



Annual Report 2014

Introduction by the Executive Director

In 2014 Yanapuma Foundation completed its 8th year of operation as a non-profit NGO in Ecuador, its mission to promote sustainable development in indigenous and marginalized communities around the country and to promote cultural exchange between members of developed and developing countries.

During the year we continued to work on both fronts, carrying out projects that were entirely funded by Yanapuma as well as being co-funded by us, and receiving a large number of volunteers and interns from all over the world to help us carry out our projects and experience the challenges that our client populations face on a daily basis.

As in previous years, our Spanish schools provided core funding and stability to the organization along with the support of universities, colleges and high schools, and a large number of individual volunteers, all of whose contributions helped to keep us afloat for another year. Our “social entrepreneurship” model continues to develop, with the addition towards the end of 2014 of a travel agency – True Ecuador Travel. This new venture is really an extension of services that we already offer to the various groups of students and individuals that arrive at Yanapuma. It is more of a formalization of these activities within a suitable container – that of a registered travel agency set up as a limited company – that will provide students and volunteers with the requisite guarantees and security while traveling in Ecuador.

We look forward to setting the new agency in motion during 2015, once the relevant paperwork is processed and permissions granted. Although the Superintendencia de Compañías now



Some of the school and volunteer staff in Quito

claims that it only takes 3 months to set up a new company, practice demonstrates that this is an ideal still to be attained!

The work of the foundation during 2014 has largely been a continuation from the previous year. Our major project co-funded by the Inter American Foundation moved into its 3rd year in July, with the greater part of the project to be terminated in July 2014. With this project we have continued to work with over 50 farmers of the Tsa'chila culture to improve their cacao production, as well as with over 50 families to teach them how to grow vegetables to incorporate into their diet, along with nutritional and health education.

In addition we have continued the scholarship project to fund the secondary education of a dozen youth from the coastal village of Estero de Plátano, as well as two from the Tsa'chila comuna Bua. Five of these students will graduate in 2015, an event that brings us a great sense of achievement for this project that is funded by the \$25 registration fee that we charge in the Spanish schools.



There have been other projects too that we have undertaken during the year that will be more fully described in the foundation section below.

While Ecuador as a country, under its current government, continues to develop rapidly, those at the very bottom of the economic and social ladder continue to lack the opportunities and resources to grow at the same pace. For that reason there is still much for us to do, especially in regard to our work with the Tsa'chila culture. Every year we learn more about their culture and the chasm that separates their understanding of the world from our own. This year, thanks to the contribution of French sociologist Richard Couëdel, we extended our understanding even further, and in ways that are almost embarrassing for us. For example, after 4 years of working to improve the quality of their cacao as well as the quantity, it emerged from the observations of Richard that the Tsa'chila have no concept of quality. As a culture that still draws much from its hunter-gatherer past, the concept of quality is one that simply does not exist. Quantity has always been

important in hunting, fishing, gathering food, but the quality has been what nature provides and never under consideration. So we still have lessons to learn, and we understand that it is this attention to the cultural details that has allowed Yanapuma to continue to work with the Tsa'chila and gain a measure of trust that facilitates the continuation of our projects with them.

Of particular note and personal satisfaction this year has been the completion of a book, the personal account of Alfonso Aguavil, the founder of the Shinopi Bolón cultural center in Bua, titled "Yo Me Acuerdo." This has been a project that I have been committed to for about 7 years, waiting for the right convergence of factors to make it possible. On my visits over the years to the cultural center, Alfonso has often told me stories of the past, of growing up in the rainforest in the traditional Tsa'chila way, and the violent rupture of their culture with its destruction and conversion to agricultural land. Finally he conceded that he would like to write this story, although he lacked the necessary ability to write well.

When we were contacted by Richard, and he expressed his interest in living with the Tsa'chila and helping Alfonso to write his story, I was delighted. The result after nearly a year of recording his memories in Spanish and in Tsa'fiki, transcribing and organizing, was the finished manuscript which we were able to create as an e-book in time for sale for Christmas. We continue to seek funds to publish the book on paper in Ecuador, to be able to disseminate this important and untold story of the effects of the rapid transformation of virgin rainforest and its effect on the people that lived there in the 1960s and onwards. History is most often a report of the dominant personages and events that shaped each country. But there is also the history of the common people, in this case of one particular indigenous group, and their perspective on the changes that have taken place.

