



2013 FINAL REPORT

CONAPAC (Conservación de la Naturaleza Amazónica del Perú, A.C.) completed its 23rd year of serving rainforest residents in July. Now in our 24th year as a community partner, not a charity, we look for interested communities that wish to improve their lives through the expertise and support CONAPAC offers. We work to empower our partner communities, not create dependency. Only in emergency situations is direct help considered, otherwise, community leaders must come to us with a plan that we can develop together in the areas of education, clean water and productive projects. By brainstorming solutions and offering knowledge and expertise, our approach creates independent, thriving communities in the rainforest of Perú.

Although funding for 2013 was substantially lower than previous years, much was still accomplished by CONAPAC, Explorama, and Detroit Zoo staff, along with American and Peruvian volunteers. We delivered books and school supplies, hosted teacher and community leader workshops, expanded computer programs at the two library branches, built four new community water treatment plants, facilitated 20 community service projects, implemented a clean water pilot project with the Sawyer PointONE™ filter, provided five student scholarships, managed the annual water audit by university students from the US and Peru, finalized our yearly Adopt-A-School evaluations, and routinely managed oversight of the Las Malvinas Urban Garden Project in Iquitos. These projects are detailed in the report that follows.

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL DETROIT ZOO EXPEDITION 2013 (AAS)

Week #1

This year was the 20th Anniversary of the Adopt-A-School program. Many special activities were planned for volunteers and we hosted our highest number yet, with 18 volunteers from around the United States. To celebrate, we had *La Hora Loca* (dance party) again this year, along with a special cake and music. Volunteers Herb Thompson and Dave Bonnett shared their special expertise in the areas of geography and dolphin research through customized presentations. We also hosted our local rainforest food demonstration, sharing the unique fruits of the rainforest with volunteers.

Due to the absence of project coordinator Cynthia Smith Snyder for medical reasons, the volunteers picked up the ball in all areas of planning, staging and execution of the deliveries for

this year. Although the water was high, there was as much flooding as last year, so most communities could receive their packets in the customary fashion. Overall, 56 communities--or more than 3500 students and teachers--received books and classroom supplies. This year we delivered to 56 primary schools, 39 Kindergartens and 11 high schools.

Week #2

For the second week we hosted 13 volunteers. They started their week helping with deliveries to the last four schools, then moved on to special projects. This year CONAPAC conducted a pilot project that placed household water filter systems in individual homes. The Sawyer PointONE™ filter system is a simple point-of-use product that CONAPAC wanted to try in three communities for a trial period of six months. The AAS volunteers helped with organization, construction of wooden stands, and placement in individual homes. CONAPAC staff handled training. Volunteers also helped in the CONAPAC Amazon Library by assembling and painting recycle bins and painting throughout the library, including the library canoe.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

This year's teacher/community leader workshops were held in the villages of Santa Lucia, Canadá, Timicuro I, and Sapó Playa. Over 300 teachers, administrators, community leaders, volunteers, and CONAPAC staff participated in four three-day workshops during the months of May and June. Several topics were presented and discussed during this time. These included: Community Rules and Legal Tools for Private and Communal Conservation of Natural Resources, Content of APAMAFAS Law Act 28628, Teaching Techniques for Student Improvement ub Primary and Secondary, Environmental Education Linked to Curriculum Development, Efficient Production of Microorganisms in the Production of Organic Fertilizer, Rescuing Schools and Community Values, Guidelines for Formation of the Institutional Education Project—CONEI, Agroforestry Systems & Implications for Climate Change, Applied Standards of Education, Introduction to the Use of the XO Classroom Computers, and General Education and Community Problems.

Community workshops continue to be a key component in the success of the Adopt-A-School Program. Books and school supplies alone cannot provide all that is necessary for strong student development and healthy rainforest communities.

