TREETPLANTING PROPOSAL

Before we think about what goes on with planting trees, let’s digest the stark facts:

- 11 million hectares of forest are now lost each year due to rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns
- The Philippines has been ranked in the top 10 amongst the countries of the world most vulnerable to climate change with agriculture contributing to 87% of our GDP (2012 Standard and Poor's Global Credit Portal)
- Climate change is affecting every aspect of human life, with impoverished communities the most affected.
- 20 years after adopting the Climate Change Convention, carbon emissions and temperatures continue to rise. Our efforts to restore our environment are not enough.
- There are those who believe that climate change is a SOCIAL problem and not an environmental problem primarily, as it is created by a small minority of the world’s people responsible for massive pollution and carbon emissions. Whoever caused it is just one aspect of the issue. The bottomline is, it affects everyone, since the ecosystem is inter-related.
- Forest guardians and farmers are a dying breed. The latest figures from the National Anti-Poverty Commission state that the average income of a Filipino farmer has dropped down to 50 pesos a day. We need to incentivize our forest guardians and tillers of the soil.
- We need community-based environmental movements—“do what we can to help”.

TREETPLANTING IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

*The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the next BEST time is NOW.*

-Chinese Proverb

Did you know that June 25 is listed as the Philippines' National Treeplanting Day or Arbor Day?

Is it ever celebrated with much pomp and preparation to really enjoin every citizen to plan a year in advance for this very important day?

Despite all the landslides, serious flooding and destruction of millions of trees from successive typhoons, the call to action in our country is sadly quite lame.

We don't even actively celebrate National Treeplanting Day, despite all kinds of holidays being declared. We at GreenEarth find this unsettling.
SEVEN REASONS TO SUPPORT GREENEARTH:

1. GreenEarth Heritage Foundation has on-site professional management supporting the work of its beneficiaries. These are former illegal loggers, charcoal makers, subsistence farmers who have now embraced the core values of the foundation and its organic agricultural way of life. As such, it adheres to high standards of monitoring and evaluation.

2. GreenEarth relies on technology to get the job done. Despite starting off with no electricity and running water, it now has electricity on-site, 3 solar grants for its water pumps, more than 17 computers received as grants, an on-site global positioning system (GPS) has been supported by Skyeye, Inc., providing the services of aerial mapping of its agricultural development on its over 100 hectares of donated land.

3. GreenEarth’s mission is holistic. Since 2009, it has built a track record of promoting environmental restoration, while looking after the dignity of the farmer and their families in their livelihood, housing, educational and spiritual transformational needs. There are over 90 albums on its facebook community page documenting its mission, vision and ongoing programs. Community development programmes include Child Sponsorship, Feeding Program, English and Computer Literacy Program, Scholarship Assistance Program (from grade school to college levels) and a Homeschool Program which started on Aug. 2015.

4. GreenEarth has achieved international certification for its adherence to organic standards from the US Dept. of Agriculture and Ecocert France.

5. GreenEarth thinks sustainable and is not hinging its mission/vision on an indefinite infusion of donor support. It has built-in livelihood opportunities in organic agriculture which provides a ready solution to the temptation of cutting forest trees and turning them into charcoal. Aside from its over 30 varieties of organic vegetables and herbs, it has two products, MORINGA TEA and MORINGA POWDER, already being sold in 22 stores nationwide.

6. GreenEarth is FAIR TRADE certified by Ecocert France.

7. GreenEarth has been vested 5 years of accreditation by the Philippine Council of NGO Certification in November 2014, a clear stamp of approval of its governance and operational standards.
HOW DO WE GO ABOUT PLANTING TREES?

PLANTING TREES is a labor of love.
There is a lot that must be done in order to plant them and keep them alive.

HERE GOES THE PROCESS:

**Gathering of materials for planting media**—Animal manure and decaying organic matter are all part of the composting process. This takes at least 90 days before the compost can be harvested and used as planting media. It is done months before planting season.

![Gathering of animal manure](image1)  ![Gathering of leguminous leaves for composting](image2)

**Planting media preparation**—Healthy soil leads to healthy seedlings.
Our organic media is not just ordinary soil. We mix vermicompost (months of decaying organic matter set up with earthworms in our composting stations), biochar and organic rice hull all of which are combined to create a rich planting media for our seedlings.

![Polybagging of planting media for seed sowing](image3)

3
Seedlings establishment

The amount of work that goes into nursery development varies according to the type of trees being planted—from forest hardwoods to fruit-bearing trees. Most of them require many months of care before they are ready for planting out in the open, denuded fields.

Why is it more difficult nowadays to keep seedlings alive out in the open? Why do they need to be a lot older before treeplanting, compared to decades past?

