

# Inter-American Foundation

2010 IN REVIEW



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Cover, clockwise from the upper left: Celebration at the National Museum of the American Indian (page 64); construction for AHFS's cassava-processing plant (page 51); FIB (page 21); Plenty Belize (page 17); Fundación Taigüey (page 28); earthquake damage in Chile (page 23). Weavings from CTTC (page 68).

Opposite page: Mayan ceremony at Lake Chicabal (page 68).

# Inter-American Foundation



COURTESY ASAECO

## 2010 IN REVIEW

October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010

*Managing Editor:* Paula Durbin  
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*Design:* United States Government Printing Office



MARK CAICEDO



*Performers and weavers from Taquile Island, Peru, joined the celebration of the IAF's 40th anniversary at the National Museum of the American Indian (page 66).*

# Inter-American Foundation

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent foreign assistance agency of the United States government, provides grants for grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Created by Congress in 1969, the IAF responds directly to grassroots groups and the organizations that support them. IAF grantees confirm their commitment by contributing in kind or in cash toward the success of their projects and by mobilizing resources to continue their impact. The IAF encourages partnerships with businesses, government and other community organizations directed at improving the quality of life for poor people and in strengthening democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF shares its experiences through its publications and in a variety of fora.

The Inter-American Foundation is governed by a board of directors appointed by the president of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Six members are drawn from the private sector and three from the federal government. A president, appointed by the board, serves as the Inter-American Foundation's chief executive officer, managing a staff of 47 employees based in Arlington, Virginia.

Congress appropriates funds annually for the Inter-American Foundation. The IAF also has access to the Social Progress Trust Fund administered by the Inter-American Development Bank and consisting of payments on U.S. government loans extended under the Alliance for Progress to various Latin American and Caribbean governments. Since 1972, the IAF has awarded 4,920 grants valued at more than \$665 million. Together, the IAF and its grantees have improved the conditions of hundreds of thousands of poor families in communities throughout the hemisphere.

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\* On Sept. 30, 2010



In June, the IAF's board of directors visited Boo Yala, where, with support from Fundación para la Superación de la Pobreza (FUNSUPO), 3,000 indigenous Kuna Panamanians are reforesting local watersheds with bamboo, one of the world's fastest-growing plants.

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JOHN REED



*Boo Yala residents have mastered the skills necessary to build bamboo structures, such as their community center housing a preschool and computer program complete with Internet service. Bamboo yields up to four times more wood per hectare than most trees. Its underground stems control erosion and protect water sources.*

## FOUNDATION STAFF\*

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Rica and Panama*

John Reed, *Foundation Representative, Belize and  
Honduras*

Philip Walsh, *Foundation Representative, Nicara-  
gua and Northern Mexico*

\* On Sept. 30, 2010



*An exhibit of Bolivian crafts fashioned by members of ARTECAMPO commemorated the IAF's 40th anniversary at the National Museum of the American Indian (page 66). Suia Picanera, above, an indigenous Ayoreo weaver, has been recognized by the Bolivian government for her skill.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Not long ago, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reminded an audience in Quito of the pervasive social and economic inequality in the Americas, and she reiterated the U.S. government's commitment to-

ward addressing this disparity. While noting there are no silver bullets, she pointed out that “the way forward lies in recognizing what works today.”

Those words made me reflect on the Inter-American Foundation as a magnet for sound solutions to the problems of inequality. Above all, the IAF is open to ideas, perhaps the most important resource in development because, put into practice, they can evolve into “what works.” This annual report vividly illustrates the creativity found at the grassroots. Particularly striking to me is how many of the ideas described here are innovative adaptations of time-tested models cited by Secretary Clinton: microfinance, education, formal-sector employment, socially engaged businesses, leveraging remittances, the protection of basic rights and, across the board, inclusion.

Not immediately obvious in these pages are the challenges to the IAF's grantmaking in 2010. Overcoming them speaks forcefully to the IAF as a flexible component of our government's foreign assistance. I cite just two examples: First, in spite of a political crisis in Honduras that lasted for months, the program stayed on schedule, thanks to the imaginative and proactive ways in which the IAF and its grassroots partners adapted to the unpredictable situation. Secondly, although never envisioned as a disaster-relief agency, the IAF moved promptly to respond to the emergency in Haiti, enabling grantees to meet the urgent needs of those displaced by the January earthquake or begin to

cope with the staggering devastation. Such effectiveness is directly attributable to an approach based on confidence in the grassroots rather than reliance on an official conduit.

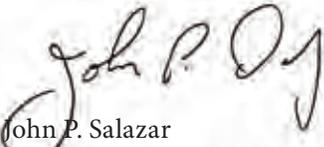
Four decades after the passage of IAF's enabling legislation in 1969, it is easy to forget that the delivery of U.S. foreign-assistance dollars directly to the poor was considered a radical notion at the time, if not a practical impossibility. The IAF demonstrated that investing at the grassroots was not just possible but advisable. This fact is driven home each time our board travels to the field. We recently met with all 15 active Panamanian grantees to discuss projects as diverse as reforestation, vaccination campaigns and business initiatives, including ecotourism in the deepest reaches of the rain forest of the Chagres National Park. Once again, first-hand exposure confirmed that hard work, determination and modest support from the IAF could turn ordinary people—organized as foundations, communities, a Rotary Club, the Girl Scouts—into a force for positive change.

In August I announced the board's selection of Robert N. Kaplan as the next president of the Inter-American Foundation after a search that lasted through much of the fiscal year. Every board member was excited by the depth and relevance of a commitment to development in the hemisphere dating from service as a Peace Corps volunteer through a professional career spanning more than two decades. President Kaplan takes the helm in a climate of fiscal uncertainty but I am confident that, with the benefit of a capable staff and the board's full support, he will provide the leadership to build on the IAF's remarkable record of getting the most out of each taxpayer dollar invested.

The undeniable success of the IAF and its grantees was celebrated in 2010 at a series of events commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAF's creation. The first of these was a reception, accompanied by a photo exhibit, held in October at the Library of Congress where I recognized five members of the United States Congress for their exceptional contributions to the IAF's work at

the grassroots: Senators Christopher Dodd, Patrick Leahy and Richard Lugar and Representatives Howard Berman and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The celebrations culminated most spectacularly in a reception at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., in honor of the Bolivian and Peruvian grantees participating in a colorful—and crowded—showcase of the vibrant indigenous cultural traditions that they had transformed into sources of economic development. As he welcomed these guests and a throng of IAF's friends and supporters, museum director Kevin Gover spoke of the IAF's rich history with indigenous Latin Americans, dating back to the 1970s, when they began to rally around their identity and demand social justice, and the IAF offered its support for their emerging organizations throughout the hemisphere.

At this gathering, Ambassador Thomas Dodd, acting vice-chair of the board of directors and an eminent scholar of Latin America, spoke eloquently of the lasting bonds of trust and friendship forged since the IAF's early days and expressed appreciation to all who had worked to fulfill this important element of the IAF's mission. With this message, I echo this gratitude and thank everyone who has contributed toward the IAF's development as a unique institution.

  
John P. Salazar  
Acting Chair, Board of Directors



MARK CAICEDO

*In celebration of the IAF's 40th anniversary in October, Chair Salazar presented the Dante Fascell Award for Congressional Leadership in Grassroots Development to Senators Leahy, Lugar, Dodd and Representatives Berman (not pictured) and Ros-Lehtinen. The award was named for the late congressman recognized as the architect of the IAF's enabling legislation.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



MARK CAICEDO

In June, Acting Chair John Salazar appointed me interim president of the Inter-American Foundation, an honor that capped my nearly two decades at the IAF and almost 40 years of federal service.

I was introduced to the IAF's responsive approach in 1992, when, as the new vice president for programs, I ventured into "the field" to visit a cluster of grantees in rural Guatemala. Once on site, I recognized immediately that IAF's responsiveness was dramatically different from anything I had experienced. At that time, even the Peace Corps, where I had held staff positions after my tour as a volunteer in Belize, was working through government. In contrast, the IAF-funded initiatives that I witnessed had clearly emerged from the grassroots organizations undertaking and investing in them. Most importantly, they were in charge, not the donor.

This approach works today the same way it did then. Applying it in fiscal 2010, the IAF awarded 75 new grants and amended awards to 46 organizations funded in prior years. I am especially pleased to report that the new grantees represent 21 countries, the most we have reached in more than a decade. They include Belize, after a 15-year hiatus in IAF funding, and Costa Rica, where IAF support all but ceased after 2001. A salient feature of the 2010 portfolio is support for organizations in Haiti and Chile that were either at the epicenter of the severe earthquakes early in calendar 2010 or were spared from the devastation only to be pressed into service as relief agencies. IAF funding has allowed them to replace equipment and infrastructure, purchase supplies necessary to restart

production, extend credit toward the recovery of small businesses and address the basic needs of displaced school-age children, including the means to finish the school year, and of mothers of infants born immediately after the quake.

The IAF's 2010 portfolio includes 84 organizations serving indigenous communities, women, young people, Latin Americans with disabilities and African descendants. I mention this because a key component of the IAF's mission is to increase participation in the development process, and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability and gender means these groups have historically been excluded from economic life, civic processes and social services. As individuals have come together around their respective identity, the IAF has staked out a leadership position among donors, supporting the grassroots efforts of incipient as well as more established organizations.

Beyond grant support, the IAF also sponsors participation in conferences, exchanges and other events that facilitate access to resources and information, offer opportunities to network and raise awareness of their concerns. Since 2005, for example, the IAF and Global Rights Partners for Justice have collaborated on annual workshops and regional forums that prepare African descendants to participate in the Summits of the Americas and the General Assemblies of the Organization of American States. In fiscal 2010, Latin Americans representing organizations of people with disabilities joined African descendants at these OAS events, contributing to a context that resulted in mandates and plans addressing discrimination and committing OAS member-states to educational and employment opportunities.

A highlight of my time at the IAF has been working with the Smithsonian Institution to showcase our grantees in programs open to the public. This collaboration escalated during the 1994 Folklife Festival when the IAF sponsored a program on culture and development that brought to

the National Mall more than 100 indigenous and African descendent representatives of grantees in nine countries. IAF representative Kevin Healy, who co-curated this event, has energetically continued to promote such exposure. In 2010, he organized three extraordinary exhibits at the National Museum of the American Indian celebrating the successful grassroots initiatives of indigenous Panamanians, Bolivians and Peruvians. “Thousands of visitors of all ages were inspired,” said G. Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in his letter crediting the IAF.

