



# Johnny Ipil-Seed News

The quarterly newsletter of *Trees for the Future*

Fall 2008 Vol. XVI, No. 3

## Growing Excitement in Brazil

São Paulo is the major industrial and economic powerhouse of the Brazilian economy. It is the richest state in Brazil and has the second highest per-capita income and, with the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, the highest standard of living in Brazil, despite the poverty in some peripheral parts of the largest cities. However, these generalizations hide the disparity between the richest and poorest people in the state. While there are landowners with 1000s of hectares, there are also people who live on the ribbon of public land found along rail lines. The high standard of living also does not address the number of middle class farmers who simply do not have the means to improve their lands, which have been degraded from years of coffee production and cattle grazing.

Our team in Brazil has already made remarkable progress in addressing the disparities in São Paulo state. TREES has started projects with schools, farmers' associations, and small land holders that will provide trees for live fences, honey production, erosion control, timber, and animal fodder.

In coordination with the Oriente School and local citizens, we are identifying water springs that need reforestation. The tree nursery is on the school's grounds, which will provide opportunities for students to learn about tree planting and environmentalism. The trees will be distributed to land owners in the area who want to

restore their water springs. Fernanda Peixoto, TREES' Brazil Local Representative, held a training workshop with students to explain creating and maintaining a nursery. Of course, tree planting is not easy. We have already addressed the challenge of the Giant African Snail, which can thrive in tree nurseries and can carry a parasite that is harmful to humans.

While Jeff Follett, South America Program Coordinator, was in Brazil, he met Sr. Sebastião at several of our community meetings. Sr. Sebastião was, and is, very passionate about planting trees on his land. At the time, he had serious concerns

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**Hard at work making nurseries on a beautiful day in Brazil**

Johnny Ipil-Seed News is a quarterly newsletter of TREES FOR THE FUTURE, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of the world's poorest communities to begin environmentally beneficial, self-help projects.

This newsletter is printed using wind energy on recycled paper with soy-based ink and is sent to all supporting members to inform them of recent events, plans, financial matters and how their support is helping people.

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## Opinion: To Be a Superpower



Man is often called a political animal. The season has again rolled around for those so inclined to have their will made known. Grace and I are all for that: over 30 years, we've lived in plenty of places where voting is at best highly controlled and, at worse, a very dangerous option. We've seen the results. Vote, please, while you still can.

As a 501 (non-profit) there's not much we're permitted to say about the candidates, nor their proposed policies. Still, we are allowed to complain about what's NOT being said. About what's NOT even on the table. Especially since the things that are not being brought to the attention of the public have a great deal to do with our ability as a species to survive the decades ahead. The issue is not the price of gasoline. While that has become painful. No, it's the energy crisis and where this is taking us.

The first point we wish to bring up is that this growing nation, with its dynamic economy, has built its future around one, extremely finite, source of energy and that is oil. We've known since the 1970's that we'd run out of oil sometime before the year 2040. As early as 1985 we knew that the world supply of oil would peak before the end of the century. What we perhaps didn't know, but certainly should have guessed, is the emergence of other economies – China and India especially – that would speed up the rush to use up the remaining supply even faster.

Which brings up the point: if we all ride the bus and buy smaller cars and save a lot of oil, how's that going to help us if the emerging economies, as they are already demonstrating, are there to buy it all up?

We've done almost nothing to give ourselves an option because we didn't develop any significant, sustainable, alternatives. Instead, we now find our leaders recommending providing super funds to the oil companies, giving them the option to drill off our coasts, in our wildlife reserves, even though the oil-lease lands across the USA have never been touched. We are even harvesting the oil sands of Canada now that the price at the pump makes this economically possible even

though it remains an environmental nightmare. In other words, let's not worry about the environment and let's not quit depending on oil as our main energy source until the last drop leaves the last gas station.

Isn't one definition of insanity when you keep repeating the same action time after time, even though you know it doesn't work? It probably wouldn't get any votes but it might be refreshing if one of the candidates would just say: "Get real! It's over. Just suck it in and get on with life." Then we'd get on with the business of our survival, possibly finding better, sustainable, ways to keep our homes warm and our cars running.

Another issue we hear so much about is this so-called "energy independence." We all know and understand there are countries we'd prefer not to depend on and so it probably makes good politics. But wait a minute! The USA is about 5% of the world's population. We have less than 4% of the world's oil reserves and yet we are using nearly 30% of the world's energy supply at present. How independent can we be? I think that, like any super-power, we can always use some friends.

