



2017 Annual Report



Dear Friends of CONAPAC,

2017 has been a year of changes for us. Cynthia Smith stepped down from directorship, but is active on the CONAPAC board as vice president and is traveling from Australia to the US, meeting with supporters and bringing our message to would-be donors. Brian Landever became the new director, transitioning between February and May, as Cynthia moved on. Our water program, begun by Cynthia in 2008, is mostly complete, except for ongoing monitoring and maintenance. There are just a few of our partner communities who still need water filtration systems installed or upgraded. Brian's new focus is economic development assistance in the communities. And that got off to a good start the beginning of the year. Our Adopt-A-School and Amazon Library programs are going strong and are more dynamic than ever.

Thanks to your ongoing support, CONAPAC continues to gain positive attention. We were recognized by the mayor of the local Amazon municipal district of Indiana, Peru, for the work we are doing, and several NGOs have solicited our support for the communities with which they work. We have successfully maintained the quality of our programming during our change in leadership and are looking forward to 2018. We continue to rely on our donor base to not only donate, but to spread the word to friends, family and colleagues who care about education and conservation.





Water Program

This year we built a new water filtration tower in the community of Canal Pinto, funded by The Brown Travelers, a Brown University alumni group. Towers in Sapó Playa and Canada were renovated. In-home water filtration units were installed in Puerto Rico. Funding was provided by Amazon Amigos and Frances Gatz and by Adopt-A-Drop monies. There are now 35 communities with towers, including some built by other organizations and maintained by CONAPAC, and 11 communities with in-home units.

We provided our Clean Water Workshop to nearly 100 community members in August. Every water filtration tower that is built is accompanied by this four-hour workshop that covers the following critical content:

- how drinking clean water will prevent waterborne illnesses
- how waterborne illnesses lead to low energy and poor school/work performance

Water Program

- how the community has to collaborate to keep the filtration tower operating
 - what daily procedures must be done by the water filtration tower operators
- The classes we offer provide the information needed to understand the critical importance of drinking clean water.

During evaluations in November, we tested the water from every water filtration tower. We tested for E. coli and arsenic and we checked levels of chlorine and pH. We also inspected the filtration towers for proper use. Every visit was followed by a presentation of our findings to the community, with suggestions for improvement. All of the 28 water filtration towers built by CONAPAC tested negative for pathogens. We also maintain and repair as needed seven other towers built by other organizations. Of these, four are functioning well and three need refurbishing.

See our full 2017 Water Report.

<http://www.conapac.org/2017_water_report.pdf>



28 functioning community water treatment plants
180 families with Sawyer PointONE™ filter systems
250 classrooms with Sawyer PointONE™ filter systems

Kitchens

Our kitchen-building program continues. Since 2015 we have taken donations and had service project groups work with villagers to build new kitchens, which complement the Qali Warma program, the Peruvian food supplement initiative. These kitchens ensure that there is a clean place to prepare food and for the children to eat their two meals per day. They are built to last, with concrete bases and hardwood structures constructed by reliable carpenters. They each have a locked storage room to prevent animals from accessing the food. In 2017, kitchens were built in Santa Lucia, Los Invencibles, San Pedro de Mangua, and Jorge Chavez.

Thanks to donors Adopt-A-Village International and Saga Charitable Trust for support that has made a positive impact in several communities.



Adopt-A-School 2017

109 schools in 54 CONAPAC partner communities received their school supplies. Teachers, students, and classrooms received essential items to carry out lessons throughout the entire school year.

At nearly every community, children put on appreciation ceremonies that ranged from dances in traditional clothing to elaborate performances about daily village life. Volunteers during the first week were able to greet communities and see first hand the difference that their support and presence makes.

Second week volunteers visited a few communities to make school supply deliveries, and then joined the community of Santa Lucia during construction of a school kitchen. Some volunteers dedicated themselves to the building, others led students in craft activities, and others played sports outside with kids of all ages.



