FROM LOCAL IMPACT TO GLOBAL RELEVANCE

MISSION:
Prepare leaders with ethical values to contribute to the sustainable development of the humid tropics and to construct a prosperous and just society.

VISION:
Our actions are directed towards building a future in which the humid tropics and its communities achieve social, economic and environmental well being.

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2010 Annual Report
In 1990, EARTH University initiated a new model for higher education designed to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Perhaps one of the best indications of the model's success has been the recognition and influence EARTH has achieved beyond the region in recent years. For instance, in 2010:

- EARTH President, José Zaglul, was the only representative of a foreign institution invited to deliver one of six keynote addresses at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Annual Conference, which gathered 2,000 presidents, deans, faculty and students from universities in the United States.
- The Aga Khan Network approached EARTH to become a partner in a project to reform the Bilibiza Technical Secondary School in Northern Mozambique and incorporate aspects of the EARTH educational model. Since then, retired EARTH professor, Panfilo Tabora has been contracted by the Aga Khan Network to promote entrepreneurship and agro-business in Mozambique.
- The German Ministry of Environment financed a collaboration between EARTH University and the Renewables Academy in Berlin to promote renewable energy, including: the equipping of a laboratory, visiting professors and renewable energy training in Germany.
- Provost Daniel Sherrard and Leif Christoffersen, member of the University's Board of Directors, were invited to speak at the Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa held in Kampala, Uganda, during which EARTH was positioned as a model for African higher education in agriculture.
- In a collection of studies, entitled: “The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa,” Harvard University professor Calestous Juma, referenced EARTH as the pioneer of a new generation of universities that combine research, training, commercialization and farmer outreach under one roof.

These and other activities featured throughout this report demonstrate how in just twenty years, EARTH has evolved from a regional university into an institution of global relevance.

FROM LOCAL IMPACT TO GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Mayra Vallencillo (10, Nicaragua)  

Demonstrating the impact of EARTH alumni around the world, on June 5, 2010, EARTH and its alumni, friends and partners planted nearly 1.2 million trees in 34 countries around the world.
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As EARTH University embarks on the second decade of the new century, we find ourselves in a world with an ever increasing population, growing demands for food and energy and urgent goals for poverty reduction. In the face of these challenges, there is an increasing recognition that EARTH’s model for higher education in agriculture is preparing leaders capable of promoting a more sustainable model of development.

In November 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 25 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa, held a Ministerial Conference during which EARTH University and its educational model were referenced repeatedly. One speaker actually referred to the “world-famous EARTH University.”

EARTH’s visionary founders knew they were creating a deeply transformative institution, but the recognition and impact that EARTH has achieved in its brief 20 year history is beyond what anyone could have predicted. How has this small university tucked in the heart of the tropical rainforest become an institution of global relevance? There are many factors that have contributed to EARTH’s success, but perhaps the most significant has been the people of EARTH who have internalized the vision and goals that the founders of EARTH set forth and with great dedication and heart have sought to fulfill the Institution’s mission.

As we conclude our first 20 years and embark on a new decade, EARTH is fortunate to have a strong and very committed board with the capacity and wisdom to take EARTH into the future. With great humility and care, we will build upon the foundation that EARTH’s creators and original board members laid, to ensure that 20 years from now, like them, we will stand amazed by what EARTH has been able to achieve for our societies.

Pedro León

Pedro León (right) with two of EARTH University’s founders, Emeriti Directors, Luis Alberto Monge (middle) and Rodolfo Cortés (left).
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The leadership, commitment and capacity of EARTH alumni could not have been more apparent than on June 5, 2010 when EARTH University organized a simultaneous, global tree planting event, called EARTH Plants the Future, in celebration of our 20th Anniversary. Thanks to our alumni, we exceeded our initial goal almost six-fold, planting 1,195,371 trees in 34 countries.

EARTH’s founders believed that institutions of higher learning have the responsibility to prepare ethical leaders who can be a force for positive change and sustainable development around the world. With the support and generosity of our donors, for 20 years the experiential, values-based education at EARTH has produced alumni who are making a significant difference by creating jobs, imparting knowledge and developing innovative solutions to the problems facing their countries.

As we embark on a new decade, we look forward to expanding our model and impact through the EARTH-La Flor Center in Costa Rica’s dry tropics, through collaboration and partnerships with institutions around the globe and through the preparation of 10 new generations of change agents.

EARTH Plants the Future united friends, governments and corporations around the world in a common mission—with extraordinary results. It is my hope that the results of our first 20 years will inspire more individuals and institutions to join together to produce a critical mass of professionals with the conviction to create positive change, the capacity to shift paradigms in business and government and the commitment to care for others and the planet. By doing so, we will be planting the seeds for a more prosperous, just and harmonious future.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

EARTH PLANTS THE FUTURE
On June 5, 2010, World Environment Day, EARTH University united its alumni and friends in 34 countries to plant 1,195,371 trees. The global event, called: EARTH Plants the Future, was a concrete and practical action to mitigate current emissions of greenhouse gases and will fix approximately 9,600 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

EARTH Plants the Future was made possible thanks to the generous global sponsorship of Cummins Inc and CNN International, as well as more than 153 in-country sponsors and partners.

FOUNDING DONOR RECOGNITION
TWENTY YEARS CHANGING LIVES BENEFIT CONCERT
On August 25, the Costa Rican Philharmonic Orchestra and the
Costa Rican musical Group, Malpais gave an inspirational sold-out
concert at the National Theater in Costa Rica to benefit EARTH.

CHILDREN OF THE EARTH BOOK LAUNCH
In September, EARTH University President, José Zaglul, released
the book Children of the Earth: My memories of the creation of
EARTH University. A personal reflection on the circumstances that
led to EARTH’s creation, as well as its construction, operation and
first 20 years, Children of the EARTH brings to life the history and
people behind EARTH University.

SECOND ANNUAL GALA DINNER
On September 23, EARTH University held its 2010 Gala Dinner in
San José, Costa Rica. More than 200 people attended the event,
which highlighted the impact of EARTH in the past 20 years.

PILLARS OF EARTH SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP AWARDS
On October 14 in Atlanta, the EARTH University Foundation
recognized four Georgia residents for their actions and leadership
in the areas corresponding to EARTH’s pillars: ethical values, social
and environmental awareness, entrepreneurial spirit and technical
and scientific innovation. The event, which attracted more than
200 guests, honored: Ciannat Howett, Director of Sustainability
Initiatives at Emory University; Ray Anderson, founder and chairman of
Interface, Inc.; Daron ‘Farmer D’ Joffe, organic/biodynamic farmer,
environmental educator and social entrepreneur; and, John Burgess,
president and Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Recycling.