In April, 2006 I was invited to speak at a conference (in Las Vegas) about using corn to produce ethanol so as to avoid oil imports and, along the way, make

**As the super-power we purport to be, we have some serious obligations. Certainly one of these is to make our ideas, our technical advancements, available for the good of people around the world.**

American farmers extremely rich. WHAT American farmers? I was the last American farmer and I quit farming in 1972 when I joined Peace Corps. So, for American farmer, substitute the words "corporate agribusiness." In the brief time I was allowed in Las Vegas, I did my best to explain to major investors what this would do to farmlands and watersheds across America and what would happen to the cost of various food commodities not just in the US but worldwide. I was not invited to stay for the banquet but drove back across the Mojave Desert to a

Burger King in Barstow, happy to be out of that mess. But I was right. And the investors knew it – the sad part is they went ahead anyway.

As the super-power we purport to be, we have some serious obligations. Certainly one of these is to make our ideas, our technical advancements, available for the good of people around the world. We have the technology, right now, to develop the sustainable energy options that will carry our economy, and that of the world, into the future. What we don't have is the will – or even the desire.

**We find ourselves in a time when a grave threat could be turned into a unique opportunity. We could help millions upon millions of desperately poor people around the world – and build our own economy in doing so.**

But the obligation becomes even more clear when we consider the most obvious fault in this year's debates – the most serious and most obvious threat of all: the growing pollution of the global environment with greenhouse gases, again caused by our insane dependence on that single, rapidly disappearing, source of energy: oil. The \$4 gasoline seems to have taken our minds off this really serious issue.

We find ourselves in a time when a grave threat could be turned into a unique opportunity. We could free ourselves from dependence on a single, unsustainable commodity called oil. We could help millions upon millions of desperately poor people around the world – and build our own economy in doing so.

Most important of all, doing these things would reverse this threat of climate change and give succeeding generations reason to hope for a future.

But from what we're hearing on TV, regardless of how the elections turn out, if we wait for the Government to lead the way, it's just not going to happen. Meanwhile, with your help, we're building a program showing real answers to the real situation.



## Brazil (continued)

that we would simply talk about the problems on his farm and not do anything to help him. It feels great to say that we have already helped him with nursery training and will soon assist him in planting trees to address erosion on his farm. In addition, he hopes to establish live fences to better manage his livestock, to introduce flowering tree species to provide for honey production, and to plant timber species that can be harvested in the future for income generation.

Another motivated individual, Sr. Luciano, has gathered people from Oriente and a local bee association, to start a 3,000 tree nursery. From Jeff's visit he can say that this group is going to have great success. They met at nine at night after each of the participants had worked a long day and everyone was excited and talking about the specifics of planting the trees.

Word has already spread about our work in Brazil. The Association of Small Farmers contacted Fernanda directly due to information they received from Cooperativa Sul Brasil. Fernanda plans to start nurseries with each of the 15 members of the association and has already met with them to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Overall, we are proud of our achievements in Brazil. It feels good to see so many people excited about starting tree planting projects.



**Principal Silvia (back, right) and students from the Oreinte School**

## Lots to Learn in Bolivia

Bolivia is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. The average per capita income is \$2800.00 per year, compared to \$8,200.00 for other Latin American countries. While per capita income does not display the true complexity of poverty in Bolivia, it does provide a foundation for comparisons. Poverty in Bolivia has made it difficult for some people to practice long-term planning in their land use choices. This has led to many environmental issues such as erosion, soil degradation, deforestation, and overexploitation of natural resources such as water. Desertification now affects 7 of Bolivia's 9 states. Although many organizations have attempted to assist



**Farm near Anzaldo, Bolivia. In this region, people are dependent on potato and wheat production, and often have sheep. Some farmers are also adding peaches and apples to their systems.**

## Bolivia (continued)

people in Bolivia, the Foundation for Sustainable Development suggests that large scale, top down projects funded by large development agencies have typically failed at addressing these issues and targeting the areas most in need.

In August, Jeff Follett, South America Program Coordinator, had the

opportunity to travel to Bolivia to discuss ways that TREES can assist organizations and individuals interested in agroforestry and sustainable land use projects. He was invited by Associate Peace Corps Director, Remigio Ancalle, to participate in the Natural Resources and Environmental Education Project Meeting. Volunteers in this program are working with municipalities to bridge the environmental issues that are in conflict with farming and other income generating activities. Many of the volunteers are working to address environmental issues such as erosion while still providing for the social and economic needs of communities and individuals through nursery projects. Jeff always appreciates getting together with Peace Corps volunteers because they provide excellent insight into the needs of individuals in their communities. He has already heard back from some of the volunteers and looks forward to helping them develop projects.

