

## Exciting Times

Welcome to our first Seawater Foundation Newsletter. With it, we unveil our new name, new look, share BIG news about our projects in Mexico, address how the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and our work are linked, introduce our new Executive Director, and much more. While our website is not yet new, you can always go to [www.seawaterfoundation.org](http://www.seawaterfoundation.org) for ongoing updates on our work.



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Spring 2005

## Our Mexico Seawater Project

As many readers know, The Seawater Foundation has spent the last 30 years focused on developing agriculture and aquaculture technologies that use seawater as an alternative to limited fresh water. Much of that work was developed in the Mexican State of Sonora, and we are now returning there with our biggest effort yet.

We begin by planting 3,000 hectares (ha), or about 7,400 acres, of seawater forests, which include halophytes (salt-loving plants) such as salicornia and mangrove trees. These plants will absorb the equivalent carbon dioxide exhaust from 15,000 full-sized traditional automobiles or 30,000 of the new more efficient hybrids—a means to begin to slow the global warming challenges facing mankind.

A more immediate aspect of this project, however, is to solve the problems currently being created by millions of gallons of polluted seawater from shrimp farms being dumped back into the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez). Shrimp farming in Mexico is a multi-million dollar industry. It is a major economic activity and a creator of many new jobs in Mexico.

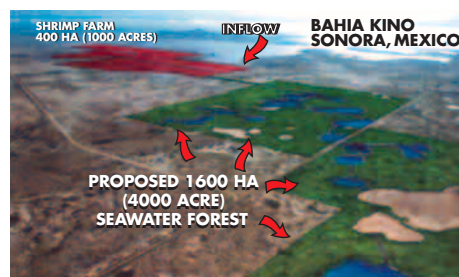
Shrimp farming worldwide covers more than 1.2 million ha (3 million acres) and is growing at a rapid rate. In the State of Sonora, along the coast there are more than 15,000 ha (40,000 acres) of shrimp farms and the industry is rapidly expanding.

Currently the seawater pumped into the shrimp farms, after it has been polluted with shrimp excrement and disease vectors, is returned to the Gulf of California, as shown in the photo. The scale of this pollution is significant. If all the shrimp farms in Sonora were to pump water at their maximum capacity year-round, the amount of water being discharged back into the Gulf of California would be as



great as the amount of water that California, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico receive from the Colorado River.

This is a massive environmental problem that, with the application of our technologies, will become a major environmental enhancement and wealth generation asset. By taking the river of seawater inland, we will be able to irrigate more than 60,000 ha (150,000 acres) of new seawater forests, with additional aquaculture of fish and other marine organisms, and with meadows of salicornia and numerous other halophytes for economic benefit and beauty.



On March 7, 2005, the leadership of The Seawater Foundation met with Mexican President Vicente Fox and his staff.



The President endorsed the project and directed members of his cabinet and senior staff to do "whatever it takes" to assure implementation of the project. Since then, representatives of the Foundation and the President's team have been meeting with state and local officials from Sonora, and with the shrimp farmers, to move forward as quickly as possible.

Watch for future newsletters for updates on our Mexican Seawater Forest project.



*Ted Circuit, former President Coca-Cola Latin America, visits with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Dr. Carl Hodges after meetings.*



*Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize recipient for founding the Green Revolution, gets an update on the projects from Dr. Hodges and discusses the type of mangrove that will be planted in Mexico.*

## Name Change

Nearly three decades ago, the Desert Development Foundation was created as a 501(c)(3) non-profit by our founder, Dr. Carl N. Hodges. The purpose then, as now, was to identify ways to use seawater and the flora and fauna found on seacoasts to improve the environment while generating economic prosperity in developing countries by creating jobs, unique businesses and by-products that could be marketed globally.

While the name is new, the work and commitment are not. Since all of our work involved groundbreaking technologies using seawater and human intelligence to address many of the problems facing the world, we felt **The Seawater Foundation** was more appropriate than Desert Development Foundation. Thus, the name change.



## THE SEAWATER FOUNDATION

### OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The new face in the Seawater office is Executive Director **Margaret Mullen**, an old friend of the Foundation whose resume reads as if she spent a lifetime getting ready for us. With a history in non-profits, a fistful of board appointments and a well-grounded economic development and business background, we are delighted that Margaret will be turning her attention to helping us change the world.





## ***PROGRESS, PROGRESS, PROGRESS***

Thanks to the generosity of Janet and Martin Sheen, work began last year to identify the best species of halophytes and mangroves to plant in Sonora, Mexico.

While we planted two species of mangrove in our project in Eritrea, Africa, we are finding a different local superstar in Sonora, Mexico, *Conocarpus erectus*, or commonly called the buttonwood. We “discovered” the tree under our own noses as The Seawater Foundation associates listed the tree in a 1987 compendium of our halophytes and our associate Carlos Mota had planted these trees by our salicornia fields and facilities in both Bahia Kino and Puerto Peñasco several years ago.

As these photos show, these trees have made great progress, and are now ready to be transplanted in a seawater forest in Sonora, Mexico.



# World Bank's BioCarbon Fund

A new carbon fund launched by the World Bank will create an unprecedented opportunity for the poorest farmers and rural communities all over the developing world. The US \$100 million BioCarbon Fund, a public/private partnership, will provide finance for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers and rural communities will find new value in their agricultural lands and forests as they earn income from sequestering or conserving carbon. Combating rural poverty and stabilizing rural economies are among the biggest challenges facing developing countries.

The World Bank's carbon finance initiatives are part of the larger global effort to combat climate change, and go hand in hand with the Bank's mission to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the developing world. The threat climate change poses to long-term development and the ability of the poor to escape from poverty are of particular concern to the World Bank. The impacts of climate change could unravel many of the development gains of the last several decades.

The Bank is therefore making every effort to ensure that developing countries and economies in transition can benefit from international efforts to address climate change, including the emerging carbon market for greenhouse gas emission reductions. Their mission is to catalyze a global carbon market through the purchase of high quality emission reductions in climate-friendly projects in developing countries and economies in transition. As such, carbon finance is the first large scale initiative that seeks to catalyze private sector investments to address a global environmental issue.

In October of 2004, Benoit Bosquet, Manager of the World Bank BioCarbon Fund flew the coast of the Gulf of California with Carl Hodges and Luis Lugo of the State of Sonora looking at opportunities for our agroforestry program's sites. They ended with a visit with The Seawater Foundation staff at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora Mexico, where our urban forest will be implemented.



*Dr. Carl Hodges, Founder, Seawater Foundation, and Benoit Bosquet, World Bank BioCarbon Fund, at the site of a future Urban Forest in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico.*

To learn more about what the World Bank says about our program, go to <http://carbonfinance.org/biocarbon/router.cfm?Page=html/MexicoSeawaterAgroforestry.htm>



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[www.seawaterfoundation.org](http://www.seawaterfoundation.org)

Of the water on our planet earth, 97% is in our oceans. At The Seawater Foundation we use that seawater to feed people and animals, to create economic prosperity and to better the environment. We invite you to join us.

This newsletter is produced by The Seawater Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Questions or comments should be directed to the Foundation at its Phoenix office, or via its website at [www.seawaterfoundation.org](http://www.seawaterfoundation.org).

All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Our Tax ID # is 86-0334931.