I feel privileged to have headed, however briefly, an agency created to emphasize people and channel foreign assis-

tance to those who need it most. Throughout this interim appointment and, in fact, my entire tenure at the IAF, I have always been able to count on my colleagues whose belief in our mission often takes them off the beaten path and who unfailingly treat our grantees with dignity. On Nov. 1, I passed the baton to Robert N. Kaplan, our new president and CEO and also a Peace Corps volunteer. Challenges lie ahead, but I am sure that Bob will find his time at the IAF as rewarding as mine has been.



Linda Borst Kolko

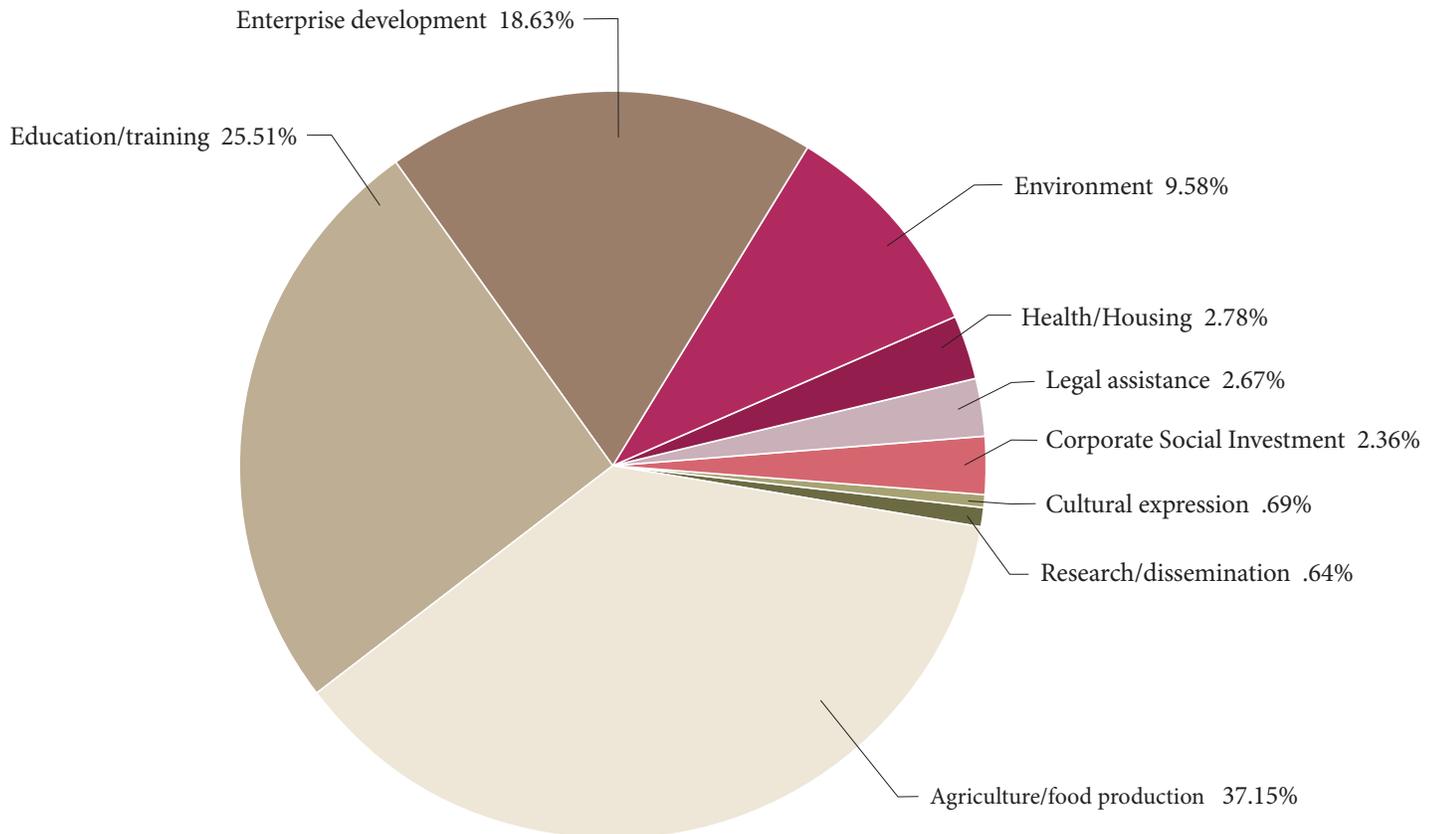


PAULA DURBIN

*Linda Kolko, right, with, from the left, Celeo Álvarez, Organización de Desarrollo Etnico Comunitario, Honduras; Clemencia Carabalí, Asociación Municipal de Mujeres, Colombia; Carlos Quesada, Global Rights; and Jurema Werneck, CRIOLA, Brazil, at the final event in an annual training program held in September for African descendants cosponsored by the IAF, Global Rights and the Organization of American States.*

## FISCAL 2010 GRANT PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Area	Investment	Grants and Supplements
Agriculture/food production	6,254,408	35
Education/training	4,294,803	33
Enterprise development	3,136,084	29
Environment	1,612,950	11
Health/Housing	468,220	2
Legal assistance	449,273	4
Corporate Social Investment	397,263	3
Research/dissemination	116,000	2
Cultural expression	108,250	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,837,251</b>	<b>121</b>



## INVESTMENT BY COUNTRY

Country	Fiscal 2010			Fiscal 1972–2010	
	New Grants	Supplements	Investment	Total Grants	Total Investment
Anguilla				1	3
Antigua & Barbuda				8	507
Argentina	1	3	496	239	31,889
Bahamas				7	144
Barbados				11	925
Belize	2		607	80	4,566
Bolivia	3	6	1,400	274	39,539
Brazil	7	3	1,955	398	53,846
Chile	1	1**	328	264	43,836
Caribbean Region				62	7,308
Colombia	6	5	1,526	323	45,604
Costa Rica	4	1	403	222	15,820
Dominica				75	2,282
Dominican Republic	2	1	313	234	24,729
Ecuador	4	4	645	204	33,171
El Salvador	7	1	1,212	220	36,716
Grenada				17	540
Guatemala	7	1	1,088	199	30,684
Guyana				7	294
Haiti	2	5	255	139	16,381
Honduras	4	3	1,268	167	27,211
Jamaica	2		450	71	5,050
Latin American Region				135	12,969
Mexico	10	1	1,544	370	57,802
Montserrat				1	3
Netherlands Antilles				2	126
Nicaragua	2	1	490	191	34,685
Panama	3	2	590	216	28,422
Paraguay	3	1	776	151	19,383
Peru	4	3	1,298	288	52,470
St. Kitts & Nevis				6	541
St. Lucia				12	696
St. Vincent				12	746
Suriname				3	347
Trinidad & Tobago				14	949
Turks & Caicos				2	12
Uruguay	1	2	146	136	18,231
Venezuela		1	47	159	17,212
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>16,837</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>665,639</b>

\*In thousands of dollars.

\*\*Includes RedEAmérica program.

# Argentina

## New Grant

### **Fundación Alternativa 3, Estrategias de Desarrollo Comunitario (A3), \$260,350 over two years**

Working with grassroots organizations, A3 will expand its program of economic development and microcredit to reach an additional 690 families in four communities of Greater Buenos Aires and will train staff of Comunidad Organizada Unidos para Crecer (Crecer) to apply its approach to microlending in other communities. (AR-360)

## Supplemental Grants\*

### **COOPSOL Ltda. (COOPSOL), \$70,700**

COOPSOL will provide training and technical assistance to 70 beekeepers in Formosa and Chaco, open two additional extraction centers that meet the requirements for exporting honey certified as fair-trade and will study the feasibility of growing and marketing capers. (AR-347-A1)

### **Fundación Pro Vivienda Social (FPVS), \$129,845 over 18 months**

FPVS will develop a center for community leaders and train 300 employees of nongovernmental organizations and other residents of Greater Buenos Aires as community organizers. (AR-341-A2)

### **Circo Social del Sur (CSS), \$35,320**

CSS will use circus arts to teach other skills to children, teenagers and young adults in low-income neighborhoods in Buenos Aires. (AR-352-A1)

\*This list includes only supplemental grants for \$10,000 or more. All supplemental grants are for a period of one year unless otherwise indicated.



EUGENIO ALFONSO



A3 loan officers and credit analysts.

## Credit and Networks toward Prosperity

The communities that make up the *conurbano* on the periphery of Buenos Aires are enclaves of migrants from the interior of Argentina and neighboring countries, including Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru. Often unaware of their rights, and often employed in the informal economy, they are isolated from contemporary Argentine life by culture, language and fear—of authority and the unknown. **Fundación Alternativa 3, Estrategias de Desarrollo Comunitario (A3)** was founded in 2001 by a group of successful businessmen, some retired, who were determined to address the circumstances of the residents of these neighborhoods and the barriers between them and the rest of Buenos Aires. Working through grassroots organizations, A3 provides access to credit for improvement to existing homes and the development of microenterprises. To date, it has invested more than \$1.2 million in 4,500 loans, of between \$100 and \$2,200, extended to more than 1,300 borrowers. (The average loan is \$400.) It has developed a network of 30 community organizations and socially responsible businesses.

A3 plans to use its IAF award to expand its program of economic development to reach 690 additional families in the *conurbano*. In collaboration with the participating grassroots organizations, A3 expects to develop three networks of residents who will work to make their family-run businesses more competitive by pooling their knowledge and resources and by purchasing materials and bidding on contracts as a group. As part of their social engagement, Argentine and multinational corporations will offer the networks training in business and organizational development.

A3's series of training sessions in joint purchasing, marketing, accounting and other areas, followed by on-site technical assistance, will help residents access services and resources available through the Argentine government and private sector. Some grassroots groups will offer space on their premises for A3's credit programs or branches. Other groups that plan to manage their own credit funds will benefit from A3's manuals and materials providing guidance in managing a fund and expanding business opportunities through solidarity lending, an approach pioneered by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. A3's version requires borrowers to apply for individual loans as a group and guarantee each other's repayment. A3 will train eight credit counselors to staff new bank branches and a nongovernmental organization, all of which will apply A3's approach to microlending, including in communities in which A3 does not yet have a presence.

