REPORT

“Restoring Caatinga Vegetation”

The Gaia-Movement Trust

Humana Povo para Povo Brasil

February 2015

1. Introduction

The combination of drought and misuse of the land are a major threat to the existence of the remaining Caatinga areas in Brazil. Global Warming and Climate Change are and will further reinforce this already ongoing process. Some of the predictions for the Caatinga area state that average temperatures can rise as far as 6 degrees until 2.100 with an increased risk for desertification. This process can be contained and reversed through the use of agroforestry methods that restore soil fertility and increase carbon fixation.

The Caatinga biome occupies an area of 750.00 square kilometers and extends in all nine states of Northeast Brazil. Over many years this biome has been degraded due to poverty, economic exploitation and lack of information and guidance to residents and users of the area. Today the scenario in the areas covered by the Humana People to People Farmers' Clubs is worrying. The municipalities are situated in one of the poorest regions of Bahia, with one of the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) and elevated social exclusion. The population has a low environmental awareness of the global situation (global warming and climate change), the local situation (preservation and sustainable use of their Caatinga biome) and what consequences these phenomena will have for their existence.

Humana Povo para Povo Brasil (Humana Brasil) and the Gaia- Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action joined forces in a project to restore Caatinga vegetation and increase climate awareness and in this way contribute to adaption and mitigation of the impact of Global Warming and Climate Change.

The project exists of 3 main program elements.

1) The environment element:

- Replanting of degraded soil with species of the Caatinga, fruit trees, trees for fencing wood, plants and bushes for forage, and wood for firewood or timber and

by using agroforestry methods reverse the actual depletion tendencies and restore the soil.
- Youth groups will take care of two nurseries and plant 500 trees in each of the 6 villages to improve the microclimate in the villages.
- Campaigns and courses will increase environmental awareness among pupils and their families

2) The economical element (Income generating):

- The small farmers will see the benefits of using agroforstry methods. It will improve the quality and productive capacity of their land and give increased income during a large part of the year.

3) Social impact:

- The project will increase social cohesion in the 6 villages. Youth and the elderly will work together and support each other. The youth will be more sensible to promote changes and see the necessity of the agro forestry concept. The parents, small farmers by profession, suffer by depletion of the soil and lack of perspective to change the actual situation.
- The project will increase knowledge and environmental conscience.

The Gaia- Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action awarded a grant of USD 29.600 to Humana Brasil. The grant enabled us to carry out the activities as described in the project and to reach the goals.

The grant is divided in two installments. The first installment had the value of USD 17.200 and the second installment had a value of USD 12.400.

We submit the final financial and narrative report.

2. Activities, result and impact

The project started in October 2012 in the municipalities of Cansanção and Quijingue.

In the municipality of Cansanção the communities of "Capoeiras", "Calderão de Vaqueira" and "Sitio dos Flores" are taking part in the project. In the municipality of Quijingue the communities of "Poço Dantes", "Serra Branca" and "Jurema" are taking part in the project.

Both Cansanção and Quijingue are rural municipalities with over 65% of the population living on the country side, mostly in smaller communities.

The selected communities are populated by family farmers who live from the production of their properties. The farmers produce mainly staple food (beans and cassava) under subsistence farming conditions without much environmental considerations.

The project's sequence of activities is described below:

Humana staff meeting. The partnership team introduced the project to the project leaders' council and decisions about the manning of the project and administrative and financial matters were taken

Training and preparation. The designed Project Leader prepared the detailed plans and produced the materials needed to carry out the program activities.

The staff held 3 community meetings in each of the villages in the upstart phase and 280 families participated in these meetings. During the course of the project another 50 families were involved in the activities. All 330 families were involved in community awareness campaigns and actions, 63 were involved in the production of the seedlings, about 250 families planted fruit trees around the houses and 120 farmers planted trees in their fields. The project staff is satisfied with the results, many good examples have been established both among the families of the 6 villages and farmers from neighboring families. See the pictures.

Two nurseries were implemented in the communities of Poço Dantes (municipality of Quijingue) and Capoeiras (municipality of Cansanção). The families organized themselves to plant the seeds, take care of the seedlings and plant them in the fields.

Other communities got inspired by the example and started nurseries too, e.g in Lagoa de Baixa, Caixão and Morada Nova

The project worked together with the 6 schools of the selected communities and involved 220 students in the activities. The Project Leader lectured in the school classes (2 lectures). The results were that the students participated in the production of the seedlings and promoted the planting of fruit and native trees in the yards of the houses where they live and the fields of their parents.

Since June 2013 youth groups, children and international volunteers connected to Humana Brasil have planted 3.800 seedlings in gardens, streets and public places of these 6 communities and 2 municipalities.

The same mobilizing troops worked together with the family farmers to plant the 23.000 trees to their fields. The picture report shows interesting example of a farmer to recover soil fertility with an agroforestry system based on the native Caatinga.

This system is being promoted in the HPP Brasil's farmers' clubs too.

Table 1: Goals compared to results

Description	Goals	Results	Balance
Nurseries constructed and functioning	2	2	0
Trees planted in 6 villages	3.000	3.800	4.200
Campaigns and courses with students carried out	24	28	0
Campaings and courses with families carried out	24	24	0

Students involved	200	220	50
Families involved	300	335	35
Trees planted	18.000	23.000	6.000

The impact

The main impact is the increased awareness about the importance to take care of our environment and our capacity to take action to do something about it.

