



# A.I.R. Alliance for International Reforestation

<http://www2.stetson.edu/air/>



## AIR Facts

### OBJECTIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

AIR was founded by Political Science Professor Anne M. Hallum in 1992 at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. AIR's objective is to assist local communities in Central America to conserve their environment through reforestation, sustainable farming, and education. AIR's approach is to develop self-sustaining environmental programs that can be managed and implemented directly by community groups, not by outsiders.

### PROJECT LOCATION:

AIR projects are currently operating in 30 to 50 rural indigenous communities in the Departments of Chimaltenango and Solola, Guatemala. The number of communities is estimated because each of AIR's field promoters works closely with five or six villages for a few years, and then they will move on to other villages once the community projects become self-sustaining. Thus, we incrementally add new communities to the program. In addition, AIR has just begun projects in rural communities around Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

### AIR'S TEAM:

AIR's staff in Guatemala is composed of 8 individuals: the Executive Director, Cecilia Ramirez; six field promoters and a full-time secretary. The field promoters, or "tecnicos", are specialists trained in the area of agroforestry, and AIR employees are Guatemalans who come from the regions in which AIR works. This is important for the success of AIR's programs since the staff have the ability to relate to the groups with which they work and are able to communicate with them in their native language: Cakchiquel, Mam, or Spanish. At Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, AIR maintains U.S. Headquarters and the eight-member Board of Directors meets. All North Americans donate their professional time to AIR's success. Student volunteers from Stetson University, from Japan, England, and the U.S. Peace Corps are also important members of AIR's team, as are the hundreds of individual donors, clubs, and churches.