EVALUATIONS

This year evaluations were conducted during the last week of November and the first week of December. CONAPAC staff and Peruvian volunteers, 18 in total, held interviews in 56 rainforest communities, focusing on three areas: Institutional, Pedagogical, and Environmental. Each participating Adopt-A-School community was visited by three volunteers, who spent the day interviewing teachers, assessing student advancement, and interviewing parents and community members at large. Final collection of data was made at the end of December. Based on

observations and final ranking, two communities have been cut (Santa Rosa-Amazonas and Lago Yuruc Yacu), two new schools have been added (Nuñez Cocha and Santa Maria de Fatima) and 10 have been put on one-year probation. They will be advised of their status and reviewed again at the end of the year. They are:

O3 de Mayo	07 de Julio	Juancho Playa	Juventud Yarina
Nueva Esperanza	Nuevo Triunfo	Palmeras II	Puinahua
San Pedro de Mangua	Santa Isabel		

CONAPAC AMAZON LIBRARY

We had another successful year at the library. We started 2013 with three workshops during the students' school break. Our first workshop was with Bella Lane, an Amazon native who lives and works in London. She taught parents and students a traditional type of Peruvian embroidery called "arpillera". Next, we hosted a librarian from the *Peruvian Institute for Amazonian Studies* who taught a creative storytelling workshop. And finally, our new music teacher taught a week-long music workshop. We were fortunate this year to have a local teacher assigned by the Rural Department of Education for Loreto (DREL) to work at our main branch. She focused on working with the younger children who are still learning to read. Regular programming carried on, including reading club, daily games and puzzles, movies, and periodic special events. The library experienced flooding again this year, but not as extreme as last year. With a generous donation from R.E.A.C.H. 4 Books we were able to pay for gasoline to pick up the students during the two-month flooding period. Fortunately, although the water was high at Sapo Playa, it did not pass the library floor this year. The school at Sapo Playa did flood, however, and high school classes were held at the library in the mornings.

Our student scholarship program continued in 2013, with one student beginning her second year at a tourism institute and a new scholarship being awarded to a student who is studying systems engineering at the National University of the Peruvian Amazon. Both students have had an excellent year and are looking forward to continuing their studies in 2014. One of our students received a partial scholarship to study abroad in the U.S. during the 2013-2014 school year from a Rotary Club in Lima. We are now looking for donations to continue the scholarship.

In January we welcomed a group of guests from the International Fund for Economic Development (IFED), which has consistently sponsored our computer program. This year we received four new desktop computers and desks, as well as batteries and an inverter for our solar panel system to upgrade our entire computer program. We were able to use some of the original equipment from the solar panel system in Sapo Playa for the purpose of installing a solar panel donated by Explorama. This will run a computer donated by the Belleville Rotary Club. We also received 27 XO brand laptops computers from the Peruvian Department of Education for use in both branches.

We had many great opportunities to work with volunteers at the library this year, beginning with Adopt-A-School volunteers in April. They assembled and painted recycle bins and painted various areas of the library, including our library canoe. Our next volunteers were from Hoover High School in Alabama. We had four students and a teacher who stayed for two weeks as part of our official library volunteer program. Each day they presented different ecology lessons ranging from land use in the Amazon to fish and insect identification. They also helped with some projects like repainting our mural on the front of the building. Our next volunteers were a family of four from the state of Washington. They also stayed for two weeks and helped with everyday activities at the library and taught the students about their home. They also helped paint benches for our music room. Earlier this year, we modified the teacher/volunteer house, converting one bedroom into a room for music classes. We disassembled the bed and used the boards to make benches. We took one field trip this year with students from both branches, visiting the Ceiba Tops swimming pool and the Monkey Island Rescue Center. We also held two music concerts, one in Yanamono I and the other in Palmeras II. Students from the community of Timicuro I took a field trip to the library in November for a day of reading and fun. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding this year, we did not host our annual spelling bee or end-of-the-year Christmas parties at either branch. Both were truly missed by the communities who have participated in the past.

CONAPAC WATER PROGRAM

Our water program continues to grow and improve. This year centralized community water treatment plants were built in four communities: Juventud Yarina, Timicurillo, Santa Lucia, and Juancho Playa. Community workshops were also held. Important information was shared about drinking clean water, water plant maintenance, and community responsibility. These are always well attended and are an opportunity for celebration, as the rainforest residents look forward to improved health and well-being. Since 2008, CONAPAC has installed 31 community water treatment plants. If funding can be found, seven or eight water plants are to be built for 2014-2015.