In summary, 2014 has been a year of progress for Fundación Yanapuma that we can look back on with satisfaction. We remain



focused on avoiding paternalism and on creating self-reliance and confidence within our client population. We expect this growth to continue in 2015 although with slightly different methods and goals as situations develop. And we remain thankful to all those who have supported us through another year of development projects and growth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AS' followed by a stylized flourish.

Andrew Kirby, Ph.D.
Director Ejecutivo

Structure of the organization

During 2014 Fundación Yanapuma maintained the same structure and organization as in previous years. We are aware that we are required under law to revise and renew our statutes due to changes in the law in recent years. This is a process that we began in 2011, but by the time we developed and submitted the new statutes the law had changed again and these were sent back to us for more changes.

Since then we have not had sufficient time to devote to this task, all our resources being taken up in merely coping with the demands of running the foundation, the Spanish schools and coordinating the volunteer activities. In addition we have had

other important matters to focus on that have required our full attention. Over our 7 years of existence we have changed accountants 5

times as problems and inconsistencies emerged with each one. This year we were obliged once again to change accountants due to a serious miscalculation by our previous accountant that resulted in us having to close down the limited company ELMAVIAN Servicios that we had created to run the Spanish schools.

We were notified by the Superintendencia de Compañías that the company should be dissolved due to incurring substantial losses over two consecutive years that were much more than the initial capital invested. It turned out that our accountant had put a huge profit in the foundation and an equally huge and balancing loss in the company. The only option other than winding up the company would have been to inject a large (for us!) sum of money to cover the loss which would then have been immediately taxable at around 37% in total.

Thus we opted to close ELMAVIAN Servicios and took advantage of the moment to set up a new company and travel agency that would perform the same functions and more. The new company is registered as Trueecuadortravel Cia. Ltda. in line with Ecuadorian company naming procedures, with the commercial name "True Ecuador Travel." The travel agency will be dedicated to providing educational travel opportunities in Ecuador that will include Spanish courses, volunteering, internships, study abroad and service learning programs, and regular travel services. We see this as a natural growth for the organization, formalizing activities that we have been developing over the last few years, and which dovetails very nicely with the part of the mission of Yanapuma to provide cultural exchange and learning opportunities between people of developed and developing countries for the mutual benefit of both.

So although we would never have planned to wind up ELMAVIAN, and it has proven costly both financially and in terms of effort, we have found a silver lining. True Ecuador Travel will



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continue to be able to provide core funding for the foundation and hopefully will grow sufficiently to be able to increase its effectiveness in 2015 and beyond.

Finally, Yanapuma Foundation as a separate registered charity in Scotland has continued to provide funding and resources to Yanapuma in Ecuador, principally through receiving funds into its UK bank account from volunteer groups and donations to disperse to Ecuador for project work. The two foundations are entirely separate, and Yanapuma Foundation of Scotland files its own documents and reports under the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator for approval on an annual basis. Up-to-date information can be viewed online here: <http://www.oscr.org.uk/charities/search-scottish-charity-register/charity-details?number=SC040519#results>

Yanapuma Spanish School

While a report of the Spanish school and volunteering activities is not strictly required of an annual report of the Fundación Yanapuma, we include it here as these undertakings are linked both by the direct provision of financing for projects and the activities that are engendered by students and volunteers for the foundation. Our form of social entrepreneurship links our for-profit activities with the work of the foundation, and makes the foundation dependent upon the successful management of these businesses.

