

Caminos del Páramo

October 2002

Working together

Caminos del Paramo is a monthly bulletin networking El Paramo across the world to those with commitment and involvement with Foundation Human Nature. The aim is to brief all with current issues before the monthly internet meeting, normally held the first Tuesday of each month at 13.30 Ecuadorian time. You are invited to send relevant information and reports on further work you would like posted. This should reach us no later than a week before the monthly meeting. Our goal, unless we are in the field, is to send the bulletin the Friday before the meeting. The phrase "working together" means that we are a team connected across the world. We are "growing together"!!!



Judy y Evelyn en el evento de la Declaratoria de la Laguna de Cube como un sitio RAMSAR.

Editorial

Welcome to the first Caminos del Paramo, a summary of news concerning our work in El Paramo. Each bulletin will have sections on health, education, conservation, gender, future projects and events. On a more personal note, the sections "La gente", and "Volunteers worldwide", will inform you all of what your friends from the communities are doing, and what volunteers are up to since they have left. So please send articles for the next issue. Each bulletin will include attachments of agendas and minutes of meetings with health promoters, health committee, and other local organisations. Our bulletin will be bilingual: we are going to write both in English and Spanish. We hope you find it useful, and look forward to hearing from you on Tuesday 1st October. Nos vemos!!!!

Gaby, Judy and Lucia.

HEALTH

- **Health committee:** To improve the effectiveness of the monthly meeting, the health administrator and Doctor will participate. The meeting of September 19th was unattended by committee members due to road maintenance. The Municipality of Quinindé is giving maintenance to the road to La Y through the placement of a natural mix of stones and sand that will "hopefully" resist the winter. We are having an extraordinary Health Committee meeting on October 6th.
- **Health Promoters:** Most of the communities in el Paramo now have health promoters. There have already been two meetings, both went well due to good participation and involvement. Our achievements until now are: definition of health by the promoters, analysis of community health problems, establishment of training needs and schedule until December. They are GREAT!!
- **Medical Equipment:** The medical equipment arrived at the health center on Wednesday 18th September at midnight. There is now: a microscope, scales for adults and children, two beds for patients, a gynaecology chair, a dentist chair and lamp, fabric for surgery and the sterilizer. Many thanks to Marco Antonio for his donation.
- **Convenio:** In order to guarantee the future sustainability of the health centre, together with the health committee, we are planning to sign an agreement between the communities, the foundation and the Ministry of Health. This agreement would mean the following: 1) ownership and management of the health centre will be the community's and foundation responsibility; 2) free services for pregnant women and children, free vaccinations and medicines and hopefully a permanent doctor will be the Ministry of Health responsibility. After two meetings with Jimmy Ponce, director of CEMOPLAF in Quinindé, and a representative of the Ministry of health in Quito, we are now convinced that we need this agreement instead of a simple affiliation to the Ministry of Health network. Why? Among other obstacles, we need to overcome the fact that the Ministry of Health requires a concentration of at least 2000 people in order to send a permanent doctor. We are going to talk to the Province Health Director of Esmeraldas to discuss the implications of the "Convenio" and the possibility of having a permanent doctor. For this we need to show the results of the census and health interviews that we are processing. We will let you know about it in the next bulletin.
- **Decision about water and solar power for the health centre (see attachments):** Summer, summer, summer. At present there is a little water at the health centre, therefore a solution needs to be found quickly. It is probable that one of the following two options will be carried out: to build a well, or alternatively increase the depth of the wells at Don Santos and pump this water to the tank, using a normal pump connected to the solar energy system. Concerning energy, presently we have two proposals to decide on. We will make a final decision based on their suitability by next week, installation will be completed by the beginning of November. We are still fundraising for this project, so please have a look at the proposal attached if you want to help. Estelle, Sara and Lore, this proposal is very professional.. Good Job!
- **Eva's visit to La Yecita and Dógola:** Jorge Olivo from Dogola co-ordinated Eva's successful 4 day visit, which involved visits and vaccination in La Yecita and Dógola. Eva is very loved and appreciated in the region. She is registering statistic data about the patients. This will help us for the convenio. Gracias por tu dedicación y compromiso!
- **Talks on Hygiene and health, recruitment of health promoters in various communities:** Beate, Isabelle, and Carley visited various communities. They did an excellent job and the communities received them well, improving relationships between communities and the foundation. They visited Viche-Cañabraval, El Plátano, Tahuales, La Yecita, Santa Isabel, Descanso, Twintza, 27 de Junio, Zabaleta y medio, Zabaletita, Limón, El Caucho, Zancudo, La Y y La Laguna. Their final report, will be ready by the next bulletin. They took GPS points along the way, therefore we should have a good map soon. This was really great.. we thank them very, very, much!
- **Composting toilet :** We will use it as an example of hygiene and prevention in training for the health promoters. Until now two mingas and the hole is almost done. We will have another minga the 9th November where we will make a platform with a tube for the ventilation (for flies and odour) and later we will construct the wooden house. People are very enthusiastic. They came from Zabaletita, Zabaleta y medio and Tahuales. Dennis thank you very much for the information you sent about the latrines.
- **Laboratory Technician:** Marjorie has finished her training for detecting malaria. Now she is undergoing training for other medical examinations.
- **Vaccination Campaign:** We have received the support of INNFA (El Instituto Nacional del Niño y la Familia) a governmental organization that works for the children of the country. We will receive 3.000 dosis of desparasitación. In the other hand, on thursday october 3rd, Eva, Isabel and Amada are getting trained in order to develop a vaccination campaign that is being implemented at the national level. This includes rubella, chicken pox, difteria and tetanus. So.. there we go! Gracias a Amada e Isabelle por su super capacidad de gestión.

