

YANAPUMA FOUNDATION AND
ORGANIZACIÓN INDÍGENA SECOYA DEL
ECUADOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROPOSAL

Prepared for:

Yanapuma Foundation
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and

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Strategic Context and Rationale

Traditionally a nomadic people, the Secoya once occupied scattered, autonomous settlements located in territory that extended from the north bank of the Napo River to the south bank of the Putamayo River close to the present border between Ecuador and Colombia. Most settlements were situated around the Aguarico River, which flows through the northeastern Ecuadorian Amazon, the southeastern Colombian Amazon and the northwestern Peruvian Amazon. The remaining 500 members of the Ecuadorian Secoya Nation are currently located in the following three communities: the Secoya San Pablo de Catëtsiaya, Siecoya Remolino, located in San Roque Parish, Shushufindi Canton, Sucumbíos Province; and Secoya Eno, located in Tarapoa Parish, Cuyabeno Canton, Sucumbíos Province.

Over the history of their occupation in this territory, the Secoya people have been witness to countless regional transformations that have affected their cultural and social systems. The Secoya people have been displaced, lost land rights through the formation political boundaries, changed their core belief system and developed a sophisticated mechanism for navigating political participation in the international arena. The late 20th Century brought the most rapid and aggressive change in the recorded history of the culture, as a consortium of oil companies located substantial oil reserves in what was geographically denominated “Block 15” of Secoya Nation territory. Though the Secoya Nation currently holds legal title to a 22,000-hectare reserve, the future of the culture is threatened by colonists, loggers, petrol companies and speculators, all of whom have exerted great pressure on the Secoya population.

The Ecuadorian NGO Yanapuma Foundation is currently engaged in a project to develop a model for sustainable development that can be used with indigenous communities, and has recently begun working with the community at Siecoya Remolino to develop an integrated response to the demands of globalization. The community itself is unique among indigenous communities in that it has developed a sophisticated democratic governing body to lead negotiations with outside actors. This body, the Organización Indígena Secoya del Ecuador (Organization of the Indigenous Secoyas of Ecuador, OISE) has identified five primary areas from which to gain revenue to support its efforts in key development initiatives including developing higher levels of education, securing health care, strengthening OISE administration and generally maintaining and preserving the Secoya culture.

Project Description

This proposal is intended to guide the Yanapuma Foundation in its initial interactions with the community at Siecoya Remolino. Each project should begin with a period of thorough review of project progress at Siecoya Remolino, consultation with local experts (Secoyas) and technical experts in each project field, research of local markets and export possibilities, as well as assessments of the expected impacts of the projects upon the community. The following serves as a guide for each project that will culminate in at least one project report to be developed with the community and presented at Siecoya Remolino during planning sessions at which the community can determine which projects to pursue and in what capacity the community will develop each component. The projects outlined in this proposal are precisely the five projects outlined by the OISE for their development, they are as follows: aquaculture, cacao cultivation, community-based tourism, aviculture and recuperation of territory.

Information contained in this proposal report is based upon author's experience and interviews with Secoya people at Siecoya Remolino. The Background and Current Progress sections are included to inform Yanapuma of the program in place at Siecoya Remolino. As the organization has only recently begun working with the community, the development plan presented here is almost entirely new information for the organization. A list of contacts has been added as an appendix to supply Yanapuma with community contacts.

AQUACULTURE

Situational Analysis

Background

Historically a hunting and gathering society, the Secoya have long relied upon the abundance of the rainforest to sustain their lifestyle. For centuries fishing has provided an important component in the Secoya diet, especially at times when over-hunting has caused reduction of the local mammal population. As a nomadic population, the Secoya traditionally abandoned sites to resettle in areas of abundance when reductions of mammal and fish populations offered insufficient sustenance for the population. Outside populations however, have settled on Secoya territory constricting land opportunities for resettlement. Changes to the Secoya culture mostly through contacts with missionary groups have also resulted in pressure to be sedentary rather than nomadic. Additionally, large sections of Secoya territory have been used for oil exploration and drilling, rendering it uninhabitable.

Currently, the Aguarico River provides a scarce quantity of consumable fish which is insufficient to feed the community. This is partly attributed to increased population pressures which have led to over fishing in the region, but is also attributed in large part to the recent introduction of chemical pollutants by petrol plants located directly upriver. Scarcity of native mammals has resulted in a severely diminished supply of protein for consumption. As stated above, the traditionally nomadic population would customarily respond by uprooting substandard settlements and relocating. Modern Secoyas however, are left with few options. The result is that the Secoyas at Remolino must adapt to the present conditions at their current site. The OISE has therefore identified the practice of fish cultivation as an opportunity for increasingly the supply of protein-rich food for consumption as well as providing an income-generating activity.

| Current Progress

The fish breeding initiative was begun at the suggestion of Massachusetts-based Hampshire College. The initiative was launched at the request of then OISE president Elias Piaguaje in 1997 after he spent time at Hampshire College's Institute for Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (ISIS). The institute launched its Indigenous Aquaculture Initiative to specialize in building fish pools for sustainable development at Secoya settlements. The organization aided initially in the obtainment of pipes and construction materials but only reached a limited number of families. In 2003, the College decided to endow its program to an emerging organization and under the leadership of Jim Oldham, (ISIS Amazon Project Director), Las Lianas Resource Center for

Science, Culture, and Environment was formed. Las Lianas has continued work with the Secoyas, however progress in the aquaculture project difficult to measure.