The professionals who staff A3 hope that this access to credit and the networks created can address the poverty and isolation of entire communities, reducing their residents' vulnerability and improving their quality of life. More than 1,420 families are expected to benefit. —Jeremy Coon, IAF representative

## New Grants

**Plenty Belize** (PlentyBZ), \$310,000 over four years

PlentyBZ will support home and school gardens, school kitchens and fairs in the Toledo district, improving nutrition for 3,620 Belizeans. (BE-110)

**Sustainable Harvest International–Belize** (SHI-Bz), \$297,380 over three years

SHI-Bz will work with 250 farmers of indigenous, Garifuna and Creole descent toward the application of agricultural methods compatible with the responsible use of the environment and will help them market their crops. (BE-111)

COURTESY PLENTY BELIZE





## Horn of Plenty

**A** cacophony of languages blended with the insistent rhythms of a recent Bob Marley festival, creating a vibrant, multicultural din that drifted across the central park in Punta Gorda and filled the sultry Caribbean night. The ease with which residents of this southernmost province of Belize alternate among English, Spanish, Belizean Kriol, Maya and Garifuna, the language spoken by African descendants from coastal Central America, along with a smattering of Chinese and Hindi, testifies to the cultural diversity of Toledo, the poorest and least developed district in the country.

But diversity is not characteristic of the local diet and malnutrition is a fact of life among Toledo's approximately 30,000 inhabitants. Crop failures and a limited understanding of food nutritional values account for an over-emphasis on rice, corn and beans and for an insufficient intake of the vitamins and minerals essential to human development and good health. The staff of **Plenty Belize**, a nongovernmental organization in Punta Gorda Town, wants to change that pattern by bolstering the meal program in 16 schools with gardens cultivated by the students. Supported by their teachers, the local Parent-Teachers' Association and the NGO's local and international volunteers, students will grow a wide range of nutritious produce to supplement the government-issued food staples routinely distributed to schools. The goal is to introduce new fruits and vegetables and revive the taste for traditional varieties no longer on the menu. Up to 20 enterprising students will receive help with planting gardens at home, thereby bringing the benefits of better nutrition to entire families.

In addition to infrastructure and materials for the gardens and for school kitchens, Plenty Belize will publish a garden manual and a recipe book and will organize a "bank" that lends tools to gardeners. Annual fairs will celebrate "graduation" into the ranks of those schools whose gardens and kitchens become self-sufficient. Punta Gorda Town will be the site of a yearly district-wide fair that promotes sound nutrition among residents past school age. Plenty Belize's reach extends from Toledo's torrid Caribbean communities to misty Mayan villages in the mountains on the border with Guatemala. The hope is that its message about nutrition will resonate throughout this district.—*John M. Reed, IAF representative*

# Bolivia

## New Grants

**Desarrollo Social y Sostenible de Bolivia (DESSBOL)**, \$275,440 over three years

DESSBOL will provide training in and technical assistance with agroforestry related to the production, processing and marketing of native cacao, thereby improving the income of 170 indigenous Tsimane and Mosestén families in the Pilon de Lajas area and 100 indigenous Tacana families in the Madidi Park of northern La Paz department. (BO-515)

**Instituto Para el Hombre, Agricultura y Ecología (IPHAE)**, \$399,670 over three years

IPHAE will expand and consolidate diversified parcels located in secondary and degraded forest areas, support pig-farming and beekeeping, and develop products processed from cacao, the fruit of the peach palm and other native plants. Some 500 families from 60 communities in five municipalities in the Beni department are expected to benefit from a more reliable food supply and better income. (BO-516)

**Centro de Investigación Educativa (CIE)**, \$50,000 over one year

CIE will work with 65 weavers from five rural communities in Bustillos province, Norte de Potosí, to improve their skills and diversify their production of traditional textiles. (BO-517)

## Supplemental Grants

**Centro de Capacitación y Formación para Mujeres (CCIMCA)**, \$127,637 over two years

CCIMCA will expand the educational outreach of Foro Ciudadano Municipal de Mujeres (AMUPIE), incorporate additional women's organizations, make legal services and counseling available to victims of domestic violence and rape, and provide training that examines the application of provisions relating to women's rights in the new Bolivian constitution. More than 540 participants new to CCIMCA's programs will benefit. (BO-490-A5)

**TUKUYPAJ**, \$114,680 over 18 months

TUKUYPAJ will bring more families into its program of community-managed trout-farming in high-valley Andean lagoons in municipalities of Cochabamba department and will develop a breeding facility to supply fingerlings. (BO-494-A4)

**Apoyo Para el Campesino Indigena del Oriente Boliviano (APCOB)**, \$120,816

APCOB will develop community-based timber enterprises and encourage the responsible use of a tropical rain forest. It offers training, technical assistance and educational opportunities that will benefit indigenous residents of seven communities of Monte Verde, the Chiquitano territory in Santa Cruz department. (BO-502-A5)

**Formación Solidaria (FORMASOL)**, \$62,003

FORMASOL will improve the skills of 42 community leaders working to develop radio broadcasts for an anticipated audience of 20,000 Chiquitano and Guarayo Bolivians, furthering their awareness of their rights as indigenous peoples and their understanding of democratic practices. It will conduct workshops on conflict resolution, leadership and audiovisual production techniques. (BO-503-A3)

**Fundación Taller de Iniciativas en Estudios Rurales y Reforma Agraria (TIERRA)**, \$99,930

TIERRA will reach an additional 20 communities in various regions with its program aimed at protecting interests in land, reducing land disputes and consolidating fragmented holdings. (BO-506-A2)

**Fundación Taller de Iniciativas en Estudios Rurales y Reforma Agraria (TIERRA)**, \$149,850 over 18 months

TIERRA will take its program into 35 communities in Viacha province and other regions and produce three texts on its methodology for the municipality of Viacha, policy-makers and other interested parties. (BO-506-A3)



COURTESY IPHAE

## Agroforestry in an Amazonian Corner of the Beni-Pando

**M**any conservation programs in the Amazon basin focus on protecting swaths of rainforest and the biodiversity they contain by declaring the areas national parks, indigenous territories or otherwise regulated zones. But also crucial to repairing deforestation and degradation are strategies directed at restoring the land and its resources while enabling farmers to improve their conditions. **Instituto Para el Hombre, Agricultura y Ecología** (IPHAE), a nongovernmental organization working in the Beni-Pando region of eastern Bolivia since the early 1990s, has been developing technology that works toward a new equilibrium by reversing environmental and socioeconomic decline.

IPHAE's stratified forest system calls for planting a variety of crops and trees that mature at different rates, some taking a few years, others more than a decade, and that reach different heights. Beekeeping and a small-animal component provide additional sources of food without stressing the environment. Each species plays a discrete role in the configuration of a small plot to increase yields and minimize pressure on natural resources. Together they work to protect the soil, conserve water, control plant diseases and otherwise maintain the ecosystem. Madre Tierra Amazonia, a commercial enterprise organized by IPHAE and owned by participating associations of farmers, IPHAE staff and several private-sector groups, is expected eventually to increase farmer income by developing products that add value to their peach palm, cacao and other crops from stratified plots.

IPHAE has pioneered the application of agroforestry to grassroots development in this corner of the Beni-Pando over some two decades. Its program has drawn on the experiences and human resources of Brazilian and other Amazonian networks. Because of IPHAE, agroforestry is an element in the development plans of four municipal governments that, along with the local state university, support the program with public funds. IPHAE will use its 2010 grant to continue work undertaken with support from a 2005 IAF award, which emphasizes the inclusion of women. Another 500 farming families from 60 communities are expected to benefit from workshops, on-site technical assistance, advice on marketing and opportunities to acquire agro-forestry skills through visits to other farms. Via radio programs and video products, IPHAE will share the advantages of its approach with communities throughout this micro-region.—*Kevin Healy, IAF representative*



## New Grants

**Federação de Instituições Benéficas (FIB)**, \$176,465 over 18 months

FIB will extend its course in construction skills to reach 160 women from favelas in Rio de Janeiro, whom it will train as masons, carpenters, electricians and plumbers (BR-855)

**Cooperativa das Trabalhadoras Autônomas da Pesca e Acessórios Artesanais (COPESCARTE)**, \$ 122,780 over three years

COPESCARTE will refine the skills of its 21 artisans who work with fish-skin leather and will convert a donated space into a tannery and office. Better sales should benefit the workers, their families and 30 other Brazilians expected to join the cooperative. (BR-856)

**Centro de Educação Popular e Formação Social (CEPFS)**, \$346,155 over three years

CEPFS will offer technical assistance and training that improves farm production in eight municipalities of Paraíba and will introduce technologies appropriate to this arid area. (BR-858)

**Instituto Alternativo de Petrópolis Centro Vicente Ferreira da Silva (ALTPET)**, \$294,920 over two years

ALTPET will reach 1,200 additional students with its course to prepare for the *vestibular*, the examination required to pursue a post-secondary education, and will begin its transformation into a technical training institution. An additional 34,000 residents of Petrópolis, Manaus, will gain access to ALTPET's technology center and library. (BR-859)

**Associação de Estudos, Orientação, e Assistência Rural (ASSESOAR)**, \$380,765 over three years

ASSESOAR will train 2,000 farmers and public officials in eight municipalities in southeastern Paraná to develop and manage "agricultural forests" and will build low-cost, low-maintenance silos and cisterns. Through workshops, exchanges and brochures, an additional 25,000 Brazilians will become familiar with the applicable techniques. (BR-860)

**Fundação Margarida Maria Alves (FDDHMMA)**, \$99,930 over two years

FDDHMMA will expand its training for legal specialists (*juristas populares*) to reach two additional classes of 30 students each in João Pessoa and will develop a shortened course to meet the demand in rural communities in Paraíba. (BR-861)

**Associação Vianei de Cooperação e Intercambio no Trabalho, Educação, Cultura e Saúde (AVICITECS)**, \$303,365 over two years

AVICITECS will work with women in 21 communities in Santa Catarina to diversify and expand micro- and small businesses and their production of organic crops and to reforest the Mata Atlântica. (BR-862)

## Supplemental Grants

**Federação das Indústrias do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN)**, \$100,000

FIRJAN will work with Brazilian businesses to match this supplement and finance 10 new subgrants from its Social Development Fund. (BR-802-A5)

**Instituto Ethos (ETHOS)**, \$100,000

ETHOS's working group will study the role of race and gender in the personnel practices of the 500 largest Brazilian companies and will conduct workshops for representatives of government, businesses, and non-governmental and international organizations, who will disseminate the information. (BR-805-A6)

**Instituto dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente (INDICA)**, \$30,000

INDICA, which works with children and adolescents in Brasilia to promote inclusion and reduce violence, will organize an event that celebrates diversity and discourages prejudice on the basis of race, ethnicity and disability. (BR-833-A1)

## Cariocas Crack the Concrete Ceiling

**A**n idea came to Deise Gravina when President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced a cornerstone initiative of his economic policy, Programa de Aceleração do Crescimento (PAC), or Program for Accelerated Growth, back in 2007.

