

ADAPTATION: THE KEYSTONE OF RESILIENCE IN THE PRESENT DAY

A CASE STUDY OF PUERTO RICO AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



SCHOOL GARDEN



RETURNING FOOD SECURITY TO THE PEOPLE: FROM STUDENT TO FAMILY, FROM FAMILY TO NEIGHBORHOOD

INTRODUCTION

As a Bio-Resource Research student with a concentration in Water Resources and Toxicology, looking to minor in Environmental Justice, it was clear to me that Puerto Rico is in a nearly perfect situation to build upon a new foundation and create the Puerto Rico they dream of. Through many a-strife, the people have found strength in one another. Through the fortitude of the community, environmental justice can and is working to give Puerto Rico back to the people. This concept of environmental justice as the foundation for a stronger and thriving future can be found in all parts of this poster.

METHOD

The three projects I got to work on the most, really hit home. Firstly, being able to design and build a school garden in the hopes that it will expand nutritional and horticultural knowledge from children to communities, helps fill a niche and drives the Boricua (Puerto Rican peoples) to become a more food secure and a more food sovereign territory, overall.

The second project was working with Surf Rider Foundation to survey and record beach trash migration primarily to make better informed decisions about trash can locales on the beach. This project really brings together hard science, human behavior, and community outreach all in one.

Lastly, I had the pleasure of working alongside NOAA SeaGrant and Vida Marina Dune Restoration planting baby mangroves in a mangrove forest that was destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017. By planting multiple types, and in staggered timing, the hope is that if another hurricane comes, not all the trees will be destroyed. Mangroves are important for not just Puerto Rico but for the world; acting as filters for toxins in all sorts of wet ecosystems (marine, estuary, freshwater, etc.). They also support a large amount of biodiversity, help prevent soil erosion, and even provide economy to communities through eco-tourism ventures, like bioluminescent bays.

DISCUSSION

Like all things planned, Plans needed to be modified as the trip progressed. In this way, the core tenets of adaptation and reliance become tangible, living, breathing parts of the experience. From off-the-cuff measurements for the school garden and missing equipment for the beach cleanup, to town squares being closed at lunchtime and a hotel with no wifi, we all did our best to uplift one another and came out the other side stronger and more resilient than ever..

COCONUT FARMER



ONE MAN'S MISSION TO RAISE UP HIS NEIGHBORHOOD: LAND PASSED HANDS FROM A PAST EMPLOYER TO KEEP ECONOMY LOCAL. RESILIENCE IN ACTION TAKES MANY FORMS