In the past, we had a forest cover. There were canopies of large towering trees that protected fragile seedlings from the elements---strong sun, winds and rain. Now, only 2% of virgin forest cover remains in the Philippines. Therefore our seedings require far more care pre- and post treeplanting to have the highest survival rate possible.
**SEEDLINGS CARE** require regular watering, weeding, organic pest management, etc.

Over the last few years, our rainfall pattern has changed.

Once the rains set in, the rainy season is becoming more ferocious in pattern, risking the lives of our seedlings severely. We need to build more low-cost but innovatively designed greenhouses to keep the seedlings protected as much as possible.

**Site identification and area cleaning/clearing prior to tree planting** - this includes clearing of felled trees in the aftermath of recent strong typhoons, stacking and mobilization of dead branches, etc. All of the latter will be made useful for continuous soil fertilization and infrastructure development. These include creation of biochar, plant trellises, plot wallings, etc.
Preparation of stakes for every tree — It is very important to hold trees firmly when the winds blow. Holding trees firmly also helps with faster root growth and establishment. In addition, if we had more financial support, we can put tree guards on as many trees as possible. Labelling all of our trees is also our dream to make monitoring and evaluation a lot more scientific and precise. We have researched the necessary software are presently vying for support to make this dream come true.
The day of treeplanting finally arrives!
At GreenEarth Heritage Foundation, we do our best to make it as safe and pleasant for all.

Everyone adds value. Your help matters.
**Post Tree Planting Care** – When everybody is long gone, the work must continue to keep our trees alive.

Clearing around the fragile trees takes place by handweeding, manual and mechanical clearing using a grasscutter so as that seedlings will have enough sunlight, air and space for growth. With regular clearing, plants can grow faster and pest and diseases are prevented.

The photo on the left above shows a tree with poor post-treeplanting care. Weeds and wild grasses envelope the tree eventually strangling it. Many seedlings die this way, not to mention our many months of drought each year. Manpower compensation is really necessary to be able to enlist people who will be trained to care for our trees.

*He who plants a tree plants a hope.*

-- Lucy Larcom “Plant a Tree”
The cost of treeplanting at GreenEarth is 200 pesos per tree (US$ 3.85)

Should you be interested in helping our treeplanting program even more, such as with the construction of rainwater harvesting tanks, the purchase of grasscutters, fuel, polybags, materials for staking/tree labelling, and most of all, providing continuous livelihood for rural poor folk who can be hired to serve as custodians of planted trees as a form of sustainable livelihood in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. please let us know.

GreenEarth is always monitoring the minimum wage for an agricultural worker in Region 3 Bulacan and pays as the law requires.

Considering the hazards and arduousness of the job vis-a-vis the positive environmental impact of their labor, the pay the workers are receiving are minimal. We hope your businesses can consider providing tree caretaker support for the trees that you will be planting. Donations to GreenEarth, whether in cash or in kind, are issued BIR-stamped Certificates of Donation and Official receipts. Let’s think millions of trees!

Our caretakers augment their income as a family activity by planting vegetables, herbs, organic teas for sale. We sell their produce each harvest Wednesday! We would be very grateful for your support!

Over 100 hectares (>246 acres) of land has been donated to GreenEarth Heritage Foundation. Ongoing environmental restoration here is lifelong work.

The more trees we plant, the more caretakers and infrastructure we need to maintain all of them.

The result: cleaner air, less landslides, less flooding, less insurgency, less poverty---countryside development and opportunity---a happier, healthier Philippines!

Our environment so needs partners at this time.

There are many causes you can support, many parts of the country you can help green.

What is the GreenEarth difference?

Our mission is holistic. Not only are you helping plant trees, you are helping build responsible and sustainable communities. It is not a place where people plant trees and leave. It is a cared for community where we continuously check our trees, maintain them and replace mortalities way beyond the time of your donation.

GreenEarth is battling 4 Is—Illegal deforestation, Insurgency, Illiteracy and Idleness Our solutions are 4 Ls—Love for the Environment, Livelihoods in Organic Agriculture, Literacy and responsible community Living and Lifestyles through Living Hope in Christ.

Not only has GreenEarth created a new order of living---from a lifetime of deforestation to an organic agricultural way of life---it has addressed the educational and spiritual needs of its beneficiary community.

We operate a Learning Center with over 17 computers and 2000 books right in the middle of a reforestation site and an organic farm. We have a Child Sponsorship Program, English and computer literacy program Scholarship Assistance program and HomeSchool program for the children of our farmers and forest guardians.

Our awards, accolades and milestones can be found on this link: https://www.facebook.com/greenearthheritage/info. Other video links you may be interested in checking out: A Promise of Hope Fulfilled-Rom Blanco: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsNU3-9yX1k&t=310s GreenEarth’s Flagship Products: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKsvAPPRjow&t=49s

We hope you would consider partnering with us.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!