



TREES, WATER & PEOPLE

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Lucas Wolf Memorial Project – Montecillos, Honduras

January 2020 - May 2020 Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Update

Final Report Date: May 31st, 2020

Gemara Gifford, International Director

We are pleased to share with you the progress and conclusion of the Lucas Wolf Memorial Project. In May 2019, Trees, Water & People (TWP) applied to Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary to continue our Resilient Families and Forests initiative in Honduras, in memory of our dear friend Lucas Wolf. Working with nineteen communities that live in the buffer zone near the Montecillos Biological Reserve, we completed the following project goals:

- 1) May -Aug 2019: Built **20 household rainwater catchment tanks** (*out of a total 50 completed*)
- 2) Sept-Oct 2019: constructed **2 community tree nurseries** and associated gardens offering agroforestry training to community leaders (*out of a total 80,000 trees planted in 7 nurseries*)
- 3) Nov 2019-Jan 2020: Constructed and installed **25 Justa Clean Cookstoves** (*out of a total 358 completed in the last 12 months*)
- 4) Feb-May 2020: Community visits on the above programs, and shifted our efforts to emergency COVID-19 response in the communities as food shortages were severe in the area. For more updates on this ongoing effort, please visit www.treeswaterpeople.org/adelante

Our local partner CEASO's model consists of delivering cookstoves and household water catchment systems as incentives for all the work the community contributes in their tree nurseries, reforestation, farm diversification and gardens. This model has shown to be a great success by giving the communities time to embrace the benefits that trees and food security bring to their families in the long-term, while the eco-technologies work as short-term incentives that keep people engaged in the project.

Rainwater Catchment Tanks

In August 2019, TWP successfully completed the building of 50 household cisterns - *of which Rotary helped fund 20* - each at a 400 gallon capacity, complete with 20-m rain gutters fit to each home. In total, the 50 new rainwater catchment tanks (**pictured right**) will enable the storage of 20,000 additional gallons of water that can be used for non-potable purposes, especially during times of drought (Feb-April annually). Not only do family



members have access to rainwater collected from their own roofs, but community members take part in the construction of the cisterns, learning new skills in ferrocement (a type of thin cement, that is supported by a thin layer of wire, and can be applied to any shape or size).

The communities reported using the water from the catchment tanks to bathe, wash kitchen dishes, cook, clean the house, wash coffee, and in some communities to irrigate crops.

Glenda (right), a cistern recipient in the Plan del Hormiguero community said that her new tank has helped a lot as she formerly had to go to her mother-in-law's to wash and bathe her children. Now, she is able to bathe the children, and wash clothes, dishes, etc. at her own house, while saving a lot of water.



Our ferrocement tank training in the community of Plan del Hormiguero (above). The final rainwater tank (right) complete with a gutter system to collect rainwater directly from the roof.



Community Tree Nurseries

In partnership with CEASO, we effectively established a 80,000 plants in seven communities adjacent to the Montecillos Reserve: Corralitos, San José de Pane, San José de Comayagua, La Danta, La Tigra, La Laguna and Balibrea. **2 of the 12 nurseries established were made possible by Rotary.**



The photo (right) of a workshop on fruit tree grafting, where observed a strong environmental ethic for their forest resources.

Trees found in each tree nursery vary based on local conditions, but in general, are a diverse array of drought-tolerant, food-bearing, fuelwood, and ornamental species including Citrus Fruits, Avocado, and Madriado (a drought-resistant tropical shade-tree with leaves that make good fodder for livestock), among many others.

Justa Cookstoves - A local solution for Honduras families:

TWP and CEASO are on track to install 500 *Justa* cookstoves by this fall, with 358 already installed and **25 of those linked to Rotary's grant**. The 358 stoves already installed will improve household health for 1,790 family members, reducing household energy costs by ~\$100 per household per year, and mitigating the harvesting of fuelwood from biodiverse forests. We faced some delays in March due to the global pandemic which has caused a National Emergency in Honduras, and it became impossible to deliver the final lot of cookstove materials from the capital city. We continue to monitor the country's situation carefully week by week, and hope by the end of the summer (August), highways will reopen, and we will be able to reactivate the project.

Vision of the Future

In the face of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 situation, TWP remains devoted to safeguarding the rights and resource accessibility of Indigenous communities that are increasingly vulnerable at this time. We are working with our local partners to develop short- and medium-term responses to the economic crises that will follow this pandemic, and continue to raise funds for our programs.

Through TWP's [Adelante/Hoka Hey Relief Campaign](#), we raised funds to help our communities weather the conditions created by the crisis at hand to purchase, assemble, and safely deliver 'Canastas' (baskets full of staple food and hygiene supplies). CEASO helped deliver canastas and seeds around the Montecillos region, encouraging families to grow their own food. The second phase of deliveries are set to occur the first week of June. By May's end, a Nutrition Security project is well under way, with

CEASO taking advantage of the COVID situation to tackle hygiene measures and health safety and disease prevention using hygiene kits (containing masks, gloves, soap, bleach).



We are happy to share that TWP approved the launch of the “Maestros Fogoneros” program (discussed in last quarter’s report), wherein we will strengthen the country-wide cookstove builder network by supporting certified cookstove builders. Obed (pictured **right**), is one of the certified stove builders. Over the next 6-12 months, 600 cookstoves will be built by the Maestros Fogoneros network, as part of a much larger expansion to install 3,000 Justa stoves by the end of 2021.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to *Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary* for your support, and solidarity in memory of our dear friend and colleague Lucas Wolf, whom we will continue to honor within the Trees, Water & People family for many years to come.