PAC calls for the Brazilian government, state-owned companies and the private sector to coordinate their investment in construction, sanitation, energy, transportation and logistics. Gravina, a retired civil engineer, heads **Federação de Instituições Benéficas** (FIB), an umbrella organization founded in 1957 that today manages several community development initiatives in Rio de Janeiro. Foreseeing that these infrastructure projects would fuel a demand for a skilled workforce—as would the preparations for Rio to host World Cup matches in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016—Gravina launched FIB’s Projeto “Mão na Massa,” or, colloquially, “getting our hands dirty.”

Through Projeto Mão na Massa, FIB prepares *cariocas*, or women residents of Rio, for the lucrative, and traditionally male-dominated, construction trades. In just two years, FIB trained more than 140 women as construction workers, and its sterling placement rate has attracted attention. More than 70 percent of the women trained found jobs immediately following graduation, nearly doubling their personal income. Other graduates have started small businesses offering construction and renovation services. Projeto Mão na Massa has already forged significant partnerships: Petrobras, the state-owned petroleum company, and Eletrobras, the state-owned power company, are both donors. The National Service for Industrial Education (SENAI), the Social Service for Construction Companies (SECONCI), the Organization of Cooperatives of the State of Rio de Janeiro (OCB-SESCOOP) and the Brazilian Ministry of Justice offer instruction related to specific elements of the curriculum. Abrigo María Imaculada, a nursery, provides child care and offers space at reasonable rent.

With its IAF grant, FIB will train an additional 160 women as masons, carpenters, electricians and plumbers and will offer them parallel instruction in related subjects, such as occupational safety, reading floor plans and business skills, and in Portuguese and math. Students will specialize by opting for another 120 hours of instruction in a single technical area. The final hands-on phase of the course requires the women to apply their new skills toward renovating a small building or constructing an addition to an existing structure, often at the request of FIB member organizations. This practicum is expected to improve conditions for 900 other Brazilians during the grant period as well as open a window of opportunity for women from some of Rio’s most vulnerable neighborhoods.—*Amy Kirschenbaum, IAF representative*



COURTESY FIB

# Chile

## New Grant

**Nonprofit Enterprise and Self-Sustainability Team (NESsT)**, \$227,840 for three years

NESsT will offer victims of the February earthquake counseling services and financial assistance toward recovering their means of earning a living and will assist grassroots organizations with the development of enterprises that generate revenue for their operations. (CH-518)





COURTESY NESST

*NESsT meeting with earthquake victims.*

## Microenterprises and the Quake

Registering 8.8 on the Richter scale, the earthquake that struck southern Chile on Feb. 27 left hundreds dead and a long swath of territory in smoky rubble. The *Nonprofit Enterprise and Self-Sustainability Team* (NESsT), founded in 1997 in the United States and incorporated in Chile in 2004, normally helps civil-society organizations launch enterprises that boost their impact by diversifying their resource base. Since February, its focus has included survivors of the earthquake. With this second IAF grant, NESsT is offering them financial and psychological support as well as targeting their grassroots organizations.

Through its fund, called “Levantando Chile,” or raising Chile, NESsT will award subgrants to four grassroots organizations that will aid 400 microentrepreneurs in recovering from the disaster by repairing their workshops and other infrastructure, replacing tools and purchasing the materials and supplies necessary to rebuild their businesses. The subgrants will be used toward reopening commercial channels, obtaining technical assistance and organizing promotional events. Psychologists contracted by NESsT will be available to microentrepreneurs who feel they need to develop coping strategies in order to return to work.

Assisting grassroots organizations with becoming self-sufficient is what NESsT does best and it will help 10 in southern Chile via a three-phase process. First, it will hold a workshop in which the organizations’ representatives will draft an evaluation of the feasibility of a business to submit to NESsT. Based on the potential of the businesses proposed, NESsT will select seven organizations whose representatives will learn to conduct market research and otherwise evaluate the likelihood that the ventures will turn a profit. Representatives of five of these businesses will participate in a third phase, a one-day workshop in which they develop more detailed plans that build on the draft from the first phase. Organizations will be eligible for small subgrants to help cover costs associated with the third phase, including, for example, consultant fees. The three organizations with the plans that NESsT judges most likely to succeed can apply for subgrants of \$10,000 toward starting or improving their enterprises. Selected enterprises will be invited to join the NESsT Venture Fund, which provides financial and other support, including multiyear mentoring.—*Juanita Roca, IAF representative*

# Colombia

## New Grants

### **Asociación de Jóvenes Líderes para el Progreso de Villa Conto** (Ajoliproqp), \$70,025 over 18 months

Ajoliproqp will work with two Afro-Colombians communities to diversify and improve crops, livestock production and fish farming. (CO-520)

### **Consejo Comunitario de la Comunidad Negra del Río Raposo-Palenque Regional el Congal** (CCR), \$52,453 over one year

CCR will help 13 Afro-Colombian communities draft regulations related to self-government, demarcate a protected area and develop a strategy for conservation. (CO-521)

### **Fundación Sumapaz** (Sumapaz) \$90,267 over 18 months

Sumapaz will work with 60 leaders drawn from 150 grassroots groups and community-based networks in Comuna 3, a neighborhood in Medellín, toward developing skills in planning, conflict resolution and the promotion of human rights. It will also create an information center whose operations will be funded by the municipality. (CO-522)

### **Corporación Buen Ambiente** (Corambiente), \$314,300 over three years

Corambiente plans to develop eight associations of farmers in Santander and Norte de Santander and increase their production of nutrient-rich foods for consumption and sale. (CO-523)

### **Corporación Red Colombiana de Organizaciones Comunitarias Ambientalmente Amigables—Red Colombia Verde** (RCV), \$320,350 over two years

RCV will work to improve communication and collaboration among its 42 community-based member-enterprises from throughout Colombia. Its hands-on training and subgrant fund will emphasize production and marketing. (CO-524)

### **Fundación Natura** (Natura), \$333,930 over two years and six months

African descendents in El Valle, department of Chocó, will work with Natura to develop their governing structure, improve their food supply and increase income from tourist services and attractions, such as their community-managed turtle sanctuary. (CO-525)

## Supplemental Grants

### **Corporación Asesorías para el Desarrollo** (ASDES), \$99,563

ASDES will train more than 200 African descendants in their constitutional rights, natural-resource management and self-governance and will provide legal assistance in 14 African descendent territories in Tumaco and Buenaventura, resulting in a body of regulations and norms consistent with Colombian law. (CO-504-A6)

### **Federación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades Afrocolombianas** (FEDEAFRO), \$16,000

FEDEAFRO will produce a book and a video based on research conducted in Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities in Cali and Buenaventura. Both products will highlight the use of statistical and census data and socioeconomic indicators. (CO-508-A3)

### **Corporación Transparencia por Colombia** (Transparencia), \$109,063

In collaboration with RedEAmérica member Fundación Corona and other partners, Transparencia will provide grants, training and additional support



COURTESY NATURA

*Hatchlings from El Valle's turtle sanctuary.*

to community organizations encouraging residents' participation in the oversight of government entities and in discussions of the issues affecting their lives. (CO-511-A1)

**Fundación para el Etnodesarrollo de los Llanos Orientales de Colombia** (Etnollano), \$89,934

Etnollano will continue to improve the handicrafts of Sikuani, Amorua and Piaroa artisans in indigenous territories along the Orinoco River in the eastern Amazon region of northern Vichada. (CO-512-A1)

**Empresa Cooperativa del Sur del Cauca** (COSURCA), \$30,450

COSURCA will develop a center for processing coffee and fruit. (CO-513-A1)



COURTESY RCV

## Strength in Numbers 2.0

Among the difficulties facing community-based enterprises trying to succeed in the marketplace, producing goods in sufficient volume and of competitive quality tops the list. In 2007, 42 such enterprises, all committed to the responsible use of environmental resources, joined forces to overcome their common challenges and formed **Corporación Red Colombiana de Organizaciones Comunitarias Ambientalmente Amigables—Red Colombia Verde** (RCV). RCV's members, scattered through five Colombian regions, include associations, cooperatives and federations engaged mostly in agriculture but also in producing crafts and catering to eco-tourists. The smallest group consists of nine families, the largest has 10,300.

RCV plans to use its IAF grant to contract four specialists who will apply a methodology developed by Corporación Regional PROCASUR, a Chilean nongovernmental organization, which customizes training sessions based on an assessment of each member. A specially tailored Web 2.0 application will further collaboration among the diverse businesses by allowing users to interact, exchange data and create content via any computer connected to the Internet—along the lines of social-networking sites, blogs and wikis. Feedback from users at several stages of the software's development should ensure that it meets their needs. The application will incorporate materials developed by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), which has been training RCV and its members in responsible business strategies for the past year.

Deployment of the Web application has its challenges. The computer skills of RCV's members range from sophisticated to rudimentary to nonexistent. To bridge the gaps, an agreement between RCV and Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA), the Colombian government's vocational program, provides for up to 2,000 hours of training in Windows, Microsoft Office and navigating the Internet. RCV is also negotiating with the government's Programa Nacional de Telecentros, which provides public access to computers, so that network members without a terminal receive priority.