Conservación

- **Fundación Local El Kaimán:** La gente de la Laguna de Cube se ha constituido como Fundación: la aprobación del Ministerio está casi lista. El 7 de Septiembre tuvimos un taller en el que les apoyamos con la definición de su misión y visión. Estuvo super chévere y los resultados están en el attachment.
- **Declaración de la Laguna como sitio RAMSAR:** El 20 de Septiembre se declaró oficialmente a la Laguna como sitio Ramsar. Esto significa que se encuentra en el listado internacional de los humedales prioritarios de conservación a nivel mundial. Hubo representantes de Fundación Natura, Conservación Internacional, Ministerio del Ambiente, EcoCiencia, Jatun Sacha y por supuesto la Alcaldía de Quinindé.
- **Propuesta para Conservación Internacional:** La propuesta de la Alianza Estratégica entre El Kaimán y MeHiPro para un proyecto de conservación en la Laguna ha sido consensuada localmente y también cuenta con el apoyo formal del Banco Comunitario de Mujeres, F. Natura, Jatun Sacha y La Alcaldía de Quinindé. Se presenta oficialmente el Lunes 30 de Septiembre.
- **Ecoturismo:** Hemos tenido grupos de voluntarios de Bilsa ocupando la casa de ecoturismo. Hemos llegado a un acuerdo con Jatun Sacha para que todos sus voluntarios vayan a la Laguna antes de ir a Bilsa. Judy elaboró una encuesta para diagnosticar la calidad del servicio y mejorarlo en el corto plazo. El muelle ha sido mejorado. Ahora soporta más peso y existen dos nuevas balsas para recorridos alrededor de la Laguna.



Jorge Olivo grabando el discurso del Alcalde en la declaratoria de la Laguna como sitio Ramsar. Karin mira su grabadora!

Educación

- **Diagnóstico educativo de la región:** Beate e Isabelle realizaron entrevistas a los profesores de cada comunidad que visitaron. Ahora contamos con un buen diagnóstico de la situación educativa. La información entre otras cosas, incluye datos cuantitativos sobre la cobertura, escolaridad, organización y los profesores. En el próximo boletín enviaremos su reporte.. Fue un gran trabajo!
- **Voluntarios en educación:** Desde noviembre contaremos con Jason quien coordinará el área educativa del proyecto. También contamos con una persona interesada en realizar su tesis sobre la educación de la zona. Ella es ecuatoriana y se llama Aída. Sara, te manda muchos saludos! Es Aída de Guápulo!

Género

- **Talleres con las mujeres del Banco Comunitario:** Bajo el contexto de la propuesta ganada con la Embajada Británica, entre octubre y noviembre tendremos 3 talleres con las mujeres (ver sección de actividades futuras para fechas y temas). Lore y Sara esperamos sus ideas y sugerencias para el desarrollo de los talleres.
- **Voluntaria:** Desde noviembre contaremos con Jessica quien coordinará esta área del proyecto.

