

COEAS

COMITÉ ECOLÓGICO DE LA ALDEA DE SUYAPA & TREES, WATER & PEOPLE



TREES, WATER & PEOPLE
Helping people and the planet

COEAS was founded in the 1980's to protect the forests of Mount Triquilapa from Tegucigalpa's urban growth. TWP supports COEAS by funding reforestation, environmental education programs, conservation efforts, and seeking legal designation of the area as a national protected area and biological corridor. This critical watershed provides water to thousands of people in Honduras' capital city.

The Triquilapa watershed has sustained Aldea de Suyapa for hundreds of years, and is under threat from urban expansion. COEAS is keeping it forested for future generations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Deforestation on Mount Triquilapa is visible from every corner of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The remaining forests protect a primary water source for thousands of people, but shrink every year due to forest fires and illegal harvesting. COEAS and TWP are working to legally designate the forest as a National Protected Area and to create a biological corridor across three mountain watersheds surrounding the capital.

Total Project Cost 2022-2024: \$360,000

Project Type: Reforestation, biodiversity conservation, watershed restoration, community development, protected area management, fire prevention, environmental education, protection of water sources

Beneficiaries: 900 families, 5,000 direct beneficiaries

Location: Aldea de Suyapa, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Trees, Water & People helps fund social and environmental programs in this critical forest reserve, as well as outreach to adjacent communities who benefit from the ecosystem services of the watershed.

COEAS staff and volunteers protect the principal water source of Aldea de Suyapa by conserving and reforesting a key watershed on the eastern edge of the rapidly growing capital city.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

Economic: Water from the reserve is distributed to over 900 families and dozens of businesses, and the reserve generates income from tourism, recreation, and scientific research done in the watershed.

Environmental: The forest reserve provides fresh air, clean water, erosion control, biodiversity, medicinal plants, sustainable wood harvest, and an easy natural escape from the capital city, Tegucigalpa.

Social: COEAS builds community resilience by fighting forest fires and deforestation, hosting community reforestation campaigns, and increasing recreation opportunities for bikers, hikers, and naturalists.

DESIRED GOALS/ IMPACT:

- Declare Triquilapa a protected National Forest Reserve.
- Reforest post-fire landscapes to reduce erosion and runoff.
- Negotiate community land-use needs and resource restrictions (water, firewood and hunting) in the Reserve.
- Staff the tree nursery for increased native species production and job creation.
- Produce trail maps, interpretive signage, and flora and fauna guides for recreation and tourism.
- Build a Biological Corridor between three major conjoined watersheds.



Left to Right: Luis Torres (Founder & Volunteer), Noel Ochoa Meza (Vocalist), Yesenia Cruz (Tree Nursery Coordinator), Manuel Garcia (Principal Coordinator), Jairo Colindres (COEAS Youth Member), Carmen Rodriguez (Volunteer), Douglas Garcia (Finance Manager)

Gemara Gifford

International Director

gemara@treeswaterpeople.org

970-233-2407



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