



New Forests Project

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NFP UPDATE April 2010

Clean Water Initiative

PPG, Industries donation: Last January, NFP received a donation from PPG Industries of 33,400 lbs of chlorine tablets for the Chlorine Bank Program in Central America. This donation, valued US\$50,000, will be used to provide clean water to the seven hundred fifty communities affiliated to our Circuit Rider Program, during the next two years. The chlorine tablets will be distributed through a chlorine distribution network, with the support of our long time partner in Honduras, the Honduran Water Board Association –AHJASA.

Atkinson Foundation's new grant: Last December, the Chlorine Bank Program, was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the Atkinson Foundation. The grant will be invested to scale up the Chlorine Bank Program and will help reduce the prevalence of gastrointestinal illness in rural Central America.

Designed as a grocery-store-like or supply chain network, the Chlorine Bank provides communities with products (devices, chlorine, valves), services (installation, repair, monitoring), technical assistance & training, tailored to the needs of rural areas. By scaling-up this project, services will be extended to 650 more communities, reaching 750,000 people during the next 3 years.

George Washington student's research: A team of four graduate students from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the GW University traveled to Honduras last March 2010 to assess the Chlorine Bank Program. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the successes and constraints of the program in Honduras and El Salvador. The GW team will focus on identifying critical factors hindering the Chlorine Bank Program in its sales of water disinfecting products, and developing recommendations for creating a long-term market for water disinfecting products and services.

Disaster Relief in El Salvador: After the devastation of Hurricane Ida last November in El Salvador, the entire

Circuit Rider staff was on red alert working tirelessly to bring safe water and to rehabilitate the water systems in all communities within reach in Eastern and Southern areas of the country. In one night, the amount of rain in the nearby volcanoes, Chincontepeque and San Vicente, was as much as it normally received in eight months. This resulted in mudslides that devastated many communities in the municipal districts of Guadalupe and Verapaz, El Salvador. Fortunately, the Chlorine Bank was fully stocked with chlorine products donated by PPG Industries last year, helping our Circuit Riders to support emergency relief efforts by bringing chlorine wherever needed, in order to provide disinfected water.



Mudslides nearby San Vicente after the Hurricane Ida last November, in El Salvador.

National Geographic: New Forests Projects' profile has been recently added to the National Geographic's *Global Action Atlas*. The Global Action Atlas enables individuals to support projects and initiatives around the world. It's designed to turn inspiration into action, giving people ways to support, advocate, and participate in efforts to conserve natural and cultural diversity and to improve the human condition. A comprehensive profile of the Clean Water Initiative in Honduras and El Salvador have been listed in the Global Action Atlas, which gives visitors the option to become involved in various activities including donations, volunteer and

education. The online link to the atlas is:
http://www.actionatlas.org/about_actions_atlas.php

World Seed Program

Seed Shipments. A total of 64 kilograms of seeds were mailed to WSP beneficiaries in December alone, the majority of which went to projects in Africa (Cameroon, Uganda, Nigeria, Burundi and Benin). Two other shipments went to Afghanistan and Haiti. Several organizations have already received the seeds and started to sow them, however some groups in Africa are still waiting for their arrival. We also provided funds to two organizations in Africa for the purchase of seeds since they can't be shipped to the country.

We continue to receive applications on an ongoing basis for organizations interested in acting as seed distributors and we evaluate applications to see if they qualify when we are about to place a new seed order. The demand for seeds, therefore, continues to increase.



Seeds purchased with NFP funds being distributed in Kenya

Trees for Seed Production. The WSP has moved forward with its efforts to reduce dependence on foreign sources of seeds in Africa. Last year it was able to raise funds that are now being used by one of the organizations in Cameroon to establish tree stands for seed production. The idea behind this effort is to get local groups to grow and manage trees specifically to maximize seed production and generate seeds locally. Funds are also being sought to establish a first seed orchard, a scaled-up

version of seed stands that has the potential to generate seeds and income. The WSP recently submitted a proposal to New England Biolabs Foundation for this purpose.

Small Grants for Equipment and Training.

The WSP is in the process of selecting its next round of beneficiaries who will receive small grants to carry out trainings or purchase equipment for reforestation/agroforestry purposes. Over 20 organizations have submitted applications for this purpose and we are hoping to fund five of these. Additionally, we have submitted a proposal to obtain funds for the purchase of a motorcycle to be used for seed distribution by one of the groups we support in Kenya.



Students in Nigeria preparing a nursery site to restore and protect rainforests in their area. NFP provided funds to establish the nursery (i.e purchase of shovels) and train the students.

For more information

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