



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

CONAPAC (Conservación de la Naturaleza Amazónica del Perú, A.C.) completed its 25th year of serving rainforest residents. We continue offering support and mentoring to over 50 villages along the Amazon, Napo, and now Ucayali, Rivers. Our partner communities have survived another historically high water season as they adjust to this new reality. More students are finding their way to high school and more communities have kindergartens, giving each child a solid start to the education process. A new government nutrition program, Qali Warma, has been implemented in each primary school, serving students a hot breakfast and lunch each day during the school year. CONAPAC continues to provide clean drinking water through different methods and regular training for community leaders and operators. Many service projects were accomplished this year by outside volunteer groups. The CONAPAC Amazon Library operates two branches and offers support for scholarships. Through Rotary Exchange Scholarships, we were able to send off two more students to study in other countries—Brazil and Canada. And finally, Adopt-A-School had a very successful year, with an overwhelming number of volunteers, strong donations and wonderful work projects to improve community life. Our year is always full of new and exciting challenges—we're happy to report to our donors, volunteers and friends all that CONAPAC has accomplished in 2015.

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL DETROIT ZOO EXPEDITION 2015 (AAS)

Week #1: This year's Adopt-A-School deliveries began on Saturday, April 11th with the help of 19 volunteers, four support people from CONAPAC, and two staffers from the Detroit Zoo. In addition, there were three CONAPAC employees, five Department of Education (DREL) volunteers, three Explorama guides and numerous boat drivers and their assistants. The team of over 40 people helped deliver school supplies to 49 communities. This year we saw high water levels that required more than half of our partner community residents to come to our floating central location for pickup of supplies. Students, teachers and parents arrived in canoes and open boats for their deliveries aboard the Amazon Queen, Explorama's large river ship. Several times, more than one school was on board for their deliveries, with volunteers and crew sharing the organization, photo opportunities, and assistance to all age groups on the ship. Some community schools were not closed due to high water so volunteers were able to deliver normally. The week ended with the creation of almost 200 donor thank you packets. Either volunteers or representatives of the Detroit Zoo carried these back to the USA for mailing. In total for this year, we delivered to 103 schools (53 primary schools, 38 Kindergartens, and 12 high schools).

Week #2: Our AAS Service Project week started on the heels of Week #1 deliveries as a new group of volunteers arrived in Iquitos. For Week #2 we welcomed 12 new volunteers, with Zoo and CONAPAC staff continuing from the week before. We started the week by delivering school supplies to the final four communities not reached during Week #1. Next we implemented a four-day work project in the community of Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas. Despite complete flooding in the work area, we were able to

finish the project as planned. A new ceiling was added to the classroom, a new school kitchen was built, bathrooms were installed, and a rooftop rain catchment system and a bio-digester for sewage treatment were put into place. The adults in the community worked side by side with the volunteers while all the school-aged kids were transported to the CONAPAC library each day. A variety of activities were organized—including a couple of movies—along with lunch, treats and prizes. Week #2 AAS was a huge success for building good will and friends across cultures and languages.

AAS EXPANDS

This year, in partnership with the travel company International Expeditions, CONAPAC has officially expanded its Adopt-A-School program to the upriver area around the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. The small village of Cedro Isla has become the first partner community with CONAPAC and IE. This village has a primary school and kindergarten, with almost 50 students. Supplies were delivered to the school in March.

In June the CONAPAC team, Alberto Vela, James Pasmíño and Salvia Ahuanari, made visits to four other potential candidates for inclusion in this program. Their findings were reported to the Board of International Expeditions and it was determined that three more communities would be added for next year—Nuevo York, San Jose Paranapuro and 11 de Agosto, along with a renewal of Cedro Isla. Deliveries will be made in March of 2016.

