

English version



CiVi.net Newsletter

Issue 4

You are reading the fourth issue of the [CiVi.net](http://www.civinet.eu) Newsletter. Through this Newsletter CiVi.net partners would like to inform you about their activities and the latest project outcomes. The CiVi.net newsletter is published around every 6 months. On www.civinet.eu you can find more news, background information and details on this project. The Newsletter is available in three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese.

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Fundación Neotrópica continues with transfer activities between Golfo Dulce and National Terraba Sierpe, Costa Rica

The work of Fundación Neotrópica in the National Terraba Sierpe wetland is being mainly developed through the Comunidades Azules Project, funded by the Swiss Embassy in Costa Rica. In this occasion, we intend to share the progress of this initiative, and in particular where the transfer from the community conservation model of Golfo Dulce to the National Terraba Sierpe wetland becomes possible.



Sierpe National Terraba Wetland

Coordinating with local Environmental Authorities

Last 22 May, the Project 'Comunidades Azules' was introduced to Osa Conservation Area officers (ACOSA, the organization responsible for managing natural resources of the area) in Golfito. With this introduction the activities of the project began, aiming to study the sensitivity of the surrounding communities of the National Terraba Sierpe Wetland (HNTS) for environmental topics through workshops in better practices and new sustainable productive activities. Other actions included environmental education and reforestation of mangrove areas, both experiences successfully developed in the Golfo Dulce.



Working closely with communities from Sierpe National Térraba Wetland

A fundamental stage in the Comunidades Azules Project is the actualisation of the Socio-Environmental Diagnostics of the National Térraba Sierpe wetland (HNTS). To perform this actualisation, we have the support of the Osa Conservation friend organization.

A meeting with key stakeholders from HNTS neighbouring communities took place in July 2013. One communal meeting was carried out in each of the following communities: Palmar Norte, Palmar Sur, Sierpe, Coronado and Ciudad Cortez.



Introducing our project: the first steps for a new nursery in Ajuntaderas

One of the activities planned for Project Comunidades Azules during the next months is to create a nursery to deal with mangrove reforestation in HNTS. Both the selection of a site to develop the nursery and reforestation activities will be developed by inhabitants of the wetland.

The Ajuntaderas community in Sierpe is formed mainly by fishermen, piangueros and shellfish fishermen, who maintain a very close relationship with wetland resources. In this area we found the Association of Ajuntaderas Piangueros (APA), a strong group with important organizational capacities to carry out the activities mentioned above.

A visit to Ajuntaderas took place last September 14, when the project was launched to the community and successfully accepted. Thereupon a journey was organized with the members of the APA and ACOSA officials along the Sierpe River to choose the best place to carry out nursery activities.



Wetland schools willing to be part of Comunidades Azules

Environmental education is a fundamental aspect of the Comunidades Azules project and it is one of the key experiences to transfer. This will be developed similar as in Golfo Dulce through "environmental clubs" in schools from nearby communities, which will participate in workshops on specific topics of mangrove conservation and the environment in general.

Last 19 and 20 September, the Edward Garnier School in Palmar North and the Valle Diquís School in Cortés city were introduced to the project. Both children and teachers felt eager to participate in this enterprise, showing interest and enthusiasm.

In 2014 we will work with clubs in the schools mentioned together with CEN-Cinai (Centro de Atención Infantil), a child care center in Palmar Norte, and the Unidocente de Ajuntaderas school in Ajuntaderas.



Building ties among Institutions and NGOs working for the wetlands

At November 1st, we participated in the coordination meeting between different public institutions and non-governmental organizations developing projects in HNTS. This meeting was held at the Club 1 in Palmar Sur and was coordinated by the School of Biology of the University of Costa Rica.

Ten institutions took part in the meeting: they exposed the principal projects that are being developed in the wetland. Fundación Neotrópica presented the Comunidades Azules Project and the work being done through CiVi.net.

After the presentations, we discussed the different thematic lines that link the working institutions in the region HNTS. The topics identified as important were education, training, research, management and community management together with the need of communication and information among institutions.



Update on the transfer process in the Encostas da Serra Geral region, Santa Catarina, Brazil

The transfer region of Imaruí in Santa Catarina had its first activities developed in November and December 2013. The first voisin with a biodiverse silvopastoral system was implemented in Mr. Neloni Lessa's property, in the rural community of Aratingaúba. It took around three weeks with several visits in the region to have the first pilot implemented. Mr. Neloni's property's main activity is cattle raising for dairy production. His family already adopted the rotation system and the pasture in his property is divided in paddocks. During the activities developed by the local staff from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, 24 nucleuses of silvopastoral systems were implemented. These nucleuses are meant to be stepping stones of forest patches in the mainly agricultural landscape of the microbasin where the pilot is located. Each nucleus has 25 seedlings composed initially by 4 pioneer species. The goal is to first plant fast growing species to provide shadow and then to introduce late secondary species (scheduled for March/April 2014). Due to the hot temperatures of this period, experiments with screen protection and shading were implemented in the field, which caught the attention of the local community (see pictures below).



Work at field day

Field day at Mr Neloni's

After the pilot implementation, on the 19th of December, a field day was realized at Mr. Neloni's property. Around 20 farmers took part on this field day where different topics were discussed, including pasture quality and forage species, silvopastoral system with high diversity, and agroecologic production. Besides the local farmers invited, the meeting counted with the participation of two farmers from Santa Rosa de Lima, Mr. Tilico and Mrs. Zenir. After the presentation of the topics with the support of data showing projection and the discussion with the farmers, a practical activity was developed. The participants had the opportunity to exchange experience about native species seedling preparation and planting in the pasture in order to develop a silvopastoral system. The involvement of the local farmers and the choice of the pilot property counted with the support of Mr. Idelfonso, from the Ministry of Agrarian Development and a local agronomist from the State Rural Outreach Agency (EPAGRI).

