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The Importance of Water

Yanapuma has been working with the Bua de Los Tsachilas community to improve their access to clean and healthy water

One of Yanapuma's volunteers, Nick, spent nearly two months this summer studying the water situation in Bua. In his report he proposed and carried out a plan to deliver clean drinking water to the school children, and testing the local well water as well as water of the Shinopi river.



Following his report, Yanapuma bought the materials to install a new water tank and pipes, as well as renovate the washing facilities. The well was disinfected and sealed once we determined that the water was reasonably contaminant free. A hand delivered chlorination system was set up to ensure that the water will remain safe for the children and staff to drink. This is seen as an interim measure until Yanapuma can make a plan jointly with Engineers Without Borders to solve the water/ sanitation situation in the school.

Spotlight on Sara

Sara began working with Yanapuma this September, filling the role as Project Coordinator



Q: Why did you come to work with Yanapuma?

A: Well, I knew David, Yanapuma's executive director, from when I did my master's thesis in Ecuador. I wrote about the collaboration between communities and NGOs. David was quite interested. When he decided to start Yanapuma, they needed someone with experiences within community development and NGOs. I had always wanted to work with development issues and it is difficult to find work like that in Denmark, where I come from.

Q: What do you do for Yanapuma?

A: I have divided my responsibility areas in to four parts. First of all, there's one I call the theory and practice of community development. I am trying to create some methods for how we work in the communities. These methods are for the Yanapuma employees but also interns and volunteers because they are out there in the communities more than employees are. They are quite important for Yanapuma right now, because Yanapuma is a new NGO and doesn't have a lot of staff. But the interns and volunteers don't have as much experience within community development work as the staff. That's why

I'm trying to develop universal methods

Another area is information, both within Yanapuma and outside. For example, monthly reports and with updates on the community projects. Maybe in the long term we want to get radios and newspapers involved so Ecuadorians know what Yanapuma is. The third is coordination in general. I'm trying to find out what abilities everyone has to see if the coordination could be different or somebody could swap responsibility areas.

The last thing is more like a free time task, and that is the webpage. I am translating the English part to Danish; we've almost finished that.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: It is that it is very free, it is not a little fixed cell where people tell you to do this this or this. My past job was like sitting at a production line. I'm not good with that. I need to be creative. I have some frame to work within but I am still able to module it in my own way. I think that is because Yanapuma is still a small NGO and it depends on every person working for it. Also I enjoy working with development, that has been my dream for a long time.

Q: If you were any Ecuadorian animal what would you be?

A: I don't know what to say, I like the Yanapuma logo and the name, because it means the protector of the forest and the people. Combining those two things fits really well with my education.

Updates from Yanapuma

Currently there are six interns, four long-term volunteers and two students carrying out research project here at Yanapuma. Here is a brief description of the projects each individual is working on.

Each project is at a different stage in its development. For example, while Julia and Adam have been with Yanapuma for some time now and are rapidly progressing with their projects out in the field, Sanne, Emily & Brittany are in their first month with Yanapuma and are building the foundation of their projects before leaving the main Quito office. If you have any questions about or advice for any of these projects, please e-mail andy@yanapuma.org for the intern/ volunteer's e-mail address.

Emily



Emily is developing a study to of the chemicals used in Bua's agricultural community and how they relate to current health problems. Based on her findings, Emily will work with the farmers to find healthier alternatives. She is also working with the local school regarding the development of a health education curriculum.

Sanne



Sanne is doing an internship for ten months at Yanapuma. During this period, she is working on sustainable tourism, developing activity programs for Spanish students, making a plan for coaching volunteers and students.

Brittany



A student-turned-intern, Brittany is developing a monthly newsletter for us as well as exploring fundraising opportunities. Additionally, she is looking into Fair Trade and Organic certification processes and attempting to learn Spanish.

Julia



Julia is working on the development of our integrated model of sustainable development that will be our manual of operation as we work with indigenous and rural communities.

Adam



Adam is also working on tourism development, particularly in relation to the project Kamak Maki in Chichicorumi. He is also looking into how we can help all the tourism projects that we work with to get legalized in the most efficient and least onerous way.

Pauline

Pauline is also in Chichicorumi, teaching in Puka Chicta school. She is particularly enjoying the daily commute to the school via dugout canoe. She has also been helping the school with materials she gathered in Holland before arriving.

Ryanne

Ryanne is working in the Don Soto daycare center using her nursing credentials to improve the health and hygiene practices of the children. She is also helping to improve the infrastructure of the daycare center with a personal donation.

Adam

Adam has spend three weeks with a volunteer group in Chichicorumi, where they have been building volunteer accommodations, working on the medicinal gardens and of course having a lot of fun.

Carly

Carly went with the group to Chichicorumi as well, but she has been working on making a book about the medicinal plants and their properties.