As of 2007, many of the pools have been left only partially equipped and others are completely nonfunctional. Most families do not have expendable income enough to invest in the purchase of supplies to finish construction, or too add fish to their pools. Progress of the fish pools has been limited for almost all families with the exception of a few, who have constructed working pools and who regularly harvest fish for consumption. The limited progress is the result of a lack of resources necessary for the construction of pools. In some cases, pools have been constructed but do not contain fish due to the limited finances in the community. The majority of pools need piping to direct water, as well as filtration systems and finally fish for completion. Pools that have been constructed and are in use are in some cases poorly maintained and therefore do not produce a high yield of fish for consumption. Poor maintenance of the pools is a result of the lack technical expertise in aquaculture.

Recommendations

Project History

To formulate a well-informed and comprehensive approach to the aquaculture project, it will be essential to fully understand the ten-year history of aquaculture in Siecoya Remolino. To this end, Yanapuma Foundation should contact Jim Oldham of Las Lianas to gain an understanding of the institutional experience, as well as his personal experience in working with the community at Siecoya Remolino. Particular attention should be paid to the model the organization used to guide its work with the community, especially the extent to which the participation of the community was relied upon in project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Yanapuma should gain information on the current work of Las Lianas in Siecoya Remolino as well as the future plans for projects in the community.

Yanapuma Foundation should also seek to understand the experience of the Secoyas in the project. Yanapuma should conduct site visits to all aquaculture pools and conduct interviews with the families who maintain the pools. Interviews should be conducted with community members connected with both functional and nonfunctional pools to determine both reasons for success and impediments to progress. Attention should be paid to the relationship between the Secoya Nation and Las Lianas as it is perceived by the Secoyas. Las Lianas claims to be currently involved in aquaculture with the Secoyas to create sustainable aquaculture practices that are aimed at encouraging reproduction of fish and promotion of local species within pools, but the organization is not necessarily involved in the creation of new pools or maintenance of existing pools that are not being used for observation.

Partnerships

Yanapuma Foundation may be able to aid the Secoyas in the process of incorporating more successful aquaculture pools by forming a partnership with Las Lianas to encourage greater access to pools throughout the community. The community may benefit from knowledge-sharing

workshops at which families with successful pools teach other families about the process of building a successful fish pool. The community may organize several mingas¹ to first amend nonfunctional pools and rebuild faulty infrastructure and upon completion, build pools for families without access to existing pools. This may help to ensure that by the end of the project implementation phases, all families within the Siecoya Remolino community who wish to have access to a pool are afforded that opportunity. These are merely suggestions, however and all project phases should be determined by the community with assistance from the Yanapuma Foundation and potentially Las Lianas.

CACAO

Situational Analysis

Background

Cacao is an important crop for all of South America, and grows especially well in Ecuador's Amazon basin. The OISE has identified cacao production as an important component in the community's development process as the sale of cacao in local markets at Lago Agrio and Shushufindi has the potential to generate income for community members. The OISE recognizes, however, that these markets are relatively small and though they are near Siecoya Remolino, travel to these sites presents significant cost and time, cutting deeply into earnings. Secoyas have therefore been seeking to connect with a larger producer of cocoa to which they can sell their cacao for a larger percentage of profit.

Most families at Siecoya Remolino are involved in cacao cultivation. Each family has cacao cultivating at different stages though the majority of crops have been in the ground between 9 months and 1 year. Most farmers, however, share common problems with the exception of a few families who have cultivated healthy, productive plants. The majority of cacao fields are wildly overgrown with weeds and plagued by various insect infestations. The leaves of many young plants are severely damaged from insects and many have been strangled by vines. Most cacao fields yield stunted, unproductive plants. Plants are still young in most fields as plants take at least four to five years to bear fruit and the project has been fairly recently implemented. Growers therefore believe that as their plants mature they will become healthier and more productive. Farmers tend to their fields not more than once a week and seem to follow an irregular schedule of cleaning the plants a few times each month. The Secoya community has not been properly trained in the cultivation of the cacao crop and lacks the technical skills to produce healthy, fruit-bearing plants.

¹ A minga is the typical Secoya work party during which several families contribute to work on a project for the host, who then repays the workers by providing the traditional drink, chicha, throughout the day, and also serves a meal at the end of the workday.

