

Annual Report 2021



Conservacion de la Naturaleza
Amazonica del Peru, A.C.

<p>Board of Directors Pam Bucur Cynthia Smith Nancy Cowal Claire Lannoye-Hall Amner Ismodes</p> <p>2021 Team Alberto Vela Muñoz James Pasmíño Michel Briceño Megan McDaniel, resident</p> <p>Detroit Zoo Staff Claire Lannoye-Hall</p> <p>Cover photo by Juan “Tony” Elizando</p>	<p>Contents</p> <p>Annual Report 2021..... 1</p> <p> From The Team..... 3</p> <p> Enduring the Pandemic..... 4</p> <p> Remembering Alberto 4</p> <p> Supporting Education 5</p> <p> Community Mapping Projects 7</p> <p> Celebrating Birds Continues 7</p> <p> Clean Water 8</p> <p> Fruit Tree Project 9</p> <p> Financial Status for 2021 10</p> <p> Looking Forward 12</p>
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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 workshops and complemented by service and sustainable projects in river communities.



From The Team

2021 was another unusual year. On the ground, however, CONAPAC was able to continue monitoring, developing, and organizing ongoing and new projects. We were also able to welcome Megan McDaniel as a resident for four months to shadow the field team and help with some administrative tasks. It was a year full of ups and downs, especially with the loss of our dear friend, Alberto. The organization is committed to a complete comeback and looking ahead to a brighter year in 2022.



Enduring the Pandemic



Throughout the uncertainty of 2021, our team continued to work, thanks to the generosity of our donors. Education Specialist Alberta Vela, Water Specialist James Pasmíño, and Acting Administrator Michel Briceño worked tirelessly in the office and from home. CONAPAC remained strong, and our projects continued to be successful.

Remembering Alberto

The effects of COVID struck our team directly when, on May 18, 2021, long-time employee, friend, and mentor, Albert Vela Muñoz, lost his battle with the infection. Alberto's loss has been keenly felt by all our staff, CONAPAC Partner Community teachers, regular volunteers, and donors. We, as well as the teachers, residents, students, and communities we serve, feel his absence as the great leader in education that he was for CONAPAC and the Adopt-A-School program. He was a career educator with the Peruvian Ministry of Education until his retirement in 2006 when he joined the staff of CONAPAC. He worked tirelessly in the intervening years as the lead in our community education efforts, as a teacher education specialist, and as a champion of conservation education. We have greatly missed his presence on our staff and will continue to work hard toward ensuring an excellent education for all of our communities.





Supporting Education

After no in-person school for all of 2020, schools in the rural Amazon began semi-present classes in June and July. The CONAPAC team organized a modified delivery schedule for school supplies, and all 49 partner communities received their much-needed supplies in July and August.

Summary of CONAPAC activities in education for 2021:

- Virtual meeting with teachers in March
- In-person workshop led by Ministry of Education personnel regarding the use of tablets in schools held in May



- Modified Adopt-A-School supply deliveries on the following schedule. Deliveries were socially distanced and masked, with no speeches or celebrations. Education specialists from DREL and UGEL accompanied the CONAPAC team. Altogether, 99 schools, 226 teachers, and 2,523 students received supplies.
 - Napo River communities: 5-9 and 12-14 July
 - Amazon River communities: 3-5 August, with a small group of volunteers

An excerpt from our newsletter regarding deliveries:

The deliveries this year were unlike those in the past. There was no music, dancing, or tiny hands running to grab yours as we entered communities. Everyone wore masks, which felt like a barrier between smiles. ... Some deliveries took place at the riverbank, some in open malocas, with students entering by grade level. We were with the community for only about an hour most of the time. It was very different.

And while all of that was true, the pandemic circumstances did not deter the communities from coming together. Community members of all ages came to the water's edge to help move supplies from the boats. Maybe 6 or 7 years old, two young boys were spotted carrying a crate together. Many communities and school children made signs, thanking us for being there that day. Teachers expressed their thanks multiple times. Often parents hovered nearby and applauded when their children's names were called. Children compared the pictures of the birds on their folders with each other, pointing out the different supplies wrapped up in the packets. One teacher handed the volunteers water bottles, and a few communities also prepared lunch to share. When deliveries concluded, community members helped carry the remaining supplies back to our boat, often lending a hand to any volunteer that needed a little assistance getting down the side of the riverbank or getting a foot pulled out of the mud!





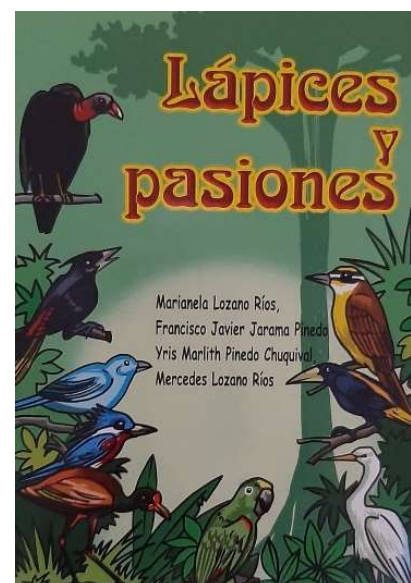
Community Mapping Projects

Community mapping continued in three villages this year, Las Palmas, Llachapa, and San Antonio de Miraflores. Each workshop took place over two half-days, with the culminating activity to complete a map envisioning the community 15 years in the future.



Celebrating Birds Continues

The teachers in Timicuro I, one of our partner communities, had attended the CONAPAC conservation education workshops led by Karen Purcell of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in previous years and then incorporated Amazon Rainforest birds into many of their courses. This year, they published a book demonstrating their students' creativity through poems, songs, and stories in appreciation for birds! The book is called "Lápices y Pasiones." CONAPAC has arranged to purchase a book for all 49 partner communities, to be distributed during Adopt-A-School supply deliveries.





