

FINAL REPORT

“Conservation of the natural resources through local environmental campaign in Cangrejal River Watershed”. Honduras. 2007”

RSG 41.08.06

(Nov 2006- October 2007)

To: Josh Cole
Rufford Small Grants Manager

From: Jimmy Andino
Organización GUARUMA

Grant: £5,000.00

October 22nd, 2007

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Brief Description project: The project involved more than 110 primary school children and their families in 4 different rural communities (Las Mangas, El Naranjo, Rio Viejo and El Pital) in the Cangrejal River Watershed, Honduras. Activities were focused to improve community awareness, creative self expression, youth leadership and training in ecotourism. Some of the main outputs generated by this project were: the “Ecocangrejal econews”, “The Cangrejal Kid’s photographers”, the “Nature Classroom” and “Ecotourism Rangers” (Naturalist Tour guides). During the period project and through environmental activities and the expansion of an already existed program, it has been set up a campaign promoting an environmental local awareness and educational development on a variety of levels in the region.

The main activities held during this project were:

1. **The Nature Classroom:** from the beginning of the project GUARUMA staff and locals start to built infrastructure and display improvements for the nature classroom in Las Mangas community in Cangrejal, in order to have a nice and efficient physical space where environmental lesson and activities could take place for the locals in the watershed. Successfully, the classroom was beautified and improved and is already functioning lead by the GUARUMA staff and local advance students. Since it was reopening in April 2007, it has been attended more than 450 students coming from outside the region and more than 300 locals students who constantly visit the nature classroom. Some activities for visitants in the nature classroom are:

- Photography exhibit
- Feel the nature “ The Trail’s Senses ”
- Reuse & Recycle in Cangrejal River (games)
- Selling local souvenirs and crafts kiosk from GUARUMA
- Learning nature through the “ Live Tree”
- Colors of nature by kid “Nature’s Brushes”

2. The Ecocangrejal Newspaper: The Cangrejal environmental bulletin called "ECOCANGREJAL" was set up and it is been functioning since February 2007. Six local kids (17-21 years old) from Las Mangas and El Naranjo form the editing staff. Since then, nine Ecocangrejal editions were release monthly in the communities, 600 issues each edition (around 5000 issues in total during the period project). A chief newspaper, two editors, one photographer and two interviewers were the staff formed. A graphic designer and a photographer editor by GUARUMA were also part of the technical staff who works together every month to prepare every edition. In every newspaper release, one specific environmental topic or aspect was focused and promoted (ej: fires, global warming, pesticides, biodiversity conservation, hunting, deforestation, etc) in order to orient the locals but also support by other important news to local and regional interests. Among the typing, investing and editing time, the bulletin evolved from a basic newsletter to a very complex, designed and more pages newspaper which in every community was demanded. It helped just not the local staff to improve their own redacting, collecting data and editing skills but also to the people who had read the newspaper and be informed and learned from it. Activities included building infrastructure of the Ecocangrejal office computer lab and the kid's classroom for a better educational develops.

3. The Ecotourism Rangers/Naturalist Tour Guides: Seven local teenagers (15 to 21 years old) were trained by GUARUMA ecotourism coordinator as naturalist tour guide in their role as Ecotourism adventures rangers. Their naturalist tour guide training program started on November 2006 - March 2007. Since then, all of them had faced the chance to lead tours, receiving payment for guiding visitors and attending environmental activities from the Environmental Campaign lead by GUARUMA and the Ecocangrejal staff. Nowadays, the guides are providing an important ecotourism service in the area; especially attention had them received from another ecotourism project just starting in Cangrejal region by USAID. Improving infrastructure on the natural trail was part of if.

4. The photography Kids Club in Cangrejal: The photography has been use as a learning tool to GUARUMA from the beginning of the project. Through pictures the children can capture the essence of the nature and the way they see it through the camera's lens is unpredicted. Around 23 kids (10-21 years old) from El Naranjo, El Pital and Las Mangas have formed this photography kid's club lead by the instructor of GUARUMA. During the project, they have learned the basic use and functions of the digitals cameras and based on their creativity they had taken pictures use for the new Calendar Cangrejal GUARUMA 2008, websites photo Cangrejal galley updates and newspaper articles. This program will go ahead as an institutional educative program.

5. Environmental Cangrejal Campaign: This campaign was name "*Por una nueva generación con conciencia ambiental*" (Cangrejal...For a new generation with environmental awareness). This was not just a specific period of time campaign; the campaign started since the beginning of the project and in every activity was held. To close this project, GUARUMA and the Ecocangrejal staff lead in October four days campaign (one day in every community: Las Mangas, el Pital, El Naranjo y Rio Viejo) to strength the community environmental awareness and the local participation. Some activities' campaign includes: environmental drawings kids contests, field trips to nature, environmental speeches to adults, environmental movies and documental exhibition in public community places, community clean up, games etc. The acceptance of the activities was very satisfactory.

GUARUMA is deeply acknowledge The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation for its trust and support to make possible this project as a first initiative approach in Cangrejal Watershed communities specially based on the youth's generations environmental education.