FOOD



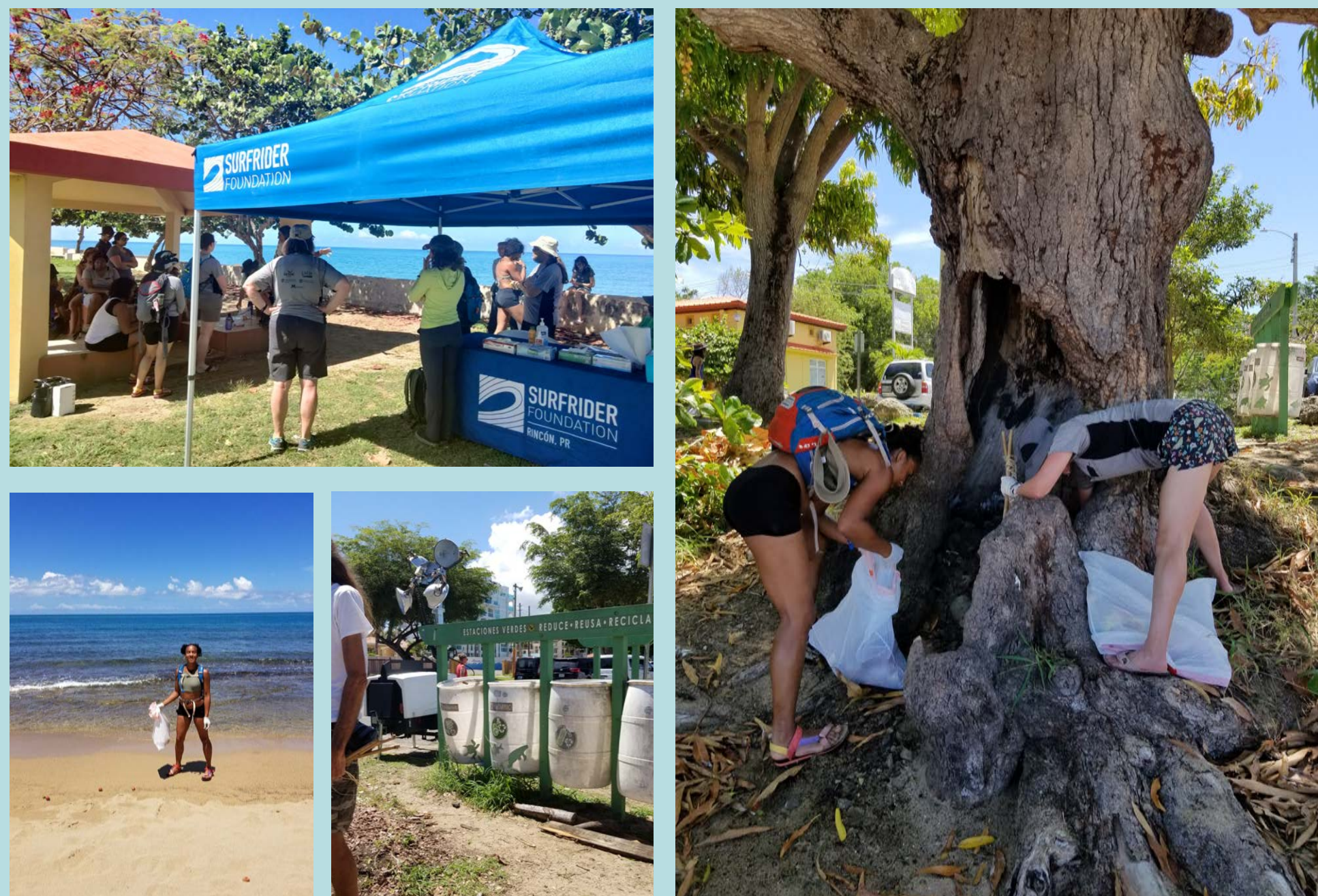
THE CUISINE DISPLAYS A PERFECT REPRESENTATION OF ADAPTATION: WITH FLAVORS AND STYLES REMINESCENT OF SPANISH, AFRO-CARRIBBEAN, AND SOUTH AMERICAN FOOD BUT UNIQUELY, PUERTO RICAN.

BIODIVERSITY/ CLIMATE MANGROVES



PAYING IT FORWARD: THROUGH HURRICANES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: MITIGATION, A MAIN COMPONENT OF RESILIENCE IS ADAPTATION BY ANOTHER NAME.

BEACHES/PLASTIC



IT TAKES A VILLAGE: STRATEGIC BEACH RECOVERY SYSTEMIZED DISPOSAL TACTICS OF PLASTIC AND RUBBISH ON PUBLIC RECREATIONAL SITES.

MOTHER NATURE



LIKE HUMANS, THE EARTH ITSELF IS RESILIENT AND WILL EVOLVE AND ADAPT TO ITS SURROUNDINGS. NOT JUST SURVIVING BUT THRIVING.

THE CONQUERING OF CONQUISTADORES



FROM THE MUSIC TO THE FOOD, THE CELEBRATIONS AND STRIFE, BORICUAS ARE ONE PEOPLE. THEIR DIFFERENCES HAVE BECOME THEIR STRENGTH.

BOTANICAL GARDEN



AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WONDERS THAT A TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT CAN PROVIDE. A LOOK INTO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE.