



Think Global, Map Local!

Green Map System

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Lessons from Latin America: the Green Mapmaking Movement

Over the past year, Green Map System's global center in New York has noticed an important new trend - Green Mapmaking experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean communities have increased exponentially. This gives an opportunity for local residents to learn about existing sustainability initiatives in this geographical region, and may result in increased participation and improvement of the local environment. Green Maps also inform visitors and others around the world, extending model best practices to new communities.

These Green Map projects have developed into environmental education tools for schools and universities. They have been integrated into community-based planning and environmental conservation processes, strengthened intergenerational community programs, and promoted ecotourism and sustainable transportation in urban, rural, academic, institutional and community settings.

Whether undertaken by low income or well-equipped Mapmakers, the common objective is the search for a pathway towards sustainable development. Globally speaking, in 2006, Green Map System continued to expand at a record pace and 11 of the 64 newly initiated projects are based in Latin America (this includes 14 youth projects). 54 new Green Maps were published in a wide range of formats and designs in 16 diverse countries, scores more completed in community workshops. The growth and reach of Green Map projects based in Latin American is especially significant, amplifying the voice of community leaders and green living advocates from the global south.

2006 - A year of Thinking Globally, Mapping Locally in Latin America!

In 2006, a Latin American groundswell of Green Map accomplishments involved local project leaders from NGOs, grassroots, and university groups as they started several

exciting new projects. For instance, seeds were planted in the traditional coffee-growing region of Colombia where the public schools of Pereira have adapted Green Map methodologies into the environmental curriculums for one rural and two urban K12 schools. The focus was on both improving student understanding of sustainable development and raising community awareness through mural maps. Led by *Fundación GeoVida* and supported by Captain Planet Foundation. With the goal of reaching large audiences without spending much money, each unique Green Map mural will be completed and shared with the surrounding community by 2007.

Chile's *Ciudad Viva* (Living City) is a community grassroots organization that has been promoting a more livable city environment in Santiago since 1999. Their Green Maps are featured as inserts in their two most recently published newsletters, *La Voz de la Chimba*, designed to raise awareness of environmentally consciousness mobility. In 2007 they will be printing the book '*Guía de Cultura y Patrimonio de La Chimba*' (Culture and Heritage Guide of La Chimba), a collaborative project which will include updated versions of their earlier Green Maps along with two new Santiago districts.

Since 1995, Green Map System, the non-profit organization based in New York City, has energized a vibrant locally-led global movement focused on inclusive participation in sustainable community development. The global office of this movement has assisted over 375 projects in 49 countries, as seen at GreenMap.org.

English and Spanish versions and High Resolution Images are available.

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