Time table Execution Project
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Month	Description activities
November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing Banner GUARUMA – Cangrejal - Elaboration T-shirts and caps for the Naturalist guides and the Ecocangrejal Staff. - Selection guides candidates - Naturalist Training Program Starts
December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Natural Trail GUARUMA infrastructure starts (contracts, Labor work, designing signs, construction paths etc); Guides, locals and GUARUMA staff. - Training coordinator GUARUMA starts execution in the project - Naturalist Training Program
January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building improvements /Nature Classroom - Trip to Trujillo Photography kid’s club / Picture shooting - Naturalist Training Program - Selection Ecocangrejal Staff - First preparatories meeting/ Ecocangrejal bulletin
February 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building improvements /Nature Classroom - Promotion Field trip GUARUMA kids among Cangrejal communities - Equipment / purchase supplies Ecocangrejal - Ecocangrejal activities executing (First edition release)
March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building improvements /Nature Classroom - Ecocangrejal activities executing (second edition release) - Trip to Tegucigalpa city (Ecocangrejal GUARUMA designer bulletin) - Ecocangrejal’s fluid printer purchase - Naturalist Training Program (last activities)
April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naturalist tour guides graduation. - Ecotourism Rangers stats activities - Ecocangrejal activities executing (third edition release) - Reopening Nature Classroom / Las Mangas
May 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photography’s kid club participation_ La Ceiba Carnaval _ Photo Stand - Ecocangrejal activities executing (fourth edition release) - Equipment / purchase supplies Ecocangrejal - Building improvements volunteer & kids classroom / Photography
June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecotourism Rangers activities execution (guiding tours, attending visitors) - Starts building improvements Ecocangrejal office and kids computer lab - Ecocangrejal activities executing (fifth edition release) - Photography and printing purchase/ Promotion display - Ecocangrejal and ecotourism rangers purchase supplies
July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting Ecocangrejal and Photography’s kid club to University La Ceiba - Ecocangrejal activities executing (sixth edition release) - Ecotourism Rangers activities execution (guiding tours, attending seminars) - Finish the building improvements Ecocangrejal office. Done. - Nature Classroom educative activities execution
August 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photography and printing purchase/ Promotion display - Ecocangrejal activities executing (seventh edition release)
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecocangrejal activities executing (eight edition release) - Ecotourism Rangers activities execution (guiding tours)
October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecocangrejal activities executing (ninth edition release) - Cangrejal Environmental campaign – 4 days execution (Las Mangas, El Pital, El Naranjo & Rio Viejo) - Ecotourism Rangers activities execution (guiding tours, nature classroom activities)

PHOTO GALLERY



El Pital Campaign_ Kid's Activity



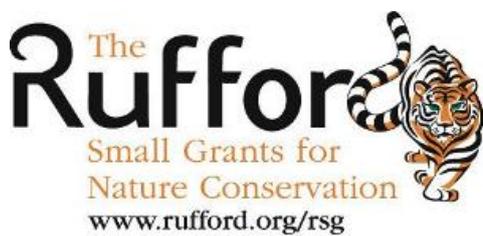
GUARUMA's Cangrejal Photographers

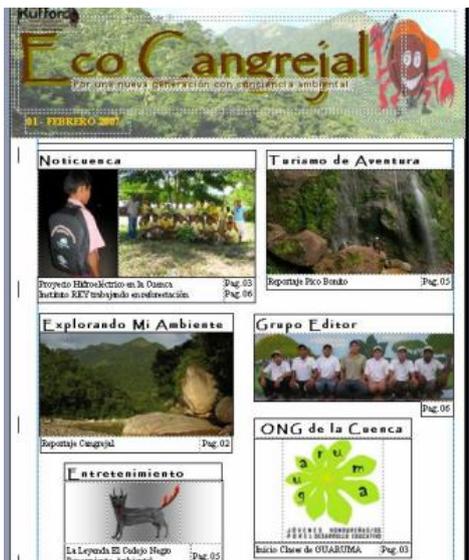


Environmental Kids-GUARUMA



Cangrejal's environmental Campaign Media interviews





Ecocangrejal Buletin Cover Ed#1



Environmental Speeches - Rio Viejo



**GUARUMA instructor
Photography lesson**



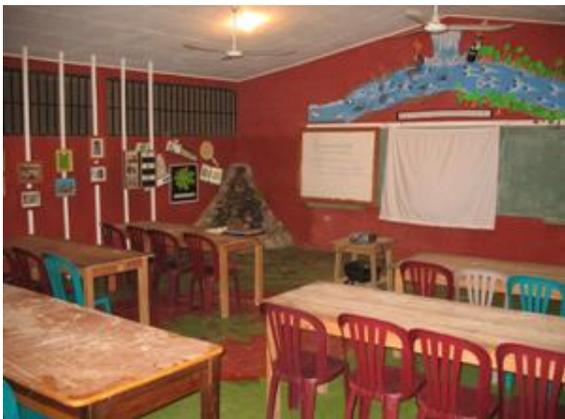
Ecocangrejal Staff work



Naturalist Tour Guides - Cangrejal



Nature Classroom activities



**Nature Classroom- Las Mangas
 Cangrejal**



Guiding tours - Cangrejal



**Local Kids' participation cleaning communities
 environmental campaign**