The year 2014 was a year of transition for the Spanish schools as we embarked on a program to radically change the way that we function as a Spanish language tuition center. By the end of the year the process was not fully complete and is expected to occupy a substantial part of 2015 as well. In essence we seek to move from offering mostly individual Spanish classes to offering primarily classes in small groups. The motives are as much

economic as they are to do with changes in Ecuador's labor laws, which make it illegal now to pay teachers per hour of work. Instead we are obliged to pay them on either 20-hour or 40-hour contracts with full benefits, whether or not there are sufficient students in the school to cover the expense. While we are totally in favor of offering all our teachers the full benefit of social security and health care, we are left with few options for coping with the extreme variation of needing up to 20 teachers in some months and only 4 in other months.

So moving to group classes offers us a means of reducing the number of teachers while maintaining a good number of students. In order to do this we need to extend our network of agencies that send students primarily to group classes rather than relying on individual registrations through the website.



The Spanish school in Quito

Towards this end, our executive director went to the US in February to represent the Spanish school and volunteer opportunities at a series of Gap Year fairs held by the USA Gap Year Fairs organization on the east coast from Boston down to New Jersey. In addition he visited universities and medical schools in the same area to promote the Medical Spanish Programs.

The year 2014 saw the school in Cuenca establish itself very nicely. In February the school won a poll on the GringoTree website as the best Spanish school in Cuenca. In March we spotted a larger suite of rooms right around the corner in a historic building that we rented in order to have more space, moving in there in April. At the end of June, coordinator Joy Brandt left us to return to the US after a year of devoted work, coordinating the students and generally helping the school grow. We remain very grateful for all her hard work on our behalf! Joy was replaced by Alexandra Antkoviak in June.

In July we introduced a new online calendar system for both schools that reduced the need for constantly updating our events. Instead they are set to repeat automatically on varying schedules and the information in the schools can be changed to suit.

In September we invited all the staff from Cuenca to Quito to help us celebrate our 8th birthday. For many staff there it was the first time that they had visited our school in Quito! The event provided a good opportunity for staff to get to know each other, although



one or two from Quito were already quite familiar as they had been drafted to work down in Cuenca on several occasions when there were more students than they could cope with.

During the year our Study and Travel programs proved to be as popular as ever, with 53 students traveling with their teachers on different circuits around the country. The programs are weekly and modular, so students often string two or three together, or after studying in Quito or Cuenca arrange one or more to fill their time in Ecuador with Spanish classes and tourism at the same time.

As usual at the end of the year, things were relatively quiet, although much quieter in Quito than in Cuenca. As there are many retired students who take classes in Cuenca they remained active over the holiday period, so the school was fairly busy while in Quito there were very few students.

At the end of the year we realized that we still had some way to go to make the changes that we had proposed. Firstly we need to finish the development of our system of offering group classes, using technology to the maximum to facilitate learning for the students as well as making life easier for the teachers. Secondly, we need to work with the teachers to improve their abilities to teach groups – many of them being used to just teaching one student at a time or perhaps two. A group offers a very different

dynamic situation and we need to prepare the teachers full for this.

Volunteer Department

The volunteer department continued its work in 2014, receiving a large number of groups and individual volunteers and students from all over the world. At the start of the year our lone volunteer coordinator Cristina Lopez struggled to keep up with the workload until backup arrived in March in the shape of Rachel Worthington from the US. She has a degree in Human Rights with a concentration in Latin American studies. At the end of June the volunteer department grew again as we were re-joined by Kelly Schussler. Kelly had worked as volunteer coordinator for us in past years before returning to the US to complete her Master's degree in Social Work. We were delighted to welcome her back. With 3

coordinators we were able to expand the level of activity in the volunteer department, and there was plenty to do. Meanwhile, in Cuenca we had been fortunate to count on the help of Marion Cholieu from France. Working as an intern for 7 months she began to make contact with volunteer organizations in Cuenca where we could begin to place volunteers who were also taking Spanish classes.

Among the groups that arrived in 2014 were the following:

The Leap - UK (4 groups)
Thinking Beyond Borders – US (2 groups)
Outlook Expeditions – UK (3 groups)
Vanderbilt University – US (1 group)
Colège Edouard Montpetit – Canada (1 group)
Pacific Discovery – New Zealand/US (2 groups)

In addition there were 7 interns and 93 individual volunteers from all over the world and a number of capable and hard-working volunteer group leaders including:

Maria-José Arellano - Ecuador
Aimee St. Germain - US
Samuel Schlesinger - US
Michael Sluijans - Belgium
Julie Rausenberger - Belgium
Jelle Ooms - Holland
Fenner Hoell - US

A noteworthy event in March was the completion of a video made by Megan Tan, following the experience of one of the volunteers of the Thinking Beyond Borders group who carried out a reforestation project with the Tsa'chila in February. The professionally produced video can be viewed here: http://www.yanapuma.org/videos/30_nights_like_home_640x360.mp4



The volunteer coordinators in Quito



In February our executive director took part in 12 Gap Year fairs on the east coast of the US to present a newly developed program – GAP-Ecuador. The aim of this program is to provide gap year opportunities for US youth, using the infrastructure and connections that Yanapuma has developed in Ecuador. Thus, we offer a monthly-modular program that can include Spanish classes and volunteering in Quito or Cuenca, followed by volunteering in one of our partner organizations around Ecuador and on the Galapagos Islands.

While the fairs produced some results in terms of winning volunteers, it was more effective in the end in making contact with other organizations involved in offering gap year programs and creating new links to receive volunteers and groups in the future.



A volunteer group relaxes at the beach

The volunteer groups and individual volunteers who offer their time to volunteer with Yanapuma provide a vital contribution to the work of the foundation, as well as providing some income that allows us to continue our work. Having witnessed an increase in volunteer activity we decided that we should work towards increasing the linkage and collaboration between the volunteers and the work of the foundation and make the volunteers' contributions as meaningful as possible in the context of the projects that we carry out.

Yanapuma Foundation

The focus of Yanapuma's efforts as a foundation during 2014 were on the second year of the project co-funded by the Inter American Foundation. The three axes of this project are to improve cacao production for farmers of the Tsa'chila culture, teach families how to grow vegetables to include in their diet, and offer nutritional education. Added to this focus are projects connected with the cultural centers and groups, reforestation both as protection of the water courses and soils and as a micro-enterprise, and the provision of scholarships for youth to finish their high-school education.

In addition, we have continued our commitment to the coastal community of Estero de Plátano, providing a dozen scholarships to youth to finish high school, as well as offering help to the local women's group, community bank, and other local organizations.

Finally, we have contributed to projects run by other grass-roots organizations in other parts of Ecuador which will be described below.

An important aspect of the work of the foundation is to encourage independence in any client population and to avoid paternalism. These tend to be natural pitfalls of any development work and have to be carefully planned against. When our project coordinator, Cecilia Vallejo, left to take up a more lucrative post with another organization, we felt it was an opportune moment to give more responsibility to the field team, three of the four of whom are native Tsa'chila.

At first they were somewhat worried by this prospect, but we assured them that they would continue with our full support. And over the course of the final 4 months of the year the team demonstrated that they were indeed capable of taking on more administrative tasks and taking control of the planning and record keeping that Cecilia had been in charge of previously. So by the end of the year we can say that the members of the team have shown their ability to manage their areas of the project and demonstrated new skills that will be of great use to them when the project has finished.

Vegetable production with the Tsa'chila

During 2014 the job of creating and maintaining vegetable plots and educating the recipient families how to grow vegetables fell to Janeth Llanos, who lives nearby in the town of Santo Domingo. She has significant experience working with the Tsa'chila through her involvement with Yanapuma and previously working for Caritas on similar projects.



Presenting the foundation's work to the Tsa'chila

Over 50 families were involved in the project over the year, from 4 Tsa'chila comunas. Families dropped out and others joined in, as is quite normal when working with the Tsa'chila. What we discovered is that some of the families were just inspired at the start by the offer of free tools. Once they got these they were not interested in reality in having a vegetable garden. While it may seem strange to us, that is still quite a common reaction from many Tsa'chila whose worldview is still quite limited to what they can get right now rather than planning ahead. We see this as part of their heritage as hunter-gatherers who have never before experienced the need to plan ahead as the forest has provided them with everything. So seizing what is on offer now is a natural reaction still.

