



Project Living Source 2018-2023

Short description

Living Source is a project in the Jaguapirú-Bororó indigenous reserve in Dourados-MS, Brazil. The goal is - together with the indigenous community - **ecological restoration**, with emphasis on improving the quantity and quality of water, as well as preserving biodiversity through the sustainable use of natural resources. **Local schools** in the reserve are involved in all our activities as central partners.

The implementation of the project comprises the following **8 measures**:

1. restoration and maintenance of the natural water source
2. Renaturation of the original flora
3. Creation of environmental awareness through environmental education in schools
4. Construction of an artesian well
5. Construction of a tree nursery
6. Construction of a seed house
7. Establishment and operation of a model organic garden
8. Creation and operation of a warehouse and market for commercialization

The project was initiated by AMID, the women's organisation of the reserve, and is under the direction of Prof. Dr. Zefa Lobschenko of UFGD University and the organic farmers' association APOMS on the Brazilian side and Tarahumara Fans e.V. in Germany. The project won the Green Landmark Award (Marco Verde) for its positive social and environmental changes. More information about the project: <http://nascenteviva.eco.br/>

The indigenous reserve

The indigenous reserve of Dourados in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, includes the Bororó and Jaguapirú reserves and is also known as the AID (Dourados Indigenous Village). According to the UN, it concentrates the largest number of confined indigenous in the world* and the second largest indigenous population in Brazil lives there. The area of the reserve was 3,474 hectares when it was established. Today, more than 15,600 people of the Guarani, Kaiowá, Terena and Mestiços ethnic groups live there, which represents about 18% of the indigenous population of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

The large population led to the depletion of the natural resources necessary for survival and, therefore, to a multitude of subsequent problems: Deepening social differences, high suicide rates, alcoholism, violence - especially against women - murder, drugs, malnutrition of children, ethnic conflicts and other power conflicts, lack of drinking water, food and sanitary facilities, no sewage system and waste collection. Em vista desta situação, há uma necessidade urgente de desenvolver estratégias para reconstruir um ecossistema social, econômico, ecológico e cultural auto-sustentável.

* UN launches documentary 'Guarani and Kaiowá: for the right to live in Tekoha', United Nations, 13/09/2017, <https://nacoesunidas.org/onu-lanca-documentario-guarani-e-kaiowa-pelo-direito-de-viver-no-tekoha/>

Project origin

The idea for the "Living Source" project was born in 2017, because the water from the main river Jaguapirú dried up in the reserve. Lenir Paiva Flores Garcia, director of the Association of Indigenous Women of Dourados (AMID in the reserve), contacted Professor Zefa Lobschenko of the Federal University of the Greater Dourados (UFGD in Dourados) and the association Tarahumara Fans e. V. (a non-profit association in Frankfurt with a social and sustainable purpose) in search of support. The aim was to create an environmental project in the reserve together with the Association of Organic Producers of Mato Grosso do Sul (APOMS in Glória de Dourados-MS), in which each partner contributes with its expertise.

Objectives by the end of the project in 2023 (steps depend on the number of donations):

1. To promote the restoration of 100 hectares of Permanent Preservation Area in the reserve
2. Restoration and conservation of water resources
3. Implementation of tree nurseries with capacity for 30,000 native seedlings per semester
4. To train primary and secondary school students to be environmental agents in the reserve

5. Train at least 30 indigenous people in bio-jewelry and handicrafts
6. Train at least 10 indigenous peoples in solidary economy
7. Develop local economic agreements and promote existing agreements based on sustainability
8. Train at least 30 indigenous people in seed collection and production
9. Train at least 30 indigenous people in the marketing of seeds and seedlings
10. Establishment of at least 2 Agroforestry Systems as demonstration units
11. Establishment of an Indigenous Seed Network (RSI)
12. Promotion and strengthening of local indigenous culture

Procedure

1. Restoration of the permanent reserves:
 - a. Removal of herbaceous and invasive vegetation and the removal of sand from the stream gutter with backhoe machine
 - b. Planting of native seedlings
 - c. Periodic fertilization
 - d. Area maintenance
2. Environmental education:
 - a. Awareness raising: the warning process, is the first step to achieving systemic thinking
 - b. Competence: ability to assess and act effectively in the system
 - c. Responsibility: recognition of the human being as the main protagonist
 - d. Understanding: knowledge of the components and mechanisms governing natural systems
 - e. Citizenship: actively participation and rescue rights and promote a new ethic able to reconcile environment and society
 - f. Value mediation: Playful activities will be carried out with the children and adolescents of the village
3. Workshops
 - a. Collection and processing of seeds
 - b. Seedling production
 - c. Types of fertilization
 - d. Economy based on solidarity and the sources of income derived from it
4. Establishment of the project base around the reserve schools: tree nurseries, seed house, organic vegetable garden sample, deposits and market, artesian wells
5. Cultural activities with dance, theatre, singing, sustainable craft production

For donations:

1. Through this link:

<https://www.betterplace.org/de/projects/73794-nascente-viva-lebende-quelle>

2. Purchase of our stylish compostable t-shirt:

Order via: info@tarahumarafans.com

3. Donations to our account in Germany:

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