



A co-operatively run NGO driven by the enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers to promote sustainable development in marginalized communities throughout Ecuador and to promote Cultural Exchange for mutual benefit in our increasingly globalized world

Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 17: May-June 2010

Introduction

Every two months when it comes time to put together the latest newsletter it gives us a chance to reflect on the changes and development of the organization as a whole as we continue to grow. We hope you enjoy keeping up to date with us too!

After a very quiet April and May period the school has got back into full swing again, classes punctuated every now and then by the cries of GOAL!!!! Our students, interns and volunteers come from all over the world including quite a few countries that are represented in the World Cup currently taking place in South Africa. We have students rooting for England, Germany, the US, France, Holland, and Japan aside from staff rooting for the South American countries. So it is not unusual to see students rushing to class late or scurrying out early to catch their ...



A staff barbecue with World Cup football!

Teacher Training: On Saturday 12 June we began a series of training workshops with our teachers aimed at developing methods and using materials that reflect our methodology. All our teachers are professionals with many years of experience, but we have noticed a tendency for them to stick with the same materials that they have always used rather than taking on new methods and adopting new materials. While this is understandable in terms of ease, we are determined to engage them in processes of professional development that will move them beyond the system through which all Spanish teachers in Ecuador have qualified. This focuses strictly on grammar rather than taking advantage of recent advances in our understanding of how we learn a second language. These insights we have incorporated into our methodology, and we will continue to work with our teachers to diffuse them into our teaching.

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country's games.

The foundation has been kept extremely busy with project work during the last two months and we have had to face some tough decisions which you can read about on page 2.

We are pleased to have received funding from the Alan and Nesta Ferguson Trust from the UK that will help us continue our efforts in Bua, with a focus on helping women.

In Estero de Plátano our latest intern to work there, Amelia Brandt, has been busy monitoring the progress of the 10 children who we sponsored to study at a nearby secondary school, as well as getting involved with local youth and women to begin the process of promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

These are delicate topics to introduce to a small community and will need considerable finesse and social skills to create lasting results. We will have two interns from Union College stationed in Estero to continue this work in the future with additional aid in the form of financing from the Souter Trust.

New Accounting ...

We were pleased to hand over our accounting at the start of May to an outside firm of accountants, **e-Valora**, who will be better able to provide us with up-to-date reporting and compliance to the most rigorous of standards. The switch over involved a lot of work in the accounts department, but we see it as a vital step for the future of the organization as we continue to grow.



Yanapuma students meet Ecuador's president Rafael Correa!

On a recent school excursion to "Carondelet" the President's palace in the historic center of Quito students were surprised and overjoyed to get a chance to meet Ecuador's president. For the photo above he posed with our Vinicio and several students.

New Look Website! ...

Yanapuma's website has a new look. We felt it was time to make some changes, although the content and information stays pretty much the same. Check us out: <http://www.yanapumaspanish.org>



Project News . . .

Bua

Work has started on the "huerto escolar," the vegetable garden in the local school, under the guidance of Paulina. Children will learn how



to grow different kinds of vegetables which will be incorporated into the school diet. This is a first step towards creating similar plots for individual families.

May 10 saw the termination of the first trimester in our project funded by the UNDP Small Donations Program. It was a moment for us to take stock of the situation and the way the project was unfolding in Bua. Two major problems that were emerging were firstly that the reporting requirements were putting a considerable strain on our small team in terms of the number of hours spent on just writing reports. Secondly, the schedule of activities that we had set out in the program turned out to be out of phase with actual developments in the community and we found ourselves increasingly trying to force the Tsa'chila at an inappropriate pace in order to comply with the schedule that we had set. This went totally against our value of working in a participatory manner, but we could see no other option in light of the schedule of activities that we had established in the project.

In the end we reluctantly took the decision to halt the project at the end of the 3 month period. Over the next few months we will continue with the project funded by the Interamerican Foundation until the end of August. As this project focuses more on the social processes—leadership skills, self-esteem, and organizational abilities focused towards improving production—rather than being about achieving concrete results as in the UNDP project, it is more in tune with the current state of development of the community.

In addition we will continue with other current small projects and set about planning and initiating our other funded



Preparing the school meal in Bua

projects through the Souter Trust for Estero de Plátano and the Alan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for Bua.



Estero de Plátano

The ten children that we sponsored this year to study at secondary level are now well immersed in their studies at the local college in Tonchigwe. Currently they are being monitored and aided by Amelia, our intern stationed in the village. Aside from spending time getting to understand how this community functions she is also beginning the process of planning and introducing the topic of sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and youth.

Our project to install a clean drinking water system for the village still hinges on us finding a suitable space to house the equipment. So far none of the several suggested sites has proven viable and we continue to work with the local village council and Fundación Agua Muisne to move the project forward.

At the end of June and through July and August is the time of year in Estero de Plátano for the whales to pass along the coast and they can regularly be seen close to shore spouting and leaping out of the water.

Donation News . . .

In April we were pleased to learn that the **Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust** has funded a proposal for £12,837.00 to work with 20 Tsa'chila mothers on a project that will create family tree nurseries to grow saplings to sell for added income, vegetable plots to improve the nutrition of their families, and help them improve the quality and yield of their cacao also for added income. In addition the project will fund a person to help the women organize themselves to take full advantage of their production by commanding better prices and controlling the sale.

Through Yanapuma Scotland we received a cheque for £3204.44 from **Theale Green School** for expenses related to a project that they will carry out in Caimito on the Pacific coast. An additional donation of \$4000 will buy materials for the school that they are helping to expand in the village.

We are also pleased to acknowledge a \$200 donation from former student **Gaylin Rezek** who studied with us in February. This will be used in the coastal village of Estero de Plátano to encourage the development of small businesses, especially among local women.

To make a donation to our work please visit our webpage: <http://www.yanapuma.org> to find out more about our ongoing projects as well as our small projects for which we continue to seek funding.

Students and Interns . . .

June is a time of change for interns at Yanapuma with departures of familiar faces and new arrivals. It is at the same time a little sad as the old interns leave but inspiring as a new and energetic bunch arrive.

Veronica Azuais and **Emilién Amblat** from Aix-en-Provence in France left after nine months working on various projects for the foundation. During this time they both made a valuable contribution and will be missed.

Charlotte Lulsens from Belgium also left us after working as assistant project coordinator for the foundation since November. She too made a significant contribution to our work and we wish her well in the future. She is replaced by **Madeleine Shearer** from Australia who takes up the challenge of project coordination.

Inez van Dorslaer and **Len van Heete**, also from Belgium, finished their internships working in the school and the foundation on publicity, marketing and related activities.

Sophie Narbed and **Davis Courtney** also left us to return to the UK and the US respectively. Sophie led volunteer groups along with Davis who also worked on fundraising.

We welcomed **Amelia Brandt** from the US. She is working in Estero de Plátano with youth and children as well as other groups on promotion of sexual and reproductive health as well as working in the local school.

We also welcomed **Sabine de Bruijn** from Holland to work with the Spanish school on promotion and marketing, and **Daniqué van de Ven** to work on fundraising and with volunteer groups.

Alana Dixon from the US joined us as a volunteer coordinator, working alongside Fran organizing the groups and our Volunteer Ecuador program.

Staff, volunteers and Spanish students gathered on 28th of May to celebrate Project Coordinator Daniela's birthday!

Daniela started working with Yanapuma in Decem-



Volunteer Ecuador . . .

During May and June our Volunteer Ecuador program placed 27 students in projects in Quito and around Ecuador.

We can now place volunteers in any of around 40 projects with reliable and well-run organizations in Quito and around Ecuador.

Our aim is simply to connect willing volunteers with worthwhile causes to create a win-win situation. We charge a nominal sum with any profits going towards supporting the work of our foundation.

Visit our website for more information:

<http://www.yanapumaspanish.org/volunteer.htm>

Project News . . .

Conservation and Education in Caimito . . .

In the village of Caimito on the Cabo San Francisco in the northern province of Esmeraldas, Yanapuma supports the work of Peruvian-born biologist George Fletcher. This area is of immense ecological significance, being one of the last remaining places where the rainforest meets the sea, in addition to the recently declared offshore marine reserve which, according to a study by the Nature Conservancy, despite only having 3% of the area of the Galapagos islands, has greater biological diversity.

George has been instrumental in the creation of a school in Caimito. Previously children either went to schools in other villages or didn't go because of the distance. The school has

grown and now has two teachers, and George has installed a composting toilet and created a "huerto escolar" behind the school which



produces vegetables and fruit for the children. Our volunteers have built classrooms and housing for the teachers.



George has also created a group called "Ecocacao" of producers of organic cacao. More than 80 local farmers are farming more sustainably while they seek organic certification for their products.

Another project is to form a biodiversity corridor that will link together many small plots of land, abandoned farms in the rainforest bought by conservation-minded individuals. This will create a corridor between the highlands inland and the coastline to allow free movement of the larger mammals and primates that are currently isolated inland.

There is much to do to ensure the conservation of this unique and precious region with its impressive biological diversity.

Spread the Word!

Help us to get the word out about Yanapuma by linking to our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Yanapuma-Spanish-School/118134841547591>

In addition you can keep even more up-to-date with events here at Yanapuma as well as in Ecuador through our regular additions of photos and news to Facebook.