In 2012, our pilot project focus was operator training. We hosted an intern, Lia Brune from the University of Colorado, who lived among the villagers for three months to learn how operators were processing the water. She gained knowledge and insight into ways to improve these processes for better and more consistent results. Her time in the communities was followed by weeks of development work with the CONAPAC staff. In February of this year, three three-day intensive operator workshops were hosted. We provided classwork, hands-on practice, and final testing. Almost 60 people attended our workshop and 35 were certified. The others will receive follow-up training in the coming months.

In July, our annual water audit was carried out by six students from the University of Colorado, eight students from the local university, UNAP (Universidad Nacional Amazónica Peruana), and three CONAPAC staff members. CONAPAC created two teams of five, visiting 24 communities

over the course of 17 days. There were many areas of inquiry but one major focus was the operators—what they had learned and how their knowledge was being used on a daily basis for proper water production. Water quality testing was completed and extensive community interviews were conducted. The complete report is posted online at:
http://www.CONAPAC.org/2013_CONAPAC_Report_English_Sm.pdf

2013 SAWYER FILTER SYSTEM PILOT PROJECT

This year we had a new pilot project in place that has delivered great results. The SawyerPointONE™ Filter Systems <http://www.sawyersaves.com> are placed on 16-liter buckets and designed for household or family use. They are much more flexible and convenient than a community water treatment plant, especially for those families who live a great walking distance from the center of the village or regularly experience floods during high water season.

We placed 61 filters in three different villages along the Napo and Amazon Rivers. The families were given the filters and buckets to use for six months at no charge or obligation. During that time, the CU-Boulder and UNAP students did household surveys to gather data on use and user satisfaction. After the six-month trial, users could choose to return the buckets and filters or pay a fee of 50 Peruvian soles. Out of the 56 homes where buckets were placed, 100% chose to keep and pay for their buckets and filters. Five Sawyer systems also went to classrooms at no cost to the community. We also placed 10 systems in homes around the city of Iquitos. These, too, were given at no obligation to be used for six months--or until the end of January 2014. Indications at this time are that all city families will maintain and pay for their Sawyer filters and buckets.

After the results of the pilot project, along with the audit report from the CU-Boulder students, were considered, it was decided to move forward in some way with the Sawyer PointONE™ Filter System. Funding has been found to cover most, but not all, of the cost of placing a Sawyer PointONE™ system in each Adopt-A-School classroom. This will represent about 190 individual units in all classrooms from Kindergarten through high school. We will begin implementation in March 2014, with the goal of increasing funding by other donors to cover all classrooms before the end of the year.

http://www.CONAPAC.org/sawyer_report_english_2013.pdf

LAS MALVINAS TEACHING GARDEN

This year we had more teacher participation than ever at the garden. One primary teacher used her garden projects to write her master's thesis on "Innovations with Productive Projects," highlighting how she used the garden to teach across many subject areas, especially math. The students learned how to graft plants this year, grafting lime and orange varieties to grapefruit hosts to produce stronger fruit trees. These improved varieties were sold to the public for a small profit that benefited the garden.

The fish farm suffered losses this year due to the small size of the starter fish. To compensate for their size, more food had to be purchased to bolster their growth. At harvest time however, the fish were still smaller than average and not profitable enough to make up for the additional spending on food.

The Las Malvinas school elected eight students to serve as "Environmental Protectors" this year. They basically were eco-monitors, making sure the other students took care of the natural areas at the school. These students participated in a city-wide competition and won first place, demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and plant production. The other schools who participated were invited to Las Malvinas to tour the garden and see the work of the students. This was a great honor for the school, especially since they were competing against private schools who have greater economic resources.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

In our continuing relationship with Amazon Explorama Lodges, CONAPAC facilitated 20 different groups to help with Community Service Projects. These ranged from planting trees, building fences, and painting schoolrooms, to installing Sawyer filters and building bookcases for school mini-libraries. Overall, about 350 people participated in this year's service projects in 20 Adopt-A-School partner communities.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special projects this year included managing high school and university scholarships. Donors were Dave and Dottie Bonnett, James Thompson, and Beverly Len. Two went to university students and three to high school students. As the AAS program continues, more students are striving to go beyond 6th grade. Where scholarship donors can be found, we will be happy to manage these funds.