In addition to the project meeting, Jeff met with two organizations working on sustainable development in and around Cochabamba, Centro de Promoción

Rural “Jesus Maria” and the Foundation for Sustainable Development. Over the span of three days,

Jeff met with farmers participating in their projects and explored ways that TREES can assist them. While high altitude communities such as these have different

issues and needs than tropical and subtropical

locations, we believe that agroforestry practices can still benefit local farmers.

Jeff also met with the Museo de Historia Natural Alcide d’Orbigny and BASFOR (Centro de Semillas Forestales) to learn about native species such as *Polylepis* sp. which grow at high altitudes but are difficult to use in agroforestry projects due to their slow growth. Native species’ slow growth has resulted in many farmers planting pine and eucalyptus species, but these species do not address the very poor soil quality of these areas which consistently produce low crop yields. We hope to work with the natural history museum to find ways to meet people’s need for fuel wood and timber, while still improving soils and increasing agricultural production.

It is important to remember that even though Bolivia is poor according to statistics such as per capita GDP, the country also has spectacular scenery and amazing people. By working with all of these organizations, we hope to assist in maintaining the beauty of both the land and the people of Bolivia.



**Peace Corps Project Meeting participants**



**Cesar, Edwin, and Jeff near a CEPRUJEM reforestation project**

## Trees for the Future Projects in Kenya and Uganda

David Tye has recently been traveling throughout Kenya and Uganda to meet with Community-Based

ders the Kakamega Forest Reserve, which is the last tropical rainforest in Kenya that was part of the once expansive Guineo-Congolian Forest. This old forest contains many rare and protected tree species, such as Elgon Teak (*Olea capensis*), and African Mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*). This forest also contains the rare Da Brazza's Monkey and the Black and White Colobus Monkey. Gibson's group focuses on planting both indigenous protected species and exotic agroforestry species throughout the Kakamega District. They are interested in developing ways of protecting threatened tree species, such as Elgon Teak through partnerships with nearby farmers and cattle herders. One such innovative method, the Shamba System, allows farmers to cultivate on the condition that they protect the recently planted seedlings from foraging cattle and goats. The farmer is happy to oblige since he is also protecting his own crops in the process. This arrangement is continued for three to five years until the



**Discussing tree plantings at a tree nursery outside of Kakamega Forest Reserve**

Organizations (CBO's) and local NGO's to develop partnerships and how we can work together to plant trees and implement agroforestry programs.

David met with Jasper Kirika, the Program Officer for the Greenbelt Movement, which is based in Nairobi. The Greenbelt Movement's extensive grassroots networks allow the organization to reach out to people all throughout Kenya to provide them with seedlings and the necessary support to plant trees throughout the country. Trees for the Future would be able to partner with this organization to help expand its reach on agroforestry and tree-planting programs and to establish TREES as an effective organization throughout the East Africa Region.

David also met with Gibson Munanga and members of his Community-Based Organization based in Kakamega, Kenya, in the Western Province. Kakamega bor-

ders the Kakamega Forest Reserve, which is the last tropical rainforest in Kenya that was part of the once expansive Guineo-Congolian Forest. This old forest contains many rare and protected tree species, such as Elgon Teak (*Olea capensis*), and African Mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*). This forest also contains the rare Da Brazza's Monkey and the Black and White Colobus Monkey. Gibson's group focuses on planting both indigenous protected species and exotic agroforestry species throughout the Kakamega District. They are interested in developing ways of protecting threatened tree species, such as Elgon Teak through partnerships with nearby farmers and cattle herders. One such innovative method, the Shamba System, allows farmers to cultivate on the condition that they protect the recently planted seedlings from foraging cattle and goats. The farmer is happy to oblige since he is also protecting his own crops in the process. This arrangement is continued for three to five years until the

trees are tall enough to survive grazing. In Kamuli, Uganda, David met with one of the recent



**Farm adjacent to the Kakamega Forest Reserve**

## Kenya and Uganda (continued)



**Grazing cattle next to the Kakamega Forest Reserve**

participants in Trees for the Future's Agroforestry Training Program, Kalulu Anthony. Kalulu formed a group called Organic Perspectives to promote tree planting and sustainable agriculture. With a \$100 grant and seeds from Trees for the Future, Organic Perspectives has begun a tree nursery to grow seedlings that will be planted around Kamuli free of charge. Organic Perspectives intends to plant 5,000 *Grevillea robusta* and *Sesbania sesban* seeds this year, and hopes to double that number and include *Acacia angustissima* and *Leucaena leucocephala* seedlings next year. Organic Perspectives is eager to continue working with Trees for the Future and hopes to develop agroforestry training seminars for some of the motivated local farmers.

