

Project Update: October 2011

An organisational work with families who collect firewood from the banks of the Polochic River was performed, to plant 4 ha of forest for firewood. This area has already been planted with tree species such as “madre cacao” (*Gliricidia sepium*), “guamo” and “cuje” (*Inga* spp.). In each plot of the 15 beneficiary families an area destined for restoration for the riverbank was established with species that may be used for firewood. This activity allowed us to achieve two objectives: 1) the restoration of the Polochic river banks; and 2) the establishment of a plantation for the extraction of firewood, allowing farmers of the Polochic to obtain some economical benefits in the long run. The heads of families contributed to the project with some working time for the planting and maintenance of the plantation. Currently, 15 firewood saving stoves have been delivered to the families, to reduce firewood consumption from natural forests. To date, the project has contributed to the plantation of 4 ha of firewood forest, the delivery of firewood saving stoves and the restoration of the Polochic river banks.



“Doña Olivia” (Mrs. Olivia) a benefited woman said: “I can’t believe it, now I only use 3 pieces of firewood to cook with my stove, when before I used 10 to 12 pieces of firewood during the day, besides we got rid of the smoke in the kitchen”.

Currently technical support has been given for the installation of the stoves, and a monitoring system has been designed to verify their use, the reduction of firewood and the cultural acceptance between the Q’eqhí families.