ADOPT A SCHOOL TEACHER & COMMUNITY LEADER WORKSHOPS

After a one-year break, community workshops were once again hosted by CONAPAC in May and August. They were held in the communities of Sucusari, Auca Cocha, Nuevo Uchiza and Sapu Playa. Attendance was high and many new ideas were shared with teachers and community leaders. The CONAPAC team of Alberto Vela, James Pasmíño, Fernando Saavedra, Salvia Ahuanari and Cynthia Smith Snyder led the attendees, along with help from experts in the area of education, health and clean water. Some of the subjects included:

- Technical guidelines for the development of productive, environmental and social projects related to curriculum development.
- Utilizing educational XO laptops and other technology.
- Review of new learning paths in the kindergarten, primary and secondary levels (management and application in the classroom).
- Technical guidelines for the development of productive, environmental and social projects related to curriculum development.
- Environmental care and treatment of solid waste.
- An extra day was added to the program for clean water issues and operator training. The main focus was system troubleshooting and simple repairs. Teachers also had a hands-on opportunity to process water with the Sawyer PointONE™ system for their classrooms.

Community leaders and authorities had their own topics to explore. Some examples are:

- Roles and functions of the municipal authorities and the assurance of educational quality.
- Importance of water in community development.
- Techniques to develop productive, environmental and social projects related to community development.

Finally, water plant operators had their own small workshops. Topics here included:

- Components of water and pathogens that affect health.
- General and specific management of water treatment plants for the purification process.
- Importance of water in community development.

One of the most important aspects of the Adopt-A-School program is the working relationship and written contract between CONAPAC and DREL (Department of Rural Education-Loreto or the ministry of education). With this agreement, CONAPAC carries the weight and authority of DREL in our community schools. Teachers are expected to abide by rules set forth in their labor contracts but often officials from the Ministry of Education cannot visit these remote locations where teachers work with little supervision or accountability. This is where CONAPAC shines—by providing support personnel to make regular visits to communities, teachers and principals to help promote the same educational standards in rural schools as schools in Iquitos. This year an expanded level of power has been granted to CONAPAC. By using official DREL formats and documentation for our evaluation process, CONAPAC will have more say in getting the best teachers for rural schools. Teachers were aware of this change for 2015 when they signed their contracts earlier in the year. By raising the standards of acceptable performance in rural schools, CONAPAC is taking the lead in promoting the best educational program for students in our Adopt-A-School communities.

ANNUAL EVALUATIONS—Communities, Teachers & Students

The 2015 evaluation teams consisted of the following members:

PERUVIAN VOLUNTEERS:

- Juan Pablo Rodríguez Urrutia: RER Indiana
- Giancarlo Alexis Valdivia Zavaleta: ONG HUASAI
- Rodolfo Paredes Huaricallo: UGEL Maynas
- Mario Linares Navarro: CPPE. Colegio de profesores
- Oscar Omero Quiroz Fajardo: RER Indiana
- Maribel Portocarrero Arbildo: I.E.N° 60026 RGH
- Frida Danesa Sánchez Ríos: ONG Huasái
- Jacira Céspedes Pérez: Prevaeed
- Javerth Torres Tello: INIA
- Mirtha Luz López Gades: RER Indiana
- Gladis Luz Vásquez Gama: UGEL Maynas
- Rocky Jean Pool Angulo Cuñañay: RER Indiana
- Elías Fidel Grandez Zegarra: RER Indiana
- Dassi Navarro Mejía: UGEL MAYNAS
- Adalberto Jitoma Chepez: UGEL MAYNAS
- Edward Navarro Torres: DREL
- Henri Zagaceta Camiñas: DREL
- Frank Wiler Pinedo Flores: DREL

CONAPAC & ZOO STAFF:

- Alberto Vela
- James Pasmíño
- Salvia Ahuanari
- Fernando Saavedra
- Amner Ismodes
- Cynthia Smith Snyder
- Carla Rigsby
- Adam Dewey

The work was carried out during the weeks of November 15th and November 23rd. Each of our 53 partner communities was visited. Later we finished evaluations at the CONAPAC Amazon Library and the

community of Cedro Isla, located on the Ucayali River. Many changes occurred this year, with higher standards required of teachers and a set minimum of classroom hours for each grade level. The communities and schools were evaluated in three areas:

- Institutional Management—records, attendance, lessons plans, classroom ambience
- Educational Management—student performance, achievement levels, written and verbal abilities
- Environmental Management—community cleanliness, leadership structures, execution of productive projects, maintenance of community assets—school buildings, water plants, latrines, etc.