Adopt-A-School 2017

AAS deliveries

10 volunteers week 1

15 volunteers week 2

14 ministry of education personnel

Upriver visits with International Expeditions: 11 de Agosto, Cedro Isla, San Jose de Parapapura, Nuevo York

Thank you to all who joined us this year.



AAS Projects

In addition to our annual AAS deliveries at the start of the school year, CONAPAC seeks to facilitate greater access to sound education in our partner communities. The year starts off with a teacher meeting to introduce CONAPAC to new teachers and to discuss the importance of motivating students to continue their education and of rainforest conservation.

To connect students who live in communities without high schools, EKOAmazon donated boat buses. EKOAMAZON partnered with CONAPAC to build and install two boats to transport students to high school daily. Over 30 students now have transportation, at no cost to them. The buses also provide transportation to teachers between the high school and the nearest speedboat port before and after the school week. Teachers are charged for using this service but it is less than other transportation options and our boats are safer transport.

Thank you to Ron and Nancy Rossi for establishing EkoAmazon to support us, for working hard to identify activities with the greatest impact, and for trusting CONAPAC to responsibly make use of donations.



AAS Workshops

This year CONAPAC's annual educator workshop was attended by 250 teachers from over 50 schools. Dr Elsa Rengifo from IIAP, El Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana, taught about medicinal plants. Pedro Paucarcaja and Nelly Paredes from ANIA org ANIA ORG Peru (Asociación para la Niñez y su Ambiente) taught how to build a Tierra de Niños, an active study garden area designed by and maintained by children. Later in the year a group of students from UNAP, the university in Iquitos, visited San Pedro de Mangua, Centro Unido, and Auca Cocha to help with the development of this project. Karen Purcell from Cornell Lab of Ornithology taught about birds' roles in the ecosystem to build understanding of their importance. These sessions included activities that the teachers would later use with their students.

This workshop resulted in strong follow-through. Throughout the school year, teachers sent us pictures and videos of their classes engaged in the activities from the workshop. 84% of schools (46 schools) applied the lessons learned at the workshops, according to the November evaluations.



AAS Workshops

A sustainable living workshop was held for community leaders in August. Pedro Paucarcaja taught how to build compost bins from fallen branches in order to start producing natural fertilizer from vegetable waste, increasing the yield of fruit or vegetables for food or for sale. Jose Riverra taught how to build fish farms and led the group in the construction of one.

The all-day composting class gave participants the opportunity to practice making their compost bins out of readily available plant materials and to learn techniques to use. The workshop evaluation showed that community leaders held a 92% intention of developing compost in their community.

The fish farm segment began with a class explaining the basics. Jose Riverra took participants to visit a nearby community that uses fish ponds. There the steps to building a fish pond were detailed. Later everyone had the opportunity to work on the construction of a new one.



Community Evaluations

In November we performed our annual community evaluations. Four teams of 33 participants representing the Ministry of Education to evaluate student and teacher progress and Environmental Science experts to evaluate community implementation of projects—composting, reforestation, water filtration management, and waste management. The Evaluation Team included two representatives from the Detroit Zoological Society, Claire Lannoye-Hall and Ruth Marcec, as well as a volunteer from the United Nations Development Programme. We successfully visited every one of our partner communities, evaluating educational impact, teacher progress, community environmental responsibility, usage of clean water filtration systems, usage of boat buses, and general maintenance of community kitchens.

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| These three communities improved over the year and are no longer on red alert: |
| Capironal |
| Canada |
| Suni Cano |

| Rankings | Number of communities | Percent of total |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Excellent | 6 | 11% |
| Good | 40 | 74% |
| Average | 8 | 15% |
| Poor | 0 | 0% |

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| These communities best implemented what they learned from the workshops: |
| Yana Yacu |
| Timicuro I |
| San Pedro de Manati |
| Ramon Casilla |
| Los Invencibles |
| Canada |

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|-----------------------------------|------|
| A community census also was held: | |
| Communities | 54 |
| Families | 1656 |
| Total population | 6683 |
| Children in school | 2918 |
| Students in high school | 810 |

Economic Development

We launched a lemongrass-growing pilot project in the community of Jorge Chavez and two other communities. Jorge Chavez's crops grew well due to sandy soil which drains well. The others' crops died quickly. Maderosa, an Iquitos botanicals company, bought 500 kilos of the lemongrass crop and employed community members to process it. This partnership will continue.

