



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CONAPAC (Conservación de la Naturaleza Amazónica del Perú, A.C.) completed its 26<sup>th</sup> year of partnering in rural rain forest communities. Now the longest serving, continuously operating non-governmental organization in the Peruvian Amazon basin, CONAPAC continues its various community development programs, having expanded and grown over the years to meet new needs. Changes into the 21<sup>st</sup> century are certainly impacting communities, their lifestyles, and in some ways, additional stresses that were not there just a generation earlier. CONAPAC is striving to partner with communities who seek support for this transition. In no way does CONAPAC want to change lives in the rainforest. Rather, we look for ways to support the rural communal lifestyle by bringing good management techniques and problem solving skills, clean water for better health and well being, support for advanced levels of education for all children and, when appropriate, advocacy for communities with other governmental organizations by navigating difficult situations that require official documentation. The goal of CONAPAC has always been to improve environmental education through the **Adopt-A-School** program. This objective is relevant today and our staff brings these important messages to community leaders, teachers and students throughout the year. Caring for the environment through proper resource management of all flora and fauna, improving the health of community members, minding the needs of domesticated animals, and using appropriate waste disposal methods are all underpinnings of healthy, happy, productive communities and all those who live in the rain forest where we serve. CONAPAC, with help from its strong donor base, goes into 2017 with more optimism than ever for our partner communities.

## ADOPT-A-SCHOOL DETROIT ZOO EXPEDITION 2016 (AAS)

**Week #1:** This year's **Adopt-A-School** deliveries were marked by the fact that we had rather low water levels. Unlike the last five years where high water levels proved quite a challenge, this year all community schools remained open during the month of April and volunteers were able to make visits directly to the community schools. During the week of April 12th, 43 communities were visited representing 43 primary schools, 10 high schools and 36 kindergartens. For this first week we welcomed 20 volunteers from the US and Canada, along with 14 CONAPAC/Ministry of Education support personnel and three Explorama guides. This year CONAPAC decided to provide high school packets to 92 students who normally would not receive this support. These students live in communities that partner with CONAPAC but do not have a high school in their village. After primary school most students do not have any option to continue studying other than to attend classes in another community where there is a high school. However, not all high schools in our area are partnered with CONAPAC. Each year we've seen more young people attending high school. This is a good sign and starting this year, we provided support for many high school students from our partnering villages. In 2017 we will expand this to any rural community they choose to attend for high school if their home village is a CONAPAC partner community.

**Week #2:** For this week, we welcomed 13 new volunteers, six CONAPAC support staff and one Explorama guide to assist with final deliveries and our community service project. During this week we delivered to eight communities, with eight primary schools, two high schools and four kindergartens. Following two days of deliveries, the group moved on to the community of Centro Unido along the Napo River. This year the volunteers built a new school kitchen for the primary and kindergarten students. As Qali Warma, the Peruvian food supplement program, continues to grow, the demand increases for more up-to-date facilities. With a funding grant from the Saga Charitable Trust, the new kitchen was completed, providing areas for cooking, cleaning and storage, plus a small dining area for the children to eat in a bright, open and airy space. In addition to this project, three days of craft activities were organized for the primary-aged students. Fun projects were presented, along with face painting, nail polish for the girls, stick-on tattoos for everyone, and the usual games of soccer and volleyball.

## **ADOPT-A-SCHOOL / INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS**

This year, through funding by International Expeditions, the **Adopt-A-School** program expanded upriver to the Ucayali, one of the Amazon River's major tributaries. In this rural area, communities have a greater need for development than our downriver partners, so this new support has been well received. During the week of March 21st, four CONAPAC team members traveled up the Ucayali River on the cruise ship *La Estrella* in order to make deliveries to four communities. Joining the staff were IE passenger volunteers, crew and guides. The new partner communities are Cedro Isla, Nueva York, 11 de Agosto and San Jose de Paranapura. Each of these communities has a primary school and kindergarten. Supplies for 108 students and seven teachers were delivered, along with textbooks and classroom supplies. In addition to our school deliveries, a new water plant was inaugurated at San Jose and 18 new Sawyer home water filter systems were delivered to the community of 11 de Agosto. Now, all four IE/CONAPAC partner communities have access to clean drinking water.