Practical and online training are designed to develop the skills of RCV's members, transforming them from trainees into trainers who help each other improve production and marketing. The six members identified as requiring the most assistance with funding their business plans will receive small grants applicable to specific components. Working together, the members of RCV hope to see their businesses prosper.—*Juanita Roca, IAF representative*

# Costa Rica

## New Grants

**Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social R.L. (CoopeSoliDar)**, \$64,800 over 18 months

CoopeSoliDar will collaborate with organizations of fishers as well as businesses, the Costa Rican Coast Guard and the municipal government of Garrabito, Puntarenas, to improve the oversight of a community-managed marine reserve and to develop a program of economic alternatives that reduces pressure on marine resources. (CR-329)

**Asociación BriBri Kneblo (ABK)**, \$79,250 over two years

ABK, formed by and for indigenous Bribri Costa Ricans, will develop a tourism enterprise by constructing a cultural center, clearing trails and designating observation sites and camping areas while preserving and protecting the community's forests. It will offer training in organic agricultural methods to apply on the community's land. Approximately 70 Bribri will participate and another 350 individuals will benefit indirectly from the project. (CR-330)

**Asociación Mixta de Piangueros de Purruja (API-APU)**, \$39,990 over 18 months

APIAPU will design a plan for harvesting mollusks that assures future stocks in area mangroves, will investigate options for growth and will work toward obtaining health and unemployment insurance coverage for its 32 members. Another 30 independent mollusk collectors will benefit indirectly from its project. (CR-331)

**Asociación de Guías de Turismo de Piedras Blancas (AGTPB)**, \$30,650 over 18 months

AGTPB will promote community-based tourism in the Piedras Blancas National Park in Puntarenas and surrounding areas by training young members to become licensed guides, conducting a feasibility study to define the services to be offered, acquiring administrative, communication and negotiation skills, and holding workshops on the environment in local schools. (CR-332)

## Supplemental Grant

**Empresa para el Desarrollo, S.A. (EDESA)**, \$188,200

EDESA will increase its loan fund to meet the growing demand from community businesses and will incorporate principles and practices of grassroots development into its training. (CR-328-A1)

MEXICO

BELIZE

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUA



Tarcoles

Costa Rica

PANAMA

COLOMBIA



## Managing an Estuary

The community of Tarcoles lies at the mouth of the Gulf of Nicoya where the Tempisque and Tarcoles rivers flow into the Pacific. Fishing has been residents' primary source of income, but now the estuary is in crisis and its users are in conflict. Industrial-scale overharvesting, contamination and other harmful practices threaten these waters and their resources as do the effects of global warming. According to local fishers, shrimp and lobster, once abundant, are scarce and fish caught are becoming smaller and smaller, adversely affecting both their food supply and their livelihood. An additional environmental concern is the unfettered development of the area surrounding Tarcoles for tourism.

**Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social R.L.** (CoopeSoliDar) has worked for 10 years with former IAF grantee **Cooperativa de Pescadores de Tarcoles R.L.** (CoopeTarcoles) to protect this estuary on which so many Costa Ricans depend. Work toward its management by the community began in 2004 when CoopeTarcoles amended its bylaws to add protection of natural resources to the cooperative's mission. At the time, the government of Costa Rica had no legal mechanism for officially delegating to a community the management of a marine conservation area. But the government's Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPECA) appointed a commission to develop standards for creating community-managed marine reserves, applicable not only to Tarcoles but to all Costa Rican fishing communities. With a mechanism in place, the two cooperatives petitioned for an official designation of the Tarcoles marine area as community-managed.

Now CoopeSoliDar plans to use its IAF grant to bring together local officials, captains of fishing vessels, small-scale fishers and other residents of Tarcoles to develop a governing structure for the marine reserve. It is expected to include standards for responsible fishing and incentives to encourage their application, a monitoring and evaluation system, an educational campaign and a program to identify economic alternatives to fishing. A highlight of CoopeSoliDar's program will be an exchange with staff from Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible (CCMSS), a Mexican grantee working in community forestry and alternative livelihoods. This makes sense because a community-managed forest reserve struggles with many of the same issues facing a community-managed marine reserve.—*Marcy Kelley, IAF representative*

# Dominican Republic

## New Grants

**Visión Social**, \$99,439 over two years

Visión Social will provide training and technical assistance to grassroots organizations in and around the city of Compostela de Azua to improve their administrative skills and their effectiveness in analyzing and solving community problems. (DR-340)

**Movimiento para el Auto-Desarrollo Internacional de la Solidaridad (MAIS)**, \$197,901 over three years

MAIS will offer supplemental classes in academic subjects and skills training to children and adolescents who are likely to drop out of school. Parents and teachers, members of community-based organizations and churches, and other residents of Puerto Plata will

receive complementary training to raise their awareness of children's rights. The program includes vocational courses for teenagers and adults. (DR-341)

## Supplemental Grant

**Fundación Taigüey (Taigüey)**, \$15,650 over six months

Taigüey and Cooperativa para el Desarrollo de La Ciénaga (COOPDECI) completed construction of an agro-processing center and refined its recipes for jams and jellies to be sold commercially. (DR-336-A2)



COURTESY TAIGÜEY



## Better Choices for Young Dominicans

**P**ristine beaches, distinctive Victorian architecture and a majestic view of the mountains nearby once made Puerto Plata a premier destination for tourists. But today the northern Dominican city finds itself eclipsed by luxury resorts and no longer a port of call for cruise ships. Infrastructure is crumbling, poverty is widespread and desperate local businesses cater increasingly to the sex trade. For young people forced to drop out of school to work, the worst form of child abuse and exploitation is a clear and present danger.

**Movimiento Para el Auto-Desarrollo Internacional de la Solidaridad (MAIS)** was founded in 1998 for the sole purpose of protecting the children of Puerto Plata. To accomplish that goal, MAIS, a member of the international network End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), focuses on helping young people stay in school, teaching them to think critically and make wise decisions, and encouraging family and community involvement in education.

Reinforcing schoolwork is the backbone of the MAIS program. With its IAF grant, the organization will target the 300 children of Puerto Plata who are considered most at risk of dropping out of school because they have repeated multiple grades and have been physically or emotionally abused or are currently employed in violation of Dominican law. MAIS plans to offer these struggling students the academic support they need to progress from one grade to the next and to complete their education. Through complementary training, parents, teachers and members of neighborhood boards, mothers clubs and church groups will become aware of the rights of children to an education and a safe environment that includes protection from abuse and exploitation. Adults in a network of participating organizations will learn to recognize and report violations and, eventually, to intervene to prevent or resolve them.

To date, MAIS has reached 800 students in Puerto Plata and 85 percent have completed their basic education. In partnership with the Dominican Republic's National Institute for Technical and Vocational Training (INFOTEP), it will work to improve job prospects for teenagers and their parents through training that leads to certification as bakers, upholsterers, electricians and cosmetologists. A good basic education and marketable skills should offer the best hope for a successful future.—*Nancy Díaz, IAF program staff assistant*

# Ecuador

## New Grants

**Corporación Pesquera Artesanal-José Mercedes Valencia** (CPAJMV), \$169,155 over two years and six months

CPAJMV will update its infrastructure and improve the skills, tools and equipment of 120 fisherwomen in coastal parishes in the province of Esmeraldas. (EC-418)

**Fundación Papá Roncón** (FUNPARON), \$98,250 over two years

FUNPARON will work with 65 children, adolescents and their families in the parish of Borbón, canton of Eloy Alfaro, province of Esmeraldas. The young people will learn to build and play Afro-Ecuadorian marimba instruments and FUNPARON will study the market for the traditional instruments and music. (EC-419)

**Asociación de Mujeres Afroecuatorianas “Timburé del Futuro”** (AMATIF), \$34,000 over 18 months

AMATIF will develop a plan to promote women’s leadership, manage community-owned natural resources and agricultural production, assure a more

reliable food supply, increase income and otherwise improve the quality of life for more than 400 women in Ríos Santiago, Cayapas and Onzoles, Esmeraldas. More than 2,500 other residents will benefit indirectly from this planning process. (EC-421)

**Fundación Afro-Ecuatoriana de Desarrollo Social Jóvenes Progresando** (FAEDSJP), \$35,410 over one year

FAEDSJP and families of children enrolled in its soccer program will develop proposals to improve living conditions in Las Orquídeas, Esmeraldas, and surrounding neighborhoods. The 300 Afro-Ecuadorians involved include 200 young people between 7 and 17; another 1,200 residents of nearby communities will benefit indirectly. (EC-422)

## Supplemental Grants

**Corporación Ser Paz** (SER PAZ), \$100,000

The supplementary funds will help SER PAZ recover from a fire that raged through its offices and organize activities offering an alternative to violence in a 50-block area of Guayaquil. (EC-397-A3)

**Corporación para el Desarrollo y la Creatividad Productiva** (FUNDES), \$98,262

FUNDES will provide additional training and technical assistance to subgrantees of Fondo Semilla, which supports grassroots projects in the province of Manabi. (EC-403-A2)

**Cámara Artesanal de Esmeraldas** (CADE), \$97,675

CADE will use the results of a market study to help some 450 African descendants in the province of Esmeraldas improve their production and sale of arts and crafts. (EC-405-A2)

**Agrupación Afroecuatoriana “Mujeres Progresistas”** (AAMP), \$12,230 over two years

AAMP will develop the skills and businesses of Afro-Ecuadorian women in Cenepa and Nigeria, two communities in Guayaquil, by forming additional microcredit groups, providing training and technical assistance, and extending the services of its community bank to include loans of investment capital to individual and cooperative enterprises. (EC-412-A1)





## A Focus on Fisherwomen

Ecuadorians insist that the seafood from the waters off their shores is the most flavorful on the planet. Even the most discriminating gourmet would probably agree after sampling the ubiquitous *ceviche* and delicious regional specialties such as *encocados*, fresh fish or prawns in a rich coconut sauce served with sides of rice and fried plantains. One doesn't have to go to Ecuador to enjoy its harvest from the Pacific. Tuna, shrimp and sardines are among the exports from Ecuadorian fisheries that reach consumers worldwide. With 1,500 kilometers of coastline, the country derives 20 percent of its non-oil gross domestic product from its fishing industry, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

But Ecuadorians who fish on a reduced scale, using small, poorly equipped boats, face challenges. In the province of Esmeraldas, located on the northern coast, where fishers are often of indigenous or African descent, they struggle to earn a living in communities characterized by inadequate infrastructure, including schools, and few opportunities to improve conditions. In 2005, a handful of Afro-Ecuadorian fisherwomen in Esmeraldas launched **Corporación Pesquera Artesanal-Jose Mercedes Valencia** (CPAJMV), a community-based business that they hoped would boost their earnings by allowing them to process the fish they catch. CPAJMV has since grown to include 120 women who fish and also clean, dress and fillet the catch for sale to restaurants, retail shops and home cooks. While the enterprise has increased the workers' income, it has not yet been able to provide them a steady paycheck.