## Taking Monitoring and Evaluation to a New Level: A Model in Cameroon

Louis Nkembé, TREES' Cameroon Local Representative, has had incredible success in Cameroon this year. At the beginning of 2008 Louis anticipated planting 700,000 trees with local farmers, communities, schools and organizations in northwest, southwest and western provinces in Cameroon. However, thanks to a lot of hard work, Louis has created tremendous participation and enthusiasm with the local people. As a result we will plant over 1.5 million trees in Cameroon in 2008 with over 50 different local organizations. Great! Now, how do we effectively monitor and evaluate these projects?

First, Louis writes monthly reports to the Trees for the Future headquarters. The reports detail previous achievements and current activities, in addition to future endeavors. He highlights what is needed for success: establishing local agroforestry associations in each of the 11 divisions, for example, which he is doing. He also notes the challenges to his work, such as lack of technical knowledge or problems with transportation. Within each of the reports he includes pictures of trainings, tree nurseries and tree planting activities.

Second, throughout his work, Louis is collecting GPS coordinates to permit TREES to effectively locate and track the numerous projects. A small, hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) device allows him to connect with satellites to pinpoint project locations with great accuracy. We then transfer these points to maps to give a greater perspective of the areas where we work.

This past month, Louis provided TREES with 65 different points. These 65 points represent 65 different tree planting projects. With each point he provides a description of the project, who he is working with, and pictures showing the tree nursery and tree planting activities. We are then able to accurately display and monitor each of these projects on a map for ourselves and for all of you (these interactive maps will be placed on our website

## Monitoring and Evaluation (continued)



**GPS datapoints for Cameroon**

in the very near future, so keep an eye out for them!).

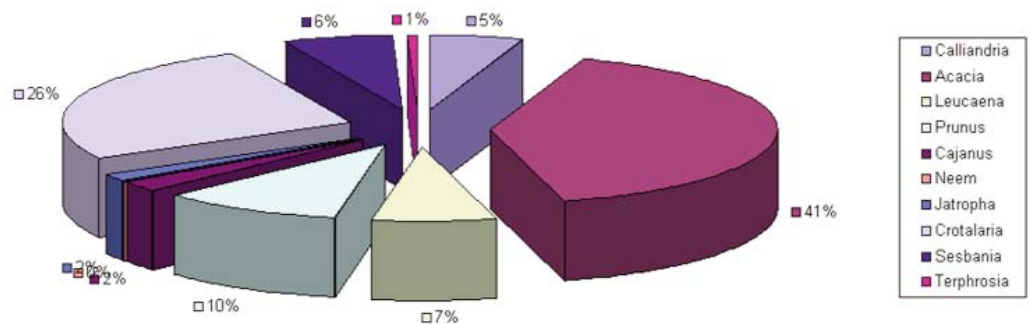
Third, Louis also manages and analyzes his seed distribution and other work information using spreadsheet software. With this software Louis tracks the quantity and species of trees being distributed among the many groups throughout the 3 provinces. Once the information is collected, he can analyze and display it in numerous ways, using graphs and tables. This is very important information for us as we continue to

develop these programs from year to year.

We certainly recognize, though, that many of our technicians on the ground may not have the same access to computers as Louis. Nor do many of them have the necessary skills and experience to operate computers and GPS units properly. Therefore, we are developing new and better ways to train our technicians in writing reports and utilizing new software and technology. We are also using good old paper reports, which can be submitted in the mail for those who do not have access to computers and/or the internet. Creating a perfect system of monitoring and evaluation will take time. However, based upon the successful model being utilized by Louis in Cameroon, we have high expectations for the future.

### Example of Louis's data from Cameroon

Total Seeds Distribution for Cameroon in 2008



## New Manual Available: Experiences with The Forest Garden

The idea has probably been around for many thousands of years, likely based on the experience of peoples who made their homes in the forests and gradually built a pool of knowledge about the inner workings of the many thousands of life forms there – and how these could best be used to provide people a rich and sustainable way of life. Today we marvel as we re-discover many of these species and slowly come to understand what that early man, walking through the forest with a few simple stone tools, knew about what was there and how it could benefit him. Here at TREES, we're especially interested in how that forest, if we could bring it back, could be managed as a highly productive, sustainable, source of food, energy and other benefits, many of which we can't yet imagine. There are serious reasons why we consider this a high priority. Some of these issues have been in the news lately:

- Food Security: 20 or more developing countries are on the verge of food riots now. Food prices world wide have increased 70% in the past two years.
- Farm inputs: chemical fertilizer prices have more than doubled recently and continue to rise. Chemical fertilizers are largely made from petroleum.
- Energy: The answer to sustainably producing bio-fuels has so far been most successful using tree products such as Jatropha oil. They lend themselves to being sustainably harvested by the people of these developing communities.