Second pilot

From January until March 2014 the second pilot will be implemented and at least another field day will be developed. We are also planning an exchange between transfer and case study region, when farmers from Imaruí should visit the pilots implemented between 2012 and 2013 in Santa Rosa de Lima.



Work at field day (left); shading activity (right)

Summary transfer activities CiVi.net in Tocantins, Brazil

During the period from October to December 2013 CiVi.net carried out activities to raise awareness of landowners, rural technicians and people working in the livestock sector, who participated in workshops of the game of livestock as transfer activity for the project. Preceding all play sessions, Eliana Pareja of Instituto Ecológica gave a lecture, where she introduced the CiVi.net project, its partners and targets. After this, consultant Tim Reutemann, who was supporting the trainee Peterson Sacconi, explained the game. As a result of these meetings, it was possible to notice the lack of awareness of the public about the possibilities of PES projects and REDD+ in Tocantins. These topics have been discussed a few times including questions of and discussion with farmers. They inquired a lot about the "why" of the market carbon game, and advantages and disadvantages of such projects on the properties of livestock.



Conference before the game (left); games with students from the Federal University of Tocantins, Gurupi campus (right)

Playing and evaluating the game

During the transfer process a total of 417 games (see next item for more information on the game) were played and evaluated. The results were used as a transfer activity, where it is thought that these players understood the process and this process managed to make profit on their properties using intensification and environmental projects (PSA and REDD+). The games were held in rural technical assistance public institutions, educational institutions and landowners in the state of Tocantins.



Tablets with games (left); consultant Tim Reutemann and students of the Federal University of Tocantins, Palmas campus (right)

Results

As a result of the activities proposed and developed, it was observed that the current process of exploiting the properties of livestock in the state of Tocantins is facing the problem that most of the properties are no longer surplus native reserve area and many of these areas have already been cleared without having license for deforestation. Thus, because of being addressed potential environmental projects for REDD+ and PES, some resistance to participation in the game was generated.

Conclusion

Although difficulties have appeared and made the proposed task even harder, we believe that success has been achieved in promoting the transfer of knowledge and mostly it has left the target audience motivated to the possibilities of new projects and markets.



Games with farmers in the Ministry of Agriculture of Tocantins

The Cattle Game is now available online!

The Cattle Game was developed to transfer the concept of payments for ecosystem services to cattle ranchers in the Tocantins Case Study. The game simulates a typical large cattle ranch as they are found in the North of Tocantins. The players need to make money from their land by raising cattle. But the land degrades over time, so it is necessary to make investments. They can restore degraded land, intensify land to avoid degradation or expand their pasture by deforesting. Without any payments, deforestation is the most profitable alternative, which is why there is so much deforestation in Tocantins. But what happens when the forest also has a value? When playing with payments for ecosystem services, the dynamic of the game changes.

The players can learn interactively how important and powerful such payments for ecosystem services can be to change the land use patterns in Tocantins. At the same time, the game allows the researchers to test different types of payment designs against each other, giving valuable input to the policy makers in Tocantins who are currently in the process of reforming the state's forest legislation. [Click here to play the game](#). The game is available in English and Portuguese.



We recommend playing the game using Google Chrome or Safari as internet browser. It generally works with other browsers, too, but may have issues such as malfunctioning sound effects.

Final conference CiVi.net: Costa Rica, San José, 8-12 September 2014

The CiVi.net final conference will be held together with the [Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\)](#) conference 2014. The ESP is a worldwide network to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services assessment.

The CiVi.net final conference will be held together with [project COBRA](#) and [EcoAdapt](#), two other projects within the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union. COBRA's final conference will be merged with that of CiVi.net; EcoAdapt will support the local organization. The other three EC sister projects confirmed their active participation in this final conference.

Through this shared final conference, CiVi.net and the other EU projects under the same funding theme, have now a great opportunity for an optimal exchange of ideas and experiences. The outreach for stakeholders and the interested public, in particular stakeholders from Latin America, can be maximized by this kind of organization.

We'll keep you updated on this conference via our website. Visit the conference site for general information on the [ESP conference](#).



Short news

New at CiVi.net: Foro Brasil and Foro Costa Rica

At the Spanish and Portuguese pages of CiVi.net you can now find 'Foro Brasil' and 'Foro Costa Rica' (you need to login for this). Those 'foro's' are communication platforms meant to support the transfer process and to facilitate communication and data sharing among stakeholders of the CiVi.net Case Studies.

Civi.net partners participate at Biodiversity Forum in Córdoba, Spain

Barbara Schröter from ZALF and Karla Sessin Dilascio from USP participated in the X Biodiversity Forum of the CE UICN (the Spanish Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature). The Forum took place in Córdoba, Spain, from September 24 to 26, under the overall title "Design of governance models for sustainable development and resource management facing environmental challenges." [Click here for more information](#).

'Latin American link-up', a publication on CiVi.net in an international journal

CiVi.net partners Claudia Sattler (ZALF), Bernardo Aguilar (Fundación Neotrópica) and Abdon Schmitt (FUNDAG) published an article on CiVi.net in the international journal 'International Innovation'. The article discusses how local communities continue to build on governmental frameworks to provide strong solutions to environmental management. [Click here for more information.](#)

More information

If you want to know more about CiVi.net or want to get in contact with our partners from the case study regions, please contact our executive project coordinator: [Lukas Wortmann](#) or visit the website www.civinet.eu and www.facebook.com/Civinet.

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