



## eden reforestation projects

### Frequently Asked Questions

Dear Friends of Eden Reforestation Projects,

Thank you for being ready and able to step up and be a champion for people and their environment in the developing world. It is absolutely imperative that we move advocacy for the environment past recycling and reusable shopping bags – millions of lives are on the line, as is the future of the planet.

As you invite others to give funds to plant trees and save lives, you will inevitably be asked, **“What’s this for?”** Here are some brief details you can share. Do your best to keep your responses **brief** (people get easily overwhelmed or bored by TMI!) and strongly encourage people to **go to our website** – [www.edenprojects.org](http://www.edenprojects.org) -- where they can get many of their bigger questions answered.

#### FAQ’s

- **When did they start?** Eden Reforestation Projects (ERP) has existed **since March 2005** as a reforestation group.
- **Can reforestation really combat climate change?** One of the suspected causes of climate change is carbon dioxide. Trees take in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, use it in their growth and essentially store it in their living mass. Much of the increase in carbon dioxide over the past century is due to changes in how people use land. Reforestation of previous forest areas is a way to sequester carbon from the air.
- **What’s the big deal? Aren’t there worse problems in the world?** Ethiopia only has approximately 3% of their forests remaining; Haiti appears to have less than that. Madagascar’s mangrove forests are at 50% levels, and their forests in their interior are dramatically reduced.
- **How did you start doing this?** ERP has been invited by governmental, civic, church and tribal leaders to assist nationals in restoring their environments.
- **How many trees have been planted?** We are actively planting millions of trees in Ethiopia and Madagascar, and started in Haiti in October 2009. By March 2010 we expect to have planted 10 million trees so far! We are currently planting over **750,000 trees per month!** *The more funds we raise, the more trees we can plant.*
- **Are you helping in Haiti?** We plan on returning to Haiti soon as “second responders” to assist Haitians in restoring soil and agricultural expertise. We are going to teach the people in refugee camps how to grow vegetable gardens that will feed their families instead of being dependent on handouts and international aid programs.
- **What do you plant?** We plant non-invasive, native species. In Ethiopia we plant acacia and other species that are native to the Sahel of Africa; in Madagascar we plant mangroves. We are still researching the best trees to plant in Haiti.
- **How do trees help? Don’t forests take decades to grow? Shouldn’t you do something that helps more quickly?** Our goal is to establish forests that can last for centuries. When forests are allowed to thrive, a tremendous ripple effect occurs: soil is restored, clean water flows, species return, shelter is established, jobs are consistently provided, and most importantly of all, lives are healed and restored! We are excited to work toward sustainable solutions.
- **How do you do it so cheaply?** Yes, we really do plant trees for only **TEN CENTS per tree**. Because we raise our seedlings on site and employ national workers, we are able to provide jobs and plant trees in a remarkably efficient way.
- **Who does the work?** We locate site directors who then work with national workers to raise seedlings in nurseries, plant the seedlings and re-establish forests, and also train the workers in forestry and soil management.
- **Is this a business? Are you making money doing this?** From a boring legal perspective, we are a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization registered in the State of California.

Thanks for your help. Encourage everyone you meet to join us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/edenreforestationprojects>) and Twitter @eden\_reforest.