

Brazil Costal Community Project

Achievements made year after year;

2005 saw the first ever Quest trip to Brazil, in 2006 1000 trees were mapped and planted and by 2007 another 900 trees were mapped and planted in the Brazilian Coastal Rainforest.

To begin with work on the project boat was done during the first week. Then work on the platform and the tree planting began. The set up being tree planting in the mornings with another activity in the afternoon. Tree planting became the main focus and the target of 600 trees was achieved with around 650 planted. This was a great activity because it required physical exertion and was something which the whole group could work on while trying to achieve such a target. The group were also involved in a play for the local kids which ended up being hugely popular and close relationships were formed with a local theatre group.

Some of the other activities the group were involved with was English teaching to local boys and helping out in the workshop. What makes this project such a good one is the flexibility of the activities allowing volunteers to do what they enjoy most.

Building a nursery in Galeao community: this activity involves building a nursery (2000 trees capacity), in Galeao community (Tinhare island). This activity is part of amainan strategy to diversify the islands where the reforestation of degraded areas has been developed. This activity involves also the material and seedlings transport (from Cairu to Galeao), using amainan's boat.

Local group involvement: this activity will increase the involvement of essenciart (theatre group of Galeao), with amainan and quest volunteering activities.

Quest Overseas group: the group will have the opportunity to experience another community of the Tinhare archipelago.

Actual involvement: this worked perfectly well on the schedule. The nursery in Cairu was demolished and the smaller one in Galeão was erected. The seedlings were transported and by the time we left the new nursery was up and running. 2 extra days were used on the final demolishing of the Cairu nursery as we had been told by the priest that the space was needed for something else.

Reforestation of degraded areas: this activity involves planting seedlings of native tree species inside four different private areas (a total of 5000 ha) with piassava (atalea funifera) native forests. As part of amainan strategy, new areas in Galeao and Cairu will be included in this activity – there is also a possibility of planting in Boipeba Island. In one of these areas (Cairu), the group will transport the seedlings by canoes (through the mangrove).

Local group involvement: renascer (18 families) built the nursery, prepared the seedlings (8.000 of five different endangered tree species) and coordinated the excursions to the forest since the 2005 group. Renascer will be coordinating this activity in 2007 and working with essenciart (Galeao theatre group), when in Galeao.

Quest Overseas group: the quest groups of 2005 and 2007 planted near 3000 trees. The July 2007 group will be working during 16 days (alternating afternoons and mornings), aiming 500 trees planted and GPS mapped.

This was probably the most enjoyable part of the plan and more or less went according to plan. We did not achieve the target of 500 trees and we only planted 250. This was due to poor foresight from the coordinators (all the seedlings were taking to Galeao and not many were left in Cairo), mortality of seedlings and some seedlings which they thought were in the forest had been reduced to a lower number. I made it clear from the start how important was to get closer to the original planting aim numbers but the coordinators found it difficult to organise themselves to increase the number of trees planted. The day before last on the project was spent in Galeao planting extra trees at the same time that the team in Galeao took the volunteers to a beautiful waterhole in the island.

Nevertheless, the volunteers enjoyed this part of the work and all the trees planted were GPS mapped and are ready to be adopted.

English classes: as part of the strategy for the sustainability of the amainan's projects in Cairu, this activity is an important opportunity for the local coordinators/groups to learn basic English and reinforce their involvement with quest group. The classes will be organised on board of amainan's boat (theatre cinema boat), every afternoon and the teachers will have computer/projection facilities.

Every quest group developed teaching activities, but this is the first time that English classes will be included as a main activity.

A mixed success and failures activity. The teaching pattern was divided in 3. Teaching of instrumental English to the amainan coordinators (which was a complete failure), general teaching of Cairu youngsters after capoeira lessons (which only worked whilst luisa was there) and 1:1 teaching to specially interested people such as bam and morde (which I personally run in the evenings and worked well and consistently).

Teaching of the small children and other youngsters in Cairu worked well whilst a Portuguese speaker was there. The rest of the volunteers found it increasingly difficult to teach any English as their level of Portuguese was almost nonexistent. Nevertheless, this was a very interacting activity that developed the involvement of the volunteers in the community and should be continued in future projects. (Maybe also following a more structured approach).

1:1 teaching worked very well mainly due to the interest and consistency of the students themselves. They religiously turned up to our doorstep every night for tuition.