Recommendations

Cultivation Methods

Lack of technical expertise has been cited by Secoya farmers as the primary hindrance to progress in the cacao cultivation projects. Sustained agricultural support would be of major benefit to the Secoya community as it continues to cultivate cacao. Technical requirements should be assessed based upon current agricultural practices, and condition of cacao plants with respect to particularly insect infestation, weeds, soil quality, and other factors. Yanapuma should therefore seek to recruit agricultural specialists to work on behalf of the community at Siecoya Remolino to perform initial assessments of crop conditions and interview Secoya farmers on their experience growing cacao, with particular attention to learning about the farmers' methods, their growing schedule, and their plans for the next year of growing cacao.

Farmer Training

Yanapuma should assess farmer interest in learning new agricultural methods. The author's experience at Siecoya Remolino suggests that farmers will be eager to learn new techniques and gain knowledge of the cacao crop. Research should be conducted to understand Secoya teaching methods and all workshops and teaching should follow the traditional methodology. As the Secoya culture has historically been egalitarian, teaching is an act of offering guidance and not from an authority figure but rather as the passage of information among equals. The framework for conducting workshops and experimental plots should be determined by the community at Siecoya Remolino with guidance from agricultural extension workers and Yanapuma Foundation.

Each Secoya at Remolino is granted ownership of 100 hectares of land at birth. Secoya guidelines dictate that only a small percentage of this individual land may be altered by agricultural practices. The average Secoya at Remolino is only able to work one or two fincas (fields) and the percentage of individual plot used for farming is well below the 20% allotted cleared living space and agricultural practices. As each Secoya works an individual finca, the amount of time and energy spent on any given finca is far below that which is necessary to sustain healthy crops. While farmers host mingas to clear fields or clean crops, they rotate on several fields a month and therefore tend only a fraction of the time to each individual finca. This practice is the result of blending the traditional Secoya practice of the minga, a community-wide work structure with the Western ideology of ownership and individual work. Within the traditional Secoya culture, as with many hunting and gathering societies, the concept of individual ownership is nonexistent. This particular mix of traditional Secoya cultural norms with Western ideology has led to an unproductive use of labor and land. Yanapuma should therefore meet with the community at Remolino to understand whether or not they find this to be an issue and to possibly formulate a solution. As the goal of the OISE in their development plan is to protect and preserve Secoya culture, it may be in the community's interest to work collectively on designated plots for the gain of the community with a predetermined method for dividing work and benefits from the field's productivity. It is unlikely that farmers will prefer to cease work on their individual fincas. This land could then be designated to smaller crops used for

familial consumption such as yucca, plantains, and bananas. Mingas could continue to rotate among these plots while work on a community cacao field would be more regular.

Markets

Yanapuma should research local markets at Lago Agrio and Shushufindi to gain an understanding of the market for cacao at these sites. The organization should consider the costs of bringing items to market and reaching the market by canoe (the cost of fuel), and the cost of transport from the river port to reach Shushufindi. Upon determining these factors, Yanapuma should conduct field visits to interview farmers who sell their products at these markets to gain an understanding of the culture of selling the items at each market and determine any inefficiency in the process of getting items to market. Yanapuma should then conduct research on the feasibility of setting up a partnership between the Secoya community and a local shop owner or business to determine the level of profitability for the community if the Secoyas designate a specific location for selling their products.

Yanapuma should also conduct research on the potential for linking with international chocolate producers interested in rainforest conservation and fair trade chocolate to create a larger and more consistent market. Though this kind of a partnership would require that the Secoyas produce a consistent crop for export, the effort put forth may lead to substantial and sustained profits for community-based initiatives. Several companies have been interested in fair trade chocolate to sell to the growing niche market, and there have been some examples of successful initiatives with indigenous Amazonian cacao farmers forming cooperatives and exporting their high quality product to international chocolate producers. One such example is of the indigenous Kichwa of the Ecuadorian Amazon. The Kichwa have formed a self-governed cooperative called the Kallari Association. The initiative began in 1997 and has grown substantially over the past ten years from an association of 50 families to one of 800 families. The Association exports high quality cacao from the Ecuadorian Amazon to chocolatiers throughout Europe and the US and has recently begun working with chocolatiers in Quito to manufacture gourmet chocolate locally. The Association has opened a café in Quito and plans to market gourmet chocolate bars in Ecuador and for export over the next several years. The initiative may be highly reproducible with the community at Siecoya Remolino, however, reaching the current level of production of the Kallari Association of the Kichwa will take many years and directed efforts to achieve. Secoyas have placed great emphasis on their desire to develop cacao as a sustainable non-timber forest product that has the potential to bring income into the community, but currently the lack of experience and guidance has created a fragmented effort with little progress to show to date. With proper research and a prolonged partnership, Yanapuma could replicate appropriate aspects of the Kallari model and with assistance from Yanapuma, Siecoya Remolino could attain a similar level of success.

COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

Situational Analysis

Background

Tourist boats regularly travel along the Aguarico River on their way to popular tourist destinations such as Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, Limoncocha Biological Reserve and Nueva Loja. These sites offer tourists the opportunity to explore the Ecuadorian tropical forests, lakes and view diverse wildlife including a large number of bird species, a variety of mammals, reptiles, and fish as well as monkeys and caiman. The Secoya witness the passage of several tourist boats each week and have therefore identified tourism as a relatively easy way to gain a

substantial amount of income for the community. Accordingly, the Secoya have responded by constructing a tourist house in a designated tourist area on the opposite bank of the river from most of homes.

Current Progress

The Secoyas have built a “casa típica” or typical house, which is designed to give tourists an experience in the Secoyan ancestral tradition. As such, the house is one large room constructed of local building materials with a thatched hut. In keeping with the original traditional design, the casa típica has no floor, but sits directly upon the soil. Apart from a toilet, the tourist area lacks amenities including electricity, and running water. The Minister of Tourism of Siecoya Remolino hosted several mingas to construct a cooking hut in July, so there should be a cooking hut at the site. There is no transportation for tourists except in the case that they borrow a canoe from one of the families. Additionally, most Secoyas have little experience with tourists and outsiders and are unaware of how to accommodate individuals and groups of people on their land. This proposal addresses tourism as it has been identified as a priority by the Siecoya community, however the prospect of expanding community-based tourism at Siecoya Remolino is not recommended unless the tourist area is located away from Secoya family settlements to minimize the impact upon culture and community. If the community chooses to expand tourism, the recommendation is to form relationships with tour operators in Cuyabeno, Limoncocha and Nueva Loja to market the site as a one or two-night stay en route to these locations.

Recommendations

Research on Regional Tourism

Yanapuma should conduct extensive research and develop a database of tour operators who work with indigenous communities throughout the Amazon basin, as well as those that work within the basin and who have no direct contact with indigenous community. The organization should consult the Secoya community to compile a list of tour operators that work with the community at Siecoya Remolino. Yanapuma should also perform extensive research to determine the impact of community-based tourism on indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Yanapuma should consult community members at Siecoya Remolino who have been organizing efforts to incorporate community-based tourism into the development plan about their intentions for the business, and the extent of outside assistance they have been receiving. Depending upon the community’s response to these inquiries, Yanapuma should determine whether the organization has the capacity to meet the community’s needs for the level of effort in this industry. In order to determine this, Yanapuma should perform site visits to communities in which tourism has been implemented to gain an understanding of what kind of facilities will be needed to attract tourists interested in community-based tourism.

The organization should research methods of ownership-building among communities with tourism projects and create a comprehensive plan with the community for all stages of the process of designing a tourism site and program, training community members, advertising, creating partnerships with tour operators and managing funds. Yanapuma and the community members should assess the different skill sets of the Secoyas to estimate the extent to which local labor will be employed in the service sector of the tourism business. Yanapuma should contact tourism operators that manage locations at Cuyabeno, Limoncocha and Nueva Loja to determine feasibility of forming partnerships. Upon assessing the feasibility of creating partnerships that

will be beneficial to the Secoya community, Yanapuma should determine the frequency and capacity of tourism groups expected to stay at Siecoya Remolino in order to begin planning next steps for developing a tourism program if all parties agree that the initiative can be successful and beneficial.

AVICULTURE

Situational Analysis

Background

Siecoya Remolino previously teemed with wildlife and supplied abundant sources of food for the Secoya community. As mentioned above, the relatively newly adopted sedentary lifestyle of the Secoyas has led to a decrease in protein sources. As a result, food security has become an important issue in the Secoya community as it has never been before. In the mid 1950s, missionaries from the Summer Institute for Linguistics introduced aviculture to the Secoyas and introduced other domesticated animals such as pigs and cattle as well.

Current Progress

Currently most families at Siecoya Remolino keep roosters and hens. Few families actively feed fowl. Fowl live outside of homes and run free throughout the day searching for food on the forest floor and inside human dwellings. Hens and their young enter human dwellings in search of food and the lack of refrigeration and proper storage containers leads to unsanitary conditions that can cause health problems for the local population. Additionally, most families at Siecoya Remolino purchase their eggs, which represents a significant amount of family expenditure. The OISE has identified aviculture as a means of creating greater food security for families, eliminating the need to purchase eggs for consumption and a potential source of income.

Recommendations

Community Perspective

The Yanapuma Foundation should conduct site visits to Secoya homes to interview families and gain an understanding of the use of fowl within the community. The Foundation should determine the level of desire among community members to become involved in building hen houses. As most families keep fowl around the human settlement, and the OISE has prioritized aviculture as an important component in development, it should be expected that the community will be eager to begin the project.

Materials and Resources

The Secoya rely upon the rainforest for most of their building supplies. Yanapuma should conduct interviews with Secoyas to determine whether or not they have previously built hen houses at Siecoya Remolino, and should note the design of the hen houses if they have been built. Yanapuma should inquire into any design flaws the Secoya may have identified in their hen houses and also note dangers to hens cited by the Secoya from wild foxes, snakes, etc. Yanapuma should then conduct research to determine what building materials will be necessary for the construction of hen houses and consult with Secoyas to determine which materials can be found locally and which can be substituted for local materials.

