

Pictures from left to right.

GLOBE Coordinators, teachers and trainers of the International Workshop in Costa Rica.

Magnificent view of the Iguazu volcano, Costa Rica.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN COSTA RICA

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All the basic protocols of the GLOBE Program were trained in Costa Rica with the help of the Omar Dengo Foundation and an enthusiastic group of coordinators. The spirit was high from the beginning; many participants had to travel 16 hours by bus to attend the workshop. The

beautiful environment of Costa Rica and the professional presentations inspired the teachers to bring all this knowledge to their schools and cooperate in our goal of protecting the planet and study its diversities with scientific methods, and the same metrics giving to our

generation, and the ones that follows, a better understanding and environmental awareness of our home planet Earth.

The workshop had participants from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States of America, and Uruguay.



MASTER TRAINERS PROGRAM GOES LOCAL

“Preparing local trainers to access and understand GLOBE protocols and information will be faster and easier.”

The GLOBE Master Trainers Program is expanding in terms of its members, cultures and languages. Preparing local trainers to access and understand GLOBE protocols and information will be faster and easier. It also allows some cuts

in the budget that can be used for buying the equipment. The countries that have Master Trainer's citizens or residents will have a great advantage and will benefit greatly from this resource. Two master trainers graduated: Miguel Zimmerman and Maria

Elena Ortiz from Panama.



Hudson Roditi trains the master trainers' candidates of Panama and Dominican Republic.

WW2BW VIRTUAL SEMINAR

On April 14th, in conjunction with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development meeting, the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) partnership hosted a seminar on how to measure and demonstrate the success of your program to project sponsors.

This seminar included WW2BW members from around the wider Caribbean region participating in person, via phone or video teleconference.

The panel represented the partners that developed the publication “Communicating Successes of Public-

Private Partnerships. A primer on how to develop metrics for sharing your WW2BW partnership success”.

At the end the seminar outlined the importance of working as a group, and using the same data collection system for scientific purposes.



LATIN COUNTRY COORDINATORS “FORUM”

An Online Discussion Forum for Latin America and Caribbean region GLOBE country coordinators is available thanks to the help of Paul Vargas and Fundación Omar Dengo from Costa Rica. Four topics are

used to organize the information: Funding sources, education development between countries, creating a marketing plan for GLOBE, and “A coffee among friends” for social interactions.

If you are a country coordinator and want to participate contact Paul Vargas (Paul.Vargas@fod.ac.cr) for a user name and password and have a coffee chatting in Spanish with Latin GLOBE friends.

GLOBE STUDENTS REPORTED FOREST FIRE CONSEQUENCES IN SANTO DOMINGO USING GLOBE MEASUREMENTS.

The day was perfect for an adventure, we were all anxious to see the forest fire damages and use our new GLOBE equipment. But when we really saw what was left of a beautiful pine forest we began to feel like doctors in front of a dying patient. Across our ascent to the top of "El Novillero" hill (460 meters) we collected four dead animals per square meter, the pine trees, specially the Cuaba ones, were burned to the roots. The soil structure was granular and the consistence friable, we identified the color 10YR3/3 and classified the soil as loam. When we

added vinegar to it there was no reaction that showed no free carbonates. What really amazed us was the temperature 41°C and that we didn't feel any hot, but a fresh breeze that moves the burned branches. Many nimbostratus clouds began to cover 90% of the sky and we smelled the wetness in the air although the hygrometer marked 28% of humidity. We forgot the plate that covers the surface ozone measurement and we improvised with a Frisbee and a clip to hang it for one hour. The reading was 36 PPB. We observed

that the trees were planted in straight lines so we inferred it was not done by nature but probably by the old reforestation program "Los Arbolitos", so we plan to go back to the place and plant some pine trees and help the community restore the beauty of the place.

A week before our trip, we noticed that the readings in the surface ozone were up to 52 PPB, specially the days we had north wind direction, so we went to the newspaper and alerted the citizens. We made a half page publication, and we attracted the Dominican authorities' attention at last!

".....when we really saw what was left of a beautiful pine forest, we began to feel like doctors in front of a dying patient."

By Arnaldo A. Ruiz



Latin American and Caribbean GLOBE Coordinators Meet in Costa Rica

GLOBE Coordinators and GLOBE representatives from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay met during the week of March 28-April 2, 2005, to form a Regional GLOBE Country Coordinators' Committee (CCC) for Latin America and the Caribbean. They formed a "Working Group" and drafted an "action plan" to consolidate the GLOBE Program at a regional level.

The Latin American and Caribbean GLOBE Coordinators found they shared many of the same challenges, and they share a common

commitment to seeing a strong GLOBE community grow in Latin America and the Caribbean! They agreed they could accomplish more as part of a Committee working regionally than by working individually.