We hope that this manual will show the benefits of the forest garden and address some serious questions such as: How can we assist people to develop more sustainable land management systems?; and, How can we bring degraded lands back to sustainable productivity? In a town called Rebu, in southwest Ethiopia, a major forest garden, more than 200 hectares, is being developed. It will be the largest of a chain of such facilities around the world, all communicating ideas and experiences back and forth. It will be an opportunity for research to determine how we can best meet these great challenges. Your ideas and experiences on these issues will be most appreciated.

## Introducing Heather Muszynski

Heather Muszynski, our new Grants Coordinator and HR Assistant, graduated from St. Mary's College in May 2007 with a degree in Anthropology. While studying in school she spent six months in the Gambia, West Africa taking classes at the University of the Gambia and working with a women's community garden project. She also taught English at a primary school and had the opportunity to travel throughout Senegal as well. Once back in the United States, Heather went to New Orleans to volunteer with the Common Ground Collective. She took part in multiple bioremediation of community gardens projects, built solar showers and assisted in collecting and removing debris from the lower 9th ward.

Following graduation Heather worked as an intern at a public relations firm that promoted health advocacy groups. Unsatisfied with this work, she traveled to Guatemala in January with the hopes of learning Spanish and returned with a renewed interest in following a career path dedicated to international sustainable development.

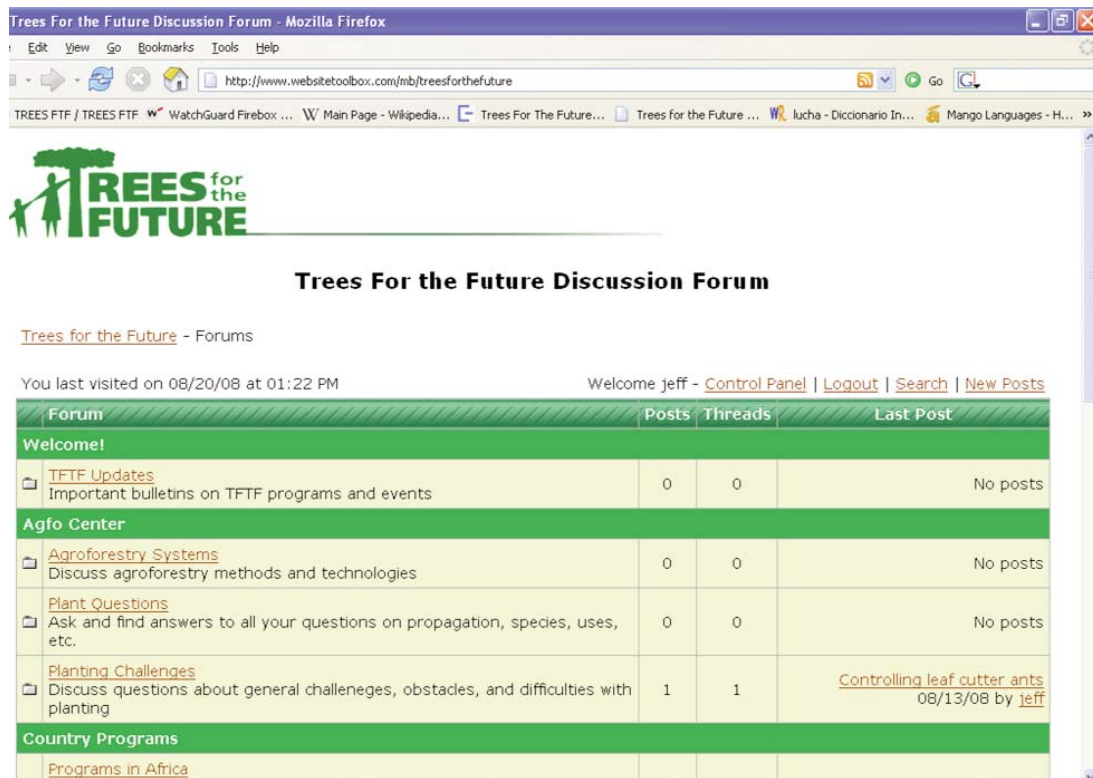
Heather joined Trees for the Future as an intern in late February of this year. She worked with us part-time for 4 months, helping to organize our database, create and maintain our Flickr account with all of our project pictures, package seeds and design our new discussion forum. In July TTF hired Heather to work full-time as our new Grants Coordinator and HR Assistant. She is excited to contribute as much as she can to an organization she believes in.