GRADUATION
As the official close to its 20th Anniversary celebration, on Decem-
ber 10, EARTH held its eighteenth Graduation Ceremony sending
off 79 agents of change. Dr. Franklin R. Chang Díaz (pictured),
President and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company (AARC) and
former NASA astronaut, was bestowed an honorary doctorate and
delivered the keynote address. During the ceremony, the Univer-
sity also recognized EARTH benefactor, Mrs. Marjorie de Oduber
for her family’s donation of the La Flor farm in Guanacaste.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
EARTH alumna sets out to plant the future

Yanira plants trees with her daughter during
EARTH Plants the Future.

In the small town of San Benito, along the border with the Maya
Biosphere Reserve in the Petén department of northern Guatemala,
EARTH alumna Yanira Aguayo Colón (’02, Guatemala) has established
herself as a force for change in her community. In spite of her petite
stature and calm demeanor, Yanira’s persistence and leadership led to
the planting of 377,000 trees in this fragile community as part of
EARTH’s global tree-planting event, EARTH Plants the Future.

“Our idea at the beginning was just to plant a small amount of trees
with our kids. Then we began to see the potential. We never imagined
we were going to have such a big response. It was a big surprise,”
relates Yanira.

Yanira works as a technical assistant for PROFRUTA, the extension
branch of the Ministry of Agriculture in Guatemala created to diversify
the country’s export crop production. Yanira was hired by PROFRUTA
in 2005 to identify and recruit farmers from the large region of Petén into
the program. Yanira reached out to ranchers and to small-scale produc-
ers and convinced 50 farmers to join the program. Once on board,
Yanira organized the farmers into associations, enabling them to export
their produce and compete in the global market, and coordinated the
establishment of the fruit plantations.
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EARTH alumna sets out to plant the future of Guatemala one tree at a time

In the small town of San Benito, along the border with the Maya Biosphere Reserve in the Petén department of northern Guatemala, EARTH alumna Yanira Aguayo Colón (’02, Guatemala) has established herself as a force for change in her community. In spite of her petite stature and calm demeanor, Yanira’s persistence and leadership led to the planting of 377,000 trees in this fragile community as part of EARTH’s global tree-planting event, EARTH Plants the Future.

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She notes that the project has helped these farmers diversify and increase profits.

Approximately 50 percent of those in the program are traditional cattle ranchers, while the remaining 50 percent are small-scale bean and corn farmers. Following international standards for environmental best practices, Yanira provides ongoing assistance regarding the health, nutrition and monitoring of the fruit plantations, which include primarily citrus fruits, but also mango and rambutan. She also promotes the planting of forestry species on the farms to build environmental awareness and address the urgent need for reforestation in this region.

“The first test harvest last year was very positive. The corn and bean farmers have benefited a great deal from this program and have seen much higher incomes by adding the fruit trees to their crop mix. The cattle farmers are also pleased because the income has helped to offset lower cattle prices.”

One of the most forested regions of Guatemala and home to the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Petén’s natural beauty is under increased threat. In recent years, cattle farmers relocating to Petén from the Southern coast of Guatemala have cleared large tracts of forest and high unemployment, drug trafficking and a large Central American immigrant population are compounding the problems in this region.

“Every day, I try to contribute my grain of sand to solving these problems. Through the recommendations we make to farmers, we are helping. We are helping them produce better and increase their income and the fruit trees are creating a source of employment as more people are hired to care for the trees. The trees themselves also provide an important environmental benefit,” Yanira notes.

As June 5th approached, the scheduled date of EARTH’s global tree planting event, Yanira told her husband, EARTH alumnus José Luis Méndez (’02, Guatemala), that she couldn’t let the date go by without using it as an opportunity to teach their three children an important environmental lesson.

Yanira saw EARTH Plants the Future as an opportunity to promote environmental awareness among her children and their friends.
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Friends began donating trees, labor, land to plant, meals, transportation and promotional materials. She reached out to farmers, schools, private businesses and to the Vice Minister of Agriculture, who coordinated the donation of five thousand trees.

Support for the event began rolling in, “One of the producers who collaborated with the project had hosted EARTH interns on his farm. He told me that he didn’t have to think twice about participating once he learned that it was an EARTH project,” remarks Yanira.

In the end, Yanira secured four main donors, several collaborators and the involvement of more than 200 volunteers, including dozens of children. Her efforts helped EARTH’s Guatemalan alumni plant a total of 485,572 trees—nearly 40 percent of all the trees planted for EARTH Plants the Future.

“Yanira’s education at EARTH University was made possible thanks to a scholarship she received from the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).
Recognizing the importance of higher education in poverty alleviation, in 1996, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) began a long-term partnership with EARTH University to promote economic prosperity and social well-being in Central America. In this time, Norway has provided scholarships for more than 188 students primarily from Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala.

Two years after the start of the relationship with NORAD, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) also began a long-term partnership with EARTH providing scholarships for 111 students, primarily from the same three Central American countries.

A glimpse into the contributions of the nearly 300 alumni sponsored by NORAD and SIDA*:

Influence: 63% participate in or are responsible for the decision-making processes of their organizations.

Industry sector: Most alumni are working in agricultural production (31%), environment and conservation (16%) and community development (15%).

Impact: 42% have improved agricultural practices through farmer training; 36% have contributed to increased gender equality.

Entrepreneurship: 11% run their own or family business.

* According to the 2010 Alumni survey. Responses received from 57 percent of the NORAD and SIDA scholarship recipients.

Norway and Sweden making lasting contributions to poverty alleviation in Latin America through EARTH

“For Norway, the 16-year collaboration with EARTH, through the scholarship program for Central American students has been a mutually-beneficial experience. EARTH is a dynamic and committed partner.” Ambassador Tom Tyrihjell Royal Norwegian Embassy in Nicaragua.

Recent accomplishments:
- Coordinated the planting of 377,000 trees in Guatemala for EARTH Plants the Future
- Has helped 50 farmers diversify their farms, increase profits and generate employment

What are your future plans? “In addition to promoting reforestation and continuing my extension work in communities, I’d like to form a non-profit dedicated to raising awareness among children of environmental issues.”