Research Projects

Kyle

Kyle is in La Chimba where he is writing an ethnographic study as well as examining the role and situation of women in Kayambi culture

Zack

Zack is in Estero de Platano where he is also writing an ethnographic study and learning about the costal culture

Cook Clam Ceviche from your Own Kitchen

Ingredients:

1. 50 fresh clams
2. 1 pound of onions
3. 6 juicy lemons
4. ½ bottle of ketchup
5. 1 spoonful of finely chopped cilantro
6. Oil
7. Chili



Preparation:

Wash the clams until clean. Take one in each hand and strike them together; if it makes a dry sound; reject the shell that produced that sound. Place the clams in an aluminum pot and cook over a low flame without adding water.

Stir occasionally until the shells open. When they are all open, and before the juice evaporates, remove from the fire and let them cool off. Remove the clams from its shell and place them in a container. In an

other container squeeze the lemons and place them with the juice in the refrigerator. If any of the clams remained closed, open them by introducing a knife in to the groove. Cut the black winglets on the sides, cut them into four pieces and place them in the container with the juice.

To prepare the ceviche: finely cut the onions, rinse them in cold water, sprinkle salt and squeeze juice from 4 lemons and let sit. Later add the clams, add the ketchup, a little aji, the cilantro and a couple of drops of oil. Season to your liking.

Serve with toasted maize and bread.

Buen Provecho:

A common Ecuadorian phrase used before a meal, similar to the French phrase Bon Appetit



FUNGHERES

This past month Yanapuma established a new partnership with a foundation working to set up recycling project in the historic center and the main tourist area of Quito. Their approach fits nicely with the approach of Yanapuma in that they focused on an integrated strategy that deals with the poor indigenous people who rake through trash on the streets taking out recyclable materials, the buyers and sellers of recyclable materials, and the public who need to learn about recycling.

FUNGHERES' approach is to work with the people on the street, offering services from psychological help to small enterprise training to a daycare center for their children. Yanapuma is excited about the ways in which our volunteers and students can become involved in this project and help to promote recycling in Quito. We hope that our signing an accord with FUNGHERES will be the first step in many future collaborations. collaborations.



Activities and Progress in Bua de los Tsachilas:

1. Yanapuma bought the paint for Bua school so that a "minga" a collective work group, could be held to clean up and paint the school.
2. A training workshop by a medical doctor was organized by Yanapuma for the community of Bua, on nutrition, hygiene and health, water, etc. It was attended by mothers and fathers of families of the community.
3. We took part in a work day in Bua to clean up the school and surrounding area, take away the trash, etc., and begin generally cleaning up the environment.
4. Maria, an Italian volunteer who spent 6 weeks teaching in Bua (www.yanapuma.org/BuaMaria.html) sent us a beautiful bound book of photos of the Tsachila to deliver to them. She took many photos during her stay in the cultural center and selected the best for the book.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
YANAPUMA!

On August 15th, Yanapuma Foundation and Spanish School celebrated its one year anniversary. We have completed an annual statement available at:
www.yanapuma.org/news.htm

This past month, Yanapuma received donations for the Don Soto Daycare Center and for the Puka Chicta school.



Activities and Progress in La Chimba:

1. Staff of Yanapuma had a meeting in La Chimba with several farmers from the community. We brought along an agricultural expert to assess the viability of planting a new crop, or rather a very old crop that is finding a new market. The first step is to try a small test before planting on a larger scale. The project is expected to take a couple of years before we know if it is viable or not.
2. Meeting in La Chimba to discuss future collaboration on tourism project and with women's group, and possibly school

Wanted:

We are looking to fund a permanent position for an Ecuadorian to manage projects in each of Yanapuma's communities. Current staff commitments make it impossible for a member of Yanapuma to remain present in a community. We have identified this as a primary need given the philosophy and methodology of the foundation and its commitment to working in an integrated and collaborative manner with each community. We view this position as an individual that can supervise projects as well as interns and volunteers, insuring that Yanapuma maintains a uniform and consistent approach with the community, regardless of the individuals who arrive to offer services. Additionally, this individual can serve as a resource for volunteers and interns, assisting them in their projects and providing information and background on the community in which they work.

In relation to the community, this individual will promote participation of the community in its own development and empowerment of community members. Additionally, s/he will work to identify and prioritize needs and resources, offer training and capacity building to community members and fortify organizational structures. Finally, s/he will coordinate community projects to ensure a high level of organization and maintain awareness of political and other factors affecting the foundation's projects.

Annual costs related to this post are as follows:

- wages \$3600
- transport \$500
- community living expenses \$2100
- supervision by Projects Director \$1500
- Total = \$7700.00

*****If you are interested in donating funding towards the creation of this position for the Bua de los Tschila community, or if you are interested in organizing a fund-raising program for this position within your organization, please contact andy@yanapuma.org**