CPAJMV plans to use its IAF grant to change that by improving storage facilities and business skills and expanding its market into neighboring inland provinces. Workers will receive training in essential management and marketing skills and will have opportunities to learn from other fishing cooperatives and small businesses. The purchase of a freezer will allow for longer storage. Under less compulsion to sell its entire inventory immediately, CPAJMV can set some aside to freeze for sale during the off-season, when prices are higher, keeping *ceviche* and *encocados* on tables in Esmeraldas throughout the year.—Nancy Díaz, IAF program staff assistant

# El Salvador

## New Grants

### **Asociación Cooperativa de Producción Agropecuaria La Alternativa (ACPALA)**, \$73,450 over two years

ACPALA will help boost the income of farmers in Sonsonate and Ahuachapán who process tropical fruits and market the juice, pulp, sauce and beverages. The cooperative will draft a business plan, provide its members the training and technical assistance necessary for better products and sales, expand its line, and improve the infrastructure and equipment of its processing center. (ES-242)

### **Salvadoreños en el Mundo (SEEM)**, \$50,000 over one year

SEEM will work with residents in Tecoluca, San Vicente, to improve their income and living conditions. It plans to incorporate Salvadorans living abroad into activities, create a database of their skills and develop a proposal for an income-generating project that uses diaspora talent and encourages community participation. (ES-243)



SETH JESSE

### **Fundación Red de Sobrevivientes y Personas con Discapacidad (Red de Sobrevivientes)**, \$289,045 over two years

Working with Red de Sobrevivientes, Salvadorans with disabilities from eight departments will develop their grassroots associations, microbusinesses and agricultural initiatives. The program includes support groups for amputees struggling to cope with their condition. (ES-244)

### **Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos (Pro-Búsqueda)**, \$179,175 over two years

Pro-Búsqueda plans to serve 250 Salvadorans who were separated from their families during the civil war or were affected by “disappearances” as a result of the armed conflict. It will help them develop a more reliable food supply, create opportunities for employment, fund microbusinesses and offer scholarships enabling some to complete vocational training or work toward a university degree. (ES-245)

### **Voluntarios Construyendo El Salvador (VOCES)**, \$149,040 over three years

VOCES will offer residents in 27 communities technical advice, workshops, financial resources and materials toward improving their food supply, income and management skills. The project will benefit 2,470 Salvadorans directly and 7,000 indirectly. (ES-246)

### **Consejo para la Asistencia en Recursos y Técnicas del Área Rural de Oriente (CARTARO)**, \$160,145 over three years

CARTARO will provide women in San Francisco Javier the training, technical assistance, equipment and infrastructure necessary to process fruit and cashews and sell their products. The women will manage a nursery that will grow young plants and contribute to reforestation. (ES-247)

### **Asociación Comunal de Mujeres de Morazán (ACMM)**, \$272,185 over three years

ACMM will provide technical advice, investment capital and materials to women in the municipalities of Torola, El Rosario and Jocoaitique toward improving their small businesses, agricultural production and market access. (ES-248)

## Supplemental Grant

### **Asociación para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de la Niñez en El Salvador (APRODEHNI)**, \$38,265 over six months

APRODEHNI will assist farmers with replacing crops and livestock damaged by Hurricane Ida, with improving production and with mitigating the effects of climate change through better management post harvest. (ES-232-A1)

## Facing the Past, Fixing the Future

Jan. 16, 2010, could represent a watershed moment in El Salvador's struggle to come to terms with its past. On that date marking the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1992 Peace Accords, President Mauricio Funes acknowledged the government's role in human rights abuses during his country's 12-year civil war and appealed to victims and their families for forgiveness. He also announced the creation of a National Search Commission for children who had disappeared during the conflict.

The staff of **Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos** (Pro-Búsqueda) was listening closely that January morning. The official apology and the creation of the National Search Commission for Missing Children undoubtedly would also have encouraged their late leader, Jon Cortina. A Spanish Jesuit, Padre Cortina had begun working in the early 1990s to reunite families separated during the civil war and to help individuals reclaim their identity. He founded Pro-Búsqueda in 1997 to further these efforts. According to Pro-Búsqueda's partner, the Human Rights Center of the University of California at Berkeley, between 1980 and 1992 nearly 1,000 children were taken from their families by force or were put up for adoption under questionable circumstances. The latter group included children relinquished by families under duress or who had become separated from their families during combat operations and were deemed orphaned or abandoned.

Since 1994, Pro-Búsqueda has registered 878 cases of children who had gone missing during the war and has reunited 221 of them with their families. Its programs include legal assistance, psychological support and social services. But by 2003 Pro-Búsqueda was well aware of the poverty of the children, by then young adults, it was serving and their families. In 2007, with IAF's support, the staff set out to gauge the extent of their need and to consider a range of options that would give them a livelihood. The information gathered became the basis for a second successful proposal that is far more ambitious than the first. Pro-Búsqueda will use its new grant to work with 250 Salvadorans who were affected by separation from their families or "disappearances." It will help these young adults and their families cultivate gardens using organic methods, will fund three microbusinesses and offer scholarships funding vocational training or work toward a university degree. It will also reach adoptees from the United States, encouraging this special segment of the Salvadoran diaspora to embrace the identity of their birth and explore collaboration with Salvadorans like themselves.—*Seth Micah Jesse, IAF representative*

*Brothers reunited: Jorge and Raúl Abarca.*



# Guatemala

## New Grants

**Asociación Amigas del Sol (ADS)**, \$90,460 over three years

ADS will coordinate the construction of 165 solar ovens offering economic, environmental, health and safety advantages. The indigenous women in south-western Guatemala who will learn to build them will also benefit from training in topics ranging from entrepreneurial skills to health care. (GT-296)



JOSE TOASA

Solar oven.

**Asociación de Agricultores Ecológicos de la Laguna de Chicabal (ASAECO)**, \$38,935 over one year

ASAECO, whose mission is to protect and preserve the natural resources surrounding Chicabal Lake and a nearby inactive volcano, will train its 62 indigenous Mam members to operate an ecotourism enterprise whose facilities are currently under construction. (GT-297)

**Federación Comercializadora de Café Especial de Guatemala (FECCEG)**, \$260,910 over two years

FECCEG will offer training and invest in infrastructure to increase the volume of coffee certified as fair-trade or organic that farmers in its eight member-

cooperatives produce, process and market for export as well as the volume processed from beans grown and processed exclusively by women farmers and marketed under the brand *Café Femenino*. (GT-298)

**Coordinadora Interinstitucional de Guatemala (COOINGUA)**, \$183,380 over two years

COOINGUA, whose credit reporting serves 250,000 Guatemalans in the western highlands, will train representatives of its 40 member-organizations in the application of new software purchased with its IAF grant. The goal is to facilitate access to credit on reasonable terms and to prevent excessive borrowing and default. (GT-299)

**Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (CODECA)**, \$134,890 over three years

CODECA will build the necessary infrastructure and train 160 families from Suchitepéquez to produce *loroco*, a wild vine native to Central America that produces edible flower clusters, to market in Guatemala City, Mazatenango and, eventually, El Salvador. (GT-300)

**Asociación de Mujeres del Altiplano (AMA)**, \$142,265 over three years

AMA will train 150 indigenous weavers from Quetzaltenango and Sololá and offer them the technical assistance necessary to produce merchandise of consistently high quality that appeals to an international clientele. (GT-301)

**Coordinadora de Organizaciones Maya Kaqchikeles para el Desarrollo Comunitario (COMKADES)**, \$199,290 over four years

COMKADES will offer training in animal husbandry to 70 indigenous Kaqchikel families in Chimaltenango and will give them the calves produced by its “bank” of 35 cows. Its goal is to address chronic malnutrition and to enable the families to earn additional income. (GT-302)

## Supplemental Grant

**Loq' Laj Ch'och (Sagrada Tierra)**, \$37,900

Sagrada Tierra will develop a forest of 800 fast-growing trees for firewood, benefiting indigenous families in Alta Verapaz. (GT-282-A3)



COURTESY ASAECO

## Ecotourism for the Shores of Lake Chicabal

**T**owering mountains overlaid by mist provide the backdrop for the serene shores of Lake Chicabal, where the indigenous Mam residents of the municipality of San Martín Sacatepéquez gather for their traditional celebrations. Thanks to the efforts of **Asociación de Agricultores Ecológicos de la Laguna de Chicabal (ASAECO)**, formed in 1998 by concerned Mam farmers to preserve the ecosystem of the lake and the volcano, the Guatemalan government has declared the site a “sacred Mayan place.” The designation means the area’s use and resources are regulated, but no funding is allocated to counter degradation.

With few other options available, most of the 3,000 inhabitants of Sacatepéquez work in agriculture. The income from their small parcels is too meager to cover the cost of keeping children in school and many drop out after the sixth grade. This has limited any possibility of improving conditions as has the tendency of young people to leave. But now ASAECO is building an ecotourism complex that is expected to attract foreign and Guatemalan visitors to the spectacular setting the group works to protect, creating jobs for residents. ASAECO’s intent is also to reduce the effects of harmful farming practices and focus on reforestation.

ASAECO will use its IAF award to offer its members, including 22 teenagers, a 12-month program of training, workshops and site visits designed to give them the skills in, for example, cooking and guiding tours that can improve their enterprise’s chances for success. ASAECO will also draft a long-term business plan based on its study of the 8,000 visitors that Lake Chicabal and the volcano receive annually. Many tourists are already taking advantage of paths cleared by ASAECO’s members and the restaurant and three bungalows they built. With the completion of the complex, the visitor count should increase and so should opportunities for the Mam stewards who keep Lake Chicabal and the surrounding area pristine.—*Amanda Hess, IAF program staff assistant*

## New Grants

**Oganizasyon Kominotè Fanm Veyon (OKFV)**, \$42,595 over two years

OKFV will develop a storage system for grains and other crops that will allow its members to preserve surpluses for future sale and will ensure the availability of food and seeds throughout the year. It will improve its organizational and financial management through training and exchange visits. The project will benefit OKFV's members and other residents of Veillon, located near Petite Rivière in Haiti's Artibonite region. (HA-209)

**Fonkoze**, \$91,455 over 18 months

Fonkoze will work with members of the Haitian Home Town Associations Resource Group (HHTARG) in Boston, New York and Miami to provide pilot sub-grants to grassroots groups and small and medium-sized enterprises in Haiti. Applying this experience, Fonkoze and HHTARG expect to design a community investment fund that will channel diaspora resources to grassroots development in Haiti. (HA-210)



KEZIAH JEAN

MP3K's food distribution after the January earthquake.