Communities, teachers and students were ranked for overall performance. As in most years, there are some very good schools and communities, average ones, and some poorly performing villages too. Last year the following six communities were put on probation: San Pedro de Mangua, Canada, Nuevo Triunfo, Puerto Rico, San Antonio de Marupa, Ramon Castilla. This year revealed that of the six on probation four have improved enough to remain in the AAS program, while one continues on probation (Canada) and one has been cut from our program (San Antonio de Marupa). For 2016, the following communities are on probation: Canada, Suni Caño, San Antonio de Miraño, Yurac Yacu, San Juan de Floresta.

Community ranking totals for 2015 are as follows:

EXCELLENT	06
GOOD	38
AVERAGE	05
DEFICIENT	04
NOT EVALUATED	02

After the evaluation process, the team had an open discussion to determine participation for 2016. It has been decided that Yanamono I, San Antonio de Marupa and 07 de Julio will be cut from the program. We will welcome the new community of General Merino to the Adopt-A-School program, along with four new communities in the district of Requena: Cedro Isla, Nuevo York, San Jose Paranapura and 11 de Agosto. For 2016 CONAPAC will partner in 55 communities. Within those communities there are 12 high schools, 55 primary schools and 39 Kindergartens, bringing the school total to 106. For 2016, we expect to provide school supplies to a little over 2,800 teachers and students.

CONAPAC AMAZON LIBRARY

The library offers a service that combines reading, artistic expression, training in the use of computers, and educational entertainment. These assets attract our local students every weekday afternoon and, by far, their number one choice is to spend free time at the library to enjoy the opportunities the library can provide. This year there were 84 registered students with an average daily attendance of 35-40 children and adults. This statistic confirms the value of our informal education project focused on providing a high level of quality service. The following report details the steps taken in order to provide these services, the difficulties encountered along the way, and some proposals for the future development of the library.

Process Improvement

Beyond making 6,000 books available to children and youth, the mission of the library consists mainly of promoting reading and education, a task that must be performed by individuals more than by books alone. After the departure of Megan Thomas as director, we have only one professional (who is also in charge of teaching computers and performing daily administrative tasks) and three people from the local communities who manage the two libraries, promoting reading and education, a job that should ideally be done by librarians and educators. The need to improve the capabilities of the team was recognized, and as a result, a training program was started that will enhance the quality of our service, though even more

training is needed to advance beyond maintaining the current standard of quality. A more detailed planning of regular activities, the reorganization of the materials and library resources, and requesting teachers from the Ministry of Education complemented this effort. This last requirement was only partially satisfied with the arrival of a teacher to work from November to December in the Palmeras library branch.

Regular Activities

Reading Club: Students keep track of each book they read. For every 50 books read, they receive a book as a prize to keep and build their own personal library. Computer Class: Students learn basic computer operation, keyboarding and English in our solar-powered computer lab. Educational games and activities: Each day ends with time for games, art and crafts, and often movies and documentaries. Book Checkout: Students are allowed to check out books and carry them home over the weekend.

