

Shaun facilitated the panel in an interactive manner with the audience, eliciting strong responses and constructive dialogue from those in attendance, with a general atmosphere of healthy skepticism. The discussion affirmed EcoLogic's commitment to ensuring that its partners and other local communities in Latin America understand the implications of carbon projects. •

Empowering Communities to Protect Their Mangroves

Yaira Allois, Program Officer for Panama, joined EcoLogic at the end of last year to work on a new initiative for coastal zone management around the Gulf of San Miguel in the Darien region. The Gulf is located in the eastern part of the country and houses one of Central America's largest mangrove wetlands, approximately 40,000 ha in size. This area is home to many indigenous fishing communities that are eager to reconcile their aspirations for development with the need for environmental stewardship. Partnering with one of Panama's most widely respected environmental non-governmental organization, Fundación Natura, and the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), EcoLogic is working with fishing communities in the area and developing project proposals for sustainable development and the conservation of the Gulf of San Miguel.

From Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, Yaira came to EcoLogic after coordinating a project in the Upper Region of the Santa Maria Watershed, a high-priority drainage basin in Panama. She also has experience as facilitator of Rural Participatory Diagnoses used for Municipal Development Plans. She has studied Industrial Engineering, and is working on a master's degree in Environmental Management. From consultations with communities to project logistics to building relationships with partners and outreach campaigns, Yaira's work is vital to the success of EcoLogic's work in Panama.



Yaira ensures the success of projects in Panama.

What is your role in this project?

My role is primarily to act as a facilitator, ensuring project activities develop according to plan and making decisions within the local context, following institutional guidelines that respect conservation of the environment and participatory community development.

What training has prepared you for this position?

My experience from my previous job, both in the field and in the office, allowed me to learn a great deal necessary for developing a community consultation, forming working groups, organizing community event logistics, and especially how to work with people and make them feel connected with the environment, since their participation is very important for the development of what we do—meeting their families, sharing with them—[and] working with local authorities and institutions, who can help facilitate activities. This commitment to the environment led me to pursue a Master's in Environmental Management.

“The more people that are interested in the environment, the more there is hope.”

What aspect of your position do you like the most? What is the biggest challenge?

I like having the freedom to make decisions, to develop all the positions a business has, and since I am alone in the country, it makes me appreciate the work more: I am the manager, the coordinator, the official, the promoter, the messenger, etc. [The biggest challenge is] completely filling the job description for which I was hired and thus taking the project to completion of its goals.

What do you think of EcoLogic's work? Why is it so important?

The work is very important, and its three central themes [of local water resource management, forest conservation, and payment for ecosystem services] are very pertinent and sensitive to the environment. I think that [EcoLogic's] importance is in that you need to have community participation all the time; these aren't projects that – as we say here – come “from a box,” meaning that this is what I bring and it doesn't matter to me what you think; on the contrary, first you consult with the people.

What is your inspiration?

My inspiration is my family, my friends, my community, my country – I want for them to enjoy a healthy environment. [I hope] that they have water in sufficient quantity and quality, that together we can overcome the environmental crisis that threatens our planet; the more people that are interested in the environment, the more there is hope. At least in Panama we still have something to protect and we should fight to preserve it. •

You Can Help

Our work is made possible by support from people like you. Here's how you can help:

- Become an EcoLogic Ambassador and pledge to raise \$1,000 or more. You can fulfill your pledge by making a personal contribution and reaching out to your networks.
- Have your employer match your contribution.
- Honor a birthday, wedding, bar/bat mitzvah or anniversary with a donation to EcoLogic.
- Participate in workplace giving. CFC# 11432
- Share your talents by donating professional services.
- Donate via our website. Simply go to www.ecologic.org and click on Donate Now to give through our secure online donation form.



Ambassador Campaign

The 2009 Ambassador Campaign was launched on April 21!

We were able to meet our goal of reaching \$35,000 in pledges by the end of the night.

So far, we have 17 Ambassadors who have pledged \$36,155.

Thank you for such a great start!

PLUS

Go online and visit the all new Ambassador Website

Discover the exclusive benefits of becoming an Ambassador and explore the wealth of resources available to help you succeed



25 Mount Auburn Street
Suite 203
Cambridge, MA 02138

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Boston MA
Permit No 52683

(CARBON—continued from page 1)

based reforestation of degraded lands in Central America. We began the carbon offset component of our work on an experimental basis in 2003 in cooperation with Winrock International to define the fourth methodology approved worldwide under the Kyoto Protocol to credibly and transparently measure carbon sequestration from tree planting.

In 2006, EcoLogic co-founded a carbon project with Bosques Pico Bonito, LLC in eastern Honduras, which is working to sequester up to 16,000 tons of CO₂ each year across 1,000 ha—the equivalent annual emissions of driving nearly 2 million miles in an average car. This effort now employs nearly 200 local people who previously lacked access to jobs, engaging them in tree planting, weeding of reforested lands, guarding forests, and other activities. Furthermore, we are currently scheduling a third-party audit to verify our work in Honduras which will allow Bosques Pico Bonito, LLC to sell carbon credits on a variety of international markets, both the regulated Kyoto market through the World Bank and the unregulated voluntary market through the internationally-recognized Voluntary Carbon Standard.

Based on the foundation of Bosques Pico Bonito, LLC, EcoLogic has launched a new program, CarbonPlus, to assist communities and organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and other countries in providing a supply to meet international demand for high quality forestry carbon credits. We are working with our local partners to create projects which meet the requirements established for voluntary carbon markets. One example is our work with the Association of Water Boards Southern Sector of Pico Bonito National Park (AJAASSPIB) in northern Honduras, where communities are reforesting marginal pasture land. CarbonPlus will help AJAASSPIB and their communities build the technical capacity to finance their reforestation projects with the sale of carbon credits to buyers in the United States and Europe.

Expanding the Carbon Program

EcoLogic has two major advantages that position it as a leader for the next generation of forest carbon credits. First, the organization has developed experience in reforestation, which is currently the most widely accepted type of forest carbon projects.

Second, EcoLogic's extensive experience working with local people in Mesoamerica enables us to both initiate and sustain forest carbon projects over the long-term. Overall, EcoLogic is building the capacity of local organizations to expand the availability of forestry-based carbon credits to help meet international demand.

With the hiring of Dr. Bryan Foster, our new CarbonPlus Program Director, in March, EcoLogic is moving forward with forest carbon projects. In addition, EcoLogic will provide a training course later this year to field staff and partner organizations to help them build capacity to identify and develop carbon projects. EcoLogic has high aspirations that CarbonPlus can become a major driver of the organization's project activities and an innovative way to achieve sustainable development that both respects local needs and responds to global challenges. •

EcoLogic welcomes New CarbonPlus Program Director

Last month Dr. Bryan Foster joined EcoLogic as its CarbonPlus Program Director. Originally from Montana and an avid skier, Bryan earned a Master of Forest Science at Yale University before working on corporate environmental management systems. He then pursued a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology and Management at the University of Vermont, where he researched the impacts of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on forest structure and economic returns. Bryan subsequently worked for two years at Rainforest Alliance, developing their carbon auditing program and training FSC auditors. He is excited to assist EcoLogic with its forest carbon projects. "Implementation forces me to go beyond the question of what is deficient in project designs to the question of how can deficiencies be practically and quickly remedied," he said. •