



Regreening the island



Cindy Eman, BSc
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Background

- Worked as Terrestrial Biologist at Carmabi
- Vegetation assessment studies and seed collection
- Worked in the Endemic and native species nursery
- Started exploring the Green Scene on Curaçao
- Build food forest in the urban center of Willemstad
- Opened consultancy firm Yu di Tera
- Teacher at several institutions
- Volunteer at different foundations including sea turtle conservation
- Working on the reforestation of the island
- Promoting circular agroforestry
- Now a volunteer at Stichting Uniek Curaçao

Hòfinan Ser'i Otrobanda

- Start Juli 2020
- Community cohesion, hunger relief, creating jobs,
- Education, creating awareness
- Primary goal: food
- Secondary goal: greening the city center with fruit trees



Food forest in the city center



Before: July 2020

Food forest in the city center



After: January 2021

We reuse, repurpose water

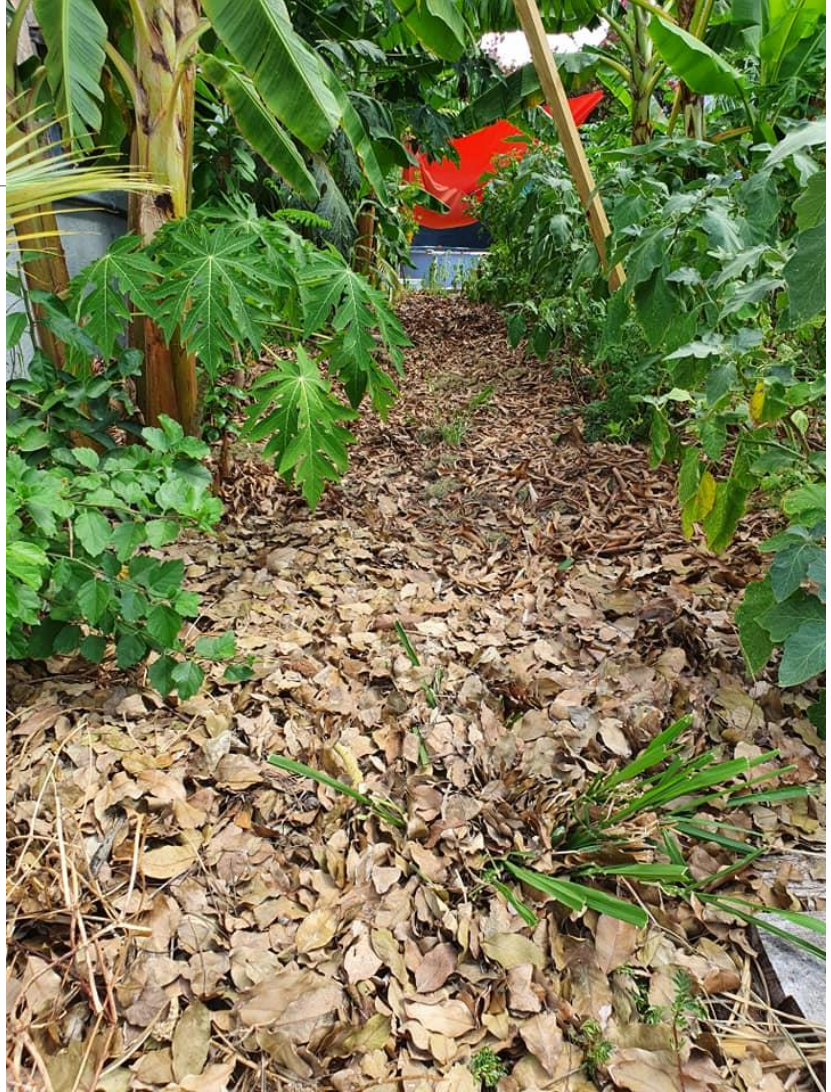
For planting and water storage



We collect and build with waste



And we mulch, mulch, mulch



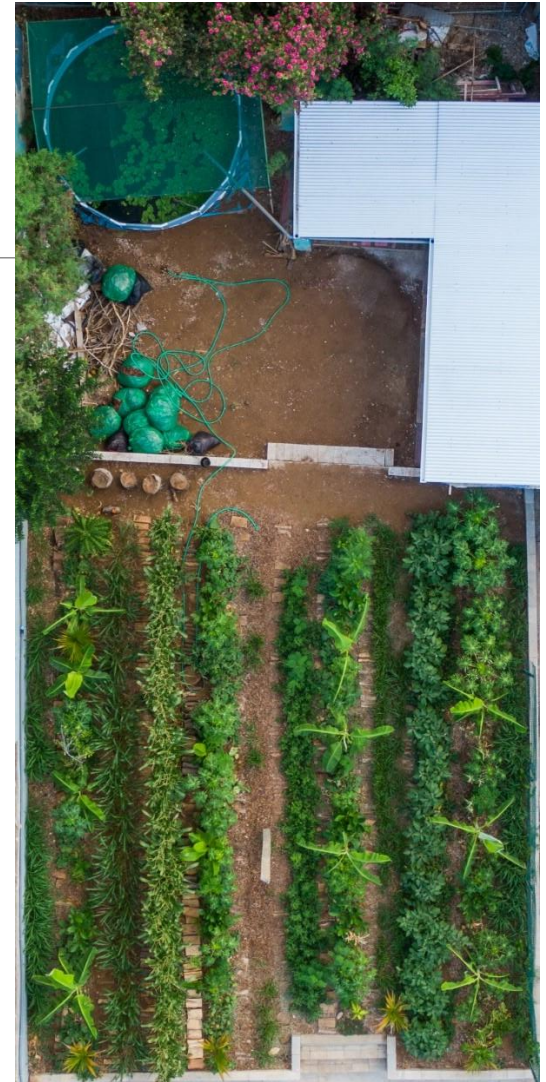
The benefits of mulching (10 cm)

- Water retention
- Temperature stabilisation
- Nutrient build up, soil improvement
- Beneficial fungi, bugs and creatures
- Less weeding
- Reduce erosion



Numbers

- Ferdinand Food Forest: 11 x 12 meters
- We have 3 more plots
- We need 20 big bags of mulch monthly
- We have 8 families collecting mulch for us
- We use around 8.000 litres of water monthly
- We provide vegetables for 50 families