Special Activities

- Each year we try to bring new ideas and creative projects to the library. Special activities for this year opened with workshops in science and arts for children and youth that took place during the school holidays in January and February. After the beginning of the school year, teachers Lily Briggs and Allen Stenstrup of Cornell University led a workshop for local teachers where many of them learned how to use the "Bird Sleuth" curriculum. This teaches them how to scientifically observe local birds and discover valuable information about their importance in ecology.
- Visiting researcher, Marie Trone, Professor of Biology at Valencia College in Florida, USA, and a researcher at Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS, France, offered the children of the villages near the library a talk on Amazonian pink dolphins, their behavior, and complex communication system. Professor Trone even invited some of the children to accompany her to a trip on the Amazon River. Marie demonstrated the sophisticated listening devices that record the various sounds these mammals use in order to communicate with one another.
- At the end of the year the children were impressed with the stories that former NASA astronaut Sherwood Spring told them about his spacewalks and they were inspired by his life story.
- Equally interesting was the experience of visiting the ExplorNapo Canopy Walkway and ecological reserve station. Students observed the ecosystem of the Amazon forest from above and below.
- Students also learned basic phrases to communicate with English speakers in a course developed by Jane Claud, a retired librarian who came from Florida to help as a volunteer for three weeks. Adults from neighboring communities and workers in the tourist lodges nearby who were not registered library users also benefited from this course.
- With help from the Rotary Club of San Borja, Lima, and the valuable support of donors, this year two international student exchanges were possible for local students, John C. Reategui (Sapo Playa) and Robert Murayari (Yanamono), who are studying in Vancouver, Canada and Recife, Brazil. In addition, scholarship recipient Luis del Aguila completed his third year of studies in Systems Engineering at the local university in Iquitos.

Maintenance of Infrastructure and Equipment

After four years of use, the traditional palm leaf roofs were replaced at both libraries. At the Palmeras branch new cabinets and shelves were built, gutters were replaced and moisture-damaged wood in the bathroom area was also installed. At Sapo Playa some of the posts supporting the building that had been weakened by flooding earlier in the year needed to be replaced. A new inverter was installed for the solar system at Sapo Playa, as the old one had been damaged during the flooding. In addition, a second computer was added to the lab. Finally, at the Palmeras branch, a new flat screen TV and storage cabinet were purchased in December.

Limitations

Few library staff and untrained human resources remain a limiting factor to achieve a system of consistent and creative work. The unusually long high water season this year, which lasted six months (three months more than usual), made library operating costs significantly more expensive because it was necessary to

transport users and employees by boat during this time. Also, a more prolonged exposure to water increases the need for maintenance of wooden structures at both libraries and exposes children to greater risks. In Sapó Playa waters flooded the library building and prevented its use for three months. A lack of funds prevented the continuation of the Yagua language and culture preservation project.

Proposals

In 2016 the library's goal is to continue to creatively promote reading and education in rural Amazonian communities. In order to do so, it is necessary to further strengthen the capacity of the library staff through an annual training plan and improved working conditions. With this base the library could develop a program of activities during vacations to engage children and teens in scientific study and research methods, an annual program of artistic workshops in drawing and painting, a project to create and publish short stories, a project to register and create stories in the Yagua language, and a basic video editing project.

CONAPAC WATER PROGRAM


CONAPAC's clean water program continues to grow and diversify. This year we built three new concrete community water treatment plants in the villages of Primero de Enero, Santa Victoria and Timicuro I. Two of the three water plants were in collaboration with the municipality of Indiana and its mayor, Janet Reategui. They had been eager for a clean water plant for some time, while Santa Victoria's was a reconstruction from an earlier wooden water plant that was lost due to high water.

Our monitoring program did what it could this year but did not have special funding or a grant to cover these expenses. We instead piggybacked many of our AAS activities (deliveries, teacher visits, workshops and evaluations) onto visits concerning clean water. Operators came to a special one-day workshop during the Adopt-A-School education workshops. In addition, the University of Colorado sent a team of four graduate students to do an annual audit of our water program. The team visited 17 communities with water treatment systems during the course of one month. They facilitated focus groups with eight randomly selected people from each village. After the focus groups, they interviewed the operators and watched as they demonstrated the process of treating water. The full report, written in both English and Spanish, was submitted in October. It provided a detailed recap and summary of the findings, with special emphasis on suggested for improving the CONAPAC water-monitoring program.

http://www.conapac.org/2015_uc_water_report.pdf

In July a team of CONAPAC staff joined the crew and passengers of the Estrella Amazonica cruise ship, which is operated by International Expeditions. On board was the Lieberman Family—a group of 23 family members ranging in age from 10 to 70 years old. They helped fund the purchase of 20 Family Sawyer PointONE™ clean water systems. During the week long cruise 18 household systems and two classroom systems were delivered and set up. The Liebermans were delighted to participate in this delivery to the community of Nuevo York, located on the Marañón River near the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve.