However, many families made considerable effort with their vegetable gardens, producing tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines, spinach, lettuce, parsley, cilantro, cabbages, carrots and more. The plots were plagued though by pests, especially ants, which abound in the rainforest and are constantly cutting off the best and most tender leaves to take back to their colonies. Other plagues were caused by the relatively high humidity. We realized that vegetable gardens are more of a highland sierra concept and perhaps not best suited to a tropical, formerly rainforest environment.

We expect by the end of the project that some women will have mastered the growing of vegetables sufficiently well to be able to continue and produce substantial quantities, while others will



produce a little of what they use the most, and others will simply let the project end when it ends and not continue for themselves. Late in the year we began to re-think the concept and goals, and through the suggestion of Rachel Worthington, one of the volunteer coordinators, we began to explore the concept of the "edible forest." The idea of reforesting while including a variety of edible species that will provide a variety to the diet as well as food sovereignty seems particularly attractive to apply to the Tsa'chila culture, and one which will be pursued during 2015.

Nutritional and diet education with the Tsa'chila

Along with the vegetable plots we continued to offer nutritional and general health education to the Tsa'chila families. Cristina Calazacón, who is herself Tsa'chila, has been working directly with us since the start of the project, and her ability to

communicate with families in their native language, tsa'fiki, has been a great benefit. For the Tsa'chila, Spanish is their second language, and new concepts are particularly hard to grasp if they are not expressed in one's native language.

Cristina has carried out regular visits to families during the course of the year as well as developing materials to print and use in her visits. She has also carried out several workshops, although these are always problematic as the Tsa'chila do not really like to get together for such things, preferring to do everything from home if possible.

An integral part of the project has been to encourage Cristina herself to develop new skills and abilities and to learn more so that after the end of the project she will be more independent and capable of working at a higher level in the realm of nutrition and diet among the Tsa'chila. To this end we contracted community organizer Ana Deaconu to work with both Cristina and Janeth on developing their workshop skills. This training will



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continue into 2015.

Cacao production with the Tsa'chila

During 2014 we continued working with over 60 Tsa'chila farmers on improving their cacao production through the maintenance of the test plots that we have sown on each of the participants' farms. In addition we provided ongoing support and training through our two promoters Wilson Calazacón and Rafael Loche, both themselves Tsa'chila.

Wilson and Rafael have continued to grow in confidence and ability, becoming recognized more and more among the Tsa'chila as the go-to people to learn more about improving their cacao production. We took the decision during the year to allow them to extend their influence beyond just the small plots that we have created with the farmers, so that they can give advice and training relevant to all their cacao production. In a survey carried out for the 5th semester report of the Inter American Foundation it was revealed that the great majority of the farmers have put into practice the skills they have learned from Wilson and Rafael on the Yanapuma plots on the rest of their cacao as well. This represents a great success for us, seeing that the project is having a concrete effect in improving all their cacao production.

During the year we carried out two visits to long-established farms and organizations working with national varieties of cacao that are produced either sustainably or organically. These visits are always an inspiration for the Tsa'chila farmers who rarely venture beyond their own comunas and whose access to good information about the possibilities for developing their farms are very limited. Seeing the mature and well-laden trees and hearing



Cacao pods maturing in Bua

about the level of production and income from the farms gives them great insight and impetus to continue with the process.

We were delighted to welcome back the students of the Colège Edouard Montpetit of Canada in January to work with the cacao growers of Bua once again. Their annual project, spending between one and two weeks working with the farmers on their cacao plantations and staying with local families has been a huge success and instrumental in keeping the cacao growers

focused on their project. They bring a donation for materials each year that is used to buy whatever supplies are most needed at that time.

A very important realization that we made this year, through the involvement of French sociologist Richard Couedel who spent nearly a year living with the Tsa'chila, is that they have no real concept of what the term "quality" means. This is somewhat embarrassing for Yanapuma and demonstrates the ongoing effort that we need to make to understand the Tsa'chila in order to be able to really respond to their needs.

