

Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



Project Name: Forest Products Program for Private Landowners in Puerto Rico

Funding Year: 2010

Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - IITF

Sponsoring Organization: Puerto Rico Dept. of Natural and Environmental Resources

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Participating Organizations:

Grantee: Puerto Rico Dept. of Natural and Environmental Resources

Project Funding

Agreement(s): 10-DG-11120107-009

Funding Sources

Project Design

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Project Purpose

The goal is to produce a forest products market inventory of wood and non-wood forest products in Puerto Rico. An informal and undocumented supply of forest products is available through artisans in PR. The analysis of the artisan's market demand will provide expanded market alternatives to private landowners. Demand also exists in the use of small diameter wood products for the construction of musical instruments. The Government Cultural Affairs and Economic development Offices are interested in establishing a small wood and non-wood forest products market. An assessment of on island and off island demand for small and non-wood forest products will be conducted. Information will be collected on production methods and existing supply networks as well. A permanent forest products group will be integrated into the Stewardship Council to formalize the program and help in the analysis of the information. This will set the stage for contacts with local landowners to encourage them to conserve and manage their forests in ways that meet market as well as resource needs.

National Themes & Outcomes

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

- Forests are actively and sustainably managed.

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

- The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained and enhanced.
- People are connected to trees and forests and are engaged in environmental stewardship activities.
- Trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate and adapt to changing conditions.

Strategic Issues

Develop an inventory of timber wood farms and plantations, create a database, identify private landowners interested in a forest production private project, provide specialized training on wood utilization, identify wood markets, and create an advisory committee

Collaboration & Partners

Tropic Ventures, Inc., UPR Extension Service, PR Department of Agriculture, Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, PRIDCO Artisans Programs, UPR College of Agriculture, Mayaguez Campus, Cafiesencia, Inc.

Integrated Delivery

CADA (Consejo Asesor para el Desarrollo Agroforestal) (Advisory Council for the Agroforestry Development) is the entity that hosted all educational, capacity building, and outreach initiatives and is in charge of the inventory. CADA is comprised of representatives of academia, artisans, state, federal, and municipal government, private consultants, community members, wood industries, and non profit organizations.

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Influence on Positive Change

Provide an economic alternative and a direct impact for artisans and private landowners. Forest products are available in an organized system and accessible through the Island for artisans. Private landowners, with and without FSP Management Plans, participate of a permanent forest products program that integrate products and users with the assistance of the government agencies. Develop FSP Management Plans in critical forest areas. Recognition of local products and efficient use of resources. Communities with marginal resources and artisans with small business can consider cooperative programs to manage products.

Accomplishments

Deliverables

1. Forest products inventory- inventory of timber wood farms and plantations.
2. Create a database with inventory findings.
3. Identify private landowners interested in a forest production project
4. Develop an working group- CADA (Consejo Asesor para el Desarrollo Agroforestal) (Advisory Council for Agroforestry Development).
5. Develop a permanent forest product initiative.
6. Provide specialized training on wood utilization and wood markets.

Accomplishments to Date

Creation of the Consejo Asesor para el Desarrollo Agroforestal (Advisory Council for Agroforestry Development) in Puerto Rico. Group promoted special initiatives to develop the wood industry in Puerto Rico.

1. Universities showed interest in a Silviculture curriculum- University of Turabo, Sacred Heart University, Polytechnic University, Eastern University, and John Dewey College.
2. Participation as an exhibitor in the Artisan's Fair organized by Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company.
3. Identification of new scenarios in Puerto Rico and abroad to market PR forest products.
4. Research of PR forest products markets.
5. Continue use and promotion www.nuestramadera.com.
6. Forest goods and sawmill inventories.
7. Puerto Rico Forest Products Symposiums (April 2012, August 2013, December 2014). Forest Products of Puerto Rico.
8. Creation of the internet webpage www.nuestramadera.org available to persons' use to locate forest products and other related information including private landowners producing wood and arborists. The site provided information to questionnaires, PDF books on tropical forestry topics, updated sawmills list and location, videos, and communication tools.
9. Meetings with Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company were held to design the project "Sembrando Para el Artesano Del Futuro" (Planting for the Future Artisan). Information about wood and non wood material used as raw material were listed and provided to the FSB. The FSB identify areas in the states forests where artisans can collect their raw material. A procedure for permits was also design.

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10. Facts related to sawmills in Puerto Rico: four (4) circular sawmills, 13 band sawmills, sawing capacity LRG 15-30 feet DBH 24 to 48 inches, two (2) portable sawmills, wood sources from private landowners, municipalities, government agencies, drying methods mostly outdoors, clients artisans, carpenters, and contractors, employees from 1 to 3 employees, prices per cubic feet ranges from \$2.50 (*Calophyllum*) to \$13.00 (*Tectona*) in Puerto Rico, exportation *Hibiscus elatus* \$26.00.

11. During and after the Symposium, several questions arose: What practices and strategies are carried out when we harvest a tree? What are the costs of this operation? What are the safety precautions when performing this type of work? How is the forest affected during forest logging and how can we minimize the impact? What is the price of a tree in Puerto Rico? To answer these questions, we developed a workshop where we could see the work of harvesting a tree. The workshop was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 and attended by 30 people. Participants had the opportunity to see all the steps in cutting a tree in a planned and safely, mining and hauling and sawing the tree. The tree was cut by Andres Sanfiozenzo arborist, who gave us a talk on equipment maintenance and the dangers of such work. Before and after cutting, International Earthwatch volunteers, along with PhD student at the UPR Jimena Forero collected data on vegetation around the selected tree to see what was the impact of falling within ten (10) meters. The workshop was held on the grounds of Las Casas de la Selva in Patillas, Honduran pine (*Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis*) was selected.

12. Turnery's Workshop at the Puerto Rico Convention Center- November 2014.

13. Participation of Vega Baja's Guitar Expo October 2014.

Deliverables in Progress

Project completed.

Challenges

In 2009 a special law was signed to declare a state of fiscal emergency and establishing a comprehensive stabilization plan to salvage the credit of PR (Law No. 7). As a consequence the PR DNER- Forest Service Bureau lost employees as they were removed from their jobs (temporary and permanent) so the agency capacity diminished. Tropic Ventures, Inc. is a non profit organization that assisted the PR DNER in the implantation of this project.

Information Last Updated

10/30/2023