

## Project Update: April 2016

### 1. We conducted the impact assessment for the six groups that attended the Earthkeepers program in 2015. (November/2015).

In total, 1242 surveys were conducted. From these, approximately 621 surveys were conducted before the program implementation, and a similar number (621) were conducted about 1 month after the participants experienced the Earthkeepers programme at the Training Center in Lomas de Arena.

For each of both phases (pre- and post-assessment) approximately 303 surveys were conducted with the treatment group (students who attended the programme) and approximately 318 surveys were conducted with the control group (students from the same school and different class who didn't participate in the programme).

A group of three different surveys were used for pre- and post-intervention. The first survey is called ECQ (Ecological Concepts Questionnaire) and measures the participants' understanding of four ecological concepts: energy flow, cycling of materials, interrelationships, and change (Johnson, 2004). The second one is the 2-MEV that measures environmental values and attitudes based on a bidimensional theoretical model of Wiseman and Bogner (2003). The last one is about behavior change (Johnson, 2010, and GreenCOM, 2000).

In 2015, we trained in total 108 students accompanied by 14 parents and four teachers on six different dates and from three different schools: Francés Santa Cruz, Cardenal Cushing, and Cambridge School.





**2. The pre and post assessments were statistically analysed in coordination with Professor Bruce Johnson from the College of Education of the University of Arizona (March/2016).**



This process was conducted in the [Ozarks Natural Science Center \(ONSC\)](#) in the state of Arkansas (USA), where the [Earthkeepers-Bolivia program](#) along with the [University of Arizona](#) got to share its experience with this Science Center. In a workshop, teacher naturalists and other professionals from the region learnt about our experience.

The results are encouraging because they show a significantly positive impact of the programme on the students who attended it. Soon these results will be published.



**3. We bought a metal container in order to store and protect the program's materials and equipment (February/2016).**

For us, this was a huge step forward since we finally have our own place to store and protect our materials. With the collaboration of our volunteers we moved all our stuff from the beekeeping room of the agro-ecological farm (CEASIP) to our 4 x 4 x 4 m container.

A clear advantage of having our own container, besides the autonomy to access it, is its mobility characteristics because it can be moved to a different natural area if needed.



**4. As planned, we bought the corresponding Earthkeepers materials for this year (March/2016).** The 120 complete Earthkeepers sets were purchased from the Institute for Earth Education (IEE).

**5. We purchased the indispensable field equipment to conduct all this year's outdoors activities during the day and night (November/2015).** Now, the whole team will be in much better conditions to perform activities with children in the outdoors. This will include having our team members sleep in tents to protect us from weather adversities and some insects or reptiles.



**6. Last week, we launched our official call for volunteers & trainers for 2016.** Ideally, at the end of the month we will have a consolidated team and we will be able to start the training of trainer's process. This is a link to our blog with more information about it: <https://earthkeepersbolivia.wordpress.com/2016/03/29/convocatoria-2016-voluntariosentrenadores-para-el-programa-earthkeepers/>



**7. Nice Highlight.** Two classes of graduated Earthkeepers from the Francés Santa Cruz School participated in a school initiative to plant trees in the main sidewalk (December/2015). Teachers, parents and students collaborated to reforest the neighborhood which is being dramatically deforested by unsustainable municipal decisions and cement. Now, the majority of the trees are alive and are enjoying the rainy season to keep growing.