## **ADOPT-A-SCHOOL TEACHER AND COMMUNITY LEADER WORKSHOPS**

This year we made great strides in improving the infrastructure for our workshops. Instead of hosting four separate workshops in four different communities with limited housing and facilities, we opted to host two very large workshops in one place. At the port of Indiana, a facility owned by the Catholic Church called the San Jose Parroquia, boasts large meeting spaces, kitchens, dining areas, and dormitories which made eating meals, sleeping and bathroom facilities for everyone much more comfortable. During the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted two blocks of workshops for participants from all 55 communities in our program. Community authorities, which include the mayor, municipal agent, president of the PTA and the head of the *Qali Warma* food program, were invited to attend and participate in a variety of workshops. Attendance was solid, with over 300 participating over the course of the week. Most communities were represented by at least one authority, with the exception of Leon Isla, Nuevo Triunfo C.A., 11 de Agosto, and San Jose de Paranapura (the last two villages are new to the program and located far upriver from Iquitos). More emphasis will be made next year to increase participation.

### **Topics included:**

- Current legislation pertaining to rainforest preservation and pilot projects
- Historical perspectives of the Amazon region and its various cultures
- Management of waste from the Qali Warma supplies
- Water management issues for the community
- Focus on productive projects with better management techniques

- Functions and responsibilities of the role of each authority
- Special focus on disaster preparation
- Prevention of tooth decay and emphasis on proper hand washing prior to preparing food, water and meals

CONAPAC provided all meals, housing, travel costs, and supplies for each participant. Specialists from a variety of public and private groups came from Iquitos to present segments of the workshop program. The centralized location was very well received and we expect to use it again next year.

In June another workshop was hosted in the same location for all teachers in our **Adopt-A-School** communities. This year 238 teachers were invited and 217 of these attended during the week in two teaching blocks, representing a 91% participation rate. Education specialists from the United States arrived to present new teaching techniques in the areas of mathematics, story writing and reading comprehension. These educators are Peruvian by birth and are siblings, all of whom now live in the United States. They have created a small NGO to share their expertise twice a year, bringing education workshops to Peruvian educators in rural areas around the country. The Balcazar siblings Sonia, Nancy, Elsa and Guillermo and their program “*Conocimiento Se Compartirte*” made a big splash with our teachers and their workshops were well received. With a resolution made by the UGEL (Department of Education), follow up monitoring will be provided to confirm implementation of these new techniques. For those teachers who qualified, continuing education credit was granted.

## ANNUAL EVALUATIONS—Communities, Teachers and Students

The 2016 evaluation teams consisted of 16 local educators and administrators from the Ministry of Education, along with staff from CONAPAC and the Detroit Zoo.

### CONAPAC & DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY STAFF:

- Alberto Vela
- James Pasmíño
- Oscar Homero Quiroz
- Cynthia Smith Snyder
- Fernando Saavedra
- Amner Ismodes
- Adam Dewey, Zoo
- Claire Lannoye-Hall, Zoo
- Brian Landever, outside observer
- Mariella Noriega, outside observer

Evaluation teams visited communities from Monday November 21 through Thursday December 1. They visited 51 communities on the Amazon and Napo Rivers. In December four more communities were visited upriver on the Ucayali River bringing the total to 55 CONAPAC partner communities. Three areas were observed and ranked:

- ✓ **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.

Final entry of data was accomplished the week after evaluations and recommendations were made for next year.

Community ranking totals (55) for 2016 are as follows:

EXCELLENT	03	05%
GOOD	45	82%
AVERAGE	06	11%
DEFICIENT	01	02%
NOT EVALUATED	00	NA

For the coming year, the communities of Capironal, Canada, Suni Caño will remain on red alert. If there is no improvement of performance for 2017, they will be removed from the **Adopt-A-School** program. Due to significant improvement in 2016, the following communities are no longer on red alert: San Antonio de Miraño, Yurac Yacu and San Juan de Floresta. Due to a grievous breach of the CONAPAC convenio agreements, the community of Irlanda has unfortunately been cut from the AAS program.