What do you dream about? “I am teaching my children what I learned and one of my dreams is that they study at EARTH. I want them to receive an education with human values and ethics, so that they will become exceptional professionals who will contribute to their countries and the world.”

Anything else you want to add? “I am so grateful to NORAD for giving me this opportunity of a lifetime. EARTH is one of the best agricultural school in Latin America because of its emphasis on values, ethics and social and environmental awareness. It opened my horizons.”

Name: Yanira Aguayo Colón
Graduating class: 2002
Hometown: San Benito, Petén, Guatemala

Stephany Laforest is one of seven EARTH alumni from Haiti. Haitian alumna remains committed in spite of overwhelming challenges.
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Ambassador Tom Tyrihjell Royal Norwegian Embassy in Nicaragua.

**Stephany Laforest**
Graduating class: 2008
Hometown: L’Epinette, Milot, Haiti
Recent accomplishments:
• Has worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture

What are your future plans?
“I am an environmental activist and I am working with the Haitian government to make the country better. I am an agent of change.”

What do you dream about?
“I am teaching my children what I learned and I want them to study at EARTH. I want them to give something back.”

Anything else you want to add?
“I want to give something back to Haiti. I want to share my knowledge with others.”

**Stephany Laforest is one of seven EARTH alumni from Haiti.**
Stephany is currently working for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the Assistant of Coordination for the Pro-Huerta program in Haiti, which is providing training and support to increase food production in family, school and community organic vegetable gardens to promote food security in Haiti. Stephany tracks the project, which is benefiting 11,000 families, writes reports on the activities and results and also spends time in the communities, providing support to the Pro-Huerta team and beneficiaries.

She feels that EARTH has given her the skills to make a difference in Haiti, remarking: “The education at EARTH—it’s a package. Everything fits together. I have a toolbox and can pull the right tool. I feel prepared.”

Rachelle Chery, a Rural Development Specialist at the IICA Office in Haiti notes that Stephany “exhibits a certain professional maturity, rare nowadays from young professionals.” Even still, the job market in Haiti is highly competitive and Stephany recognizes that she will need additional training if she wants to keep growing professionally.

Stephany’s brother, Gregory, begins his studies at EARTH in 2011, thanks to a scholarship he received from the Open Society Foundations. After he graduates, they plan to start a business together in Haiti, but Stephany is quick to caution, “Starting a business is not going to happen overnight. There are a lot of factors to consider to do something sustainable. We need to do studies and overcome many challenges.”

In the meantime, Stephany is realistic about achieving well-being in Haiti, “Above all else, we need to understand our weaknesses and take advantage of our strengths. What I am doing now is just one factor. There are so many needs, but I know that I can contribute.”

Stephany’s studies at EARTH were made possible thanks to a scholarship provided by the Moore Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller Jr.

“I would like to warmly thank my donors for the opportunity they gave me to have this unique experience at EARTH.” Stephany Laforest
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Q&A with Martha Loerke, director of scholarship programs at the Open Society Foundations

The Open Society Foundations (OSF) is partnering with EARTH University to prepare future leaders for Haiti, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Mozambique. OSF has committed 30 scholarships for students from these countries and are partnering with EARTH to provide professional development to faculty members from Haitian universities as they struggle to rebuild their institutions and country. The total amount of OSF’s commitment to-date is $3,037,639.

How is EARTH helping the Open Society Foundations achieve its goals?
EARTH and the Open Society Foundations are committed to helping students become informed, conscientious and engaged citizens who can actively contribute to economic development and open societies in their home countries. Along with EARTH, we support the dreams and needs of students by helping to provide them with the education and skills necessary to succeed in all aspects of life.

What were the main factors that weighed in on the decision to provide funding for students to study at EARTH?
We believe that higher education is vital to promoting positive social change. EARTH offers an innovative education model that pairs academics with social entrepreneurship and environmental conservation to give students the tools they need to help fight poverty.

What are your hopes for the Open Society Foundations scholarship recipients?
We hope that our students have ample opportunities to test their knowledge and skills and discover practical, sustainable strategies to serve their home communities and improve social conditions. We hope that they return home with the confidence and experience necessary to lead organizations and businesses that foster innovation and economic development – while listening closely to local needs.

EARTH faculty and staff create fund to support families of Haitian students

Following the earthquake in Haiti, the families of seven of EARTH’s eight Haitian students were facing dire conditions. With homes and livelihoods destroyed, they were literally left living on the streets. Moved to action, Marvin Mora, the head of EARTH’s IT department made a proposal to the University’s faculty and staff—join together to create a fund to cover the basic food and water needs of these families for 10 months. More than 115 members of the EARTH community responded, with donations ranging from $5 to $20 per month. Combined with funds raised during cultural performances and through an anonymous donation, each of the seven families received approximately $160 per month from April 2010-January 2011.
Haitian professors receive training on EARTH model

From November 3 through December 2, 2010, four professors from the faculties of agricultural and natural resource management at the University Caraibe, the University of Notre Dame and the Faculté de Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinairie (FAMV) in Haiti completed a professional development program at EARTH. Financed by the Open Society Foundations, the four-week program led by EARTH’s Academic Dean, Manuel Cerrato, provided training on EARTH’s innovative educational program, tools to facilitate significant changes in their own academic institutions and improve teaching skills, and approaches to promoting sustainability.

At the end of the program, participants developed their own vision of alternative and innovative ways of facilitating learning in their universities in order to prepare competent professionals capable of responding to the challenges facing Haiti.

Participant, Frantz Supreme, professor of qualitative genetics and the director for Academic Affairs and Head of the Animal Production Department at FAMV, immediately went back to Haiti and began implementing changes, “The students are so excited about our new approach that they agreed to put their money together to invest in a feedlot project as the practical aspect of the course...I remain convinced that this is the easiest and most rapid way to bring the teaching of animal breeding alive.”

“Change begins with your mentality...Starting with this course, we have to become ambassadors for EARTH University and disseminate its model...The development of agriculture in the country [Haiti] can start with these small changes.”

Professor Morin Auremil, University of Notre Dame.
Promoting environmental solutions in Haiti

Seeking practical experience in ecological sanitation, EARTH student David Steiger (’11, Switzerland) did his third-year internship in Haiti with the non-profit organization Give Love.

