

FOSTERING COMMUNITY LED MANGROVE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION FOR THE PLACENCIA LAGOON



By:

For:

WWF

OUR APPROACH TO RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION IN PLACENCIA

Our approach was to get the children involved in the main part of the restoration. By doing this I hoped that the parents would get involved through their children's involvement.

This approach involved:

- 1) Multiple Class room sessions**
- 2) Field Trips**
- 3) Working sessions**
- 4) Workshops**
- 5) Focus Groups**
- 6) Community Presentations**
- 7) Contests**
- 8) Production of Materials**

Class Room Sessions



Our classroom sessions covered everything about mangroves from the basics of Identification to its possible resilience to climate change and its overall importance as a species. We also covered the basics of planting to the transplanting of larger plants.

Field Trips & Working Sessions

Each year we have had at least 4 field trips or outdoor working session. Every time we learn something new we go out in the field.



Workshops & Focus Groups

- We set up several workshops to train locals adults for leadership of different aspects of restoration.



- Focus groups are sometimes necessary in order to get things more organized the way you want them without the clashing of too many heads. We achieve much more with smaller groups than with larger community groups.

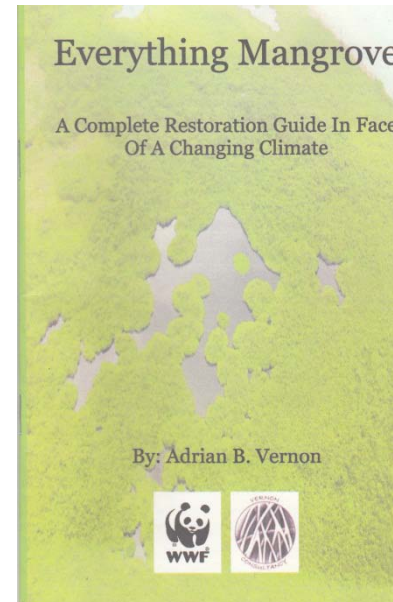
Contests

- We offered contest to students and developers over this time.
 - Green Designs
 - Poster Contest
 - Project Design



Publications

- During this time we have been able to produce 2 small booklets featuring mangroves. One geared towards demonstrating restoration techniques and one showing how to incorporate mangroves into your landscape design.



Challenges

- Our major challenges faced were:
 - Getting people out for activities
 - Scheduling time with the schools
 - Getting people to take ownership
 - Reaching foreign investors/developers

Our Successes

- Over 20,000 mangroves planted and growing.



- Developers and local land owners incorporate mangrove friendly designs and place private lands under reserve.



- Community has taken ownership of restoration and is now pushing for the creation of a lagoon reserve.



Final Encouragements

- Getting a community to come together on any issue is hard especially when other issues seem so pressing. The main thing I've learnt is that you need to work hard be patient and don't give up. Because of our hard work this community will always keep an eye on their lagoon. This will only encourage the continued health of this vitally important system.

