



Sloth on the way to the lagoon.. Catching up..

# Paths of Progress

February 03 – May 03

Foundation Human Nature  
May, 13th 2003

Designed + written by: Gabriela Ordóñez + Lucia Palombi  
Pictures by: Jessica Levy  
Pictures scanned by: Titia Tsjenizer  
Layout: Lisa Peterson

## **Fundación MeHiPro - Naturaleza Humana**

Av. 12 de Octubre N21 - 155 y Roca, Edificio Mariana de Jesús, of. 709, Telefax:593-2-2542278

e-mail: [naturalezahumana@andinanet.net](mailto:naturalezahumana@andinanet.net) <<mailto:naturalezahumana@andinanet.net>>

[www.foundationhumannature.org](http://www.foundationhumannature.org)



On February 5th the citizens of La Y elected the board of the "Comité ProMejoras de La Y de la Laguna". This committee is like a municipality and its constitution was a consequence of the strategy for the sustainability of the garbage management project. From left to right: Medardo, Lorenzo, Pedro, Charito, Marisol, Julita y Ganchoso.



The first resolution of the municipality was the cleaning of the whole community: streams, square, school and various paths. Afterwards other sanitation activities have been implemented: for example the location of horses in specific places outside the main square of the town. All the activities counted with the participation of the majority of the people.



During the "Minga" (community work) several garbage bins were constructed. They are for organic and inorganic waste and are located around the main square of La Y as well as in various strategic sites. All the inorganic waste is disposed in a deep hole to be covered when full, while the organic waste goes to the compost site. Now the bins look different since they were painted by the children.



A group of clowns filled the square of La Y with theater and music. People from many communities enjoyed a good moment and learned about waste disposal. Jason (Education coordinator) was a volunteer even in the performance!



For International Women's Day, the women from the community bank of the lagoon had a small talk and celebration. Jessica (the gender program coordinator) and Lilia (founder of the women's organization) are dancing with a lot of rhythm.



On Friday, March 21st the women participated in a demonstration in La Y remembering International Women's Day. The signs speak about women's rights and opinions. Afterwards, of course, we danced.



During February, March and April the health team gave workshops on sexuality. They involved the women's association, the students of the high school and members from various communities. Jessica and Ben (medical student) started the process along with Wilmer, the rural Doctor. Jason started a community initiative "The English Club". This is an experience were the participants develop cooperative and sustainable teaching/learning practices.



The health promoters shared their knowledge and learned about medicinal plants with Miguel, who belongs to the Chachi, an indigenous group of Esmeraldas. Adrian coordinated the medicinal plant project and the garbage one, from November until the end of February.



Close to the school of La Y, with the financial support of the British Embassy and the work of the people of El Paramo, we built a library for the region. The children started the construction. They are taking advantage of the library from the beginning.



The construction of the library lasted a month. At the moment it is painted and practically finished. We hope we will finish the equipment soon with educational material and local products like the history of the communities, maps, interviews, census, etc. Glass bottles are part of the architecture as an example of recycling.



From April 6th until April 18th we were out in the jungle. We visited 6 communities: Tiwintza, La Yecita, Dógola, Mono, Viche and Cube. We implemented a health and vaccination campaign and improved our knowledge of the region. Wilmer, our rural Ecuadorian doctor (second from right) did a great job.



Mothers and children from Mono are waiting to be vaccinated. In the meantime we were playing with the children and elaborating a community map. We were just facilitators: they drew it. Above Fernando with the map and below Titia with the children.



Some pictures from the trip. The community meeting in Twintza with Wilmer explaining the services of the Health Center; a group in Dógola and Hugo – President of the local Foundation El Kaimán- discussing about techniques that would improve cacao plantations.



For the ones of you who don't know us, these are Gaby (left) and Lucia(right).. And that's our office.. It is empty because many special people have passed by. We would like to thank all the members of the team during the last three months: Lisa, Schirin, Ben, Jessica Levy, Jason, Titia, Adrián and Therese, Jessica Zambrano, Maggie, Wilmer, Isabel Malliquinga (nurse), the Health Committee, El Káimán, the Comité Pro Mejoras and the health promoters. Special thanks to Deb Coffman, Arlo, The British Embassy, Mireia and her family, Cesar Díaz, Signe, Kristen, Maren, Leila and Ana Maria from United Way International.

The past ten months have been full of hard work but we believe that is totally worth it. Thanks to the local, national and international team. We are growing together.