En este Boletín colaboraron:

Textos: Judy, Lucia y Gaby / Diagramación: Judy y Gaby /
Fotos: Lucia

Proposed agenda for our next messenger meeting

- Doubts and questions from the world to the chicas in Ecuador (10 minutes)
- Central topic: Confirmation of vision and mission statements (in spanish too) and areas of work. We would like to have your feedback on these issues. We need to be clear about what we are going to do in each area (Health, Conservation, Gender, Education, Economy). (40 minutes)
- Urgent topics from around the world. (15 minutes)

Actividades futuras

Octubre

- 1-10 Digitación de datos del censo y la encuesta de salud.
- 6 Reunión Comité de Salud extraordinaria.
- 8-9 Visita de Judy, Lucia y Gaby a varios puntos de interés ecoturístico. Tal vez nos acompañe un biólogo y Pablo (el amigo de Estelle que hace ecoturismo).
- 17 Reunión mensual Comité de Salud.
- 18 Reunión mensual Promotores de Salud.
- 30 y 31 Taller con el grupo de mujeres: "Elaboración de proyectos y Propuestas".

Noviembre

- 20 Taller con el grupo de mujeres: "Aspectos de Género y Salud sexual y reproductiva"
- 21 Reunión Mensual de los Promotores de Salud
- 22 Inauguración del Subcentro de Salud (por confirmar)
- 29, 30 y 1ero Dic Primer taller intensivo con los Promotores de Salud.

Diciembre

- 13-15 Segundo taller intensivo con los Promotores de Salud.



Special events

31st August - Fiesta del Subcentro de Salud: A fiesta was held at the school: it was an all day event till the early hours of Sunday morning. We painted many children faces and enjoyed the whole day. We entered a girls football team into the football tournament, unfortunately we lost to the Bilsa volunteers after a tense penalty shoot out! During the afternoon a "Campeonato de 40 was held", the winner came from El Plátano. In the night Jessica Zambrano (Winter's daughter) was elected as the "Señorita Subcentro de Salud". The "curiangués", a group of boys from La Y and La Laguna gave flowers to each candidate with a short verse (oral tradition from Manabí). Everything went great... Lots of people, excellent organization from the Health Committee and a drizzle that refreshed us during the sunrise. In the pictures in the left you see Amada's penalty and Lucia's fault that made her obtain a yellow card. It was her first time ever playing football.. What a good start!

21st September Christening: Many children from La Y were baptised in the church in the evening. We were invited to the beautiful ceremony and then we participated to a banquet organised by Don Ramón and Don Suárez.

Volunteers worldwide

Carley has returned back to the States for a new term at university. Thank you very much for the educational material for the Health Promoters.

Ed is working in a hospital in London, while looking for a new doctor for the health center through brand new posters and application form.

Estelle is studying an MA in Canada and helping us on the solar energy proposal.

Jemima is working hard on the FHN website in England. One question, is it possible to include some of this information in a section of the web page?

Jenny is now in La Paz after traveling throughout Peru.

Karin is in Arizona, working hard in her new courses at university. Thank you for the books you sent.

Lorena is studying her MA in Development in The Hague, without losing touch with the foundation.

Marco Antonio and Charles are back home, studying and working on the setup of the foundation in Canada.

Martin is fundraising and working hard on the StartSocial program in Germany to create solid bases for the foundation.

Sara is now in California, looking for a job and working on the 501C3.

Robert returned to England to either study a MA in property development, or work.

You all, let us know what you are up to!



Novedades de la gente del Páramo

- Jorge Olivo de Dógola utiliza la grabadora que Karin le dio para grabar todo tipo de cosas. Incluso registra las fechas de sus reuniones y las cosas que tiene que hacer.
- Marisol y Winter Zambrano padres de Winter Alfredo, le enviaron muchas galletas con Carley. Esperamos que las haya disfrutado mucho. Tus papás te mandan muchos saludos y cariño.
- La gente está muy contenta por el mantenimiento que la Alcaldía está dando al camino. Ahora está nivelado y van a poner el material de la mina que se supone aguanta más el invierno. Este material son piedras que se combinan bien con el lodo y se quedan compactas en el terreno con la lluvia.
- Los hombres de La Y están buscando una camiseta de cristal limón para Ed!
- Saludos de toda la gente del páramo para todos ustedes.. Siempre les recuerdan mucho.