Reflecting on the experience he remarks, “It was very powerful and in spite of all of the problems, people are positive.”

As part of the internship he worked with schools, camps and communities to build thermophilic composting systems to safely manage human waste, as well as peri-urban gardens.

“There are a lot of good ideas in Haiti and a growing environmental community,” comments David.

During his four months in Haiti, he also volunteered with the organization Hands Together, which hopes to build a small-scale rural college that would adopt parts of the EARTH model.

David Steiger talks with children during a site assessment at an orphanage in Léogâne, Haiti, the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake.
News briefs

SHARING THE EARTH MODEL
In addition to the more than 8,000 visitors to its campus in 2010, EARTH University hosted 13 groups of academicians, totaling approximately 55 professors and administrators from institutions in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Mexico and the United States. These individuals came to EARTH to learn about the University’s approach to agricultural higher education and explore ways to adapt EARTH’s methodologies to their universities.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY
In 2010, EARTH University united with ten institutions in the United States to promote sustainability. This consortium seeks to provide world-class study abroad programs in a collaborative framework and offers courses at EARTH throughout the year in sustainable agriculture, tropical agro-forestry, renewable energies, rural tourism, community engagement and Spanish.

Consortium members include: California Polytechnic State University, Colorado State University, University of Illinois, Iowa State University, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, North Carolina State University, University of Florida and EARTH University.

Study abroad student, Kaia Bing, from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (right) and Marlon Sánchez (’13, Honduras) evaluate bean crop yields during a field laboratory.
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Growing like a weed: research project shows the potential for biomass in the humid tropics

Could the humid tropics be the epicenter for cellulose-ethanol production? One research project conducted by EARTH weed science professor, Dr. Ramón León, seems to indicate a huge potential, while also raising some important environmental questions.

In 2009, EARTH University and the University of Florida initiated a year-long joint research project funded with a $1 million grant from the United States Department of Energy (US DOE).

The project took an integrated approach to sustainable ethanol production from sugarcane, looking at cane production and harvesting and the utilization of the by-products of ethanol production.

The lead researcher on the project, EARTH Soils Science Professor B.K. Singh, assembled a team of EARTH professors: Bert Kohlmann, Johan Perret, Fritz Elango, Raul Botero and Ramon León and five researchers from the University of Florida.

The biofuels boom in the first decade of the millennium led to new technologies for converting plant biomass into liquid fuel, or ethanol. The next step was to identify those species that grow quickly in limited conditions, produce large amounts of biomass and require few agricultural inputs to thrive.
Professor León along with Robert Gilbert and Jack Comstock from the University of Florida collaborated to evaluate the selection criteria and performance of energycane clones (Saccharum spp. × S. spontaneum) for biomass production under tropical and sub-tropical conditions.

Collaborating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the researchers selected hybrids that showed promise for producing high quantities of biomass from the USDA’s sugarcane breeding program. The team evaluated 15 hybrids in poor soil conditions in both Florida and on the EARTH campus in Guácimo, Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, Professor León worked with alumni Neeta Soni (‘09, Costa Rica) and Marcela González (‘09, Costa Rica) and fourth year students, Blanca Ester Lugo (‘10, Paraguay) and Yolanda Mercedes Blandón Acuña (‘10, Nicaragua), who as part of their graduation project evaluated the energycane varieties from the USDA, plus two commercial cane varieties already in Costa Rica and two grass species native to the region.

The findings were dramatic. The biomass yields at EARTH were double and in some cases, close to triple those achieved in Florida. The wild grass, Pennisetum, and one of the USDA varieties produced more than 280 tons of fresh biomass per hectare.

“Our findings tell us a number of things. First, there is a huge potential for biomass production in the tropics compared to temperate regions and we can grow year-round for a steady supply of biomass. Second, some of the varieties that worked well here did not do well in Florida and vice versa. This means that we cannot let breeding programs in temperate regions define varieties for the tropics,” comments Professor León.

But he cautions, “High biomass is just one aspect that needs to be considered.”

**EARTH-UF-US DOE SUGARCANE RESEARCH PROJECT**
An integrated approach to sustainable ethanol production from sugarcane and the management of the by-products of the sugarcane industry

**Partner:** University of Florida  
**Dates:** 2009-2010  
**Funded by:** United States Department of Energy

**Other studies conducted at EARTH within the project:**
- Professor Bert Kohlmann developed a biological indicators guide for monitoring the environmental state and impact of sugarcane production on the Tempisque watershed in the Guanacaste Province of Costa Rica.
- Professors Raúl Botero and Fritz Elango explored ways to efficiently use by-products of ethanol production for producing multi-nutritional blocks, oyster mushroom (Pleurotus ostreatus) and biogas.
- Professor Johan Perret studied how soil could act as a filter for the by-products of ethanol production and the potential of these by-products to enhance soils.

Blanca Lugo (‘10, Paraguay) evaluates cane performance.
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But he cautions, “High biomass is just one aspect that needs to be considered.”

The other surprising result of the study was that in Costa Rica, the energycane varieties flowered and produced viable seed, while they did not in Florida. This means that there is a higher invasive potential in the tropics and that these varieties could become weeds, displacing natural species or commercial sugar crops.

“This calls attention to the potential environmental and commercial risks. Some lines produced more flowers than others, so this may be something we can control through breeding,” adds Dr. León.

The second phase of this project will verify these results and study the invasiveness. After the second year, El Viejo Sugar Mill in Costa Rica’s Guanacaste province will initiate controlled field tests. El Viejo is interested in using biomass to keep the boilers for their electricity-generating turbines running year-round.

Dr. León adds, “The idea is that energycane is grown on poor soil with little management and low cost. So it could provide extra income for the grower and potentially provide electricity for entire communities.”

Does this mean that the humid tropics could become the next hotspot for cellulose-ethanol production? León replies, “The potential is there, but nobody really knows how big this is going to be. There’s a lot of speculation.”

**GLOSSARY**

**Energycane:** Hybrids between wild cane and commercial sugar cane varieties. Some are weedier than others and may not produce easily extractable sugars.

**Biomass:** Any plant or animal matter after the water has been extracted. Biomass is commonly burned for energy (charcoal or firewood), but can now be converted into ethanol.

**Cellulosic ethanol production:** Converts non-food crops with high cellulose and hemicellulose content (fibrous matter) into ethanol.