The drought the farmers were suffering from during 2012 and 2013 and which delayed the execution of the project affected the farmers deeply. Many suffered severe losses of animals and family income decreased. The drought made the farmer consider the reasons of this phenomena and his farmer practice too. During the course of the project we had many good discussions with the farmers, not only about the importance of planting trees but about the importance of taking care of the Caatinga, stop burning the field before planting, plant perennial crops for fodder production besides maize, prepare hay and ensilage among others.

The practice of planting trees was not limited to the 6 communities of the project but became more widespread and will continue after the funding of Gaia stops.

In the community of Caixão an existing but abandoned nursery was activated and became an income generating center for a group of farmer families. The plants are being sold at the market day, farmer fairs and sold directly from the nursery to interested farmers. The project leader assisted the group to start this activity.

In Lagoa de Baixa a farmer established a nursery and started to produce and sell fruit trees and native trees. Humana staff and volunteers worked together with the farmer and the farmer donated fruit trees to the families of the village.

Nowadays tree seedlings can be bought at the weekly market day and at the farmer fairs in the region.

The children were very active in the project and will carry on the message and the practice of taking care of our environment and the importance of planting trees.

3. Main challenge and what we did.

The main challenge met was how to deal with the impact of the drought on the production of the seedlings and their planting in the field. The project started the production of seedlings in the beginning of 2013 but planted them first in June when rains seemed consolidating and soil humidity had reached 30 cm of depth. The rains and cloud cover didn't last for many weeks and the following dry spell and hot temperatures made the farmers loss seedling in the field.

Furthermore the farmers got more occupied under these demanding conditions put on them by the drought as they have to use more time on securing water and feed for their animals. Some farmers lost more than 50 % of their cattle. Goats and sheep survived much better the harsh conditions of the drought.

Farmers lost somehow their spirit and surplus for new activities. The Humana team recognized this difficult situation and supported strongly the efforts with the families to keep the seedlings alive in the nurseries and the planted trees in the field. The farmers still lost 30% of the seedlings planted in cooperation with the project. The production of the seedlings and planting continued, especial in 2014, when the weather conditions improved again.

4. Financial report

The budget lines covered very well the execution of the planned activities.

The balances in the budget lines didn't surpass the 20% stipulated as limit in the contract.

The salaries surpassed the budget with USD 1.385, nurseries with USD 1.116 and overhead with USD 1.000. The reason is that the project's execution period was prolonged due to the difficulties the farmers met because of the draught in 2012-2013.

The necessary funds to pay for the extra expenses for producing and planting the extra seeds could be covered through savings in the materials for awareness campaigns and purchase of seeds and the costs of planting. The savings were made possible because of the help of both international volunteers and local community volunteers. They helped to carry out the campaigns and helped to distribute and plant the seedlings together with the farmer families.

GAIA PROJECT

FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-2015

Updated by February 2015

PROJECT GAIA 2012-2015 – FINANCIAL REPORT			
Description	**Total Budget US$**	**Total amount Spent 2012-2015 US$**	**Balance US$**
1. SALARIES			
1.1 Technician	**8.000,00**	9.385	-1.385
Sub-total	**8.000,00**	**9.384,69**	**-1.384,69**
2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES			
2.1 Transportation	**2.700,00**	2.699	1
2.2 Nurseries (water, electricity, manure and fuel)	**5.400,00**	6.516	-1.116
Sub-total	**8.100,00**	**9.215,53**	**-1.115,53**
3. Project Expenses			
3.1 Materials for awareness Capaigns	3.600,00	2.104	1.496
3.2 Seeds purchase and plantation in the communities, schools and backyards	7.200,00	5.197	2.003
Sub-total	**10.800,00**	**7.300,06**	**3.499,94**
4. Overhead			
4.1 Overhead	**2.700,00**	3.700	-1.000
Sub-total	**2.700,00**	**3.699,71**	**-999,71**
TOTAL	29.600,00	29.599,99	0,01

Summary		
	Income R$	Income US$
First Payment	34.470,52	17.200,00
Second Payment	29.884,11	12.400,00

5. Conclusions

The project was carried out according to the proposed activities and reached the expected results.

The families and communities have been satisfied with the project. They committed themselves and together we came through the harms occurred by the drought.

Children and adolescent have been very active in the producing and the planting of the seedlings. These practical actions increased their understanding of the importance to plant trees and increased their knowledge to do so.

The families in the communities worked together to establish and operate the nurseries and to plant and take care of the seedlings. Many times the issue has been up in community meetings to organize the watering of the plants, organize manure, when and where to plant the seedlings, when and how to distribute the seedlings among the families. The project contributed to increase the social and humana capital in the communities.

The drought has delayed the execution of the project with 9 months despite of the efforts of the Humana staff, the participating families and volunteers.

The drought showed people the necessity to take better care of the environment and made the need to plant trees very clear. Many farmers were not prepared for the extreme weather conditions, which made them loose animals. Trees, like leucenea and gliricidia provide forage to the farmers. This kind of trees was ver popular.

One of the encouraging results of the project is that the interest to plant trees and take care of the environment is increasing. Some examples are:
4 more communities in Cansanção and Quijingue have established plant nurseries and produce seedlings. The seedlings are partly sold to farmers, partly planted by the participating farmers and partly donated to the community.
Seedlings can be bought at the weekly market

Seedlings are put at sale at the Family Farmer Fairs that happen regularly in different communities during the year.

A photo report is attached.

Salvador, February 27th, 2015

Paulus G van Dun