In 2016, Celine Motard, the owner of Aroma Maderosa, approached CONAPAC with the idea of purchasing lemongrass (*Cymbopogon*) from one of our partner communities. She was interested in distilling its essential oil and wanted to obtain a crop from reliable rural people who are concerned about forest conservation. Moreover, she offered a fair price and committed to purchasing a large quantity.



Economic Development

The initiation of the project required experimentation and seed funding, so the CONAPAC team got together to brainstorm the required steps to implementation. The lemongrass planting that was successful provided an abundant harvest. Aroma Maderosa generously accepted three times the amount they had requested for this first harvest. Due to the excellent quality product that the Jorge Chavez community produced, Maderosa scheduled three additional purchases. All parties involved are pleased.

We have learned how to set a community up for a successful project. From growing condition requirements to logistical processes, we now understand what is needed for a community to begin from scratch, deliver a harvest, and walk home with a profit. The more profit they obtain, the less need they will have to turn to the precious rainforest for income. Equally important, we now understand how to set up these agricultural projects with a single visit. Once we identify a community and get them started, the communication will thereafter remain between the community members and Aroma Maderosa.

CONAPAC holds a vision of social development for Peruvian rural communities. We foresee communities of people who are healthy, physically and mentally, know how to access food in sustainable ways, receive a thorough education through high school, practice participatory governance, have access to markets, and consistently take care of their rainforest.



Amazon Library

2017 was a year of achievements, but also of searching for better ways to offer opportunities for personal and educational development to our students—the young people living in the rural area of the Amazon River. The most valuable contributions came from friends who, with their donations and volunteer work, gave renewed impetus to the daily work of the library.

The two branches, at Palmeras II and at Sapo Playa, had a total of 171 registered student users. Four programs ran throughout the year: chess, music, English, and computer.

In the chess program our teacher, Helard Uriarte, a member of the International Chess Federation, instructed our students who hadn't previously known the game and took them to special tournaments, instilling a new interest in chess.

The music program aims to train our young people as musicians. A group of 42 children began learning on recorders donated by Jerrold Wolf of the Friends of Jazz. That project has thus developed, and we wanted to take it to the next level by introducing classical instruments. A small seven-instrument wind ensemble of the most apt students was formed. Brian had met Jose Estrems, a professional musician and conductor in Iquitos, who expressed enthusiasm to create a youth ensemble in the Amazon. Their common interest quickly led to the plans for the music program to continue and expand.

To initiate this project, we created a crowd funding page at Global Giving, a fundraising website that focuses on non-profits. We raised \$2788.36, thanks to 19 donors. With that, we have been able to afford transportation, the salary for a wonderful teacher, and the cost of printing music. We continue to seek additional donations to purchase instruments. By November of 2017 our music teacher had to leave the area but we are hopeful that we will find a replacement.

The English program includes the use of the Rosetta Stone computer program and the collaboration of native English speaking volunteers to provide a live language experience.

The computer program provided 20 new students with knowledge of the basics. This program and the chess program received the help of Patricia Sullivan and the International Fund for Economic Development.

Amazon Library

The library also held several workshops with the help of some outstanding volunteers.

Marjorie Mazie taught First Aid.

Phil Kahler and his volunteers taught all about birds as part of the Cornell University Bird Sleuths program and the Amazon Binocular Project.

Workshops combining art, crafts, science, and traditional Amazon knowledge were led by painter and poet **Mark Wangberg** who lives in Iquitos.

Allen Stenstrup and a group of North American professors conducted an art and science program.