#### **Top 10 Communities for 2016:**

1. San Pedro de Manati
2. Sapo Playa
3. Iquique
4. Auca Cocha
5. Manati I Zona
6. Juancho Playa
7. Timicuro I
8. Palmeras II
9. Yurac Yacu
10. San Juan de Floresta

#### **COMMUNITY CENSUS 2016**

Our last full community census was completed in 2013. With continuous movement of people from one community to another, it was time for an update. Our totals were:

- 1,664 Homes
- 1,877 Families
- 4,172 Males
- 3,598 Females
- Total population served by CONAPAC: **7,770**

#### **SCHOOL CENSUS 2016**

- 604 Kindergarten
- 1,675 Primary level
- 681 High school level
- 215 Teachers
- Total school population served by CONAPAC: **3,112**

## **CONAPAC AMAZON LIBRARY**

Since opening 18 years ago, the CONAPAC Amazon Library has been in continuous operation, serving the children and youth of the rural areas of the Amazon River. With access to books and resources their lives have been enriched and expanded as the library continues to raise the educational standard in this region, the least developed in Peru.

Library participants are children and young people from 6 to over 20 years old. The challenge of the CONAPAC library team is to help each child master reading, teaching them not only to decode but also to comprehend the text presented. In addition, they encourage children to express their opinions about what they have read.

### Daily Activities

The number of users has grown from 84 in 2015 to 109 in 2016. Key reasons for this increase were the encouragement of reading by combining it with fun activities such as learning music, computer and English classes, crafts projects, drawing and painting, and competitive games, both inside and outside the library. A typical day in the library begins with an hour of reading, followed by an hour of educational activities and concludes with an hour of game time.

### Special Visitors and Programs

Kelly Riddle, a medical laboratory technician from Concord, California, volunteered to present a science workshop for children and youth for five weeks in January and February. Topics such as scientific research methods, the solar system, electromagnetism, and cells were the favorites. We believe that a scientific perspective presented to the children of rural and traditional indigenous cultures can help them become prepared for and empowered in the 21st century.

In an artistic vein, we welcomed Sr. Luis Gutiérrez, from the IIAP (Institute for Investigations in the Peruvian Amazon) Library in Iquitos, who held a Narrative and Theatrical Expression Workshop.

The library teaching team needs to acquire the skills that enable them to develop new strategies. By attending the **Adopt-A-School** teacher education workshops this year they had an excellent opportunity to expand their knowledge base and teaching skills through the *Reading Comprehension and Composition of Texts with Help of Visual Schemes* workshop presented by the *Conocimiento Se Compartirte* group.

In addition, library team members needed to improve their administrative skills, such as using the Dewey Decimal System for cataloging and repairing books. In these aspects, we are very thankful for the collaboration of Jane Claud, a volunteer from Pompano Beach, Florida, who also provided materials to repair books as well as many new books. She was a valuable asset to the library again this year—her third time volunteering for the library.

### General Programs

In addition to our main objective of promoting reading, the library strives to enhance the specific needs of our closest neighbors. This year we promoted a *Competition of Stories and Myths in the Yagua Language*, in which some members of the Yagua ethnic group, who still speak their original language, narrated personal and traditional stories. These presentations were recorded and printed in an attempt to promote cultural preservation. The resulting materials will be used for educational purposes.

Other topics that we dedicated special attention to this year included the *Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases* and *Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse*. We had the help of specialists from *Lazos de Vida*, an institution in Iquitos dedicated to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. They held workshops in the library to share information. We addressed child sexual abuse and how to prevent it with the assistance of specially written books to address this issue in an age appropriate manner. Parents participated in lectures and received reading material on how to avoid and deal with this form of abuse.

Later in the year we hosted two music concerts to showcase what the children had learned this year in our music program. The first was hosted in the community of Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas. The entire community joined in for this special day. Later another concert was held in Palmeras II, along with a special Christmas treat called a *chocolatada*. The children from the Sapo Playa library branch also joined in for a very large and joyous year-end holiday celebration.

### **Library Improvements**

We were able to make improvements to our solar energy system and expand our electrical capacity thanks to donations from the Yanamono Clinic, International Fund for Economic Development (IFED), and International Expeditions (IE). Additional solar panels and new batteries have been added to the main library through the generosity of these groups. Also, another laptop was added to the computing capability of the main branch, making our computer lab one of the most comprehensive in the area. In addition, early in the year a new 55" flat screen TV was purchased for showing video programs and visitor presentations. A special video was produced in English with Spanish subtitles to showcase the activities of CONAPAC in general and the libraries in particular. This video is presented to visitors who come to the library to help them better understand CONAPAC's activities and goals.

