



# Annual Report 2019



## Our Mission

CONAPAC is a Peruvian non-profit organization whose mission is to promote conservation of the rainforest through education of its stewards, the people who live along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. Our centerpiece project is the Adopt-A-School program, which is strengthened by workshops and complemented by service and sustainable projects in river communities.

## Our Board of Directors

Pam Bucur  
Cynthia Smith  
Nancy Cowal  
Claire Lannoye-Hall  
Luis Gonzales  
Amner Ismodes

## Our Staff

Shea Bronson-Doherty  
Alberto Vela Muñoz  
James Pasmíño  
Michel Paolo Briceño

## Detroit Zoo Staff

Claire Lannoye-Hall  
Adam Dewey

## Contents

4	Enhancing Education
5	Evaluating Progress
6	Conserving Rainforest
7	Empowering Teachers
8	Supplementing Nutrition
9	Providing Clean Water
10	Sustaining Communities
11	Mapping the Future
12	Giving Back
13	Funding Partners

## From CONAPAC's Board of Directors:

As we wrap up a productive 2019 and begin 2020, we thank you all for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. This new year 2020 will come with a big change, as our administrator for the past three years, Brian Landever, moves on to other opportunities. We'd like to thank him for all he brought forward at CONAPAC. To name a few things, he modernized many systems and expanded economic opportunities in our partner communities. He continued to move the water program forward and organized three years of Adopt-A-School deliveries. Our new director, Shea Bronson-Doherty began his tenure in January 2020, and is committed to continuing CONAPAC's work in the Peruvian Amazon.



Saving the rainforest, one child at a time






February 2020

Greetings to all our wonderful donors!

My name is Shea Bronson-Doherty and I am CONAPAC's incoming director. I am looking forward to building upon my knowledge and experience empowering rural communities in other parts of Latin America and furthering the organization's successes. This year has been full of some very impressive achievements for CONAPAC. Our teacher workshop, implemented with the help of our partner the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, engages teachers in hands-on training in environmental education and has caught the attention of the Peruvian Ministry of Education. They sent a representative to participate in the workshop who was so inspired by our work that she is thinking about working to expand the program beyond CONAPAC and across the region. The quality and success of the Adopt-A-Drop program has also sparked the interest of Peru's National Superintendence of Sanitation Services, which would like to partner with us to strengthen the capacity of communities within CONAPAC's service area to manage their fresh water resources. We've seen positive outcomes from our economic development program as well, having put in 17,495 saplings to replant previously deforested land and trained 13 communities in sustainable agriculture practices, to date. None of our successes would be possible without the support of our donors. You are the engine driving our progress and on behalf of CONAPAC I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you.



Shea Bronson-Doherty

Saving the rainforest, one child at a time

# ENHANCING EDUCATION

Our twenty-seventh Adopt-A-School season delivering school supplies to our 55 partner communities was better than ever. We had 20 volunteers, as well as professionals from the local board of education, Explorama guides, Detroit Zoological Society staff, and CONAPAC staff, for each of the two weeks of deliveries. Week one participants delivered to the majority of the communities. Week two participants delivered two days and also worked in the community of 28 de Octubre, finishing a school kitchen, painting the water tower, planting trees, and working with the schoolchildren in a variety of activities. Thank you to Amazon Explorama Lodges for providing accommodations, meals, boats, staff, and logistics for all. And thank you to our steadfast volunteers for all you've done this past year. Recently, the Maijuna communities of Puerto Human and Nueva Vida, located on the Napo River, became CONAPAC Partner Communities, agreeing to conserve their lands, and will be part of the Adopt-A-School weeks in 2020.



# EVALUATING PROGRESS

Our community evaluations this year were in October and November during which we visited each of the 54 communities on the Amazon, Napo, and Ucayali Rivers who partner with us. The evaluators were environmental specialists and education professionals from CONAPAC and our partners in the U.S. and the Peruvian Ministry of Education. These visits gave us time to listen to the perspectives of community members: their hopes for change, their visions for development, and the obstacles. We also used a rubric to quantify the overall performance of each community, based on educational service and dedication to environmental activities.