As hunter-gatherers the concept of quality has never been an issue, quantity being the most relevant factor in their daily activities. So while we have been working with them to improve both quality and quantity over the past years it seems that half of our arguments have fallen on deaf ears. For this reason they Tsa'ch'la farmers have often requested cacao trees of the variety CCN51 which yields a very large quantity of cacao, but of very poor quality. We have been promoting national varieties with improved characteristics, in line with the Ecuadorian government's aims of improving the reputation of Ecuadorian cacao. If the Tsa'chila can produce a good quantity of very good

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quality cacao they will be able to command a good price and make a good living from their cacao production. At least that is what we are hoping to achieve,

Another realization of Richard through his close involvement with the Tsa'chila is that rather than focusing on the potential that they can gain from the resources that they have, their primary focus is on a simple energy exchange – effort expended in relation to reward achieved. So they are quite happy to do little if the reward will be sufficient, and that will be seen as a good outcome for them. Again, that is a direct characteristic of a hunter-gatherer mentality which still serves them as a guide to their actions.

A very similar project to ours was carried out with funding from the Japanese Embassy, sowing 80 hectares of improved national cacao in the comuna Congoma. With this significant amount of national cacao in addition to what we have sown, there will be the chance to begin to harvest reasonable amounts of good quality cacao in a year or two. However, a significant challenge remains the difficulty that the Tsa'chila have in creating and maintaining an association for mutual benefit. This is simply not a cultural trait that they possess, much preferring still to work at the level of the family and in relative isolation from their fellow Tsa'chila. It is a problem for which we still have not been able to envisage a solution, and without which the Tsa'chila will not be able to make a significant improvement in their income level.

The IAF Project Summary

At the close of 2014 we were finishing the 5th semester of the project co-funded with the Inter American Foundation. Up until July 11, the end of the 4th semester, we produced the following table to show the relative investment in the project to date:

FIA – to 11 July, 2014

Source	Amount \$	%
Contribution FIA	\$ 100.800,53	57%
Contribution Yanapuma	\$ 45.939,95	26%
Other contributions	\$ 29.227,16	17%
Total investment:	\$ 175.967,64	

The table above shows the total investment made over the first two years of the project with the percentages that each contributor has made. Other contributors include the various groups and individuals that have worked on the projects.

As the project moves into its final phase in 2015 we will continue to encourage the independence of our field staff so that they develop the necessary skills to be able to continue in the future without Yanapuma's support. We will of course continue to support them over any transition period. At the start of 2015 we will begin to plan ahead and decide what our strategy will be as a foundation in the following years. We are grateful to the Inter American Foundation for the opportunity that we have had to develop a project over a 3-year timespan, and maintain our commitment to helping the Tsa'chila to adapt to a new set of circumstances as a culture.

Minga Peru Visit to Los Naranjos

We were delighted to welcome the director of Minga Peru, Eliana Elias, along with Jennifer Wilson from the US. Jennifer had



volunteered a couple of times with the cultural center in Los Naranjos with her partner Lisa Hoffman and their son Zay. They filmed a Tsa'chila ritual and made contact with various Tsa'chila persons and groups during their stay.

Micro-enterprise, reforestation and crafts production in Bua

Over the past two years we have worked with the members of the Shinopi Bolón cultural group in the comuna Bua, purchasing up to 8000 saplings of native varieties from them. They gather the seeds locally and prepare a nursery to raise the saplings in bags for transplanting by groups of students and volunteers like Thinking Beyond Borders who planted out nearly 8000 saplings in February. We have been pleased to see how easy it has become for us to rely on them to carry out this micro-enterprise, and we will continue to see if we can help them to extend beyond merely supplying us with saplings and sell these to others in the province of Santo Domingo and beyond.



Reforestation in Bua

We also made a loan in 2013 to Alfonso Aguavil of Bua and his wife Germania to purchase a bolt of their traditional cloth, but made by the weavers of Otavalo. Previously they had been buying this cloth for around \$18 per meter from a local supplier but on a visit with staff to Otavalo to investigate buying a loom they learned that they could buy the cloth direct for about \$6 per meter. As their traditional weaving technique is painfully slow and now only something to demonstrate to tourists, and the maintenance and operation of a loom is an industrial process unsuited to the Tsa'chila environment, they opted to purchase the material for elaboration into traditional clothing and crafts items. For this Yanapuma made a loan of \$1200, which was partly paid back in 2014. The balance will be paid back in 2015.