Research should be conducted to determine funding opportunities for construction of poultry breeding facilities and funding opportunities for obtaining poultry feed for the first several

months of the program until the sale from eggs begins to pay for feed and other costs. Yanapuma should research the proper care of fowl, and aid Secoyas in conducting workshops upon project implementation to encourage safe practices in the proper care of fowl.

Markets

The project should initially be aimed at meeting consumption needs within the community and eliminating the need to purchase eggs from local markets. If the project proves to be successful, however, and hens yield a surplus of eggs, Yanapuma should research local markets to determine feasibility of selling eggs. Depending upon community response to the concept, Yanapuma may also determine the feasibility of setting up small stand on the riverbank on the edge of the community to sell eggs to local colonists and passing boats. This may present an opportunity to earn extra income should the project be successful for consumption but would be operating at a loss if people had to travel to Lago Agrio and Shushufindi to sell extra eggs. Yanapuma should determine community's willingness to do this and assess the potential impact on the community that this activity may have.

RECUPERATION OF TERRITORY

Situational Analysis

Background

The Secoya currently own 22,000 hectares of primary Amazon rainforest, however this represents only a fraction of their original territory. Border wars and disputes have limited the land the Secoya occupy making it difficult for the community to live in their ancestral nomadic tradition. The community has long fought to gain legal title over its territory as it has witnessed colonization of the rainforest and the destructive effects of oil exploitation on natural resources. The formation of the OISE was a response to colonization in Secoya territory, and initial battles resulted in Secoya legal ownership of large tracts of land. The Secoya have therefore been working with the local and national governments to recuperate lost land and expand their holdings. The OISE has identified the recuperation of land as a major component to securing the Secoya lifestyle and tradition. This element is in fact crucial because as the Amazon becomes more and more commoditized and modern life encroaches more rapidly upon the Secoya territory, without legal title to the land, the Secoyas are powerless to stop pollution, deforestation, destruction of local flora and fauna and other negative impacts.

Current Progress

Over the past several decades, the land recuperation effort has been a main priority for the Secoya in all three settlements. The OISE has worked with several NGOs to secure land and efforts are ongoing. Some land recuperation efforts are focused on granting Secoyas legal title, while others have been focused upon securing the land for legal protection as national reserve. Several organizations have worked with the Secoya in these efforts.

Recommendations

Research

Yanapuma may best be of use in supporting the land recuperation project by providing guidance and resources to the OISE as it navigates difficult political and legal terrain, and forms new partnerships with a variety of organizations.

In order to provide support, Yanapuma should work with the Secoyas to determine how they envision the future of the campaign, with whom they seek to form new partnerships and what land in particular they see as most immediately in danger of being seized or destroyed. Yanapuma must perform extensive research to understand the history of the land recuperation struggle, from both the governmental and Ecuadorian legal perspective, as well as from the perspective of the Secoyas. Yanapuma should determine the extent and location of former Secoya territory, and research this territory to determine what percentage is privately and publicly owned. Yanapuma should determine the extent to which Secoya leaders are knowledgeable about where to seek legal land and ownership information, and if leaders do not know where to seek this information, Yanapuma should train a land recuperation committee on how to perform research on land holdings. Yanapuma could then form working groups with community leaders and Yanapuma staff to jointly research land holdings. Groups should research past land rights disputes and recuperation by indigenous communities. Most Secoyas are Remolino are very knowledgeable about the history of the land struggle, so the research on land rights disputes can be done through interviews with Secoyas and at meetings of land recuperation committees. The committee should determine, if it is not already known, which local political heads are responsible for districts in which lost territory is held to organize meetings with local politicians and community leaders to assess willingness of politicians to cooperate in land recuperation campaign. Yanapuma should aid in forming relationships between local politicians at all levels in lost territory and community leaders at Secoya Remolino, if these relationships are not already in tact.

Yanapuma should identify other NGOs working with indigenous communities to rally support for recuperation campaign and identify law firms that work with indigenous communities to seek legal support for the recuperation campaign. Yanapuma should seek this information first from within the community before performing desk reviews as it is likely that leaders will have immediate access to detailed information regarding past disputes and relations with legal teams. Yanapuma should inquire within the community about the effectiveness of past campaigns, factors that aided in success and hindered progress, identify allies and seek to form relationships with other organizations or supporting agencies to address what have been identified as weaknesses in campaigns. Yanapuma should also seek to gain information for agencies with which the Secoya have worked closely to identify any issues that have caused hindrances to past campaigns that the Secoya community has not itself identified. Upon compiling information on all of the above factors, Yanapuma should attend a Secoya community meeting at which the working groups can present their findings to the community. The community can then determine the campaign's next steps. Yanapuma should assess the possibility of forming working groups to meet regularly with law firms to determine legal rights for each area, organize meetings with government land rights committee, hold rallies and press conference to bring visibility to the issue and organize meetings between indigenous community and President Correa.