- We created 3 part time jobs
- We will open a store in the future
- We will produce more for farm to table



What we have learned

- Water is and will continue to be a bottleneck, retention is very important!
- People have to see it to believe it
- Mentality about food needs to change
- The flow of goods is 'not flowing'
- You need 'clean' mulch



Projects

- Private food forest
- Public community gardens
- School greenhouses
- Events for groups (kids/adults)
- Mapping the island for Uniek

Stichting Uniek Curaçao

- Foundation started in 1991
- Beginnings are with the Curacao Tourism Development Bureau
- Island has many unique sides, tourism is not making enough use of nature
- ‘Konosé bo isla’ (local tourism)
- Keeping areas of nature free and accessible for every one
- Maintaining and sustainable development of nature
- 28 areas of management in some level or form

Uniek and mangroves

- Manages around 10 areas with mangroves around the island
- Has initiated and participated in several project of replanting mangroves
- Last project was in 2019 (250 propagules)

Issues

- Propagation of propagules very time-consuming
- Low success rate after a year



Mangroves in Curaçao

Issues and threats

- Disappearing due to development/building
- No consequences attached to destruction of mangroves
- No plan in place for holistic management
- Lack of awareness of importance of mangroves

Workshop goals

To learn!



Thank you very much!

cindy@yuditera.com
+5999 5643 853
www.instagram.com/yu_di_tera/

Stichting Uniek Curacao
uniekcuracao@gmail.com
+599 9 462 8989

