

Together for Cojimar: One more effort

A year after the very successful [crowdfunding](#) experience launched by the Escuela de Economía Social (Social Economy School of Andalusia, Spain) in July 2025, which raised the impressive amount of 13.399 € for the Project *Juntos por Cojimar / Together for Cojimar*, this is what we have achieved ... and what we need in order to finish what we set out to do.

First, we selected an ideal place to establish our ecological classroom: the urban farm, Huerto “El Cachón”, a national reference for urban permaculture that is part of the agricultural cooperative “Ana Betancourt” in the municipality of La Habana del Este. El Cachón is well known in the community as an environmental meeting and educational space, particularly welcoming for schoolchildren seeking back-to-nature activities.



Children marking World Environment Day in “El Cachón”.



Celebrating after a long day of work, play and learning in support of a healthier environment.

Elizabeth Grillo (second from left), Environmental Educator and Coordinator of the Local Development Project, El Cachón”, with other participants.



Huerto “El Cachón”: Before and After

Located at the mouth of the Cojimar River, El Cachón is a leader among local development projects in La Habana del Este municipality. From its creation to this date, this initiative has strived to produce organic, healthy low-priced farm produce, for the benefit of the local community. At the same time, it has pursued other goals related to environmental protection, climate resilience and cultural enrichment.

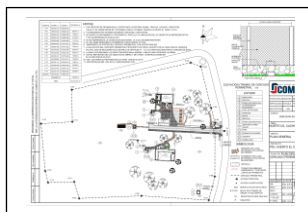


In pursuit of improving the local environment, the project sponsors regular beach cleanup activities, promoting awareness of the importance of reducing waste and adopting more sustainable living habits, and carries out environmental education activities with children and adults.



But natural phenomena, climate change, the passage of time and shortage of resources have worked against the conservation of “El Cachón”.

Our project aims to transform this iconic space of Cojimar and make it once again a place of reference for the city and the country.



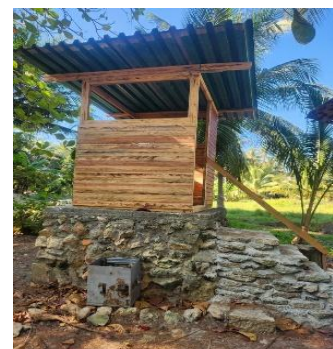
Our first action was to contract a specialized firm to produce a Detailed Engineering Design Project for reconstructing the meeting hall and activity center, build an environment education classroom and its respective auxiliary structure (food preparation area, bathroom, water tank and piping, solar energy, exterior spaces) for socio-cultural and activities.



We started construction right away with the funds available. Engineer Yenier González Chávez, our contractor, has done wonders in the midst of major shortages of materials and fuel to push the works ahead. **We have completed:** the plumbing system that supplies water from the grid to the whole area — first clearing the land to build a surface catchment tank and the supply pipes.



The physical protection of El Cachón is a priority, especially as higher-value facilities are created in the garden plot. For this purpose, a guardhouse was built for the custodians, which protects them from the weather and gives them a higher vantage point from which to observe the terrain.



We made the important decision to restore the ranchón, or palapa—a rustic wooden structure with a palm-thatch (guano) roof—which had been destroyed years ago by a hurricane. The original foundations had also deteriorated, so we had to rebuild them. Experienced thatchers from Pinar del Río province came to build the roundwood and guano structure.

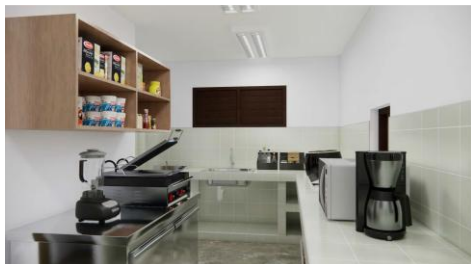


Restored ranchón. This will become a multi-purpose space for environmental education activities, eco-workshops, and gatherings, complete with a food preparation area for light catering. It should provide an important revenue stream to help ensure the project's economic sustainability.



We need to raise around \$10,000 more to finish:

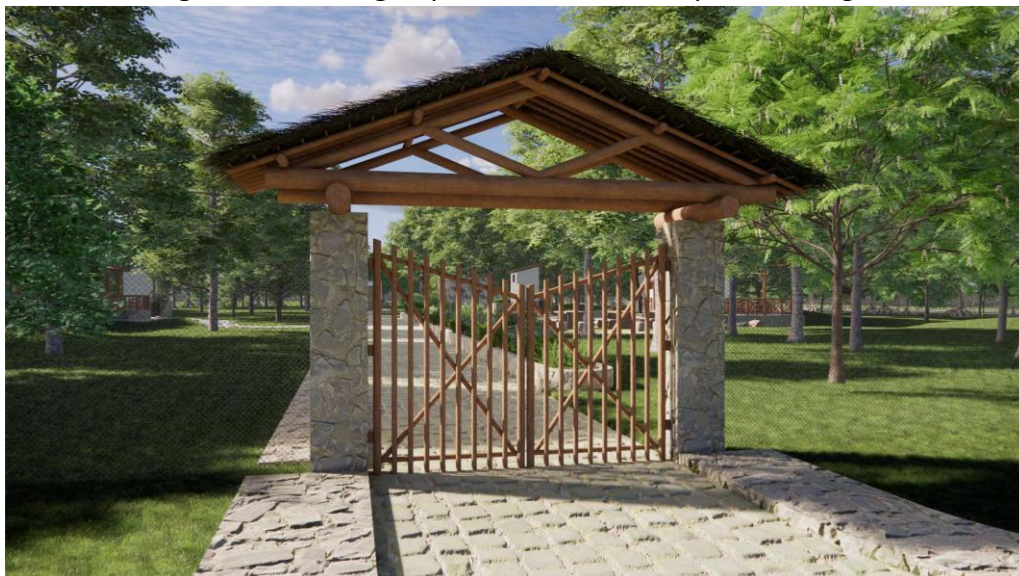
- Finishing touches on the ranchón: Trim the lower overhanging tree branches to provide adequate headroom (vertical clearance); treat and varnish the thatched roof.
- Building the food prep facilities inside the ranchón.



- Construction of an outdoor ecological bathroom
- Installation of solar panels and other photovoltaic equipment and their protection system



- Replace the battery of the electric tricycle and get it running.
- Finish building the entrance gateposts and the stone path leading to the ranchón.



We appeal to all our friends.

One more effort to achieve our cherished dream.

Together for Cojimar