We also made a number of improvements to our Amazon Library computer facility, including adding a computer and a solar panel at the Sapó Playa branch. The Belleville Rotary Club from Ontario, Canada funded this. Food was delivered to Tamanco for boarding students, money was provided for gasoline for the water audit team, the library received a special gift for its music program, and the existing community water treatment plant in Irlanda was retrofitted with new filters and plumbing.

2013 MAJOR PURCHASES

As funding was down this year for CONAPAC, no major purchases were made.

STAFFING CHANGES

Again, with funding down, major adjustments to staff and programs needed to be made to balance our spending. **Michel Briceño**, who assisted in all areas of CONAPAC, was terminated at the end of July. Michel had been with us for 18 months and we wish him well in his next employment. **Cynthia Smith Snyder** was out of the office for most of the year for medical reasons. However, she continued to work from afar via Internet during her absence. She was in the office during the months of July and August, followed by time in the U.S. where she met with various donors who are providing important funding for CONAPAC projects.

The balance of our staff continue in their roles:

- Alberto Vela -- Education Specialist
- James Pasmíño -- Water Specialist and Project Coordination
- Megan Thomas de Rioja -- Library Director
- Fernando Saavedra -- Computer Teacher and Library Maintenance
- Gilbert Mozambique -- Las Malvinas gardner
- Javerth Torres -- Las Malvinas special consultant
- Jamie Acevedo -- CONAPAC Board President
- Pamela Bucur de Arevelo -- CONAPAC Board Vice President
- Luis Gonzelez -- CONAPAC Treasurer
- Maggie Hart -- Board trustee
- Cynthia Smith Snyder -- Board trustee

WEBSITE & NEWSLETTERS

This year our webmistress, Nancy Cowal, expanded her volunteer responsibilities by adding a monthly CONAPAC email newsletter. She also took over the execution of the Library newsletter on a quarterly basis. This has helped CONAPAC bring more timely information to our donor base as projects are announced and completed. (For instance, due to reduced donations this year, a special appeal went out mid-year through the newsletter. This request added about \$10,000 to our budget, which helped us to close our funding gap.) Nancy regularly maintains and updates the CONAPAC website and our Facebook page. The Detroit Zoo continues to host our donation site. A new feature was added this year, enabling donors from any country in the world to pay by credit card online. This has been a great benefit as we continue to broaden our global donor base.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Our funding partners continue to bolster the work and projects that CONAPAC strives to complete each year. As always, our work could not be completed without the tremendous in-kind support we receive from Amazon Explorama Lodges. The endless help that the Detroit Zoological Society provides is also critical to our work. As our US-based 501 (c) 3 donation

partner, about 80% of what we receive is processed by DZS with no administrative fees. The Zoo provides staff, both in the U.S. and for regular visits to the Amazon, along with top-notch marketing, advertising and volunteer-recruitment. As always, our individual donors are the backbone of our Adopt-A-School program's success and volunteer fees continue to help cover a portion of our salary expense.

Other notable funding partners are:

- International Expeditions
- IFED
- Amazon Amigos
- Life Source Fellowship
- James Humphrey
- James Thompson
- Ester Van Spelt
- Sidwell School
- Adopt A Village International
- And over 200 individual Adopt-A-School and Amazon Library donors

SUMMARY

Each year brings new challenges as pressure on the rainforest continues to grow. Locally, more people mean a greater need for food, water and housing. The rainforest has historically been able to provide these necessities. However, this fine balance is clearly in crisis, as outside parties place their own needs before those of the rainforest, while local residents demand resources for their purposes. CONAPAC and its donor partners will continue to look for new and creative solutions for struggling communities, as they do their best to maintain traditional lifestyles and stewardship of their fragile rainforest home.

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CONAPAC is a Peruvian non-profit organization whose mission is to promote conservation of the rainforest through education of its stewards, the people who live along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. Our centerpiece project is the Adopt-A-School program; which is strengthened by education workshops and complemented by service and sustainable projects in river communities.