Clean Water

Significant activities in our Clean Water program include:

- Rebuild of water filtration system for the Pucallpa school
- Complete rebuild of the water filtration plant for the community of Isla Tamanco
- Brand new build of a water filtration plant for Las Palmas

Other activities this year:

- Monitoring of water plants in Yanamono II, Sapo Playa, Llachapa, Sucucari, Yarina Isla, Timicurilo, San Luis, General Merino, Suni Caño, Nuevo San Juan
- Repairs to the filtration systems in Santa Lucia, León Isla, Juventud Yarina, San Antonio de Miraño
- Mini-workshops for new operators in Yanayacu Timicuro, Timicuro I, Nuevo Uchiza, Jorge Chavez, Ramón Castilla, Canadá, San Pedro de Mangua, Juancho Playa, Auca Cocha, Primero de Enero
- Monitoring of in-home filtration systems in Capironal and Santa Maria de Fatima



Fruit Tree Project

Despite the setbacks of the pandemic, our growers and their trees are doing well! Monitoring activities took place twice this year, in January and February and in August and September. All beneficiaries are working hard to grow their trees successfully, and some are producing fruits already.

To increase the capacity of growers, two workshops were held in August on eco-friendly fertilizers and pest control, and pruning.



Representatives in Ramón Castilla, LIDA, Canal Pinto, Nuevo Uchiza, Pucallpa, Yanomono II, Jorge Chavez, and Timicurillo were present and engaged in the hands-on training with agronomist Pedro Paucarcaja.



In December, a group of volunteers arrived with our partner, the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, to assist with the



planting of 6,000 new trees. The program has now been implemented in 17 communities: San Antonio de Mirañó, Urco Mirañó, Santa Lucía, Llachapa, Sucusari, San Pedro de Mangua, San Alejandro, Ramón Castilla, Yanamono II, Jorge Chavez, Pucallpa, San Luis, Timicurillo, Los Invencibles de las Amazonas (LIDA), Ramón Castilla, Canal Pinto, Palmeras II, Nuevo Uchiza, Timicurillo.



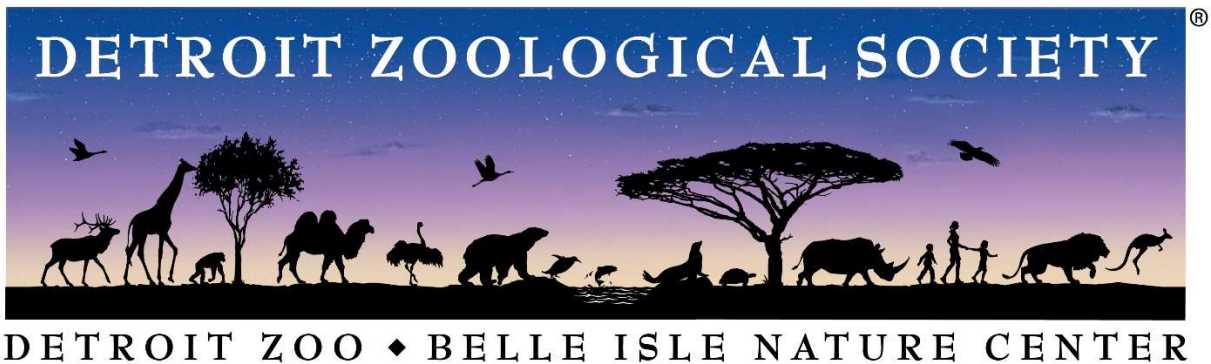
Financial Status for 2021

With the continued uncertainty in the world due to the pandemic, we are ever so grateful to our financial supporters who have kept CONAPAC on solid economic ground. We cannot do our work without every donation, big and small. Giving Tuesday was especially rewarding; with your help, we exceeded our goal for the year! We received a total of \$34,500 during the campaign.

Due to the pandemic pause on our school supply distributions in 2020 and this year's changes in staffing, our expenses were considerably less this year than in previous years. All school supplies packaged and ready for 2020 were delivered this year, and we needed to purchase very few new supplies.

Overall, we are in an excellent position to enable our programming to continue strong for 2022 and hire a new director and staff.

The Detroit Zoological Society has remained to be one of our most important partner organizations. For 2021, they contributed \$25,000 directly to CONAPAC funds. The zoo also has pledged to continue to process our donations via their website platform and has generously offered the time and talent of key personnel including Claire Lannoye-Hall, Director of Education.



None of our work is accomplished alone, and we appreciate all our donors for their contributions, big and small. A special thank you to the following organizations who have made CONAPAC projects a priority this year:



Adopt-a-Village International





Looking Forward

There is so much to look forward to in 2022!

- * Welcoming Megan McDaniel as our new executive director.
- * Continuing Alberto's legacy through Profesora Lira Fajardo of Manati I Zona and Profesor Oscar Quiroz of San Antonio de Miraño who will be hiring our CONAPAC community teachers. Lira and Oscar worked directly with Alberto in previous years, and we are grateful to have experts in the field to continue his work.
- * Revitalizing our clean water program to ensure all of our partner communities have access to clean water. The need to evaluate water systems in place is a priority, and we are committed to making sure water towers are functioning and in-home systems are flowing.
- * Revisioning our agroforestry program to put family, food sovereignty, and conservation at the top of the goals, while increasing the capacity of all growers and mentor growers.
- * Renewing our enduring partnerships with organizations and inviting new partnerships for the good of all our communities.



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Thank you to our contributing photographers: Hector Montenegro, Megan McDaniel, Pedro Paucarcaja, Michel Briceño, and others