



Eco-Libris Assessment – Second year of Operations (July 2008 – July 2009)

The Alliance for International Reforestation (AIR)

Prepared by: Dr. Anne Hallum, Director

1. General Information

- 1.1 Name of organization: [Alliance for International Reforestation, Inc. \(AIR\)](#)
- 1.2 Name of Director: [Dr. Anne Hallum](#)
- 1.3 Year of establishment: [1992](#)
- 1.4 Registered in (country): [USA](#)
- 1.5 Countries of operation: [Guatemala](#)
- 1.6 No. of trees planted so far: [At least 3.25 million \(planting is continuous\)](#)
- 1.7 No. of trees planted in the 12 months ending on July 1st, 2009: [214,425](#)
- 1.8 Average survival rate of trees: [90% \(trees that do not survive are replaced\)](#)

2. Eco-Libris tree planting's operations (these questions refer to the trees planted on our behalf): 17,020 trees

- 2.1 Out of total number of 17,020 trees and as of July 1st 2009, how many trees have been planted? How many are still growing as seedlings in nurseries and how many are at prior stage (seedlings haven't been purchased yet)? [All of these have been planted in the ground, except the trees funded by the May 2009 payment \(wired in June\). These trees were planted as seeds in the nursery, and will be large enough seedlings to transplant in May 2010.](#)
- 2.2 In what countries/areas the trees were planted? Please fill in the attached excel and be specific as possible. [Guatemala, Dept. of Chimaltenango, communities of El Tejar, and Itzapa.](#)
- 2.3 Please provide the planting schedule in these areas (when the seedlings are planted in nurseries, what are the months of planting, etc.) [Seed bags are filled with seeds during Nov. - February; they are planted on mountain slopes in May, June, July \(the rainy season\).](#)

2.4 What species were planted, what is the genetic source (country of origin) of each species? As you requested, all of the trees planted with Eco-Libris funds are native—genetically from Guatemala. The trees planted on your behalf are Pino Triste, Llamo, Gravilea, and Ciprés comun (see excel sheet).

2.5 How many hectares were planted as mixed forest? The trees are all in mixed forests; we do not know the number of hectares, because the trees are scattered around and within cultivated fields, as well as in reforested areas; we document number of trees rather than number of hectares. Mixed of how many species? Six tree species, including the fruit trees.

2.6 How many hectares were planted as monoculture? None

2.7 How many hectares were planted for agroforestry uses? How much of it is inter-planted with crops? What crops? About 12,000 trees were inter-planted with crops from your tree nurseries. The crops are corn and beans, plus a variety of vegetables and fruit trees, and sometimes coffee plants.

2.8 What is the involvement of local communities with these planting activities? What are the social benefits of these specific trees that where planted, in present and in the future? The local communities are involved from the first day—they elect committees to help with the professional AIR staff in deciding what to plant where. The local residents work in training and in the nurseries and on mountain slopes year round, which is the reason for very high tree survival rates over many years.

2.9 Are there any specific environmental benefits for the plantings in these specific areas? The specific benefits are significant, particularly in this mountainous country: Trees prevent soil erosion, mud slides, they protect water springs and rivers below from filling with silt; they rebuild the soil with nutrients; they provide habitat for birds and small mammals that we have seen return; combat climate change.

2.10 What is the management plan for the next five years for the trees that were already planted during the last year? What is the management plan for the next twenty years? AIR staff and villagers replace tree seedlings that die in the first year. Over five years, they trim lower branches for greater growth and cut out any diseased trees. If the plantings are too dense, they will be very selectively thinned. Over the next twenty years, we continue to visit occasionally with residents to see the mature forests and encourage their protection. AIR is 16 years old, and relatively mature forests exist now in the first areas we forested.

2.11 Do you plant other species, which are not trees, in the same planting area? (Shrubs, Herbaceous, etc.) If you do, which species? What life form? Yes, we plant grasses to combat soil erosion in particularly steep areas. We also have several medicinal gardens next to homes using indigenous knowledge of numerous plants.

2.12 Out of the trees that were planted: _____ (number) trees were in "clean/ new" areas, _____ (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with former plantations, _____ (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with natural vegetation. I do not have this level of detail from AIR's staff, but from my observations, it would be about 1/3 in each type.

2.13 Did you plant non native species? Which species? How many trees? [Not from your funds.](#)

2.14 you are most welcome to add more details that you find important or interesting for us and for our costumers. [One testimony this summer of the link between trees and food security was from a young woman who told us that the fertilizing trees planted in her corn & bean field had increased the corn production by 400 lbs. in just the second year.](#)

3. Follow-up of the first year assessment

3.1 Could you verify that our funding was not allocated to heterogenic and monoculture plantations? [Yes, we have no monoculture plantations.](#)

3.2 Could you please verify that non-native species (Eucalipto and Cipres Romano) were removed from the tree nurseries that are specifically supported by Eco-Libris?
[Yes, I verify that only native species were planted in the large nurseries Eco-Libris supports.](#)

4. Ensuring the planting quality

With regards to our collaboration in our first year of operation, please choose for each characteristic shown in the table below the most suitable grade between 1-10 (1- cannot guarantee at all 10 – can fully guarantee) and add an X sign in the suitable cell. These grades should indicate your ability to ensure the quality of these characteristics. Please provide further explanations whenever necessary below the table.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Additionality | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Planting the trees primarily as a mixed forest and not monoculture species | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Full collaboration with local communities | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Usage of native species | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Planting within one year from the payment | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Ensuring trees planted on behalf of Eco-Libris will not be cut down* | | | | | | | | X | | |

[*Trees will not be systematically cut down, because the purpose of five years of training is to teach the permanent value of the trees. However, sometimes they become diseased and must be cut down before the disease spreads; or they become too crowded from natural regeneration and need to be thinned. We certainly guarantee that they will never be clear cut or harvested.](#)

Eco-Libris comments:

We thank AIR for their full cooperation in the preparation of the assessment and their willingness to provide all the requested details. Overall we are satisfied with the performance AIR and believe that their commitment to high sustainable standards is maintained. We're also satisfied with their implementation of our comments on the last report. We look forward to continuing our work together.