



THE TAKING ROOT MODEL

Elements of this forestry model involve long-term planning to address the very causes of deforestation: dependence on fuel wood, agriculture land for food and timber to build homes. Community-based education programs help the local population both understand and appreciate the importance of protecting and properly managing their forest resources.

The project integrates such elements as composting, gardening, agroforestry and fuel-efficient fireplaces. This way, communities can continue to meet their daily needs while protecting the forest and gaining new economic opportunities.

PERMANENT TREES

The participating communities gather most of the tree seeds from their own land. This way, tree species are already adapted to that specific micro-climate. Only species that have been wiped out due to over-harvesting are reintroduced from nearby nurseries.

FUELWOOD

These pioneer species of trees are planted amongst the permanent ones to help bring nitrogen back into the soil. They grow quickly and regenerate rapidly when cut down for domestic use. Through this harvest, the trees actually nourish the soil and provide an easy source of fuelwood, helping protect the existing forest from destruction.

SUPPORT THE CAUSE

With your support, Taking Root is acting now to protect and rebuild our forest ecosystems.

Visit www.takingrootproject.org or email info@takingrootproject.org to find out more.

CONTACT US

Kahlil Baker • Operations
kahlil@takingrootproject.org

Samuel Gervais • Partnerships
samuel@enracine.org

Laura Howard • Education
laura@takingrootproject.org

Cameron Novak • Special projects
cam@takingrootproject.org

Brooke van Mossel-Forrester • Communications
info@takingrootproject.org

TAKING ROOT IN NICARAGUA



Taking Root (TR) is a voluntary, non-profit organization based in Montreal, Canada. Its mission is to contribute to

the regeneration and the protection of tropical forests using a community-based, sustainable forestry approach. Through Canadian-Nicaraguan partnerships, TR supports and strengthens locally run forestry projects that demonstrate a strong holistic approach to community development and environmental action.



THE CHALLENGE

The destruction of forests for agricultural land, cattle pastures and fuel wood, primarily in tropical regions, accounts for 17% of global CO₂ emissions, the principle contributor to global warming. The reversal of this process will play an important role in addressing climate change.

THE TAKING ROOT SOLUTION

TR believes that sustainable forestry is a key solution to climate change. It addresses the causes of deforestation, ensures the restoration and protection of Nicaraguan forest ecosystems and respects the needs and culture of local communities. Forests improve the climate, the air, the water, the wildlife habitat, the soil and the lives of those around it.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

TR's forestry projects both recognize and support the role of Nicaraguan communities as an integral part of a thriving ecosystem. In this process, members of the participating communities take collective ownership of the renewal of their own environment. This ensures the long-term success of the project.



TIMBER TREES

As the warm climate in equatorial regions allows trees to grow up to ten times faster than in temperate climates, the trees in a new forest soon become over-crowded. Selectively thinning the trees for use as building materials actually helps the permanent trees grow stronger.

EDUCATION

As a very important component of the TR approach, local education programs bring the community together in dialogue and discussion about the benefits of maintaining the forests for the health of that very community. Through education, communities come to understand and appreciate how forestry helps to meet both their immediate and long-term needs.



FUEL-EFFICIENT FIREPLACES

The main source of fuel for rural Nicaraguan communities is wood, which is used for cooking and heating. Replacing traditional fireplaces with fuel-efficient ones lowers the demand on forests, reduces the time needed to collect fuelwood and decreases the severe health impacts caused by smoke inhalation.

AGROFORESTRY

By planting fruit- and food-bearing trees and shade-grown crops at the edge of the permanent forest, forests are seen as a source of food instead of something that needs to be removed to grow food. Grafted fruit trees are used because they produce fruit at a much faster rate.



ORGANIC GARDENING

Next to each family's home, an organic garden provides some of the staples essential to their subsistence.

COMPOSTING

Organic waste can be broken down into a natural fertilizer, moving away from the dependence on chemicals. Each participating family has their own compost system to help their organic garden grow.