

September 2021 Sustained Grantee Spotlight: Community Cloud Forest Conservation

As the COVID pandemic continues, there have been ongoing adaptations and some glimpses of a break for Community Cloud Forest Conservation, while the organization's programs have proven to be critical resources at a time when they were most needed.

CCFC began the year holding a week of (socially distanced and masked) teaching workshops for a network of middle and high school teachers from the campuses of Talita Kumi and Don Bosco. They explored several questions that are essential to continuing education while keeping students, teachers, and staff safe: How do we educate in times of pandemic; challenges, obstacles, opportunities, advantages and creativity? How do we teach practical, hand-on and group activities with detailed instructions for students to do at home with their family and that are easy enough to send back in WhatsApp? How can we teach environmental education using distance learning, with actual practical tasks to restore integral ecology to our common home?

On a very happy note, the organization recently hosted and gave educational presentations to a visiting group of U.S. college students, which was a welcome change from the past year.

In addition, CCFC interns had an abundant harvest of their agroforest gardens. Currently, 682 WALC students are enjoying their agro-forest parcels. Many of these young women have told CCFC about how these parcels have become a lifeline for nutrition and income during the pandemic.

Activities have continued, including the exploration of the cloud forest of the Orquegonia nature reserve by advanced WALC interns. This April field trip allowed them to experience a diversity of orchids in bloom, observe birds and learn about forest ecology

CCFC's environmental education program continues online currently, with the organization's staff regularly meeting online with the in-country team and each member of the team continuing the learning process with students.