CONAPAC has built 35 clean water systems (15 in concrete) for communities along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. Some that were built in wood have been abandoned, while others have been rebuilt more than once and continue to provide clean water to rainforest residents. There are two or three more communities that need a new water treatment plant, three or four that need wood water plants replaced with concrete; and seven or eight smaller communities that would benefit from the Family Sawyer PointONE™ system. Funding and grants are constantly being sought for these projects. In the meantime, our water monitoring, training and mentoring continues.

With the challenge of finding donations for water monitoring always a concern, it was decided to introduce a new program this year called . This program is patterned after our Adopt-A-School program. A donor would annually support an individual community for ongoing monitoring, training and repairs. For \$350 a group or individual can adopt a community water plant. A yearly update will be sent to each donor with photos and community comments. By creating a regular funding stream for our clean water monitoring we can better provide consistent support to our partner communities—clean water and education are a winning combination for these resilient people.

2014 SAWYER CLASSROOM PROJECT

The Sawyer Classroom Project has had some bumps. This year we had very high water again so school furniture and materials have been relocated, including the water systems. Many teachers who were trained last year have been replaced by others in 2015, and the new teachers are unaware of how to use the filters. Several teachers and classrooms are using the systems in an appropriate manner. Our new education specialist, Salvia Ahuanari, has been tasked with keeping teachers informed and trained on this important element of health education. With a donation from Centura Health (Denver, CO) we were able to provide 18 more systems—seven went to the teachers and students at the high school in the community of Llachapa. The remaining 11 were given to teacher dorms in the remaining 11 high schools that are part of the Adopt-A-School program. A small grant from the University of Notre Dame will allow us to offer a Sawyer PointONE™ refresher course for teachers during our 2016 March teacher meeting—just in time to start the new school year by learning about the simplicity of the Sawyer PointOne™ water treatment system.

LAS MALVINAS TEACHING GARDEN

After seven years of supporting the urban garden at the Las Malvinas School, it was decided by the donor (International Expeditions) to end support and move its funding dollars to other community river projects. There will be a new focus on education and clean water in these communities. Reluctantly, we alerted the school and our gardeners' employment was terminated. However, all materials, tools, improvements and equipment from the garden were donated to the school with no strings attached. In addition, a small donation of \$825 was given to the garden for a purpose of their choosing.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Once again, CONAPAC facilitated community service projects for Explorama guests, providing welcome support to the villages and the chance for a cross-cultural experience. In addition to community improvements, greater focus was on classroom projects and extra time with the students and their teachers. With the expansion of the new national food program, *Qali Warmá* (a Quechua word meaning strong child), there has been a significant increase in the volume of trash produced by cans, boxes and plastic bags. A focus on proper trash disposal, sorting and recycling was a large element of our community service projects this year.

These participating groups completed projects in the following communities:

Los Invencibles	Polaris High School
Centro Unido	Emma Willard School
Juancho Playa	Sidwell Friends School
Leon Isla	Sandy Springs School
Nueva Esperanza	EKOAmazon
Urco Miraflo	Hudson High School
Llachapa	Gunston High School
San Luis	Centura Health Education Team
Punchana Kindergarten	Centura Health Education Team
Primero de Enero	EKOAmazon
Santa Lucia	EKOAmazon
Auca Cocha	Arizona State University
Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas	Educators' Group Amazon Rainforest Workshop
Tamanco	Meg Lowman's citizen scientists
Sapo Playa	EKOAmazon
Llachapa	EKO Amazon
NSJ del Amazonas	AAS 2015 volunteers, Adopt A Village International & Brighton Rotary
Iquique	Las Aguilas School
Yanamono II	Roosevelt American School
Santa Isabel	Roosevelt American School