WORK PLAN & BUDGET

As this proposal is intended to guide Yanapuma in its initial interactions with the community, the following recommendations have been outlined for the preliminary phase of each project. In order to prepare for this pre-planning stage, it is recommended that Yanapuma perform a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) with the community at Secoya Remolino to ensure that the priorities of the whole community are addressed in the recommendations of the OISE. The PRA

should be instrumental in forming relationships with the community to that will prepare Yanapuma and the community for the work that lies ahead in the preplanning stage and should also seek to determine the order in which projects will be approached based upon the momentum, enthusiasm and direction of the community.

AQUACULTURE

The implementation of a thorough and well-planned aquaculture program in Siecoya Remolino will be instrumental in creating enhanced food security and potentially contributing to the sustainable income generating activities available to Secoyas. In order to ensure that the aquaculture project is implemented using safe practices, that utilizes clean, high quality water for fish pools, and that project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases are community directed and participatory, several aspects of the project must be evaluated prior to project commencement.

Scope of Work

- Examine the history of the previous aquaculture project in Siecoya Remolino led first by ISIS of Hampshire College, then by Las Lianas.
 - Contact director Jim Oldham for interviews about institutional experience of the project and personal experience in working with the community.
 - Conduct site visits to interview Secoyas who have worked with ISIS and Las Lianas on their experience working with the two organizations, differences between the organizations and experience in working with director Jim Oldham.
- Identify the project model and the extent of community participation in all project phases.
- Research current work of Las Lianas within Remolino.
- Conduct site visits to all aquaculture pools.
- Conduct interviews with families who maintain the pools, both functioning and nonfunctioning, to determine both reasons for success and impediments to progress.
- Compile information on the nature of the project between Las Lianas and Siecoya Remolino to determine whether a partnership between Las Lianas and Yanapuma would be beneficial.
- Identify potential leaders to work directly with Yanapuma in initial research and data gathering phase, and to present findings to the larger community,
- Determine the costs of making each existing pool functional and expanding access by building new pools.
- Research grant opportunities through organizations such as the New England Biolabs Foundation and other funding sources to cover costs.
- Conduct site visits to test toxicity levels in water at both existing pool sites and sites which the Secoya have designated as future pool sites.
- Determine the level of willingness among community members to begin amending nonfunctioning pools.
- Compile a report of the project profile from the project with Las Lianas, with expectations of cost, funding opportunities and expected timeline.
- Encourage the community to hold planning a meeting at which Secoyas involved in researching may present the report of project expectations to be discussed by the larger community.

- After initial meeting encourage follow-up meeting within one month so that the community may begin planning project phases.

Human Resources and Qualifications

- Aquaculture Project Leader
 - B.A. or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years of relevant work experience in project planning and management
 - Minimum 3 years managing projects in indigenous communities
- Project Advisor
 - B.A., or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years experience in community development
 - Experience in working with indigenous communities
- Junior Consultant
 - 5+ years of work experience in aquaculture in Ecuador
 - Minimum 3 years experience working with indigenous communities
- Interns/Volunteers (4 Positions)
 - Relevant experience in at least two of the following:
 - Community Development, Aquaculture, Environmental Science, Capacity Building, Indigenous Communities
- Grant Writer
 - 2+ years experience in grant writing
 - Languages: English and Spanish

Deliverables and Timeframe

- Consolidated report on initial project profile including information on past project, expected costs, grants and funding sources, expected hindrances to progress and expected benefits to community to be delivered at community meeting.
- Initial planning preparations should be completed in 3 months (60 working days).

CACAO

Creating a successful cacao cultivation project could be very important for the community at Siecoya Remolino. In order to prepare a project that will create the most positive impact possible, several aspects of current practices including the work culture of the community, local markets for cacao and possibilities for export must be assessed. The following suggest data to be compiled and research that will support this effort.

Scope of Work

- Recruit agricultural specialists to conduct site visits to cacao fields at Secoya Remolino.
 - Assess crop conditions including insect infestation, invasive plant species, weeds and health of soil as well as farmer knowledge of crop, growing, tending and general work schedule and other factors.
- Conduct interviews with Secoya farmers on their experience in growing cacao, including challenges and expectations.
- Conduct site visits to cacao field during mingas to gain an understanding of Secoya agricultural practices and work culture.
- Compile report on agricultural practices of Secoyas and cacao crop conditions with recommendations for beneficial combination of Secoya traditional growing methods and modern agricultural practices.
- Perform site visits to assess farmer interest in incorporating new agricultural methods in cacao fields.
- Identify potential leaders to work with Yanapuma in initial performing research and to present findings at community-wide planning meeting.
- Perform desk review of models used by other organizations in creating cooperatives and initiatives with cacao and other non-timber forest products.
- Contact the Kallari Association to learn about the model used to develop its cooperative.
- Research local markets at Lago Agrio and Shushufindi to determine the feasibility of earning substantial income from sale at local sites.
- Perform site visits to Lago Agrio and Shushufindi to create profiles of selling cacao at each town and document any identified inefficiencies in current system.
- Determine feasibility of exporting cacao internationally to gain greater market access for farmers.
- Research Secoya teaching methods to inform all workshops and farming training.
- Encourage community planning meeting at which Yanapuma staff and agricultural specialists present findings with Secoya farmer-leaders.
 - Address tensions between private ownership of fincas and minga work party system to encourage collective cacao system.
- Urge Secoya farmers to organize follow-up meeting to begin planning farmer training workshops and community involvement in cacao plots.

