

EFN TECHNICAL REPORT FORMAT – Reforestation GRANT

Date of Report Submission: August 30, 2016

I. Grantee Information

- a. Organization name: FUNDACIÓN ECOTRÓPICO COLOMBIA
- b. WWF contract number: RU89
- c. City and country: Bogotá, Colombia
- d. Contact person and email address: Adriana Hurtado, adrihurtadoguerra@gmail.com

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- a. Title of project: Native vegetation restoration in northern Bogota, Colombia’s eastern hills
- b. Location of project: Bogotá, D.C., Colombia
- c. Dates of project: May 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016
- d. Grant amount: US \$ 7,710.00
- e. Total number of participants:
 - i. Include gender-disaggregated data (# of men versus # of women participates):

PARTICIPANTS	WOMEN	MEN
Environmental Committee students <i>(MAG - Ministerio Ambiental Gimnasiano) of Gimnasio Femenino School</i>	32: 17 elementary school girls and 15 middle and high school girls	
Other <i>Gimnasio Femenino</i> school students	506: 301 nursery, kinder garden and elementary school girls, and 205 middle and high school girls	
<i>Fundación Ana Restrepo del Corral School</i> students	10 middle and high school girls	16 middle and high school boys
<i>Gimnasio Femenino School</i> gardeners		3
Nursery planting working team		4
Teachers and school staff	26	2
Ecotrópico Foundation trainers	1	1

f. Type of participants:

i. Briefly describe why this group of participants was selected:

Since both schools are located in Bogota's eastern hills, next to the forest reserve, their students need to build skills and knowledge on how to restore, recover and preserve its biodiversity as an appropriation strategy for its long-term conservation.

III. DESCRIPTION OF PLANTING ACTIVITIES

a. Planting objectives:

i. Total number of trees planted: 3,000

ii. Total number of hectares for project area(s):

Approximately three (3) hectares were reforested, within 70 hectares that belong to *Gimnasio Femenino School* and are part of *Bogota's Eastern Forest Protected Reserve*.

b. Post planting monitoring and evaluation plan:

i. What will be monitored (Please see possible answers below)?

- Tree mortality is being evaluated through the observations made by the school gardeners during their forest monthly maintenance activities.
- Tree species selected (most successful vs. least successful). The School Environmental Project Coordinator keeps track of the information that school gardeners provide her on tree mortality, in order to identify the most vulnerable species.
- Return of wildlife. While this is not part of a systematic activity, occasionally the School Environmental Project Coordinator receives students, teachers, staff and neighbours photographic information on observed animals.

ii. Who will continue to monitor the planted areas and for how long?

School Environmental Project Coordinator (Juana Figueroa) and school gardeners (3), during the following year (August 2016 – June 2017).

iii. Is the monitoring plan funded and if so, how and for how long? For the scholar year 2016-2017 the school allocated US \$ 1300 from its annual organizational budget, for monitoring and planted areas maintenance and monitoring related

activities (compost fertilizer, invasive species control and cut down, dead trees replacement, among other activities).

IV. DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES

a. Training objectives:

The training component of the project focused on the Environmental Committee (*MAG - Ministerio Ambiental Gimnasiano*) group, with the objective of strengthening their knowledge and skills about the school's forest reserve and how to restore, recover and preserve its biodiversity.

b. Program format/curriculum:

See attached file (2 Training Workshop Content) with the content of the training workshop carried out with Environmental Committee students.

c. Related activities: The project focused exclusively in this training workshop and planting activities. There are no related activities.

d. Activities for follow-up (be specific):

i. What next steps are planned?

Reforested areas maintenance through the school's Environmental Project and the school gardener's activities, with special attention to planted trees mortality, different species behavior and dead trees replacement.

ii. What actions will be taken by the participants as a result of the workshop?

School Environmental Project Coordinator will be visiting planted areas with some student groups (*MAG* leaders) for species recognition and invasive species control.

iii. Is there another workshop or activity planned? A fourth grade *MAG* leader and 10 of her classmates were recently awarded by *Disney* and *Youth Service America* with a reforestation grant. This grant's objective is to calculate individual carbon footprint to offer reduction strategies and to compensate it planting 250 trees of 15 native species.

V. OUTCOMES

a. Conservation outcomes (BE SPECIFIC):

i. Explain if the objectives were met and if not, why:

1. Planting activities:

The reforestation objectives were fully accomplished; 3000 trees of 17 native species were planted. Of these, 750 were planted by *Gimnasio*

Femenino school girls and *Fundación Ana Restrepo del Corral School* students.