Scholarships in Bua

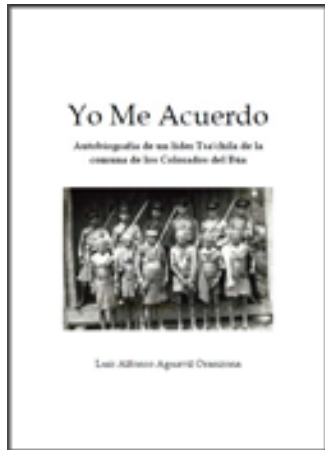
In 2014 we began to offer two scholarships to youth to finish high school, an extension of the project we have been running in Estero de Plátano for several years. The funding was provided by the Colège Edouard Montpetit of Canada, who have been working with the cacao producers of Bua for the past 5 years. The school year in Santo Domingo runs from March to January. Lacking the support of interns or volunteers in Bua we turned to one of the teachers in the local school to take charge of the scholarship students, checking in with them regularly to ensure that they are staying on target with their studies and making good use of the scholarship. We pay him a small monthly fee for his efforts.

Biography of a Tsa'chila – “Yo Me Acuerdo”

We were extremely fortunate to receive the help of French sociologist Richard Couedel during 2014. Richard volunteered to spend almost a year living with the Tsa'chila, with the primary aim

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of helping the leader of the Shinopi Bolón cultural center, Alfonso Aguavil, to write his life story.

Alfonso cannot write well, and so Richard spent many days and evenings with Alfonso recording his narrative, transcribing it and organizing it into a coherent story. The recordings were made in both Spanish and Tsa'fiki. The finished manuscript was produced in Spanish and was offered for sale at Christmas in the form of an e-book pdf.

In 2015 we will seek the funds to publish the book in paper format for sale and distribution in Ecuador. The story from a personal perspective of the radical dislocation of a hunter-gatherer society through the destruction of their forest and the effect that this had on their culture is an important contribution to the real history of Ecuador. It is as important for the remaining Tsa'chila to understand as for the rest of the population and we are keen to see how we can disseminate the story through the Tsa'chila schools so that the young can learn about how things were before, and develop a perspective on their own situation through this historical document.

During his time with the Tsa'chila, Richard also contributed in a number of important ways, not only through his minute observations of the Tsa'chila in their daily lives, but also through his involvement with the governors and cabildos, the radio station, the cacao growers and everyone he came into contact with. We were able to offer him a small



stipend to cover his expenses during the year from our own funds and we remain extremely grateful to Richard for his hard work and dedication during his year with the Tsa'chila.

Scholarships in Estero de Plátano

We were fortunate in 2014 to continue with the aid of two interns from Union College, New York, Andrew Viñales and Jacqui Smith. Their stint in Estero de Plátano ended at the end of April, and they were replaced in late July by new interns from Union College, Samantha Muratori and Gabriella Romero.



The interns work with the dozen youth in Estero de Plátano that are receiving scholarships to study at high school from Yanapuma. These scholarships are worth \$340 per academic year, and are funded by a combination of the \$25 registration fee that we charge to each student and our annual Christmas fundraiser. Most of the funds go towards transport costs, getting them from the community to the towns where their colleges are situated.

There is a slightly unfortunate gap in the coverage of the Union College students as they arrive in late July and stay until April, whereas the school year at the coast starts in March or April and



Gaby and Sam

ends in January. So the scholarship students do not have our full support during the first critical months, especially important if they are attending college for the first time. Our experience has been that the quality of education at the primary level is so poor that even though they are smart youth, they will struggle at the start of college as they will be significantly behind their cohort from better schools. While during some years we have been lucky enough to have a volunteer or intern who can cover a part of that period, this year we were not able to provide this support.