## Supplemental Grants

**Haitian Partners for Christian Development (HPCD)**, \$10,000

Its facility in Varreux destroyed by the January earthquake, HPCD is using this supplement as well as funds reprogrammed from its original grant and donations from other sources, to continue its services as a business incubator from its site in Martissant. It expects to reach 34 additional women entrepreneurs there and through a new locale in Simone Pele, and to provide subgrants to restore two enterprises also damaged by the quake. (HA-199-A7)

**Mouvement Paysan 3ème Section Camp-Perrin (MP3K)**, \$58,660

MP3K integrated into its project 50 farmers displaced by the 2010 earthquake, providing them yam seedlings, agricultural training and technical assistance; distributed food to another 150 quake victims; gave 100 displaced children partial scholarships toward continuing their education; and replaced its vehicle. (HA-203-A2)

**Konbit Fanm Kaskad-Dubreuil (KOFKAD)**, \$12,450

As part of its effort to serve Haitians displaced because of the January earthquake, KOFKAD provided 100 children and adolescents scholarships to attend primary and secondary school and computer courses; offered them the services of a psychologist; and distributed powdered milk, toiletries, diapers and towels to pregnant women and new mothers who had migrated from areas devastated by the quake. (HA-204-A2)

**Fonds International de Développement Économique et Social (FIDES)**, \$30,000

FIDES provided approximately 1,000 families emergency assistance by distributing seeds, food, water, water-treatment products, cooking supplies and personal care items in the Bas-Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est and Ouest departments. (HA-207-A1)

**Rezo Fanm Fwontyè Ba Plato (Rezo Fanm)**, \$10,025 over six months

Rezo Fanm, a network of 98 women's grassroots groups in the Lower Central Plateau along the border with the Dominican Republic, provided 130 displaced persons and other quake victims food staples, hygiene kits, tarps and psychological support, and awarded scholarships to 75 displaced children. (HA-208-A1)



## Banking on the Diaspora

For all their diversity, most of the 2 million Haitians living in Canada, the United States, France and the Dominican Republic share a deeply-felt commitment to their homeland. This translates annually into between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in remittances that their families in Haiti spend for food, education and housing. For years, foreign-assistance agencies, international financial institutions, and Haitian organizations and businesses have been exploring ways to increase the impact of this considerable flow of cash. One is to channel pooled resources into development on a larger scale—for projects such as schools, roads and businesses. In the wake of Haiti’s catastrophic earthquake, how an organized diaspora can contribute to reconstruction by raising funds for such “collective” remittances has emerged as a key issue in the effort to rebuild.

**Fonkoze**, known as “Haiti’s Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor,” was founded in 1994 and is one of the few microfinance institutions to emerge from the grassroots. Its more than 40 branches spread across Haiti offer a range of services: microloans, savings options, currency exchange, transfers, and life and credit insurance as well as literacy classes and training in business skills for borrowers. It has encouraged the diaspora’s financial engagement with Haiti by supporting the development of Haitian hometown associations and by offering classes in basic finance to recent immigrants to the United States. In 2007, Fonkoze received a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank/ International Fund for Agricultural Development, which resulted in meetings between its representatives and Haitians abroad. From these encounters emerged the Haitian Hometown Associations Resource Group (HHTARG or the Resource Group) whose goal is to provide diaspora organizations greater access to information and resources and to help them invest in grassroots development in Haiti.

With its IAF award, Fonkoze and affiliates of the Resource Group in Boston, New York and Miami will launch a pilot program awarding subgrants to Haitian grassroots organizations and small to medium-sized enterprises. Based on this experience, Fonkoze and the HHTARG will work with attorneys from New York Appleseed, who are offering their services pro-bono, to design a community- investment fund that will enable Haitians overseas to direct even more resources to grassroots efforts, especially business opportunities. The HHTARG, which uses videoconferencing technology to facilitate communication among its members in multiple countries, will share the results of the pilot via brochures, a Web site and a videoconference.—*Jenny Petrow, IAF representative*

# Honduras

## New Grants

### **Centro Internacional de Información Sobre Cultivos de Cobertura (CIDICCO)**, \$319,500 over three years

CIDICCO will work in Intibucá to expand a network of rural savings-and loan associations and the Sistema de Aprendizaje Tutorial (SAT), an alternative form of secondary education, and to improve agricultural production through training and technical assistance. The project will directly benefit 800 students and their parents and will benefit another 1,000 Hondurans indirectly. (HO-251)

### **Consejo de Desarrollo de Sector Social de la Economía Regional de Intibucá (CODESSE/Intibucá)**, \$229,100 over two years

CODESSE-Intibucá will develop up to 25 worker-owned enterprises selected from among its member-businesses, improving the income of 290 Hondurans of indigenous Lenca descent. Another 830 Hondurans will benefit indirectly. (HO-252)

### **Asociación Hondureña de Juntas Administradoras de Sistemas de Agua (AHJASA)**, \$300,175 over two years

AHJASA will collaborate with 30 communities toward the development of systems supplying water safe for human consumption, thereby improving conditions for 24,500 Hondurans in the department of Olancho. (HO-253)

### **Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH)**, \$295,600, over three years

OCDIH will help 750 farmers of Lenca descent in the department of Lempira move toward sustainable agriculture and develop their marketing. Another 4,500 Hondurans will benefit indirectly from the project. (HO-254)

## Supplemental Grants

### **Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO)**, \$35,000 over six months

ODECO will develop an in-house library and create a fund to support projects proposed by the Afro-Honduran graduates of its leadership program. (HO-243-A2)

### **Centro de Educación Vocacional Grupo Juvenil Dion (GJD)**, \$66,529 over six months

GJD will offer vocational workshops in the field, support after-school events and purchase a laptop. (HO-244-A3)

### **Organización de Jóvenes Hondureños por el Desarrollo Educativo (GUARUMA)**, \$14,900 over two years

The additional funding is required to cover pay raises mandated under the new minimum-wage law and price increases attributed to the political crisis. (HO-247-A1).



*CODESSE member business.*

## Profitable and Civic-Minded Businesses

Lush green mountains and valleys thick with vegetation testify to the abundance of farm and forest products harvested year-round in Intibucá. Less visible is the trove of gemstones and precious metals that are eagerly prospected for and mined. While industrial-scale entrepreneurs and aggressive middlemen have exploited the land and its wealth, this bounty has not benefited the majority of Intibucá's residents, mostly of indigenous Lenca descent. Intibucá ranks among the poorest departments in Honduras. It has few industries and weak infrastructure. Roads are poor, communities lack basic utilities, and residents, who work mainly as day laborers, rank low on educational indicators.

The mission of Consejo Hondureño de Desarrollo del Sector Social de la Economía Regional (COHDESSE) is to reduce poverty by improving businesses and encouraging them to invest in their communities. Of its 11 regional affiliates, the strongest and most effective is **Consejo de Desarrollo de Sector Social de la Economía Regional de Intibucá** (CODESSE/Intibucá), which groups a diverse range of micro- and small enterprises working in crafts, agriculture, retail sales and various services. CODESSE/Intibucá develops talent, initiative and an inclination toward civic-mindedness that appears grounded in the Lenca priority on the common good. This tradition coincides with the spirit of the Honduran law intended to create a "Social Sector of the Economy" (SSE) by authorizing an organizational structure that allows qualifying businesses not only to distribute profits among their worker-owners but also to invest them in the improvement of the general welfare of the community in which they reside.

CODESSE's skilled staff is committed to this concept of SSE but recognizes that to exercise social responsibility businesses must generate sufficient resources. In 2005, the team applied for an IAF grant that provided the training, technical assistance and capital necessary to improve the infrastructure and human resources of 12 local businesses. As a result of increasing their production, their market share and their income, participating farmers, weavers, bakers and others also invested in their respective communities. With this new award, the staff of CODESSE/Intibucá plans to develop between 18 and 25 additional small businesses, with particular attention to management, quality control, marketing and infrastructure. A small fund will finance loans in kind, repayable in cash. If it is managed well, the loan fund should allow CODESSE/Intibucá to develop more businesses after its IAF support has terminated. Some 300 Hondurans of Lenca origin, are expected to benefit from CODESSE/Intibucá's second IAF grant. Several businesses are already poised to improve local conditions. As others develop, their success should also ripple through Intibucá.—*John Reed, IAF representative*



# Jamaica

## New Grants

**The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)**, \$400,000 over two years

EFJ will fund grassroots groups undertaking projects in environmental and natural resource conservation and child survival and development. At least 14 subgrantees will receive up to \$25,000 in IAF funding and between \$25,000 and \$75,000 in EFJ funding. This collaboration is expected to benefit 5,000 Jamaicans. (JA-112)

**Mocho Development Committee (MDC)**, \$50,000 over one year

MDC will build a pilot “microdam” as a natural catchment for up to 20,000 gallons of water and will install a solar-powered pump that will channel the water to storage tanks accessible by farmers and others year-round. Some 35 members of MDC will help install the water system in a former bauxite-mining pit and will participate in training to maintain the system and in reforestation of the slopes of the pit. An additional 85 area residents will benefit from better access to water. (JA-113)

COURTESY EFJ



*Members of the Mocho Development Committee receiving EFJ's first disbursement for their reforestation project.*



*MDC will plant ackee and avocado trees on the bare slopes of this mined-out bauxite pit.*

## A Foundation for the Future

**T**he **Environmental Foundation of Jamaica** (EFJ) has funded 1,150 projects during the 16 years since its creation, many, but not all, addressing conservation and the management of natural resources. Less obvious from EFJ's name is its well-established track record of support for organizations working with child survival and development. EFJ owes its existence to agreements related to debt reduction entered into by the governments of Jamaica and the United States in 1991 and 1993. It counts 40 member-organizations and is governed by a board that includes NGO representatives and academics as well as officials from the two governments that are parties to the agreements.

Among EFJ's successful investments is a grant to Edwin Allen High School, located on the banks of the Minho River. The school uses water from the river for its pig farm and bathrooms and then channels the runoff into two biodigestors that produce biogas for its science laboratories. Excess water from the biodigestors is used to maintain the sports field. EFJ also participated in the renovation of National Heroes Park in Kingston, a veterans' memorial and the final resting place for Jamaican prime ministers and cultural icons. EJJ grantees have developed green areas elsewhere that provide open space where neighbors interact and children play.

A striking recipient of EFJ's funding is **Mocho Development Committee** (MDC), the other Jamaican organization awarded an IAF grant in 2010. Bauxite is a leading Jamaican export, and MDC addresses the deforestation caused by open-pit mining. As EFJ's grantee, MDC has begun to reforest the slopes of 11 bauxite mines that it is leasing from the Jamaican Aluminum Company (JAMALCO) for a 10-year renewable term. It also developed sufficiently as an organization to apply on its own for an IAF grant to build a "microdam" that captures rain and runoff in the pit of one of these reforested mines, allowing 115 residents of Mocho to irrigate their fields and the reforested slopes throughout the year.

