

SHIFTING THE FUTURE OF MEXICO

Excerpts from an Interview with Rod and Rose Warden

The idea of "sustainable development" that came out of both the book and the conference on **OUR COMMON FUTURE** is what we're trying to support ... beyond integrated, comprehensive development. When you look at what's been happening in Mexico during the last two generations, you realize that if you don't have a strong ecological conservation mode, you're not being responsible to the next generation.

Over the last 40-60 years, Mexico has lost several months of the rainy season, due to deforestation. The rainy season used to be 5-6 months; now, on the average, about 3 months. U.S. studies show that 72% of the land is now in a medium or heavy state of erosion because of the loss of forest cover.

Because of the poor growing conditions and lack of water, 4000 Mexican farmers a day are going to the cities or across the northern border -- over a million people a year! Because of the way this ecological situation is building, my estimate is that this million people a year will be a small number compared to the numbers in the next 3-5 years.

We who are in ICA Mexico are working on two proposals: one intensive, one extensive.

The first proposal is to do an intensive project in a micro-region of about 100 square kilometers around Tepeaca, where we already have been working. This would be integrated development as

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we classically know it, with human development as well as community development in all aspects: education, preschools, farming skills. But it would also include conservation skills, such as crop rotation. And it would have the people do the ecology -- replant the trees. This region would be big enough so that if you did reforest it, you could change the weather pattern over that area. This intensive involves working with about seven other organizations, so it would be done on a very cooperative basis.

The second proposal is for an extensive project, which is in three parts. First, it involves us going on the road, and continuing our course or teaching people how to do ecology and how to do integrated development. In doing 60 courses [thus far], we have created a national faculty of around 70 people.

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ICA NETWORK DRAWS FROM 16 STATES, TORONTO & BRUSSELS

December 1-3 in Pittsburgh found 58 people sharing the areas of their engagement and expertise and interchanging what they need from each other and the kind of resource they can be to each other.

The next gathering for those interested in ICA Networking will be in New Orleans. July 20-22 is the date planned.

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TESTIMONY of a Training, Inc. Graduate

Angel Reid speaks to her
trainers, family and friends
during the Training, Inc.
Cycle IV graduate party

I first heard about Training, Inc from an advertisement on the Metrobus. So I decided to give them a call; and I'm so glad I did Doris Price, the person who answered the phone, made me feel right at home -- because I was very nervous.

In the beginning, I felt this program was not worth my time; because it took time from my own schedule of spending more time with my 3 children. I am so glad that I stuck it out to the bitter end I have met new and lasting friends; including the trainers, and my supervisor who is the best supervisor in the world Sondra Shepard.

Training, Inc. is a family. This family loves, encourages, and helps you to reach your fullest potential. The trainers are always there for you.

The best example of my new family helping me was during our cycle's birthday party. At the end of the party we listed our problems on pieces of paper and tied them to balloons and released them.

I remember saying to someone "watch my balloon get stuck in a tree or something," and sure enough it did get stuck in the tree out in front of the school. The first thing that came to my mind was, "Oh my goodness, my problems will stay with me forever." Everyone did everything possible to get the balloon with no troubles on it out of the tree. People were throwing shoes, sticks, and rocks in the tree trying to dislodge the balloon.

Even the construction workers and passersby were helping and we finally got

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