

Criteria for Inclusion/Exclusion of the CONAPAC/ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM

INCORPORATION:

- Rural communities that voluntarily desire to participate in the AAS Program can solicit CONAPAC for inclusion with a letter in writing signed by the village authorities and a majority of its inhabitants
- The Technical Team* of CONAPAC, in conjunction with members from the Loreto Regional Board of Education, visit the community to evaluate and confirm the following:
 - That there are enough children to attend school either at the kindergarten, elementary or high school.
 - That an environmentally sound, productive project has been developed such as a community medicinal plant, flower or vegetable garden; a fish pond; community cleanliness plan including waste containers in public areas, etc.
 - That there exists a good level of community organization and a plan to work together.
 - That the authorities are motivated and show goodwill in order to achieve real working goals for the improvement and benefit of their community.
 - That the teachers demonstrate commitment and responsibility in favor of educating the children of the community and include environmental education in their lesson plans.
 - That the community is clean and well-kept at all times.

The information gathered is reported by the CONAPAC team and a formal application is made by the community to the Department of Education.

STAYING IN THE PROGRAM:

- Maintain or improve the level of organization in the community
- Execute, with positive results, an environmental project or service to the community
- Maintain and increase the attendance of the children
- Children continue to improve in basic academics
- The community and the children are consistently clean and healthy
- The authorities and parents are satisfied with the environmental and educational material presented by CONAPAC
- That the authorities and majority of the residents offer a warm welcome and appropriate shelter for CONAPAC and Explorama and the visitors they may bring to the community
- That the authorities and parents comply with the commitment they sign at the beginning of the school year to do the following:
 - To send their children to school everyday and to satisfactorily complete the school year
 - To take good care and use of the school supplies and educational material provided by CONAPAC
 - To develop and organize a productive project or service that compliments the CONAPAC the environmental education message.
 - To assist with the workshops and other events organized by CONAPAC

SEPARATION:

- Disinterest by the authorities and a majority of residents to keep the community clean
- Not maintaining the necessary community organization to fulfill obligations of the program, i.e., attending workshops, working on community projects, unwillingness to welcome tourist guests and volunteers, etc.
- Not fulfilling the agreements established in the commitment letter by parents signed at the beginning of the school year
- Insufficient number of children to maintain a teacher in the community
- Voluntary separation from the program by the authorities and a majority of residents

**The technical team provides information and materials for the teachers to integrate the areas of environmental education, biology, agriculture and the natural environment into their curriculum.*