Meetings focused on prioritizing a list of challenges faced and solutions to these challenges. The top 3 challenges they identified are: 1. Difficulty gaining access to funding sources, 2. Lack of communication among GLOBE countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 3. Insufficient knowledge about the GLOBE Program and its value and importance to science

education in the region. The Coordinators used each "challenge" to focus on specific "objectives" and "actions", and they linked these "actions" to specific "resources" and "strategic partners" available to lend support to their GLOBE projects.

The GLOBE Coordinators chose to describe themselves as a "Working Group" so that GLOBE Coordinators unable to attend the Costa Rica meetings would have time to join the "Working Group" and help form the final Regional GLOBE Country Coordinators' Committee (CCC).



Back left to right: Miguel Zimmerman (GLOBE Committee, Panama), Bernie Link (US Embassy Regional Environ. Hub, San Jose), Luis Ledesma (GLOBE/FCM, Uruguay), Hudson Roditi (GLOBE Desk Officer, Latin America and the Caribbean, USA), Jerry Henzel (GLOBE Master Trainer, USA), Paul Vargas (GLOBE Coordinator, Costa Rica), Carlos Moreno (U.S. Peace Corps, Panama). Front left to right: Guadalupe Pardo (GLOBE Coordinator, Mexico), Maria Elena Ortiz (GLOBE Committee, Panama), Claudia Caro (Assistant GLOBE Coordinator, Peru), Adilia de Pérez (GLOBE Coordinator, Panamá), Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma (GLOBE Coordinator, Dominican Republic), Henry Ortiz (GLOBE Master Trainer, USA).



Caribbean and Latin American GLOBE representatives working on developing a regional GLOBE network.



"Rolling the GLOBE" in Old Town Square, Prague, with Our Lady of Týn's bell towers at the back.

"GLOBE En Español" at the 9th Annual GLOBE Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, July 2005



The Spanish speaking GLOBE trainers in the conference with Hudson Roditi, GLOBE Latin America Director, at left, and Ricardo Camacho, Training Point of Contact for Puerto Rico, and Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma, GLOBE Coordinator of the Dominican Republic, 3rd and 2nd from right, respectively.



Ricardo Camacho, GLOBE Training Contact in Puerto Rico, and Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma, GLOBE Coordinator of the Dominican Republic and Maria del Carmen Galloni, GLOBE Coordinator of Argentina, during a discussion on GLOBE in Latin America and the Caribbean at the 9th Annual GLOBE Conference in Prague.

Spanish-speaking GLOBE countries were well represented by a group of enthusiastic trainers and coordinators that filled the conference with Latin rhythms. The implementation of the program in Spain and Latin America was the talk among these representatives who wanted to bring new ideas to their programs. As time passed we discovered more similarities than differences. Coordinators, such as Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma (Dominican Republic), Ricardo Camacho (Puerto Rico) and Maria del Carmen Galloni (Argentina) committed to work together, and a bilateral project between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic was planned for a workshop training. Representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean (Maria Lorraine de Ruiz-Alma, Maria del Carmen Galloni, Ricardo Camacho and Hudson Roditi) met to discuss and begin writing a constitution for the region to help organize the many GLOBE countries in this geographical region into a group of GLOBE Programs that work together, organize collaborations and represent the common interests of the community. Another topic discussed by the group was GLOBE's Master Trainer program that will help train local GLOBE experts in each country and reduce the costs of training workshops. During the conference many scientific projects were presented: CloudSat/Calipso Network and the Surface Temperature Field Campaign, among others, catching the attention of the group and leading them to participate in such interesting studies. GLOBE is growing every day in Spanish-speaking countries as is its commitment to helping students develop a scientific understanding of our world.

Science on Wheels, the Coral Education Team and GLOBE in K-9 Schools in Puerto Rico

In April 2005 we marked the end of the Sciences On Wheels grant that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded to the Sciences On Wheels Education Center. Its main mission was to provide public outreach and training to teachers and students in studies related to the

chemistry and physics of coral conservation. This project was a success thanks to the close collaboration between NOAA and Puerto Rico's GLOBE Program. This grant also included GLOBE field investigations that gave students the opportunity to analyze factors affecting the development of coral.

Mr. Juan Towers gave a presentation on the latest coral research. The students and teachers in charge of the activities were Verónica Acevedo, Luciano Robert, Wilson Rovira, Jocelyd Rodriguez, Dr Juan Lopez Garriga and Ricardo Camacho.



10 Years of GLOBE in Puerto Rico & ACS Earth Day

Sciences On Wheels and ACS of Puerto Rico will celebrate 10 years of GLOBE in Puerto Rico and Earth Day from April 22-23, 2006. Celebrations will include 2 days of science and technology activities in which schools, teachers,

students and parents from all parts of Puerto Rico will be welcomed. Conferences, exhibitions, workshops and field trips relating to the GLOBE Program will be organized. We will be counting on the participation of special guests to help make these 2

days full of education and entertainment a big success for everyone. Sciences On Wheels and ACS of Puerto Rico will celebrate 10 years of GLOBE in Puerto Rico and Earth Day from April 22-23.