2. Training activities:

Training activities with *Gimnasio Femenino* Environmental Committee (*MAG*) students (32) were fully accomplished.

ii. What indicators are being used to measure the outcomes?

1. Planting activities: qualitative (observations) tree mortality described above.

2. Training activities: number of biodiversity conservation initiatives and environmental activities proposed by schoolgirls along the scholar year and the number of students participating in them.

b. Training/educational results: including policies and practices agreed upon during workshop:

- Trained *MAG* students appropriated both, tree native species names and the technical aspects of tree planting in ecological restoration processes.
- *Disney's* and *Youth Service America's* reforestation grant, also described above, is one of the results so far obtained from the *MAG* students building capacity through training activities. The awarded fourth grade *MAG* student enthusiasm and interest in forest recovery motivated her and ten of her classmates to write and submit the proposal.
- See attached file (3 Abstract World Symposium on Sustainability Science and Research) with the abstract submitted to World Symposium on Sustainability Science and Research and related to the oral presentation about the impact of the project presented in the SURE (Society for Urban Ecology) Second Congress (July 8-10, Shanghai, China) by the School Environmental Project Coordinator (Juana Figueroa). This study, which she is carrying out with other colleagues, involves project training/educational results.

c. Were there any unanticipated outcomes or other overall outcomes?

An important coincidence was that during one of our planting activities, Bogota's (District) Secretary of Environment and his team visited the forest reserve and walked along the *Trujillo* creek to identify environmental problems and irregularities. The reforested area covers the source of this creek and its biological corridor, which ends in

the *Callejas Channel* that also connects with the *Bogota River* biological corridor. They were able to see the schoolgirls planting the trees, and thus getting to know the project and its objectives. Without having it planned, it was possible to make this public authority aware of the ecological restoration process the school is leading and its valuable contribution to the city.

In addition, after planting activities were accomplished, a permanent workshop for the recovery and conservation of *Trujillo* creek was created by different community organizations and district and local entities. As part of the actions of this workshop, the Bogota Botanical Garden donated 300 native trees, which residents and school neighbors planted with the school gardener's support in selected areas along the creek; close to some of the areas planted in *EFN* reforestation project, contributing to their enhancement and connectivity.

- d. What are anticipated risks and challenges to this project over the next 5-years?

Climate change conditions, with a tendency towards the loss of precipitation, are the greatest risk for the establishment and survival of planted trees. In addition, financial support is required for ecological restoration and biodiversity conservation monitoring. Reforested areas effectiveness requires short and long-term monitoring, not only focused on mortality and survival of planted trees, and the vulnerability of selected species, but on the restoration of ecological processes, functions and relationships between plant and animal species over time.

- e. Is there an opportunity or plans for this project to continue in the future and increase in scale? Yes. As we already mentioned, 300 trees were planted during July, donated by the Bogota Botanical Garden, and the school was recently awarded with a second reforestation grant, through which 250 trees of 15 native species will be planted next October (*Disney* and *Youth Service America* reforestation grant).

The city environmental authorities and local neighbors are aware of these projects important efforts, and are willing to help them continue. Their interest makes it possible to think of achieving more opportunities for financial support.

VI. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FUNDING

- a. EFN support: USD \$ 7,710
- b. Other funding sources (if applicable) - *Please list organization name and amount received:*

Gimnasio Femenino School, COP \$ 3,000,000 = USD \$ 1,041 (according to exchange rate on August 29, 2016).

- c. Cost-share by the organization (if applicable).

VII. APPENDICES (if applicable)

- a. Publications/Materials produced by project:

<http://www.gimnasiofemenino.edu.co/la-promocion-2016-finalizo-sus-examenes-ib/>

<http://www.fundacionanarestrepo.edu.co/fundacion/masonry-blog/>

- b. Press articles about project – include web links if possible:

<http://noticias.caracol.com.co/el-periodista-soy-yo/cuando-llueve-en-este-barrio-de-monteria-los-vecinos-tienen-que-salir-nadar>

- c. Photographs/videos - *Please provide in digital format (.jpg or .tif) 300 dpi*

Twelve (12) pictures are included. School privacy policy establishes that students pictures cannot be published unless parents authorize to do so. Please let us know if needed.