Eco-Libris Assessment – Third year of Operation

(July 2009 – July 2010)

The Alliance for International Reforestation (AIR)

Preapred by: Dr. Anne Hallum, Director

1. General Information

1.1 Name of organization: AIR, Inc. (Alliance for International Reforestation, Inc.)

1.2 Name of Director: Dr. Anne Hallum in US; and Cecilia Ramirez in Guatemala

1.3 Year of establishment: 1992

1.4 Registered in (country): USA

1.5 Countries of operation: Guatemala and Nicaragua (we have added one nursery in Nicaragua)

1.6 No. of trees planted so far: Approximately 3.7 million trees (planting is continuous)

1.7 No. of trees planted in the 12 months ending on July 1st, 2010: 192,872 + 10,000 in Nicaragua

1.8 Average survival rate of trees: 90% (trees that do not survive first 5 yrs. are replaced)

2. Eco-Libris tree planting's operations (these questions refer to the trees planted on our behalf): 16,200 Trees

2.1 Out of total number of 16,200 trees and as of July 1st 2010, 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)? 11,200 trees have been planted in the ground; 5,000 purchased in May are still seedlings in nurseries and will be large enough to transplant this coming May 2011.

2.2 In what countries/areas the trees were planted? Please fill in the attached excel and be specific as possible. Guatemala, Dept. Chimaltenango, communities of El Tejar, Tecpan Centro; and Xetonox

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.-Feb.; 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? All these trees are native to Guatemala: The trees planted on your behalf are *Pino Triste; Ilamo; Cipres Comun; Gravilea; Casuarina; and Manzana (apple)*

2.5 How many hectares were planted as mixed forest? Mixed of how many species? The trees are all in mixed forests or agro-systems; we do not count by number of hectares, because the trees are mostly scattered around and within cultivated fields, as well as in strictly forested (mixed) areas. We document number of trees rather than number of hectares.

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 7,000 trees from your nurseries were inter-planted with crops in agro-forestry systems. The crops are corn and beans, a variety of vegetables (squashes, carrots, etc.) and about 200 apple trees.

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, as we learned from the horrific mudslides in the flooding of summer 2010: Trees prevent soil erosion, mudslides, 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; they 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 few years. 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 resident to see the mature forests and encourage their continued protection.

AIR is 17 years old, and relatively mature forests exist now in the first areas where we worked.

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: _____ trees were in "clean/ new" areas, _____ trees were planted as fillings in areas with former plantations, _____ 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, about 1/3 in each type.

2.13 Did you plant non native species? Which species? How many trees? We plant only a few of two non-native species: a few hundred total of *eucalipto* because they are a highly desired medicinal plant; and about 2000 total *Cipres Romano* because they are an important wind-break tree for farming. None of the Eco-Libris funds are used for these two species of trees.

2.14 you are most welcome to add more details that you find important or interesting for us and for our customers. During the summer of flooding, 2010, I witnessed most dramatically the power of trees (especially pine trees, with their deep tap roots). Over and over again, we saw that where there were no trees, the mudslides occurred, and in areas right next to a slide with trees, the mountainside held together. More than once, we saw a young forest planted by AIR stop the mudslides that would have destroyed small houses below, and a stream. As the AIR technician said, "the trees stood against the mud like little soldiers." We are planting more urgently than ever!

3. Follow-up of the second year assessment

3.1 Could you confirm the planting of 4700 trees paid for in May 2009, which were supposed to be transplanted in May 2010? Yes, I can confirm that those 4,700 trees were transplanted around town of El Tejar, San Miguel. We are still planting there this year, with Eco-Libris funding.

3.2 Could you confirm that our funding was not allocated to heterogenic and monoculture plantations? Yes, I can confirm. We have no monoculture plantations.

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- ***Only cut to thin, or diseased trees***								X		

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 of AIR and believe that their commitment to high sustainable standards is maintained. We look forward to continuing our work together.