Youthlinc volunteered by painting the library and conducting music and English workshops, and donated funds and materials for renovations and musical instruments.

Ethan Braekevelt and his mother Martine Geeraert taught construction of kaleidoscopes and marionettes, and donated materials and musical instruments. Jane Claud came to work with us as a volunteer in the library for the fourth consecutive year. She gave a jewelry design workshop and brought the majority of new library books that we received this year.

Dana Renzi gave a workshop about menstruation. She also donated a RACHEL digital library designed especially for communities without Internet access, which contains countless information and self-education resources. This portable cloud device provides access to hundreds of books, applications, games, and films.

A constant challenge for the library is the need to stay fresh and welcoming to its daily users, who are young people who come on their own initiative. See more details at library administrator Fernando Saavedra's library blog.



2017 Service Projects

Through our partnership with Amazon Explorama Lodges, CONAPAC facilitates work in river villages through community service projects. Volunteers work alongside community members on projects that include repairing community and school buildings, installing drinking water filtration systems, building and finishing school kitchens, planting gardens, and reforestation.

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| Field School | Leon Isla |
| Blue for Peru University Students | Library |
| | Puerto Rico |
| | San Alejandro |
| Sidwell Friends School | San Pedro de Mangua |
| Adopt-A-School Week #2 | Santa Lucia |
| Sacred Heart Academy | Yurac Yacu |
| Valencia College | Sapo Playa |
| Wartburg College / Upper Iowa University | Los Invencible del Amazonas (LIDA) |
| West Virginia Wesleyan College | Auca Cocha |
| Milken High School | Jorge Chavez |
| St. Peter's University - 02 June (Juancho Playa) | Juancho Playa |
| Providence Day School - 13 June (Sta. Isabel) | Santa Isabel |
| Chang Chicago Group - 27 June (Yarina Isla) | Yarina Isla |
| Educator Academy - 08 July (Pucallpa) | Pucallpa |
| Birdsleuth Group - 13 July (Sucusari) | Sucusari |
| AFAR Student Group North Grand | Jorge Chavez |
| AFAR Student Group Legal Prep | Jorge Chavez |
| Meg Lowman Citizen Science Group | San Antonio de Miraflores |
| Roosevelt School | Sapo Playa |
| Roosevelt School | Manati I Zona |



2017 Special Projects

Early this year Explorama, CONAPAC, One Planet, Wartburg College, and Amazon Rainforest Workshops worked together on an experimental project to attract bats to the community of Sucusari along the Napo River. Construction of a ten cubic foot house raised 30 feet off the ground provides a home for mosquito-eating bats to roost and to help reduce the mosquito population.



CONAPAC Staff

CONPAC Team

Brian Landever—CONAPAC Director

Alberto Vela Muñoz—Education Specialist, liaison between teachers and the ministry of education, teacher selection for placement in CONAPAC communities

James Pasmíño—Clean Water Specialist and Community Relations Specialist, overseer of construction and maintenance of water filtration systems

Oscar Homero Quiroz—Educational support and Service Project Coordinator, teacher placement coordinator

Fernando Saavedra—Administrator of all Library programs

Part Time Library Personnel

Lara Hoyas—Library Support

Manuel—Library Support

Jhoner—Library Support

Orlando—Library Support

Jose Estrems—Music Teacher

Detroit Zoo Staff Volunteer Coordinators

Claire Lannoye-Hall

Adam Dewey

Board of Directors

Pam Bucur

Cynthia Smith

Nancy Cowal

Claire Lannoye-Hall

Luis Gonzales

Amner Ismodes



Funding Partners

Explorama Lodges

The Detroit Zoological Society

International Expeditions

Adopt-A-Village International


Amazon Amigos

EKOAmazon

International Fund for Economic Development

REACH for Books

Many other groups and individuals who give to our programs



\$80,000 in-kind donations from Explorama
\$20,000 in-kind donations from The Detroit Zoo
1.5% admin costs
\$241,982.34 total donations