

A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Ecological Governance

Carbon Neutral Technologies – Healthy Communities



THE PARTNERSHIP

Falls Brook Centre has been working with a Honduran organization, CPTRT, (Centre for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims), which is dedicated to the protection and improvement of human rights for marginalized members of Honduran society. Under the premise that the wellbeing of a community is directly linked to the health of the ecosystem upon which it depends, the partnership promotes ecological governance and autonomy by promoting community-based efforts to build kitchen gardens and water catchment systems (“pilas”), as well as raising awareness of the connection between human rights and environmental degradation. With this initiative, it is hoped that deep-rooted social issues such as poverty, violence and ecological depletion may be addressed.

Without Hierarchy

*The butterflies took off
from the tropical forest
announcing in the sky
the birth of colors*

*Millions of fireflies
brightened the night of the
poor
in the planet broken by the
war
where light ceased to be
the symbol of freedom*

*Gathered in assembly
microbes, flies, mosquitoes
agreed to celebrate the peace
with childish innocence
to give rebirth to beauty
in the diversity of life*

*Science, love, ideas and
colors
embraced together
so the smiling diversity of life
held out her spiritual hand
to achieve without hierarchies
total health and love*

Juan Almendarez

SUGGESTIONS FOR BUILDING ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE: STEP BY STEP

Step 1: Identify all present stakeholders and all services currently provided by the resource. Some questions that can be answered are: Who needs this resource? For what purpose or goal is it required?



Step 2: Adopt a projection for the region. Using existing (“official”) documentation and demographic statistics look 25-50 years into the future and determine a projection of economic, population and regional growth. Apply existing use patterns of the resource to this projection, creating a “business as usual” baseline.

Step 3: Establish a desired future condition. Create a desired future pattern of resource use for a point 50 years into the future. Because it sets key conditions for planning, the community and key stakeholders must be involved in this phase of establishing a “vision”.

Step 4: Analyze how that future condition can work. What quantities of the resource will be required to provide for all the projected needs of the region, if we take all conservation measures into account? Will quality be a factor?

Step 5: Review the supply options for the resource. Identify all current sources of the resource and determine if there are any sources that are being overused or degraded.

Step 6: Backcasting. Create various paths to follow by designing incremental policies and programs that can get the community from “there” (the desired future projection) to “here”. Working backwards, determine what needs to be done in order to attain that future.

Step 7: Write, Talk, Promote. Your conclusions must reach the public, and particularly key decision-makers, if they are to be successfully implemented. Social awareness-raising is one of the most important steps in the process of implementing new ecological objectives.

Environmental Sector Roundtable June 21st, 2:30PM Exhibition Hall A

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