## **CONAPAC WATER PROGRAM**

In 2016 we completed the eighth year of our water treatment program. A longstanding goal has been to provide access to clean water for all our **Adopt-A-School** partner communities. Through a variety of methods we have almost met our goal, which is currently 93% complete. Along the way there have been many stops and starts with communities as we nudge along the important message to consume treated water. With the addition of the school lunch program *Qali Warma*, the importance of clean water has taken on a greater significance. If one is going to eat a regular diet of healthy nutritional food, the consumption of clean water is imperative for the most positive results. Most communities have quickly adopted these two concepts.

This year we were able to build four more concrete community water plants in the communities of San Jose de Paranapura, Yana Yacu, Timicuro, and Centro Unido. We also provided and installed new filtration systems, pipes and valves in three communities with existing water plants: San Pedro de Mangua, Santa Martha and the high school in Llachapa. Donors for these projects include International Expeditions, Sharon Hayes, Amazon Amigos, Adopt-A-Village International and Beverly Len. Next year two more communities are slated for concrete water plants: Sucusari and Canal Pinto. Three communities with existing water plants will get new filters: Iquique, Yanamono II and Yarina Isla.

### **Sawyer PointONE™ Family Water Filter Systems**

More families were served this year with the Sawyer family water system. The communities of 03 de Mayo, Los Invencibles, Miraflores, San Alejandro, 11 de Agosto, and Nuevo Triunfo now benefit from this form of clean water treatment in their own homes.

### **Adopt-A-Drop**

It's been apparent since the very beginning of our clean water program that regular monitoring by CONAPAC personnel is the only way to achieve long term success. Along the way we did what we could to make these visits, train operators and test water, but we never had any regular funding stream to cover these costs. Last year we decided to try a new idea fashioned after an old one, **Adopt-A-Drop**. Like Adopt-A-School, donors adopt a community water plant as a way to insure success with a community's clean water commitment. We put a call out to our donor base and 11 donors stepped up,

covering the cost of adopting (or monitoring) 30 communities. This extra funding, specifically earmarked for water monitoring, allowed us to provide regular operator training, water testing, village visits by staff, and fuel for our boats. In addition, we added local monitors to handle village visits and paid them a small stipend for their time. A final report for each community was sent out to the 2016 donors and we anticipate continued participation for 2017. Many of our communities have wholeheartedly embraced the benefits of clean water. Work remains to be done with others. However, each year more communities make the commitment and find almost immediate changes in the health and well being of all community members.

### Agreements (Convenios)

In 2014 an agreement with the municipality of Indiana to partner with CONAPAC was signed by the mayor, Janet Reategui. Since then, we’ve partnered in the construction of three community water plants. This year we signed another agreement with the mayor of Mazan, Edward Reategui Salas. During the year the mayor was able to support the operators in his district with special incentive gift baskets of food. He continues to promise partnerships in communities located within his district for the coming year.

### 2008-2016

To summarize CONAPAC’s clean water achievements since 2008, we have built 36 community water plants—some in wood but most in concrete. Almost all have been updated with new filters during this time and some wooden structures have been upgraded to concrete towers. We have also provided almost 500 Sawyer PointONE™ filter systems to classrooms and families in our program. Although some of the communities where we have provided clean water are no longer partnering in our programs, we wish them well and hope our message of clean water continues to work in their communities. As populations grow the risk of river water contamination increases, so communities must embrace and value the advantages of treated water for human consumption. The CONAPAC team is proud of our clean water accomplishments during the last eight years. With continued donor support we will do our part to protect the investment of donors and the health of our partner communities in the rural Amazon basin.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Once again this year, through our arrangement with Explorama Lodges, visiting student and adult groups provided labor and funding for various community service projects. Activities ranged from building school kitchens, classroom craft activities, constructing recycle bins, reforestation, painting of water plant towers, and environmental signage. These groups bring assistance to the communities and help improve and enhance life on the river.

