

AZUERO EARTH PROJECT

2010 YEAR-END REPORT



Welcome!

2010 was a year of tremendous growth for the Azuero Earth Project as we made great strides in laying the foundation for our programs on the Azuero Peninsula. We would like to extend our gratitude to our supporters for their confidence in us and commitment to our mission. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to establish our office in Pedasí, purchase a vehicle, hire new staff, build much-needed institutional infrastructure, and initiate our programs. Because of the generous unrestricted support that we received in 2010, the Azuero Earth Project is now poised to further its programmatic activities in 2011 and to engage local landowners and community partners in a process of education, preservation, and restoration. Below is an overview of our achievements of the past year.

Institutional Infrastructure



Inauguration of Casa Pasa

Azuero Earth Project's office in Pedasí, affectionately known as Casa Pasa, opened in May. It is a focal point for the neighborhood and many people have expressed their appreciation of the commitment to building a house in traditional style that is a model for others building in town. The facility now serves as a hub for all of our operations in the Azuero. With donor support we have equipped it with a full range of office furniture, equipment, and Internet access. It houses the Geographic Information System (GIS) work station, the Azuero Resource Center library, and functions as a meeting place for local environmentalists as well as a field station, offering rooms for visiting scientists working on the peninsula.



Staff Additions

In September of 2010 Ruth Metzler, Program Director, officially joined the Azuero Earth Project as a Henry Richardson Labouisse fellow. Ruth has been managing our programmatic work including the educational initiative supported by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Since then our team has continued to grow. In 2010 we hired Guillermo Duran as our GIS Administrator. In January of 2011, Guillermo began working with us at our Pedasí office. He will be using mapping software to build the Azuero Earth Project's database of conservation priorities for the peninsula. We will soon have some of his maps visible on our website. We also hired Laura Zaks as our Director of Marketing and Development. Based in New York, Laura began with AEP in January of 2011 to cultivate external relationships and raise funds from individual, corporate, foundation, and government supporters. For more information about our staff, visit [Who We Are](#) on

our website:

www.azueroeearthproejct.org

Programmatic Highlights



Spider Monkey Census

With support from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, we engaged in a research program dedicated to determining the Azuero spider monkey population size, location, and foraging behavior. The Azuero spider monkey is in critical danger of extinction and habitat loss is the single largest threat to its survival. We hope that research and conservation of this species will advance the restoration of the endangered dry forest ecosystem as a whole. To that end, from June to August a research team led by Dr. Christina Campbell at California State University, Northridge, worked to locate and determine the size of the local spider monkey population. This research provided important locational information and baseline data needed for future censuses of spider monkey populations, and has been crucial for our Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project which is constructing a database of conservation priorities in the Azuero.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping Initiative

With targeted donations from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, ESRI's Conservation Program, and Planet Action, we were able to purchase computers and initiate a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping program, setting up a state of the art GIS work station in our Pedasi office. Our GIS Administrator has begun collecting data to create an in-depth ecological information bank that will guide our planning and programs. With these maps we are able to identify priority areas for environmental action on the Azuero peninsula. The maps will enable us to work with local landowners to visually analyze and present viable land management options.

2010 Financial Statement

Income

Total Donations and Grants: \$172, 463

Total Fee for Services Programs: \$530

Total Income: \$172,993

Expenses

Programs and Programmatic Infrastructure:

Program activities and supporting start-up costs, including vehicle purchase and library resources:

\$41,728

Human Resource:

Salaries: \$36,168

Resource Development:

Marketing and fundraising: \$10,950

Overhead:

Utilities, taxes, fuel, etc.: \$9,148

Total Expenses: \$97,994

Net Assets End of Year: \$74,998



Creation of the Azuero Resource Center

The Azuero Resource Center (ARC) was officially created in 2010 when the Azuero Earth Project first went live on the Internet. The ARC is a space where people can access information on a range of topics including: sustainable agriculture, tropical architecture, native species reforestation, community activism, species protection, and many others. The ARC library is located in our office in Pedasí and has now been filled with reference books and literature accessible to the community. The ARC also includes a virtual component through an online resource center housed within the Azuero Earth Project's bilingual (English/Spanish) website which was also launched in 2010.

Eco-Guides

Thanks to generous support from the Mark Gainor Family, we began working on creating Eco-Guides, which provide readily accessible answers and solutions to complicated environmental

questions as well as nature guides and sustainable how-to information. Once completed, these resources will be available online and as waterproof printouts for sale in our Pedasí library. They will cover a variety of topics including the basics of owning land in the area and appropriate fence line customs, environmental laws pertaining to the region, how to establish a forestry project, how to plant trees, and what native trees are important for specific purposes, as well as tips for growing organically, reducing carbon footprints, and designing air-cooled buildings.



Purchase of the AEP Truck

We purchased an Azuero Earth Project vehicle to support our projects around the peninsula. The truck has already been used for conducting monkey census field trips and research; transporting volunteers and supplies; visiting farms to network with landowners; attending seminars; transporting recyclables for our recycling project; and collecting GPS ground-truth information for our GIS project. The truck also generates publicity as local residents are increasingly aware of our presence and are familiar with our logo.



Educational Initiative

In October, the Azuero Earth Project conducted an educational initiative focused on the Azuero spider monkey to raise awareness of the monkey's interconnectedness to its dry forest habitat. Three elementary schools were chosen for their proximity to monkey habitat. This initiative was funded by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and received guidance from Avifauna. Based on feedback and follow-up interviews, we know that the initiative had a positive impact on the students, teachers, and volunteers involved and there is interest in continuing the activities in the future.



¡Recicla Pedasí!

In November 2010, Recicla Pedasí (Pedasí Recycles in Spanish,) was launched as a joint initiative between the Azuero Earth Project, Niños de Azuero, the Movimiento Juvenil Pedasí Verde, the Pedasí Mayor's Office and select community business partners. Together we collect recycling from seven points in the town of Pedasí. Trash on the Azuero peninsula is often burned locally or at regional trash dumps, and so in addition to its benefits to the local environment, recycling reduces the public health risks of air contamination on the peninsula.

Community Action Plan

In 2010 we developed a Community Action Plan, establishing the critical directions for our programming in 2011 and beyond. This was the result of conducting year-end analysis of all we achieved in 2010. Using information gathered through research and our educational programs, the CAP provides the basis for how we combine research and programming and apply lessons learned going forward. Our 2010 strategic planning and preparation leaves us poised to implement highly

effective programs in the coming year.

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