The teachers were also evaluated for their attendance, the creation and application of lesson plans, and their ability to motivate communities to organize. This data is used to decide which teachers we will invite to teach in CONAPAC partner communities the next year. Our agreement with the regional Ministry of Education allows CONAPAC to select the best non-tenured teachers available. By selecting and retaining these teachers, CONAPAC is improving the quality of education and providing curriculum continuity with our yearly Conservation Education Workshops for teachers. The chart below shows the ten best-rated communities.

<b>Manatí I</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Auca Cocha</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Isla Tamanco</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Palmeras II Zona</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>San Pedro de Manatí</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Timicuro I</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>San Luis</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Juancho Playa</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>San Antonio de Miraño</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3 de Mayo</b>	<b>10</b>



# CONSERVING RAINFOREST

In June, CONAPAC held its annual Conservation Education Workshop for over 100 teachers at Explorama's lodges. In its third phase of implementation, the workshop *Celebrate Birds in the Peruvian Amazon* delved deeper into understanding rainforest habitat, natural history of birds, and citizen science techniques. Much-loved presenter, Dr. Karen Purcell of the Cornell Ornithology Lab, was joined by Juan Flores Valadez and María Cecilia Álvarez Ricalde of CONABIO in Mexico, where they work in community protection of birds on the Yucatan Peninsula. Explorama's birding guides, Percy Reyna and Cesar Sevillano, helped in bird identification and use of binoculars. Teresita Ruiz Ahuanari gathered information on the year's work done by teachers and students on the Children's Forest project and to seek suggestions for program improvement.

As an outcome, the teachers in our partner communities have been sharing the *Celebrate Birds in the Peruvian Amazon* curriculum activities at their schools, inside and outside of the classroom, with each other, with the workshop presenters, and with CONAPAC staff. Thanks to the Morpho Institute's Amazon Binocular Project, schools can borrow sets of binoculars for bird observation. Students work in activity books and guides furnished by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, collect bird sightings data, design birding paths and observation stations, participate in bird club citizen-science activities, and create beautiful illustrations. Most of all, they have become more aware of and more appreciative of the bird life that surrounds them.



# EMPOWERING TEACHERS

Within days of completion of the conservation workshop, teachers were at their home schools implementing their bird programs, using the *Celebrate Birds* curriculum as the basis for their teaching, utilizing cultural arts to teach and learn bird characteristics, starting bird clubs, and taking their students out in the field to observe birds in their habitat and collect data. Students are painting murals, writing expository text, and creating trails to observing stations. Thirty-eight schools built bird observation trails. The teachers are staying in close contact with each other and the workshop presenters via WhatsApp, creating a frenzy of excitement and sharing. Many communities built play areas as part of the Children's Forest Project as well.

CONAPAC partner community schools held bird festivals, with 24 communities participating, as an extension of their *Celebrate Birds* curriculum. In September, Karen Purcell, our June 2019 Conservation Education Workshop leader, and Marilu Lopez Fretts, both from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology came to Peru to experience five of these festivals firsthand. An amazing and powerful display of student theatre, poems, songs, drawings, and dances all celebrated the value of Amazonian birds. We are thankful for the great efforts of the teachers and students in producing the festivals. Everyone was thrilled to be able to show Karen the results of their efforts in person. The children's creativity and enthusiasm for bird conservation has made us very proud!





# SUPPLEMENTING NUTRITION

CONAPAC constructed its first school kitchen in 2017. These kitchens are strictly for the children in the communities, where they can eat two meals per school day. The government program Qaliwarma provides the food and cooking equipment. The parents prepare the meals and maintain the kitchens. This program offsets insufficient food supplies in many of the communities in terms of quantity and quality. By increasing access to food sources and nutrients, the children are getting a more balanced diet

We have built ten kitchens so far, adding one in 2019 in the community of October 28, with the collaboration of volunteers from Adopt-A-School week #2. We also installed mini water filtration systems in six kitchens, consisting of small filters of charcoal, gravel and sand, to have easily accessible clean and safe water for food prep and for washing up.





# PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

We want to ensure that the people in our CONAPAC partner communities have clean water to drink. Untreated river water causes bacterial and parasitic infections that result in many health problems. We install filtration systems, train community members, and continually monitor these systems as part of our Adopt-A-Drop program. With access to clean water, communities are visibly healthier. This year we built water filtration towers in the communities of Yanamono II, 28 de Octubre, and Ramon Castilla, thanks to Overseas Adventure Travel, Amazon Amigos, Sharon Hayes, and several anonymous donors. We did maintenance work on nine other existing towers and installed in-home water filter systems, provided by Roger Cabbage's GlobalAccess2030, in the communities of Santa Maria de Fatima, Nuevo Esperanza, Capironal, and 3 de Mayo. In our partner communities there are 38 water treatment towers, 29 built by CONAPAC, and 9 by other organizations. We have 14 communities with in-home water filter systems. During evaluation and testing at the end of the year, of our 29 towers, 25 were in good working order and 4 need repair. Of the home systems, 11 communities' systems are working well and three need replacement. Another 100 in-home filters will be installed in 2020, thanks to a grant from Rotary International, Rotary Club of Boulder Flatirons, and Rotary Club of Iquitos, Peru.



# SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

In 2018 we started our economic development initiative to provide fruit trees to our partner communities. Thanks to the financial and instructional support of the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and the supply of trees and agricultural assistance of Pedro Paucarcaja, our sustainable farming project is well underway. Many communities already grow fruit and there are buyers in Iquitos searching for reliable sources. We are filling the gap between growers and buyers by providing organic agricultural training, community organization, donations of fruit trees, and ongoing technical maintenance. Our goal is for communities to successfully grow and sell export-quality fruits. We also want to ensure that sustainable planting and harvesting techniques are used and that communities reinvest a portion of their profit to grow their sales potential.

The number of communities growing fruit trees has almost doubled since we began the project. We now have 15 of our partner communities participating. Those who received their saplings the first year are pleased with their growth. CONAPAC's frequent visits to the communities to check on progress, answer questions that have come up, and problem-solve together with the farmers are part of the formula for success. Besides delivering fruit tree saplings, we are also offering training in managing community tree nurseries with species that are easy to grow, like coconuts, building people's confidence in establishing nurseries to germinate various types of trees in their communities.





# MAPPING THE FUTURE

Most CONAPAC partner communities do not have official maps of their land. Instead they have rough, occasionally conflicting, ideas that prevent them from preparing a cohesive community plan for future development. At CONAPAC's Participatory Mapping Workshop, community members join together to organize and form a long-term vision, based on everyone's ideas, for the future of their lands. Our hope was for community members to identify existing resources and threats to those resources, and then create a plan for their long-term sustainability. Our expectations were surpassed by the final outcome. The community response was one of creativity, respect for one another's ideas, and a hopeful look to the future. This process has resulted in, not only sustainable forestry spaces, but has also some surprising elements, such as buildings for women's craft workshops, greywater treatment plants, domestic animal spaces, and visitor welcome centers.



# GIVING BACK

This year we had 11 service project groups who carried out the following activities:

- Replanting in the community with fruit tree seedlings (coconut, tangerine, grapefruit, etc.)
- Repairing school furniture
- Constructing gardens with ornamental plants
- Constructing and painting wooden perimeter fences
- Painting school and community buildings
- Painting murals with conservation messages
- Painting and repairing water filtration towers
- Constructing bridges and renovating school kitchens
- Repairing Children's Forest BONI

Comunity	Group	Visitors
San Juan de Floresta	Wartburg College	20
Nueva esperanza	Dixie State University	12
Santa Lucia	DC Randle Group	11
Los Invencibles	Saint Peters University	8
Capironal	Educator Academy in the Amazon	15
Pucallpa	North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences	19
Yanamono II	North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences	19
Jorge Chavez	EAA Alumni Group	15
San Alejandro	Jackie McCann grupo	12
Manati I	Roosevelt School	50
Sapo Playa	Roosevelt School	50

<b>TOTAL VISITORS</b>	231
<b>TOTAL GROUPS</b>	11



# FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you to:

Explorama Lodges

The Detroit Zoological Society

International Expeditions

Adopt-A-Village International

Amazon Amigos

Camino Verde

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

GlobalAccess2030

EKOAmazon

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation

International Fund for Economic Development

JBQ Charitable Foundation

The Morpho Institute

Overseas Adventure Travel

Rotary International

Rotary Club of Boulder Flatirons

Rotary Club of Iquitos, Peru

And the many groups and individual donors who support our work



Saving the rainforest, one child at a time