**Ethanol:** Also called ethyl alcohol, pure alcohol or grain alcohol, is a volatile, flammable, colorless liquid, which can be used as fuel for heat, light and internal combustion engines.
ALUMNI IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AT COP 16 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

In addition to the participation of EARTH Forestry professor, Ricardo Russo, in the official Costa Rican delegation, five EARTH alumni took part in the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from November 29 through December 10, 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. EARTH alumna Hortensia Solís (’06, Costa Rica) formed part of the official Costa Rican delegation while Daniel Ortega Pacheco (’03, Ecuador) was the official negotiator for the Ecuadorian delegation.

Representing the concerns of non-governmental observer organizations was María Ruth Martínez (’01, Costa Rica) with The Agro-forestry Coordinating Association of Indigenous Peoples and Farmers (ACICAFOC in Spanish), Norvin Goff (’06, Honduras), President of the Honduran indigenous group, Mosquitia Asla Takanaka (MASTA) and Carlos Perdomo Navarro (’94, Honduras) Director of the Cerro Azul Meambar National Park (PANACAM).

EARTH’S BANANA PRODUCTION VERIFIED CARBON NEUTRAL

Reaffirming EARTH’s leadership in sustainable banana production, in July 2010, the consulting firm KPMG Mexico verified the production process of EARTH bananas as carbon neutral under the INTE-ISO 14064-1 norm. The verification covers all aspects of the production on EARTH’s campus, including: crop management, harvesting and packing.

UNIVERSITY LEADS CREATION OF SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK IN COSTA RICA

On December 3, EARTH University signed an agreement officially creating the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Educational Institutions (REDIES in Spanish).

An initiative driven by EARTH, REDIES aims to further cooperation, exchange, promotion and the implementation of joint actions for the sustainable management of the facilities and operations of educational institutions in Costa Rica.
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STIMULATING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Safeguarding the future of small-scale farmers in Latin America through entrepreneurial training

Lacking the power to negotiate fair pricing, small-scale farmers in Latin America are often unable to compete in a globalized economy where multinationals and large-scale operations control the market. However, cooperatives can empower small-scale producers and help improve the socio-economic and environmental well-being of rural communities.

In recognition of this, EARTH University, the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Root Capital, created PorFin in 2006 to provide training in finance and accounting to members of farming cooperatives, enabling them to better participate in the decision making processes of their organizations and improve the financial management of their farms and cooperatives. This four-year, $2.3 million dollar project benefited 49 small farmer cooperatives, representing more than 26,000 families in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Southern Mexico (Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas) and Nicaragua. It also provided valuable learning opportunities to 20 EARTH students, who did their third-year internships with the project.

“PorFin is an example of how the University is able to advance its mission and make important changes, while involving students in the process,” comments Karla Molina, Administrator of the Permanent Education Program at EARTH University, who was responsible for the financial administration of the project.
ADRIANA ESCOBEDO (‘07)

Adriana Escobedo (‘07, Costa Rica) completed her Master’s degree in Environmental Socio-Economics from CATIE last year and today is a consultant helping to strengthen the entrepreneurial capabilities of small-scale farming cooperatives throughout Central America.

Among many organizations, she is working with three organic farming cooperatives in the Talamanca region of Costa Rica, helping them market their products, providing training in accounting and financial management, and analyzing the value chain, so that they will be able to improve their products and increase their market position.

Of her experience in Huatusco, she comments, “I have always been interested in promoting entrepreneurship, but my internship really helped me understand the needs of small farmers.”

Adriana’s studies at EARTH were made possible thanks to a partial scholarship provided by Mr. Abraham Tanus of Texas, U.S.

One of the first cooperatives invited to join PorFin was the Huatusco Union. Founded in 1982, the Regional Union of Small-Scale Coffee Producers of the Huatusco Region in Veracruz, Mexico, represents more than 2,000 small coffee farmers in this expansive mountainous region, enabling its members to participate in a market where normally only large-scale producers can compete. The cooperative negotiates fair prices for their coffee, as well as volume discounts for agricultural supplies and has invested in education and health programs for its members and their families. In 1998, in an effort to provide more stability to its members, the organization decided to focus on specialty markets, securing fair trade and organic certifications.

Ruben Zuñiga Peralta, President of the Huatusco Union, explains, “For us, the PorFin project was fundamental; it gave us tools and materials to foster a culture of fiscal responsibility and resource management for the organization as a whole, and in particular for our coffee producing members.”

Between 2006 and 2009, the Huatusco Union hosted four EARTH interns, who provided training and workshops in accounting, finance and agricultural best practices to their members. Adriana Escobedo (‘07, Costa Rica) was the first intern to work with Huatusco.

“Nobody could have predicted the impact she would have; she was just one person in a huge region and she wasn’t from Mexico. But she made a really significant contribution,” remarks Karla Molina.

In addition to imparting PorFin training workshops, Adriana developed a brand and logo for marketing the cooperative’s coffee and implemented a successful cervical cancer prevention campaign for the women in this community.
Two years later, Marbin Acosta’s (’09, Colombia) internship deeply impacted both Marbin and the Huatusco Union. “Huatusco strengthened my desire to work with people. I learned to direct processes; I had to manage people and collaborate with more than 200 coffee producers. The impact was really positive,” comments Marbin.

As a result of this experience, for his graduation project, Marbin developed a methodology for measuring the impact of cooperatives, using the Huatusco Union as a case study.

Marbin’s internship motivated the Huatusco Union’s Board of Directors to visit EARTH and learn about the Institution. Following their visit and convinced of the power of an EARTH education, the cooperative established two scholarships for children of their members to study at EARTH. The first student, Marco Antonio Muñoz (’14, México) begins his studies in 2011 at EARTH and the second will begin in 2012.

Ruben Zuñiga Peralta, President of the Huatusco Union remarks, “those young people [the four EARTH interns] had a high impact; they were highly competent professionals, proactive and innovative, elements that we want to foster with our scholarship program for the children of our members, who, in the not-so-distant future, will be taking over the leadership of the organization.”

MARBIN ACOSTA (’09)

Marbin Acosta (’09, Colombia) returned to Santa Rosa del Sur, in the department of Bolivar, Colombia after graduation where he began working with the Asociación de Productores de Cacao del Sur de Bolívar (APROCASUR), a cooperative of small-scale cacao farmers whose members had previously grown illegal crops. There he was responsible for measuring their carbon footprint and seeking buyers for carbon credits in order to develop environmental projects in the region.