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- A handful of special projects was facilitated this year. They were fun to do and a benefit to many. First, our favorite fundraiser—Nancy Kopf, better known as Pachita—came with a group of friends to again visit villages in the rainforest. They bartered, traded, donated and gave of their time. In addition, her group raised the money to take 60 young orphaned girls on a shopping spree in Iquitos. The younger girls went to an “un sol store”—kind of like a dollar store—and the older girls went to a local clothing store. Each was given a certain amount to spend and they all just had a blast deciding for themselves what they wanted to buy. For the younger girls it was mainly dolls and for the older girls it was skirts, shoes and cute little tops.
- Once again, Lilly Briggs from Cornell Lab of Ornithology came to host bird workshops. This time she taught one for teachers in the Palmeras library branch and another for the teachers at the high school in the village of Llachapa. These teachers had the opportunity to visit the Canopy Walkway and have an experienced Explorama guide along to study birds and other flora and fauna high in the rainforest canopy.
- Finally, a major project was executed in the community of Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas. This village, which is regularly affected by high water, has had difficulty maintaining a school building for its children. With the help of Adopt-A-School Week #2 volunteers, members of the Brighton Rotary Club, volunteers from the Amazon Rainforest Workshops' Educator Academy and funding from Adopt A Village International, the following work was achieved: a new ceiling for the one-room school, new paint inside and out, plastic mosquito-screened windows, a new door lock, a rooftop rain catchment

system, an elevated school kitchen with screened windows and lockable doors, an elevated latrine area for students and a special bio-digester system for waste disposal that can function even during high water season.

2015 MAJOR PURCHASES & IMPROVEMENTS

- This year saw changes and improvements for the CONAPAC office. Explorama was able to free up additional space so the office was expanded, a new storeroom was added next door, and our local artist, Antonio, came to paint animal murals and decorative panels for our common space. Finally the office looks friendly, professional and welcoming.
- Two new desktop computers and a laptop were bought for the office along with anti-virus software. Also, we invested in a professional sound system for our workshops, new construction tools for service projects and various water test kits and field supplies.
- Our biggest and most exciting purchase was that of a new CONAPAC boat. Over the course of two years, the Detroit Zoo made undesignated donations totaling \$25,000. With this money, a gently used aluminum boat was bought and renovated to our specifications. The new boat is called “Zoobote” and is 27 feet long and 6 feet wide and has a brand new 150 HP Yamaha motor. All new accessories were added, such as life jackets, fire extinguisher, and first-aid kit. This legally licensed boat will now allow us to come and go out of the Port of Iquitos. Our older, smaller boat was not licensed so we had to take rental boats or Explorama boats to Ceiba Tops and then pick it up to use it. With more room, speed, and comfort the team expects to cover more territory and visit communities on an increasingly regular basis for 2016.
- Finally, a new logo was designed and implemented for CONAPAC’s 25th anniversary. A fresh look was needed and slowly this new logo will replace our old one on all brochures, marketing materials, letterhead, T-Shirts, etc. The new design, created by Adam Rossi, has a familiar look but its fresh feel better exemplifies CONAPAC’s mission.

CONAPAC STAFF MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES

- Long time members of the CONAPAC team, **Alberto Vela and James Pasmíño**, continued with their responsibilities. Alberto is our main education specialist, handling details for workshops, evaluations and Adopt-A-School needs. He is our point person with the Department of Education, organizing the needs of our teachers and schools in the AAS program. James continues to be our water specialist, along with assisting with community service projects and other Adopt-A-School needs.
- **Cynthia Smith Snyder** continued as CONAPAC administrator, working closely with Pamela Bucur, general manager of Explorama Lodges, and all CONAPAC staff members. This year Cynthia spent nine months in Peru, then traveled outside the country to continue the promotion of CONAPAC and its needs for existing and prospective donors.
- **Fernando Saavedra** was our full time library administrator this year. He also taught computer classes and managed regular library maintenance at both branches.
- Education specialist, **Salvia Ahuanari**, joined CONAPAC at the end of January. She quickly made herself at home and became an asset to the team. She has extensive experience living and working in river communities. She assisted Alberto in all things dealing with education, making regular visits to our communities to monitor teachers, continued training of the Sawyer water filter system, joining deliveries for AAS, workshops, and evaluations, and periodically organizing and supervising community service projects.
- **Megan Thomas de Rioja** rejoined the CONAPAC team on a part time basis. This year Megan handled our scholarship program and Rotary exchange students. She also facilitated medical teams from the

USA that needed our logistical services and provided administrative assistance to Fernando and the libraries.