# TREES Discussion Forum: Another way to share information

Trees for the Future is excited to announce a new, rich resource for our contributors, supporters and partners! We have created a discussion forum, available via our website at [www.plant-trees.org](http://www.plant-trees.org). A discussion forum is a tool of communication, full of user-generated content about relevant topics to Trees for the Future and agroforestry. We developed this tool in the hopes of creating a space in which our project leaders, hopeful project leaders and people with similar goals toward sustainable tree planting could talk directly with each other.

The forum includes topics of discussion such as Agroforestry Systems, where you can share information and ask questions about agroforestry methods and technologies; Plant Questions, where you can ask and find answers to all your questions on propagation, species, uses, etc.; Planting Challenges, a space to chat about the obstacles and difficulties one might encounter while planting; forums specific to all of our country programs in



## Welcome page for our new forum

Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America are available; a space for all things Tree Pals related; Links and last but not least, we've included a forum where you can make suggestions for new, relevant topics! Our discussion forum also allows you to share uploaded files and pictures with each other, as well as to chat live with users all over the world who are online simultaneously!

It is important to us at Trees for the Future to create accessible resources - instruments that can be utilized by all of our partners and potential partners. We have therefore divided our forum into three languages: English, Spanish and French. If this is successful, we will try to provide a space for a wider range of languages.

By offering an environment for our broad community to connect, we are empowering people all over the world to gain and share important knowledge. It is essential to develop creative solutions to the problems that we face, either in regards to specific agroforestry issues, to environmental degradation, or to sustainable development. Our hope is that this discussion forum will allow its users to expand awareness, share information and develop solutions, together.

## Business No Longer Business as Usual

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word business? My guess is that most people, first and foremost, see \$\$\$--and why not? Throughout history, at least in capitalist economies, the sole motivation and purpose to run a business was to make money, to create wealth. Unfortunately, it is too often the case that when wealth is created in one place, it is depleted in another.

In too many cases, economic wealth is generated by exploiting natural wealth. Those who exploit the natural wealth can do so because they have the power to claim it and/or to put a price tag on it. In this way, many businesses have been able to flourish by taking advantage of (economically) cheap human and natural resources. Due in part to this, we now find ourselves in a position where much of our natural Earth has been severely degraded, many of the people who were exploited to create this capital (both directly and indirectly) live in poverty and, perhaps most regrettably, many of our most valuable resources may not exist for future generations.

Fortunately though, we are at a time when this business paradigm that touts the creation of wealth through exploitation is increasingly denounced as immoral – and rightfully so. Many businesses are changing their operations in order to protect the environment rather than degrade it, and to build society rather than debase it. Gratefully, we are at a time when running a business is no longer business as usual.

Trees for the Future is now in partnership with over 200 businesses, large and small, which are supporting the work we do each day. It is likely that over 50% of our funding will come from business partnerships in 2008, up from about 35% in 2007, and only about 10% the year before that. The number of our partners is

growing all the time, with new interest coming to us each day. These businesses realize the value of our Earth and the importance of everyone's lives, not just their customers'. They have taken up the responsibility to give back natural wealth where in the past it was only taken. They realize they can give this wealth back by restoring degraded lands, by improving livelihoods, and by combating global climate change. They have decided to accomplish all of this by planting trees.

**On behalf of Trees for the Future, I would like to give a very special thanks to all of our business partners who support the work we are doing each day, and to all businesses that are using their leverage not merely to make a profit, but to decrease poverty and promote the sustainability of our Earth for now and for generations to come.**

I am in contact with these businesses on a daily basis. I can sense the passion in their e-mails, and hear the excitement in their voices. These innovative and conscientious companies are changing the way businesses are run. They realize the opportunities they have to run a great business while offsetting their negative effects—often generating a net positive impact. They are finding creative and exciting ways to promote these partnerships, in turn growing their own companies, while positively affecting all of our lives.

We all realize that we need to make changes in our lives. We all are beginning to understand the threats we face due to environmental degradation and climate

change. If we didn't, we probably wouldn't have anything to do with this newsletter. These businesses I am speaking of are taking this consideration a step beyond individual change, and raising the bar for all businesses. For this I commend them.

On behalf of Trees for the Future, I would like to give a very special thanks to all of our business partners who support the work we are doing each day, and to all businesses that are using their leverage not merely to make a profit, but to decrease poverty and promote the sustainability of our Earth for now and for generations to come.

- Gabriel Buttram

## Making Progress in Haiti

Haiti is a country in desperate need of assistance and sustainable progress. Over the past few decades, though, not many organizations or people have been able to make a long-lasting, positive impact. Since 2007, however, Trees for the Future has made significant improvements to its Haiti program. Our Africa and Caribbean program coordinator, Ethan Budiansky, made a visit in July to evaluate our program and was pleased with the current success. By the end of this year, we will have helped numerous farmers, schools, communities and organizations plant more than 200,000 trees, and we have much higher expectations for 2009!!