In late 2010, Marbin began working on two micro-businesses. The first, BIOGAS Tecnologías Sostenibles, is working with small and medium-sized farmers to install bio-digesters with improved materials. Thanks to a government incentive program, Marbin is able to offer the bio-digesters at just 60 percent of the cost and hopes to offer a full line of alternative energy technologies in the near future.

“We want to offer a solution to gas production to small and medium-sized farmers in rural regions where deforestation for firewood and limited access to public services make this idea a necessity.”

His second micro-business, PREMIUM H2O, is dedicated to purifying, bottling and distributing potable drinking-water in this region in Colombia where municipal water is not safe to drink. PREMIUM H2O has four employees and in just a month and half since starting the company, already boasts 150 clients.

With his characteristic enthusiasm and positive attitude, he affirms: “the entrepreneurial projects program at EARTH has served me very well.”

Marbin Acosta studied at EARTH thanks to a scholarship from Durman Esquivel of Costa Rica.
During their visit to EARTH in 2009, the Huatusco Union’s Board of Directors took a trip to Santa María de Dota to meet EARTH alumna Hortensia Solís (’06; Costa Rica). Hortensia is Manager of Sustainable Research and Development Projects at Coopedota, a cooperative of small scale coffee farmers in the verdant region of Los Santos in Costa Rica’s central valley. Inspired by her work, the Union enlisted her help in developing an investment proposal to present to their buyers to mitigate the effects of climate change through the production of organic compost and alternative energy.

During her third-year at EARTH in 2005, Hortensia did an internship with Coopedota where she developed a proposal to reduce the cooperative’s environmental footprint. Upon graduating, the cooperative hired her to implement the projects she had proposed. Since then, she has been able to secure international financing to implement innovative programs for recycling and waste management, the creation of an organic compost program and the production of ethanol from coffee waste. She is currently working on the cooperative’s international carbon neutral certification, which will make this the first carbon neutral coffee in the world.

In 2010, Hortensia was the first young delegate to be invited by the Costa Rican Government to participate the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16), and El Financiero, the leading business journal in Costa Rica, identified her as one of the 40 most influential and successful young leaders in Costa Rica.
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ALUMNI DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR

- Agricultural production: 20%
- Environment and conservation: 12%
- Commercialization: 9%
- Research: 8%
- Community development: 7%
- Livestock production: 7%
- Consultancies: 6%
- Waste management: 5%
- Processing/added value: 5%
- Rural extension: 5%
- Education: 5%
- Certifications: 4%

ALUMNI DISTRIBUTION BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

- Working in their country of origin: 86%
- Working in Latin America: 91%

SOCIAL IMPACT

75% of alumni report having a positive social impact, in such areas as:
- Job creation (44%)
- Improvements in working conditions (43%)
- Improvement of living standards through farmer training (41%)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

62% of alumni report having a positive environmental impact, in such areas as:
- Waste management (43%)
- Organic farming (35%)
- Biodiversity conservation (34%)

JOB CREATION

Alumni in class years 1993-2000 have created an average of four jobs for each graduate.

*According to EARTH's annual impact survey sent to all alumni. In 2010, responses were received from 60 percent of alumni or 874 of the 1456 total alumni at the time of the survey.

**Of the 75% of alumni reporting a social impact. Respondents could select more than one area of impact.

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GRADUATES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

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GRADUATES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (TOTAL)

- Male: 1104
- Female: 442
- Total: 1546
ALUMNI STATISTICS AND IMPACT

ALUMNI DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR

ALUMNI DISTRIBUTION BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

2010 Alumni impact*

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IN HIS OWN WORDS...

EARTH University’s first Ugandan alumnus, Francis Nimukunda (‘03), writes to EARTH President with an update from his family’s farm in the Western part of Uganda (Isingiro District).

Dear President Zaglul,

EARTH University has made my dreams come true.

I had wanted to transform my family’s farm into a model for our community. I started this project when I was in my second year at EARTH. I shared the idea with my family members and they accepted. However, as we worked on the farm, we realized that we needed to involve as many members of the community as possible. So alongside the farm, we started a private primary school in 2006 called RWABUTO Memorial Primary School.

We started with a total of 118 pupils (primary 1st to 3rd). Since then, every year we added an additional class until this year when we reached seven grades. Currently, the school has a total enrollment of 550 pupils, 240 in the boarding section, and a total of 17 teaching and non-teaching staff members.

We believe that if at least 45% of the pupils end up contributing to community development, then our family will have a significant multiplier effect.

We are grateful to Makerere University, EARTH University and NORAD. It is my wish that you visit the project so that you can witness the effects of your efforts.

Francis Nimukunda (class of 2003)
September 3, 2010

Francis’s studies at EARTH were made possible thanks to a scholarship provided by the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Looking ahead, in the next three years, Francis and his family aim to plant 15,000 trees on their farm, encourage tree planting in the community, build and furnish two additional dormitories and construct an underground water tank to harvest water from the roofs of the buildings.

All pupils are Ugandans and come from our community.

In addition to teaching the government academic syllabus, we include field practice on the farm to promote job creation and sustainable development.

We are on track to reduce Trust disbursements to 32 percent of the operating budget, down from 36 percent in 2009. In the first three months of 2010, we have been able to reduce the Trust disbursement to 40 percent of the operating budget.

In 2010, EARTH was on track to reduce Trust disbursements to 32 percent of the operating budget, down from 36 percent in 2009. In the first three months of 2010, we have been able to reduce the Trust disbursement to 40 percent of the operating budget.

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A message from the Vice President of Finance and Administration

During the first decade of the 21st century, and in response to two major declines in the financial markets, the University sought to reduce operating budgets and expenses with the goal of lowering Trust disbursements to a more sustainable level.

In 2010, EARTH was on track to reduce Trust disbursements to 32 percent of the operating budget, down from 50 percent just five years ago. However, in the last quarter of 2009, a change in the monetary policy by the Costa Rican Central Bank affected the exchange rate between dollars and colones, resulting in an increase of the Trust disbursement to 40 percent of the operating budget.

In spite of this and continued volatility, reduced liquidity and uncertainty in the global financial markets, 2010 was a good year for EARTH. Market results were positive, fundraising objectives were met and EARTH closed its annual operations with a savings of $183,100, which will help finance the 2011 budget. As a result of our efforts, the value of the Endowment exceeded the goals established by the Strategic Financial Plan by more than $8 million.

