

SUSTAINABLE ROOTS

"Planting the seed of Sustainability"

Annual report 2011

The mission of Sustainable Roots is to initiate and support projects that empower communities to preserve their cultural and natural resources.

The year 2011 was our first full year of work in Cosanga, Ecuador. We slowly established a presence in the community through our two objectives and through a continuous volunteer presence in the community. We actively participated in community events and gatherings and have established a working relationship with the local government.

Greenhouse Building

The community of Cosanga is situated in one of the rainiest places on earth, hence the need for greenhouses. The community previously had resources sufficient to build greenhouses from wood or bamboo which would rot out within a few months to a year causing the whole structure to fall apart.

We build greenhouses from metal tubing that will stand the test of time. In March of 2011 we finished our first greenhouse and people began planting and harvesting within a couple of months. The structure is 200 sq meters and benefits 6 families.

These greenhouses provide staple food sources and food security for participating families, as well as creating independence from unstable markets and unsustainable practices. The building process serves to unite the community in a common experience.





Education

We began the year with one English class a week in the primary school and ended the year with two a week. Our students are exhibiting a heightened grasp of the English language.

The evening class for high school students has become a core part of students' English education and social interaction. Reports from town members indicate that English grades in high school for attending students have improved.

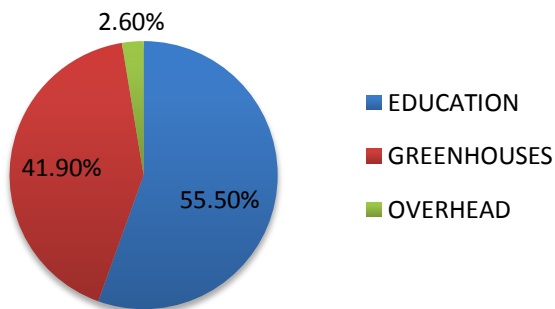


We are actively involved in helping out with the local after school program "El CAE" we send volunteers for an hour a day to help with homework and additional learning.

We were an integral part of planning and executing this years "curso vacacional" (summer school class) in which interested students came to class to learn in creative and fun ways.

We moved the volunteers to a rented house resulting in a more efficient use of Sustainable Roots funds.

Sustainable Roots Spending



Education spending \$5,384

Greenhouse spending \$4,060

Overhead \$255