- A new board member was added to CONAPAC. Longtime volunteer **Nancy Cowal** graciously accepted our invitation to serve and provide additional help with the needs at CONAPAC. It is hoped that with Nancy's once a year visit to the rainforest, regular board meetings can be held and CONAPAC business properly discussed.
- **Pamela Bucur de Arévalo**, principal owner of Explorama Lodges and founder of the Adopt-A-School program, continued offering her support and guidance for the mission and goals of CONAPAC. Her decades of experience and generosity of spirit are invaluable assets to CONAPAC.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

During the first week of December, a three-day meeting was held with all CONAPAC staff members plus Pam Bucur and other managers from Explorama. Prior to the meeting each team member was asked to do a SWOT outline for CONAPAC (our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). At our meeting we combined these ideas, seeking common ground. Overwhelmingly the team considers what CONAPAC is doing (environmental education) to be relevant and important for our community members and the region as a whole. We reviewed our areas of involvement (Adopt-A-School, clean water, community service projects, the library, scholarships, and volunteer participation) and agreed they complement one another. Many areas of improvement were considered and overall planning strategies for 2016 were outlined.

Additionally, a full day of training was organized to learn a new way for us to share information. A large cloud-based spreadsheet has been created for all team members to track their projects. It includes where they go, what communities they visit, why they were there and what follow up should be performed. Everyone can access this and follow other team members' projects too. This data will be updated each week. By the end of 2016, CONAPAC will have gathered a substantial amount of data, giving a better picture of our work, where we spend our time, trends, and perhaps areas we overlooked. Collecting the data is the first step. How it is used remains to be seen, but likely potential donors and other interested parties will be able to review how CONAPAC interfaces with river communities in order to gauge its impact and effectiveness.

In July 2016, an off-site planning meeting will be held in order to revisit our current vision and mission statements. After reviewing the SWOT outline, it is clear we need to review these statements for clarity as CONAPAC continues to grow in the coming years.

WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Volunteer, Nancy Cowal, continues to maintain the website, always making regular updates and adjustments. She also edits the monthly CONAPAC e-newsletter. This year she took a class to learn some new techniques in the ever-changing world of social media. We now have a mobile friendly website, patterned after our regular one but much more compact and easy to read on smaller screens. Now when you pull up our web address, it will automatically load the mobile version if you are viewing the site on a mobile device.

The Detroit Zoo continues as our financial partner and our marketing arm. The Zoo regularly promotes the Adopt-A-School program through its website and mailings. They produce a multi-page Volunteer Expedition booklet and host volunteer nights to share CONAPAC information with the public. This year at

their annual auction fundraiser a one-week trip to the Amazon was offered for week #1 of Adopt-A-School. The winning bidder will join us for the 2016 AAS expedition.

FUNDING PARTNERS

The following list is a summary of our major donors in order of giving:

- Detroit Zoological Society (donations and in-kind services)
- Amazon Explorama Lodges (service projects and In-kind giving)
- Volunteers and their fees
- Individuals, business, churches, service clubs and schools
- International Expeditions
- Adopt A Village International
- Mr. Steve Howard
- Amazon Amigos
- EKOAmazon
- Centura Health Initiative
- Brighton Rotary Club
- R.E.A.C.H For Books

SUMMARY

With more influence through our partnership with the Peruvian Department of Education, we can strengthen the critical role that leadership skills play with teachers in our communities. With added financial support we can supply greater supplies of classroom materials, plus regular community mentoring and support. Through our many volunteers CONAPAC's message of environmental responsibility continues to spread. With quality staff members—informed, experienced and committed—we have a solid professional team that is present year-round to serve our partner communities. With the strong US Dollar to Peruvian Sol exchange rate expected in 2016, lower fuel prices, highly engaged donors and the many friends of CONAPAC, our position in the Amazon basin has never been stronger or more solid.

Thank you for your support of the work we do at CONAPAC!