Looking ahead, we recognize that increasing income from donations, commercial activities, special projects and land sales will be essential to protecting the Institution from unpredictable variations in national currencies and the financial markets and to achieving the long-term financial sustainability of the Institution and its Endowment.

Alex Mata
### Cost per Student Includes:
- 11 months of coursework with a 10:1 student to faculty ratio
- Room and board (3 meals/day) for 11 months
- All equipment, lab fees, books, copies and class materials
- Use of computer laboratories and library facilities
- All expenses related to off-campus academic activities and field trips
- All academic-related transportation
- Student life activities, sporting events, concerts, extracurricular classes and workshops
- 24-hour on-site medical attention with full-time physician on staff
- Mental health counseling
- Private tutoring as needed

### A message from the President of the EARTH University Board of Trustees

At year end 2010, the EARTH Trust, which holds the Endowment for the University, had total assets of $96,818,612. Founded under Costa Rican law in 1987, the Trust has been invested in capital appreciation and income producing assets for nearly 24 years and has transferred more than $103 million to the University for its educational mission and other important financial needs.

Almost all of the Trust's assets are invested with investment managers in the United States. The selection and oversight of these managers is managed by an Investment Committee, which works with a qualified investment consulting firm. All final decisions on investments, spending and portfolio management are made by the Board of Trustees, with input from the Investment Committee and the investment consultant.

The investment strategy of the Trust seeks investment gains and income within a moderate risk profile, and the achievement of perpetual values that can support the University’s future growth and challenges. In order to achieve these goals, the Trust has adopted a balanced asset allocation structure, seeking diversification and risk control.

The U.S. invested assets of the Trust had a return of 11 percent in 2010 and an annualized return since inception (1996) through 2010 of 7.4 percent. At the beginning of the year, the portfolio was managed in a conservative, defensive manner as a reaction to the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Since the Trust provides approximately 40 percent of the University’s operating budget, a significant amount of the portfolio was held in cash to protect the University needs during 2010. This conservative policy restrained the investment returns to a certain extent, but as the year proceeded, cash was released to more market oriented investments.

Distributions, expenses, additions and investment gains during 2010 were as follows:

- **Distributions to the University (Operations and working capital)**: $6,558,000
- **Donations to the Endowment**: $964,111
- **Endowed scholarship distributions**: $608,457
- **Investment earnings**: $9,746,165
- **Trust expenses**: $485,000
- **Endowment value as of Dec. 31, 2010**: $96,818,612

Randal C. Teague
Donors Tim and Denny Solso find in EARTH a partner for promoting peace and prosperity.

“Meaningful, rewarding and powerful,” that is how Theodore “Tim” and Denise “Denny” Solso describe their relationship with EARTH University.

The Solsos’ philanthropy as private donors and through Mr. Solso’s work as chairman and CEO of Cummins, Inc. and chairman of the Cummins Foundation, seeks to benefit people through education, social justice and environmental stewardship.

After visiting EARTH’s campus seven years ago, they knew donating to the University would not only be a great investment in a student’s future, but also in global well-being.

“EARTH’s program is helping feed the world while protecting the environment; its alumni are creating jobs and helping improve the quality of life of people in their communities. This will lead to more education, which creates more jobs and commerce, and when people have hope and opportunity, it sustains peace,” said Mr. Solso.

“The University’s mission was aligned with our philanthropic views and also spoke to our belief that education is a key to raising opportunity for individuals and communities,” added Mrs. Solso, who as a former teacher knows first-hand the value of education.

The Solsos made a first gift following that visit and since then have provided scholarships for a young woman from Brazil named Faelen Taís Kölln (‘08) and Guatemalan student, Alberto Josué Reyes Alvarado (‘12), who otherwise would not have had access to a college education.

“We have had a chance to meet and get to know our students. It is uplifting to see them succeed,” remarked Mr. Solso, who adds that they hope to continue providing scholarships and perhaps even an endowed scholarship.
The Solsos’ have also incorporated EARTH University in their estate planning, including providing for its future through an insurance policy.

His belief in the power of the EARTH model inspired Mr. Solso to strengthen his ties to the University. He currently serves on the EARTH University Board of Directors and the EARTH University Foundation Board of Trustees. He also solicits high-net-worth individuals on behalf of EARTH and has championed the six-million dollar Cummins Foundation’s Challenge Grant and other efforts to support the University’s financial planning, communications and operations.

When asked why they are committed to giving to EARTH, their answer is simple: their gifts to the University impact students and their communities. It’s the one place they see their gifts leveraged to such an extraordinary degree.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

• Received significant multi-year commitments from Open Society Foundations to support Haitian and African students from Liberia and Sierra Leon and from Panasonic North America to support students from North America, Mexico and Brazil. Developed a successful private-public strategic partnership in San Luis Potosí, Mexico with the local government, private companies and NGO’s to give six scholarships to students from this region. Total funds raised for scholarships exceeded $3.3 million.

• Launched the José A. Zaglul 20th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship effort in June 2010 and raised more than a quarter million dollars in the last six months of 2010.

• On November 13, EARTH University Foundation hosted a Run for EARTH in the Atlanta area. The 5k and 15k courses were held on the private trails of the newly developed, environmentally sustainable, Serenbe Community. The run exposed more than 800 runners to EARTH University.

• In December, EARTH University Foundation participated in Global Giving’s December Open Challenge. The project, “Educate Sustainability Leaders at EARTH University,” finished second among 40 projects, helping EARTH become a permanent member of the Global Giving Community and gain entry into Global Giving U.K.
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EARTH University recognizes and appreciates the generous support of the following donors, whose gifts were received from January 1-December 31, 2010. The Institution expresses its sincerest gratitude to these individuals, businesses, foundations, governments and international organizations who make the continued fulfillment of its mission possible.