In April, to celebrate the success for the students of the previous year we invited them all to Quito for three days. During that time they were able to visit a couple of universities and get inspired with the idea of attending university. With 5 of the students ready to graduate in 2015 we began looking ahead to see how we can help them continue their studies. The Ecuadorian government now offers full scholarships for students from disadvantaged

backgrounds if they can achieve a sufficiently high score on an exam that they regularly provide. We will also look at scholarships and grants from individual universities to see what may be on offer.

Selvavida – Shuar natural reserve

During 2014 we were happy to support Cesar Tucupi, a native Shuar, in the development of his project called Selvavida. It is a reserve dedicated to preserving the rainforest and the traditional way of life that the Shuar have developed there over thousands of years.

We were able to send a number of groups and individual volunteers there over the course of the year to carry out construction projects as well as working on local agriculture and reforestation projects.

Chilcapamba community developments

In the Andean community of Chilcapamba, there is a mix of indigenous Kichwa and mestizos. The mestizos tend to own the lower ground while the indigenous have been pushed higher up. However their land is still very fertile and the only limit is water. This year, volunteer groups were instrumental in digging 14 kilometers of trenches to lay plastic pipes to bring water to the community.

We always comment to volunteers that they may or may not feel totally satisfied by the time that they finish their volunteering - it depends on the project and whether they get to see it from start to finish or just contribute to a little bit in the middle. So when one



The "becados" from Estero de Plátano in Quito



group got to finish laying the pipes and were able to see an old lady turn on a tap in her house for the first time it was a great moment of satisfaction for them. Not all volunteers are so lucky, but we at Yanapuma see the difference that their efforts make in the long term.



Under the organized leadership of local coordinator Alfonso Morales, there are any number of projects to carry out in Chilcapamba, and we look forward to continuing to support them in 2015.

Hacienda Tranquila – Conservation on the Galapagos

We were happy to continue supporting the work of Hacienda Tranquila on the Galapagos Islands during 2014. We were able to send a number of volunteer groups and individuals to work on conservation projects and sustainable agriculture.

Principally the work involves uprooting and eradicating invasive species of plants that replace tradition food supplies for the endemic fauna such as the giant tortoises. It is an endless job and one we are happy to continue supporting in the future.



A group of Leap volunteers in the Galapagos

Donations and project funding in 2014

Our annual Christmas fundraiser at the end of 2013 raised \$2468.00 for our scholarship fund. Additionally we received \$1785.00 in small donations throughout the year. One hundred percent of these small funds goes directly to the project cost.

As we continued with the project funded by the Inter American Foundation we did not submit any project funding proposals to international agencies during the year.



Conclusion

The year 2014 was an eventful year for Fundación Yanapuma on all fronts. As a social enterprise we juggle on a daily basis the demands of maintaining the “business” side of our operations that provide the co-funding for our projects alongside the daily challenges of running the actual projects. As a small organization we cannot afford the level of salaries or the dedicated staff to oversee the foundation’s work, incorporating this instead into our daily routines. This means that at times, if not most of the time, we are virtually overwhelmed with issues that need attention and feel there is never quite enough time to resolve everything.

In total the organization included during 2014 around 24 employees, five of these solely dedicated to the work of the foundation. In addition we counted on the support of a number of volunteers and interns who looked after volunteer groups and carried out other tasks for the Spanish school, the volunteer department and the foundation.

At the end of the year we put in motion the process of creating a new entity, a travel agency dedicated to educational travel in Ecuador. This will be structured as a limited company and will replace the previous entity that has to be dissolved due to reasons earlier described. We will seek new alliances with universities, colleges, high schools and other organizations that seek to broaden the academic and experiential horizons of their students and members, always with an eye to how these activities can positively contribute to the work of the foundation

aside from the purely financial support.

Notes

Readers wishing to learn more detail about the work of the foundation over the past year or years are advised to read our bi-monthly newsletters. These can be viewed or downloaded online here: <http://www.yanapuma.org/en/news.php>

Please feel free to email us with any questions or comments. You can contact us at: volunteer@yanapuma.org



Volunteers in Chilcapamba in the Andes