The Role of Civil Society in Promoting and Implementing the Post 2015 Development Agenda

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www.globalfoundationdd.org



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What is GFDD?

A private, non-profit, non-governmental organization created in 2002 by Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna with offices in NYC and Washington DC, to complement and advance the work of FUNGLODE headquartered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Why?

The mission of the foundations is to create and implement programs and projects that contribute to the sustainable development (SD) of the Dominican Republic.

How?

- UN interventions/events on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNEP accredited
- Work of GFDD environment programs: ReCrearte, Eco-Huertos, RDescubre, DREFF help to illustrate how civil society can engage local communities in Sustainable Development and contribute to this agenda.



What?

The ReCrearte program was developed in 2012 following a Recycled Art Workshop conducted by Bertha Santana during the 2nd edition of GFDD's Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (www.dreff.org).

Why?

The program aims to raise awareness of the 3Rs of solid waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle. The workshops emphasize and demonstrate how recycling waste into art can empower individuals and communities alike.

Who?

The workshops are free and open to the public. They are taught in coordination with community organizations and private sector institutions that are interested in spreading the message of environmental conservation.



Key figures:

2,000 individuals including: Local women groups, schools, NGOs, neighbors' meetings, church groups, government institutions, local businesses, and universities.

Materials:

Plastic, paper, textiles, wood, glass, metal and much more...

How?

Thanks to the educational process of recycling, participants become agents of tranformation, converting disused elements and domestic wastes into decorative objects of practical use and commercial value. Creates a second income.

This transmits a key environmental protection message: to learn by doing, while encouraging business opportunities and income generation.



85 Workshops

With the participation of 1,600 children, young people, and adults

11 Institutions

- FUNGLODE- II DREFF
- Cultural Institutions
- Colleges
- •Foundations
- •Community Organizations
- •Universities

10 Locations

- Santo Domingo
- San Cristobal
- San Pedro de Macoris
- Azua
- Puerto Plata
- Baní
- Santiago
- Tamboril
- San Fracisco de Macorís
- San José de Ocoa

www.r3crearte.org

Recycled Art Workshops















Recycled Art Workshops















* What?

Launched in 2012, the program is led by Cristiana Cruz Minier and seeks to support the creation of organic and sustainable vegetable gardens in schools and communities throughout the Dominican Republic. It supports hands-on workshops in natural sciences contained in the educational curriculum.

* Why?

It generates awareness of the importance of a balanced diet, contributes to the food security and independence as well as the creation of small local business.

* Who?

The program is open to schools and communities with interest in, and available space for, vegetable gardens (children in grades 8,9 and 10).



- 1. Create self-sustaining and productive gardens using organic methods.
- 2. Support the concepts of Natural Sciences in the school curriculum with experimental activities.
- 3. Offer students a place for recreation, relaxation and physical activity.
- 4. Create awareness about the importance of a balanced diet and achieve broader recognition and receptiveness around the consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- 5. Recycle organic matter through composting to be utilized as organic fertilizer for garden plants.
- 6. Offer technical workshops to enrich students' basic knowledge and to ensure the creation of sustainable gardens.



Figures - Since its creation, the program has successfully created:

- 26 gardens in 17 education centers
- 5 community centers
- *4 residences in the different provinces across the Dominican Republic*
- Students' involvement in a healthy activity, beneficial to themselves and their families.

Key success:

- * Plots of unused community land were re-purposed when students encouraged their parents to undertake small farming;
- * Development of such values as solidarity, responsibility, self-sufficiency and service as well as skills like organization, creative and critical thinking, scientific exploration, aesthetics and more.







Escolares y Comunitarios





What?

The RDescubre program aims to provide students and communities the opportunity to take part in educational expeditions all over the Dominican Republic as a way of seeing the country's landscapes and the wealth of its natural resources.

<u>Why?</u>

The expeditions connect them to nature through positive enduring experiences thereby motivating greater environmental stewardship. They are inspired to become activists in their own local communities and to work together for a common cause, while inspiring others through their experiences.



Figures for 2014:

- 3 expeditions to Pico Duarte, the highest mountain in the Caribbean
- 2 educational excursions (whale watching, exploring Salinas and the Dominican Coastline)
- 2 clean ups (rural and urban area often use materials to create a mural made of recycled material).

Activities in 2015:

February: 12th Educational Expedition to Pico Duarte with 90 students from various schools in the Dominican Republic. Cleanup in the Tetero Valley – removal of 300 pounds of waste.

March: 50 students from 10 schools in Santiago and Santo Domingo participated in an educational excursion to the Cocoa Trail, a sustainable cocoa plantation in the province of San Francisco de Macorís, to promote sustainable agriculture in the country.















What is it?

Created in 2011, the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) educates the Dominican public about environmental protection while celebrating the beauty and unique biodiversity of the Dominican Republic.

How?

Through the screening of national and international films that deal with contemporary environmental issues, panels discussions, workshops and field visits, the DREFF not only provides a platform for debate but also inspires the Dominican public to take action to ensure the health and sustainability of the environment.

DREFF

The next edition of the DREFF will take place on September 8-13, 2015 For more information visit: <u>www.dreff.org</u>













Panel discussions









DREFF 2014 in Figures:

- 7,000 audience
- 11 cities
- 20 screening venues
- 80 screenings
- 24 films
- 23 international guests
- 2 environmental excursions
- 6 workshops 2 clean ups
- 100 collaborators and volunteers
- 323 students
- 23 schools
- 9 year round environmental film screenings

www.dreff.org

DREFF Blog

https://muestracine.wordpress.com/



DREFF Blog

<u>When?</u> Launched on June 21, 2013

What?

Helps to complement GFDD environmental programs: DREFF, Eco-Huertos, ReCrearte, RDescubre, and the Dominican Republic Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Environment (<u>www.environmentaldictionary.org</u>).

Focus?

Creating a link between GFDD's various environmental programs, the blog aims to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of national and international environmental issues among Dominican and international audiences: including including Biodiversity Protection, Climate Change, Green Economy, Ocean Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture.

Languages: Spanish and English.



Concluding thoughts

- Civil society organizations play a crucial role in ensuring the engagement of local communities in development projects.
- Through its environment programs, GFDD seeks to remind UN Member States that a transition to the Green Economy will only happen with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders at every level of decision making.
- The engagement of these communities is therefore crucial to ensure a truly sustainable society and economy, and to make this new development agenda, the development landscape of the next 15 years.



Thank you!

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Working together towards a green society