Human Resources and Qualifications

- Cacao Cultivation Project Leader
 - B.A., or equivalent qualification,
 - 5+ years of relevant work experience in agricultural project planning
 - Minimum 3 years managing projects in indigenous communities
- Agricultural Specialist
 - B.A., B.S. in Agriculture or related field
 - 7+ years work experience in non-timber forest products in Ecuadorian Amazon and particular experience with cacao
 - Minimum 3 years experience working with indigenous communities
- Interns/Volunteers (4 Positions)

- Relevant experience in at least one of the following:
 - Community Development, Emerging Market Economies, Agriculture, Cacao Cultivation, Food Science, Capacity Building, and Indigenous Communities
- Languages: Proficiency English and Spanish
- Researcher
 - B.A. or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years relevant work experience in project planning research particularly in indigenous communities, knowledge of local markets, fair trade and marketing products for export
 - Experience in site visits and interviews

Deliverables and Timeframe

- Consolidated report agricultural practices of Secoya farmers, cacao crop conditions and recommendations.
- Compiled information on markets at Lago Agrio and Shushufindi, as well as markets for international cacao export.
- Initial planning preparations and reports should be completed in 3 months (60 working days).

COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

Tourist boats travel along the Aguarico River on their way to popular tourist destinations such as Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, Limoncocha Biological Reserve and Nueva Loja. The Secoya witness the passage of several tourist boats each week and have identified tourism as a relatively easy way to gain a substantial amount of income for the community. Accordingly, they have constructed a hut for tourists to stay in located on the opposite bank of the river from the community's center and the majority of family's dwellings. Most Secoyas have little experience with tourists and outsiders and are unaware of how to accommodate individuals and groups of people on their land.

Scope of Work

- Conduct research to develop database of tour operators in the Amazon basin.
- Consult Secoyas to determine which tour operators work with the community at Secoya Remolino.
- Perform research to determine the impact of community-based tourism on the indigenous communities in the Amazon basin.
- Conduct interviews with Secoyas to determine a development plan for building tourism business as well as to identify intentions and expectations.
- Identify Secoya leaders interested in tourism to work initially with Yanapuma on research and present findings to the larger community.
- Perform site visits to tourism businesses that operate out of indigenous community at Cuyabeno Reserve and visit the Secoya tourist site.

- Determine feasibility of building partnerships with tour operators downstream at the Cuyabeno Reserve.
- Compile report on models adopted by other successful community-based tourism efforts led by indigenous communities; include current report on the progress of tourism at Siecoya Remolino.
- Based upon findings, determine extent to which the organization has the capacity to meet the community's needs in establishing a tourism industry.
- Promote community-wide planning meeting to present report findings regarding tourism industry and determine next steps.

Human Resources and Qualifications

- Community-based Tourism Project Team Leader
 - B.A., B.S. or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years relevant work experience in project planning and particularly in community-based tourism
 - Minimum 3 years managing projects in indigenous communities
- Small Business Specialist
 - M.B.A. Small Business or Entrepreneurship
 - Minimum five years experience in community-based tourism and experience in working with indigenous communities
- Researcher
 - B.A. or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years relevant work experience in project planning research particularly in indigenous communities
 - Experience in site visits and interviews
- Interns/Volunteers (4 Positions)
 - Relevant experience in at least two of the following:
 - Community Development, Community-based Tourism, Capacity Building, Indigenous Communities
 - Language: Proficiency Spanish and English

Deliverables and Timeframe

- Consolidated report on community-based tourism in indigenous communities and current state of tourism industry at Siecoya Remolino.
- Initial planning preparations should be completed within 3 months (60 working days).

AVICULTURE

Currently most families at Siecoya Remolino keep roosters and hens, however few families actively feed fowl. Fowl live outside of homes and run free throughout the day searching for food on the forest floor and inside human dwellings. Hens and their young enter human dwellings in search of food constantly and the lack of refrigeration and proper storage containers leads to unsanitary conditions that can cause health problems for the local population. Most families at Siecoya Remolino purchase their eggs. The purchasing of eggs represents a significant amount of family expenditure.

Scope of Work

- Conduct site visits to community to interview families that keep fowl.
- Determine the level of enthusiasm for the aviculture project.
- Interview families to determine their level of experience with chicken coops.
- Identify leaders to work initially with Yanapuma and to present research findings to the larger community.
- Conduct desk review of chicken coops and fowl in the Amazon basin to determine necessary building materials and proper design for rainforest conditions.
- Consult with Secoyas to determine which building materials can be found locally and which may be substituted for local materials.
- Research grants and funding opportunities to cover any construction costs, as well as initial cost of poultry feed.
- Contact specialist to determine proper care of and maintenance of fowl in the rainforest.
- Research local markets to determine feasibility of selling surplus eggs.
- Compile report on findings and encourage community to hold a planning meeting at which the report may be presented and discussed.
- Encourage follow-up meeting less than one month later to begin planning the project.