A lot of our success has come from our project in Leogane – to the southwest of Port-au-Prince. Leogane is a mountainous area where people practice gardening along hillsides. However, poor land practices have led to severe deforestation and soil erosion along the mountains. As a result, soil quality has decreased significantly, flooding is a regular occurrence in the lowland areas, and the already impoverished people are unable to adequately subsist on their



**Tree planting along hillside in Leogane**

land. In collaboration with Jensen August of Haitians Overcoming Poverty Everyday (HOPE), TREES has helped the community to establish seven tree nurseries and plant approximately 100,000 trees this year along the previously deforested hillsides. With continued effort, we expect that we will bring back life and productivity to the degraded lands.

In other areas around the country, smaller community projects have similarly had significant success. In Desarmes for example, in Haiti's Artibonite region, Plan de Développement Intégré (PDI) planted 20,000 trees in the mountains around their community. Similar to Leogane, they are facing challenges as a result of years of poor land-use activities and are planting trees to better manage their watershed. Moreover, up north in Gros Morne, Viva-Haiti worked with the local communities to plant 16,000 trees this year following the Forest Garden approach. These are only a few of the projects in Haiti.

As you can see, our efforts in Haiti have truly begun to materialize. We are using this work as a foundation for significant tree planting projects for 2009 such as large-scale reforestation activities in St. Marc, Arcahaie, and Cabaret. Much of this work will be implemented with the help of Timote Georges (who you will meet on the next page). Timote is TREES' new local representative for Haiti. He is overseeing



**Tree nursery in Desarmes**

## Haiti (continued)

the completion of our work for 2008 and is beginning to plan for 2009.

Timote held a training workshop in Leogane in the beginning of August. This workshop focused primarily on tree nursery establishment, maintenance, and planting, in order to improve local agroforestry skills and knowledge. Over 60 adults and children participated in the training and subsequent tree planting demonstration.

Currently, Timote is working with farming organizations and cooperatives in Arcahaie to establish a late season tree nursery.

trade, share, and sell tree seeds.

He is working with 40 farmers from 6 different organizations. They expect to plant an additional 10,000 trees this year. More importantly, he is establishing relationships and trust to begin developing our activities in Arcahaie for 2009.

Over the next few months Timote will also be traveling throughout Haiti to evaluate the numerous projects with which we are collaborating and assisting. In addition, he will establish an office and training center in Arcahaie and develop a national seed network to



**Tree Nursery in Leogane**

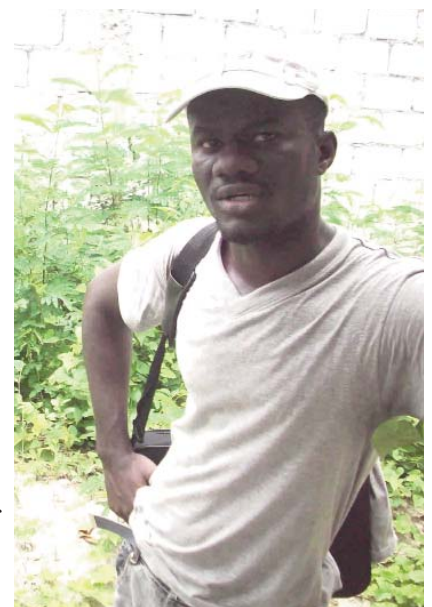
## Introducing Timote Georges

In July 2008, Timote Georges was brought on as TREES' local Haiti Representative to organize and facilitate our tree planting activities in the country.

Over his lifetime, Timote has been deeply involved in the environment, natural resource management and community development in Haiti. In 2000 he participated as trainer in a program of Civic Education led by the National Democratic Institute, NDI, before the 2000 elections in Haiti. In 2002 he joined a presidential program called the Alfa-Economic program which brought a literacy campaign to alleviate economic deprivation of the rural inhabitants of Gonaives, the third largest city of Haiti.

Regarding formal education, Timote graduated as an Engineer-Agronomist in Haiti in 2005. From this time he started working with many communities around the country to improve their agricultural practices. From 2007 to 2008 he traveled to Costa Rica to obtain a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Peace at the United Nations mandated University for Peace. There, he volunteered with an association of coffee producers in the community of El Rodeo and with the Earth Charter International. He also worked on a reforestation project with the Compañía Nacional de Fuerza y Luz (CNFL) which focused on carbon sequestration in Costa Rica.

While at UPeace he also had the privilege to co-author the book "The Fabric of Community" with the Earth Charter staff members. He is now in pursuit of sustainability, as he is seeking out practical results for environmental rehabilitation in Haiti—and he is accomplishing this through the vision and experience of Trees for the Future.