These participating groups completed projects in the following communities:

Adopt-A-School Week #2	Centro Unido
All Saints High School	03 de Mayo
Alliance Education High School	Miraflores
Centura Health	Iquitos city service project
Educators’ Workshop & Peru Crew 2016	San Luis
EKOAmazon	Primero de Enero
Fox High School	Irlanda
Fremont	Yarina Isla



Gunston School	Llachapa
Hudson High School	San Pedro de Mangua
Hudson High School	Urco Mirañó
Las Aguilas	Miraflores
Learning AFAR	San Pedro de Manati
Miliken School	Palmeras II
No Barriers/Troy High School	Los Invencibles
Noblesville schools	Manati I Zona
Roosevelt School	Sapo Playa and Pucallpa
Sidwell School	Santa Lucia
Sierra High School	Nuevo Uchiza
St. Frances High School	Canada

## SPECIAL PROJECTS—2016

- A new school kitchen in Centro Unido with help from the 2016 Adopt-A-School Week #2 volunteers, donor was the Saga Charitable Trust.
- New school kitchen in San Luis with help from Nancy Kopf (Pachita) and four friends. Also, a group of 25 educators from the US helped to finish things up during their one-day service project, donor was the Saga Charitable Trust.
- A new kitchen in the community of Iquique was completed in December, mainly with community help and a local contractor.
- Supplemental food for the high school students in Tamanco, provided by a donation from Susan Galiher.
- Transportaion for all Llachapa high school students to Mazan so they could participate in a regional soccer match and special activities to share environmental information, provided through the Adopt-A-School program.
- A music teacher for the library to teach guitar, chorus and flute, provided with a grant from the South Lyon Rotary Club and Ms. Beverly Len
- A computer teacher for the library, provided by a small grant from International Fund for Educational Development (IFED), a US based NGO
- Three Rotary exchange scholarships were provided by the San Borja Rotary Club of Lima, Peru. The three students spent their scholarship year in France and Brazil.
- A lemongrass garden pilot project was started in two communities, Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas and Jorge Chavez, with a grant provided by Adopt-A-Village International (AaVI).
- Four boat buses to transport high school students were provided for the communities of Nuevo San Juan del Amazonas, Tamanco, Santa Lucia, and one to-be-determined community for 2017, donors were EKOAmazon and the Mary Knauer family.
- Days for Girls, a non-profit organization serving the needs of girls, makes specially designed monthly menstruation kits that include high quality hand-made items that are sewn and contributed by women from around the world. We were able to provide almost 300 kits to female high school students in our communities through a collection effort by Noblesville Schools from Noblesville, Indiana, USA.



## 2015 MAJOR PURCHASES & IMPROVEMENTS

Through an undesignated donation from the Detroit Zoological Society, CONAPAC was able to purchase four new computer laptops with cases for our staff members. Our old computers were then donated to the library for use by the students in their classes. We also purchased a new LCD projector and new speakers to be used during workshops and other presentations and an office color copier. Although our new boat (called Zoobote) was just purchased last year, there were several additional renovations made to improve security and performance. The small balance left from the generous \$10,000 Zoo donation was used to cover boat fuel and maintenance. These costs were significantly higher in 2016 compared to previous years due to the increased engine size for two boats and more frequent village visits.

## CONAPAC STAFF MEMBERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Some changes occurred this year for both the staff and the CONAPAC board of directors, as follows:

**Cynthia Smith Snyder**, our current CONAPAC executive director, announced her retirement at the end of May of 2017. A search for her replacement began in June 2016 and a candidate was found and engaged to begin the process of assuming Cynthia's duties beginning in February 2017.

**Alberto Vela** continues as our education specialist, coordinating all communication with the Iquitos Board of Education and its respective Offices for Rural Education (UGEL and RER). Alberto also assists teachers and community leaders who come to the CONAPAC office in Iquitos for help in coordinating special requests and assistance in approaching the Board of Education for the appropriate placement of teachers in our partner communities.

**James Pasmíño** continues as our water program and community service field coordinator. In addition to assisting teachers in the field, he also performs various duties related to water monitoring, teacher and community leader workshops, and annual community evaluations.

**Fernando Saavedra** continues as the library administrator and plays an integral part in instruction at the library, living and working downriver full-time. Fernando also helps with workshops and yearly evaluations.

**Oscar Homer Quiroz** was a former employee of the rural branch of the Board of Education (UGEL) but decided to accept our invitation to join the CONAPAC team in August 2017. He has brought a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. He primarily handles teacher monitoring, Sawyer water filter system oversight, and assistance with community service projects. He has been a great addition to our team.