$500,000 - $999,999
- Open Society Foundations
- USAID - ASHA

$250,000 - $499,999
- A.G. Leventis Foundation
- The Cummins Foundation
- Gobierno del Estado San Luis Potosí
- Katherine John Murphy Foundation
- Denny and Tim Solso

$100,000 - $249,000
- Mr. Brian and Mrs. Cyndi McCredie
- Fundación Progreso Guanacaste
- Fundación Simón I. Patiño
- Gobierno de Chiapas
- Panasonic Corporation of North America
- U. Prod. Café de Huatusco

$50,000 - $99,999
- Agencia Sueca de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Asdi)
- Americana Foundation
- Anonymous Donors
- Anonymous Donor Costa Rica
- Francine and Bob Barrett
- Corrugados del Atlántico (CODELA)
- Hewlett-Packard
- Ivanhoe Ecuador
- Alan Kelso
- Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores - Real Embajada de Noruega
- Ministerio de Educación de Belice
- The Mousetrap Foundation
- Karin and Mark Ohrstrom
- The Ohrstrom Foundation, Inc.
- Rogers Family Co.
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- Volcafe

$25,000 - $49,999
- Allan and Marilyn Brown Fund
- Allegro Coffee
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- Ms. Magalen O. Bryant
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- Pattillo Construction Company
- Schnieders Family Foundation
- Seevers Family Foundation
- Richard and Susan Vander Veen, III
- W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- Wege Foundation

$15,000 - $24,999
- H. R. Arnold II and Claire Lewis Arnold
- Asociación de Cañeros de SLP
- BAC San José
- C.W. & Modene Neely Charitable Foundation
- Club Rotarios San Luis Potosí
- Kathleen and Douglas Colson
- Don Fernando Especialidades Cárnicas
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- James Starr Moore Memorial Foundation
- Robert and Karen Kustel
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- The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
- Municipalidad Ciudad de Valles
- George and Manci Ohrstrom
- Ríos Tropicales
- The Solstice Foundation, Inc
- WKK Fund, of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
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Comunicación Corporativa Ketchum
Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica - BCIE
HSBC Bank USA
The Sustainability Laboratory
Dr. Therus Kolff
The Spray Foundation
Stonyfield Farm, Inc.
Tara Foundation
The Trio Foundation of St. Louis

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John and Maureen Bridgeland
Norma K. Buchman
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The Lawrence Foundation
John and Elizabeth Lewis
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Public Property Finance Corporation of California
Realan Foundation
Thomas and Sharon Sherrard
Starr-Gilbert Living Trust
Mr. Tim Statler
Randal Teague
Wells Fargo Bank
WEM Foundation
Jeannie B. Wright

“My hope is that I can take what I learn here and translate it into positive change in my country.”
Rui Leonardo Madime
(‘13, Mozambique)
©Lynn Hoffman-Brouse
$1,000 - $4,999
Agencia Datsun
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Carlos Araya
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Daniel Sherrard and Wendy Judy

UNDER $1000
494 loyal donors

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HSBC Matching Gift Program
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC
Suntrust Bank Matching Gift Program
TimeWarner Employee Grant Program

Under the concept of precision agriculture, students in Professor Johan Perret’s soils course evaluate the health of a cassava crop using a chlorophyll meter, which indirectly measures the amount of nitrogen in the plant. From left to right: Daniel Mayorga (’12, Costa Rica), Dr. Johan Perret, Enrique Herrández (’12, USA) and Liset Menacho (’12, Bolivia).
“EARTH has transformed my life, giving me a high quality education in food security and environmental conservation. Now, I see the world differently, with hope and tools to make a difference. I met unique people and developed interpersonal skills that will help me and are currently helping me to implement transformational projects for a new and sustainable world.” Johanny Pérez (’10, Dominican Republic). ©Lynn Hoffman-Brouse
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Johanny Pérez  (’10, Dominican Republic)
VISITING PROFESSORS
Enzo Arévalo
Franklin Binns
Catalina Campos
Mauricio Carmona
Adrián Cartín
Edmundo Castro
Luis Coto
Cecilia González
Daniel Herrera
Alexander Mendoza
Alejandro Muñoz
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Carlos Ortega
Luis Ramírez
Natalia Ramírez
Victoria Schwarz
Moisés Soto
José Valverde
Jane Yeomans

EMERITUS PROFESSOR
Dr. Carlos Burgos Rivas, December 2007

DOCTORS OF HUMANITIES
HONORIS CAUSA
Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz, December 2010
Mrs. Jane Cocke Black, December 2009
Dr. Hernán Fonseca Z., December 2008
Professor Muhammad Yunus, December 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
IN UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
At a glance

EARTH University campus is carbon neutral

26,182 tons of carbon dioxide fixed annually through agriculture and forestry systems*
1,704 tons of carbon dioxide emitted per year

*Through these systems, EARTH also offsets the emissions of EARTH-La Flor, EARTH University Foundation in Atlanta, GA, U.S.A. and EARTH University’s commercial banana operation, and sells carbon credits through private sector partnerships.

Liquid petroleum gas consumption in EARTH’s cafeteria has decreased by 27 percent since 2009 when EARTH installed a bio-digester that collects wastewater from the University’s cafeteria, student dorms, laboratories and administration buildings, producing biogas to fuel three burners in the Institution’s cafeteria. This is one of five bio-digesters on campus.

Since 2007, energy consumption on the main campus has decreased nearly 20 percent thanks to the conversion to energy-efficient lighting and cooling systems.

More than 80 percent of the solid domestic waste produced on campus is recycled, transformed or reused.

The majority of the vegetables, fruit, meats and dairy products served by the University’s cafeteria are grown organically or sustainably on EARTH’s academic farms.

In 2010, EARTH University received the highest distinction awarded by the Ecological Blue Flag Program in Costa Rica, a government initiative that seeks to promote public health, in the following categories: non-coastal community, actions to face climate change and protection of natural spaces.
María del Pilar Cruz ('14, Mexico) sorts solid domestic waste collected on campus as part of the Waste Management module of the Work Experience course.
Maria del Pilar Cruz (*14, Mexico) sorts solid domestic waste collected on campus as part of the Waste Management module of the Work Experience course. ©Lynn Hoffman-Brouse

PRODUCTION NOTES:
Text: EARTH University Office of Communications
Design: Mario Pacheco Marketing and Advertising, Costa Rica
Printing: Ritter’s Communications, Florida, U.S.
Paper: This annual report was produced in partnership with Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc. and is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified Mohawk Loop paper, which is manufactured with windpower and made carbon neutral.
Cover: 50% post-consumer waste
Inside: 100% post-consumer waste

©Lynn Hoffman-Brouse
MISSION: Prepare leaders with ethical values to contribute to the sustainable development of the humid tropics and to construct a prosperous and just society.

VISION: Our actions are directed towards building a future in which the humid tropics and its communities achieve social, economic and environmental well being.