## Typhoon: “There was never anything like this before. Never!”

TREES works with upland people throughout the Developing World. It's a different world up there, peopled for the most part by the extremely poor, by those who have little or no standing in the community. And the community itself would generally prefer to have as little as possible to do with them. The problem they mutually face, however, is that water runs down hill. And when there are no trees left on the hill, water comes down the hill in a hurry.

We spend a lot of time and energy talking with the officials of these mountainous communities and with the field technicians of the several agencies that, in theory, are supposed to be working in the uplands. They seldom listen and, far too often, we later learn of the tragedies brought about by their indifference: of villages buried, of communities destroyed, of schools where hundreds of children sitting in the dark found it increasingly difficult to breathe, while their parents desperately tore at the mud hoping they wouldn't be too late. And it could have been prevented with just a little effort.

The uplands of Antique, the Philippines, have proven an especially difficult place for our program to operate. That's probably one of the main reasons we persist there. Another is that there are a number of serious environmental threats and we have long felt we owe our best to the people there to help address them.

The threats we, and these upland communities, face are both from people doing the wrong things and from natural forces. For the past year there have been a number of kidnappings and killings in the upland villages by insurgents and local bandits. Despite this, large numbers of families are moving there, attempting to grow some food by "slash-and-burn" tillage, simply because they have no place else to go. Illegal loggers take advantage of these unfortunates, giving them slave wages to cut the remaining timber – and hide it until trucks can steal it away in the night.

With all that, large numbers of cattle, water buffalo and goats heavily overgraze the land. That, along with the annual burning prevents any natural regeneration of tree cover. All these factors together make the land very fragile – the director of TREES almost got killed in one landslide there a couple of years ago.



The burning season ends in late May - at about the same time the seasonal rains begin. Even earlier this year a massive typhoon came to these uplands – and stayed there, dropping rains at a rate of more than an inch per hour, day and night. Typhoons, even at that time of the year, are not unheard of and long experience has taught people what it takes to survive.

But this time, with the land lying so barren and unprotected, with winds of more than 150 mph, with the rain beating down day and night, everything seemed to go wrong all at once. Walls of mud smashed into houses. Mountains of cut logs, trees as well, were



**No homes, no belongings, no clothing, no food, no drinkable water. Refugees of Antique's uplands find their way down to the seaside. No help for them there either. Only more mud.**

## TYPHOON Continued

washed down the mountainsides and out to the sea, taking everything in their path with them. Entire hillsides where the protective grass had only just been burned raced down the streams and rivers.

Further downstream, rivers overflowed their banks, cut the foundations from under houses which, with their occupants, collapsed into the floods and were washed out to the sea. Massive areas of lowlands were turned into lakes. The rice crop was gone.



**Mountains of trees and logs, many of them illegally cut and stored in the uplands, were washed down the mountainsides and out to sea (left). This has been the site of the airport at Ilo-Ilo City. The typhoon turned it into a large lake (right).**

## Texas TREE PALS Help Local Children Bring Water to Ethiopia

Malaika (it means "Angel" in Amharic) Sadik is a teenager living near Dallas, Texas. One day she was talking with her classmates about her experiences traveling on vacation to her parents' homeland in Ethiopia. She happened to mention what a problem it is to have an assured supply of drinkable water. She used the example of her own family's village, called Silti, where, year-after-year, the water supply keeps falling.

She and her friends decided to try to do something about it and soon they were on a fund-raising mission that successfully brought in \$2,500.00 for their water project - which TREES decided to match.

The project will be undertaken there by our partner, Greener Ethiopia, and will include drilling a bore-hole, adding a pump and pipe to bring the water closer to the community. The deep-rooted trees will begin a process of afforestation up the hillsides to assure that there will be more water, year after year. Perhaps most important, this program offers young people, here and throughout the Developing World, an opportunity to take an active role in giving themselves a future.



**Angel meets with Jennifer Carter, coordinator of TREE PALS, to explain what her Texas group wants to do (left). Angel and her father with Dave Deppner in front of our Maryland office (right).**

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## Special Thanks!

Trees for the future would like to put out a special thanks to Carin Wunneburger. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, Carin has spent the past two years working with TREES technician Omar Ndao to promote agroforestry to local farmers in Kaffrine. Carin finished her Peace Corps Service this August and will be continuing her education in a graduate program studying soil sciences. Best of luck to you Carin, and please keep in touch!

## E-Newsletter

Every month, Trees for the Future sends out an *e-newsletter*. Sign-up by going to "Join the Mailing List" on [www.plant-trees.org](http://www.plant-trees.org) and entering your email address.

**Trees for the Future is part of the *Aid to Africa  
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