Human Resources and Qualifications

- Aviculture Project Leader
 - B.A, or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years of relevant work experience in project planning with experience in aviculture projects or animal husbandry in the Amazon
 - Minimum 3 years managing projects in indigenous communities
- Aviculture Specialist
 - B.A., B.S. in Agriculture or related field
 - 2+ years work experience in animal husbandry in the Ecuadorian Amazon and particular experience with fowl
 - Minimum 1 year experience working with indigenous communities
- Interns/Volunteers (4 Positions)
 - Relevant experience in at least two of the following:

- Community Development, Emerging Market Economies, Agriculture, Aviculture, Food Science, Capacity Building, and Indigenous Communities
- Languages: Proficiency English and Spanish

Deliverables and Timeline

- Compiled Report detailing current aviculture practices, standard practices for successful chicken coops and healthy hens, and necessary inputs.
- Planning and preparation for the aviculture project should not exceed 3 months (60 working days).

RECUPERATION OF LAND

The Secoya currently own 22,000 hectares of primary Amazon rainforest, however this represents only a small fraction of the territory historically occupied by Secoyas. Border wars, disputes, colonization and oil exploitation have limited the land the Secoya occupy significantly making it difficult for the community to live in their nomadic ancestral tradition. Additionally, continued destruction of the rainforest remains a major threat to Secoya health and wellbeing. High rates of cancer and unknown disease have been reported in the community likely due to increased pollution from oil extraction processes. The Secoya have therefore been working with the local and national governments to recuperate lost land and expand their holdings.

Scope of Work

- Determine location and extent across borders of former Secoya territory.
- Research former territory to determine what percentage is privately and publicly owned.
- Determine whether Secoya leaders are knowledgeable about where to seek information regarding ownership, and whether they already are aware of who currently owns former territory.
 - If leaders do not know how to seek this information, hold training sessions on how to research land holdings.
- Identify leaders in land rights issues to perform initial research with Yanapuma and present findings to the larger community.
- Form working groups with community leaders and Yanapuma staff to jointly research land holdings.
- Research past land rights disputes and recuperation by indigenous communities.
- Determine local political heads responsible for districts in which lost territory is held.
- Organize meetings between Secoyas and local politicians to assess the willingness of politicians to cooperate in land recuperation campaign.
- Form relationships with local politicians at all levels in lost territory and community leaders.
- Organize local NGOs working with indigenous communities to rally support for recuperation campaign.
- Determine which national politicians are directly involved in land rights.

- Research law firms that work with indigenous communities and seek legal support for the recuperation campaign.
- Encourage community to hold a planning meeting at which research findings are presented to the larger community so that the community may determine the possibility of pursuing the following modes of action.
 - Forming working group to meet regularly with law firm to determine legal rights for each area.
 - Organizing meetings with government land rights committee.
 - Holding rallies and press conferences to bring visibility to the issue.
 - Organizing meeting between indigenous community and President Correa.

Human Resources and Qualifications

- Recuperation of Territory Project Leader
 - B.A. or equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years of relevant work experience in project planning with experience in land rights disputes particularly in Amazonian territory
 - Minimum 3 years managing projects in indigenous communities
- Attorney (2 Positions)
 - J.D., equivalent qualification
 - 5+ years work experience in territory disputes and land rights issues in Ecuador with particular experience in the Amazon
 - Minimum 5 years experience working with indigenous rights
- Interns/Volunteers (4 Positions)
 - Relevant experience in at least two of the following:
 - Community Development, Land Rights, Indigenous Rights, Law, Ecuadorian Government Policy toward Indigenous Communities, and Capacity Building.
 - Languages: Proficiency English and Spanish

Deliverables and Timeline

- Compiled Report detailing past land disputes, current holders of non Secoya-owned territory, and list of supporting organizations, agencies and government personnel.
- Planning and preparation for the territory project should not exceed 3 months (60 working days).

BUDGET SUMMARY

Cost Estimates	
Item	Total Cost
1. Personnel	
a. 5 Project Leaders at \$150/day	\$9000 ¹
b. 10 Consultants and Advisors \$75/day	\$4500
2. Logistics and Insurances*	\$1350
3. Administration, Miscellaneous and Support Costs**	\$7425
4. Contingencies***	\$2228
Total	\$24,503
<p>1 All amounts are in US dollars as USD is official currency of Ecuador. * Rule of Thumb 01 - Calculated as 10% of combined total of 1. **Rule of Thumb 02 - Calculated as 50% of combined total of 1 & 2. ***Rule of Thumb 03 - Calculated as 10% of combined total of 1, 2 & 3.</p>	