**Salvia Ahuanari** stepped down from CONAPAC in June. Although her time with us was less than two years, she added a great deal to our teacher and classroom monitoring. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

**Megan Thomas de Rioja** started working for CONAPAC full time in 2011 as administrator of the library where she worked and lived on the river for three years. In 2014 she stepped down to have a baby, but continued to work part-time for CONAPAC in the office in Iquitos where her main responsibilities were managing our student scholarships. In October of 2016, Megan left CONAPAC and Peru to return to her

home state of Michigan in the USA. We wish Megan the very best in her future plans and thank her for her service to the children of Peru.

**Library staff** — Our long-serving library staff members, Lara Hoyas and Manuel Pérez, continue working in the main branch of the library. We lost longtime employee, Nelwin Arévalo, from the satellite library at Sapo Playa. However, his position was filled by a teacher working in Sapo Playa, Jhoner Escobedo. Also this year, the Ministry of Education assigned a teacher, Rosa Vásquez, to work in our main library. Rosa has been a great addition and we hope to have her back again for the next school year.

**Jamie Acevedo**, our longtime board president, stepped down in 2016. Pamela Bucur will take over the board presidency in 2017 and Cynthia Smith will begin as vice president for three years, after her departure as executive director. Two new board members were added: Amner Ismodes, an Explorama guide and long serving advocate for CONAPAC and the **Adopt-A-School** program, and Claire Lannoye-Hall, education coordinator from the Detroit Zoological Society. Luis Gonzales will continue as treasurer and Nancy Cowal will continue as a trustee.

An informal **US-based advisory board** was created in 2016 with a small number of volunteers, fundraisers and general friends of CONAPAC. It will act as our eyes and ears, bringing first-hand knowledge to members' families, friends, professional contacts, and community associates. We plan to increase the size of this board in 2017. As of now, our current members are: Herb Thompson, retired teacher, **Adopt-A-School** volunteer, public speaker and general AAS and library fundraiser, and Jane Claud, a regular library volunteer and CONAPAC fundraiser.

## WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website and monthly newsletter continue to be managed by longtime volunteer, Nancy Cowal. From her perch in North Carolina, Nancy maintains regular contact with CONAPAC donors, volunteers and other interested parties. In addition, Cynthia, Nancy, Megan, and longtime volunteer, Bonnie Gornie, make regular posts on Facebook.

In 2016, a new marketing theme was designed for advertising the various CONAPAC programs that we offer. Adam Rossi from the US helped us design new bilingual advertising banners for the lodges and new brochures for general distribution. We had hoped to add a Spanish section to our website this year but this has been moved to the top of our priority list for 2017.

## FUNDING PARTNERS

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

- DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
- AMAZON EXPLORAMA LODGES
- INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS
- SAGA CHARITABLE TRUST
- JAMES HUMPHREY
- AMAZON AMIGOS
- ADOPT-A-VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL
- EKOAMAZON
- BEVERLY LEN
- IFED

- REACH FOR BOOKS
- GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO GIVE TO THE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Longtime supporter of the library, *REACH for Books*, announced its closure as a legally functioning non-profit in the United States. Over the years volunteers and donors gave the Amazon Library countless new high quality books in Spanish. Most were carried to the library in the suitcases of passengers visiting Explorama Lodges. REACH also supported the overhead costs of salaries and maintenance for our small Sapu Playa library branch. We will miss their interest, enthusiasm and support in the coming years. However, they generously gave CONAPAC one final donation totaling almost \$5000. It will be saved and used wisely in the coming year or two in order to carry on the mission and vision of *REACH for Books*.

## SUMMARY

During CONAPAC's 26 years of existence our goals have remained the same: improve the life and opportunities of people in our sponsored communities through partnerships, not charity, and at the same time always advocate for the rainforest and its flora and fauna. For many years our growth was slow but steady, with the focus on the Adopt-A-School program. Over the years, especially in the last few, we have had to evolve our strategies to meet new needs and challenges in our partner communities.

Since 2008 we have added many new programs, special projects, resources and have enhanced community development. And we have broadened our outreach with the addition of full- and part-time employees. We are ending 2016 with a solid professional team, a surplus budget balance, a strong US dollar, low fuel prices, a committed core volunteer and donor base, in-kind donations and expertise from the Detroit Zoo and Explorama Lodges, a new executive director for 2017, and a strengthened Board of Directors. CONAPAC has never been better positioned to continue its positive influence and contribution to rural rainforest communities in the Amazon basin of Peru.

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

“Leaders in the Conservation of the Amazon Through Education”

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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.