As for EFJ, it will use its IAF award to expand its support for Jamaican NGOs and grassroots groups via sub-grants that range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The IAF will contribute up to \$25,000 to each subgrantee, which EFJ will match, double or triple. Island media and EFJ's professional network will publicize the competition. An IAF representative will be on the selection committee that also chooses the fields to be considered, such as agroforestry, recycling, renewable energy technologies and programs that support young Jamaicans with disabilities or identified as at risk. EJJ expects to fund the initiatives of 14 organizations.— *Alexis Toussaint, IAF program staff assistant*

# Mexico

## New Grants

**Voces por la Naturaleza A.C.** (SuMar), \$45,005 over one year

SuMar will undertake a planning process that incorporates research, training, technical assistance, exchanges and workshops intended to help grassroots groups design, undertake and evaluate environmentally sustainable development initiatives in the region bordering the Gulf of California. (ME-499)

**Despertar Maya A. C.** (DEMAAC), \$260,185 over three years

DEMAAC will offer 160 indigenous Tzolzil, Tzeltal and Ch'ol Mayan beekeepers in the Chiapas jungle and highlands training and access to working capital toward improving their production of organic and fair-trade honey for export. (ME-500)

**Centro Campesino para el Desarrollo Sustentable A.C.** (CAMPESINO), \$244,340 over three years

CAMPESINO will provide farmers in the state of Tlaxcala access to working capital, loans and training in conservation techniques, leadership and related subjects to improve their income and food supply. It will also support the further development of a community-based business and construct and equip a storage facility. (ME-501)

**Colectivo de Mujeres Campesinas de la Costa Grande de Guerrero S.C.** (COMUCAM), \$56,925 over two years

COMUCAM will offer training and technical assistance to 300 representatives of 22 women-led savings-and-loans associations in communities along the coast of Guerrero. Among the results expected is a 50 percent increase in household savings. (ME-502)

**Tlachinollan Grupo de Apoyo a los Pueblos Indios de la Montaña A.C.** (Tlachinollan), \$77,300 over 18 months

Tlachinollan will involve indigenous Tlapanec and Mixtec Mexicans in Zitlaltepec and Ojo del Agua, state of Guerrero, in initiatives to preserve and man-

age natural resources and to increase income for forest communities. The project is expected to benefit 1,000 indigenous families. (ME-503)

**Alianza Sierra Madre A.C.** (ASMAC), \$198,430 over two years

ASMAC expects to improve the food supply, health, conservation efforts and general quality of life of indigenous residents of Baborigame, Choreachi and Coloradas de la Virgen in the Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuahua, including through the diversification of agriculture, introduction of alternative farming methods and construction of infrastructure for water conservation and distribution. (ME-504)

**Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible A.C.** (CCMSS), \$143,340 over two years

CCMSS will collaborate with 11 communities in Amanalco-Valle del Bravo, nongovernmental organizations and government to begin applying a system for paying farmers for environmental services. The project will directly involve 635 individuals and will improve water quality and reduce silt and sediment on 220 hectares of farms and forests. (ME-505)

**Comercializadora Agroforestal del Istmo S.P.R. de R.I.** (CAI), \$139,260 over three years

CAI will work with 120 Mexicans of Mixe, Zapotec, Mixtec and African descent living in the isthmus of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, to improve their food supply and income. It will build greenhouses and provide training, technical assistance and other support to 60 families using bio-intensive methods to grow vegetables for consumption and sale. (ME-506)

**Fundación Comunitaria Malinalco A.C.** (FCM), \$263,560 over three years

FCM will expand its programs supporting the economic initiatives of women and young people and will collaborate in efforts to protect the environment through recycling and composting, fire prevention and control, reforestation and organic agriculture. The project is expected to directly benefit 685 residents of the municipality of Malinalco, in the state of Mexico, and impact another 12,000 residents indirectly. (ME-507)

**Red para el Desarrollo Rural Sustentable A.C. (Red-Campo)**, \$42,500 over one year

Representatives of 20 member-groups of RedCampo will develop a marketing strategy and a business plan and train farmers in 11 Mexican states. More than 300 members of the participating organizations are expected to benefit. (ME-508)

## Supplemental Grant

**Servicios Ambientales de Oaxaca A.C. (SAO)**, \$72,600

SAO will work with 500 residents of two communities in Guerrero and Veracruz states toward qualifying for federal incentives to manage forests sustainably and toward becoming eligible to market their carbon- and water-capture services to Mexican businesses interested in this manner of social engagement. (ME-481-A3)



MARCY KELLEY

SAO technician Carlos Pérez.

## Payment for Stewardship of the Watershed

Mexico's National Water Commission reports that 66 percent of the country's 188 most important aquifers suffer from overuse—a situation that could be compounded due to stepped-up consumption by a burgeoning population and to reduced natural recharge brought on by changes in land use. Conservation and the responsible use of forest resources are the best hope for assuring an adequate supply of water and regulating seasonal flows into the aquifers.

Mexican farming communities have title to 60 percent of the forests surrounding them and function as stewards of the environment. The government's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) compensates them, as well as individual forest owners, for practices that protect biodiversity and ensure the future availability of precious natural resources. Additionally, communities, nongovernmental organizations and government entities have devised their own systems for rewarding proactive initiatives toward responsible forest management and land use. Among them, **Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible A.C. (CCMSS)** is a recognized leader.

With its 2007 IAF award, CCMSS in coordination with a farmers' organization, Unión de Ejidos Emiliano Zapata (UEEZ), brought together water users, forest owners, government officials, representatives of nongovernmental organizations and others to design a mechanism for compensating farmers for introducing responsible practices in the Amanalco-Valle del Bravo watershed in the state of Mexico. The goal was to recharge the aquifers supplying water to residents of Toluca and part of metropolitan Mexico City and to improve the quality of the surface water flowing to the main reservoirs. Based on CCMSS's preliminary studies of flows and demand and its proposals for land use, the group representing the diverse interests developed a fund from which to pay the farmers.

CCMSS will use its new IAF grant, and financing from Mexico's Fundación Pedro y Elena Hernández and CONAFOR, to make the fund operational. Farmers will receive payment for building retaining walls and other infrastructure that protects the soil, for improving the efficiency of irrigation and for managing solid waste. CCMSS will assist UEEZ in developing as an organization and will work with selected communities toward qualifying for certification as stewards of sustainable forestry by the Forest Stewardship Council. Through this collaboration, farmers and consumers hope to assure the natural recharge of Mexican aquifers for years to come.—*Gabriela Boyer, IAF representative*

# Nicaragua

## New Grants

**Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU),**  
\$224,820 over two years

BICU will offer more than 150 families in seven communities in and around the Mahogany Wetlands Municipal Ecological Park in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region, training, technical assistance and other support for sustainable agriculture and their small businesses and organizations. (NC-291)

**Emprendedores Juveniles de Nicaragua (EJN),**  
\$209,575 over two years

EJN expects to improve income and employment prospects for 400 young entrepreneurs in Managua, Masaya and Granada through its program that combines general training in business with specialized training in agribusiness, tourism or information technology. It will also offer technical assistance, mentoring and in-kind support toward starting businesses. (NC-292)

## Supplemental Grant

**Fundación Luchadores Integrados al Desarrollo de la Región (LIDER),** \$55,980 over two years and nine months

LIDER will further civic organization and economic opportunity in 18 communities on the Cosigüina Peninsula by offering training and technical assistance for grassroots groups, cooperatives and farmers; extending credit in cash and in kind; and creating a fund to finance community priorities identified through an earlier IAF-supported planning process. (NC-271-A3)



*EJN training sessions in León, above, and in Bluefields, right.*

## Toward a New Generation of Entrepreneurs

Nicaragua is demographically a very young country, with approximately 60 percent of its population under 30. This bubble presents an enormous challenge. The official unemployment rate for working-age Nicaraguans stands at 6 percent. However, 46 percent are classified as underemployed, either in part-time jobs or in full-time positions for which they are overqualified. Economists estimate that the Nicaraguan economy will have to generate 100,000 new jobs a year just to keep this situation from getting worse.

True economic development will require even more robust job creation. How likely is that with so many youths entering the labor force?

**Emprendedores Juveniles de Nicaragua** (EJN), an affiliate of Junior Achievement Worldwide, believes that the current generation of Nicaraguans now coming of age can help make it happen. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping young people become entrepreneurs. With strong support from established business leaders, EJN offers a wide variety of educational and training programs that develop the values and skills necessary to compete successfully in the modern economy. It reaches elementary-school students with its curriculum in basic civics and prepares teenagers to enter the workforce upon graduating from secondary school.

EJN will use its IAF grant to partner with the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología (INATEC) and with volunteers from the private sector in a two-year program of training, education, technical assistance and mentoring for 400 young entrepreneurs in Managua, Masaya and Granada. The first phase of this program consists of 60 hours dedicated to basic business skills. The students demonstrating the greatest interest and acumen will advance to a more intensive second phase whose curriculum combines 800 hours of vocational and technical training with hands-on activities designed to develop the ability to launch and manage agribusinesses and enterprises specialized in information technology and tourism. Students will be encouraged to work together and will be mentored by successful entrepreneurs from the relevant sectors.

Aspiring entrepreneurs who complete the second phase will be eligible to enter their business plans in a competition juried by volunteer professionals. Those submitting the best plans will benefit from technical assistance, additional individualized mentoring and from small grants to cover the costs associated with turning their winning ideas into a reality.—*Philip Walsh, IAF representative*

COURTESY EJN



# Panama

## New Grants

**Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPDH)**, \$272,700 over three years

CIPDH will work with the Organización de Productores Embera Wounaan de Jaque (OPEWAJ) toward diversifying agricultural, handicraft and livestock production and improving food distribution in the 12 participating communities. (PN-297)

**Cooperativa Agropecuaria y Servicios Múltiples Victoriano Lorenzo R. L. (COPEVILO)**, \$64,150 over two years

COPEVILO will purchase coffee for resale, expand its storage facility, train its members, and increase and diversify the inventory for sale in its store, directly benefiting 300 Panamanians in San Miguel Centro, Coclé, and the surrounding communities and benefiting another 2,000 indirectly. (PN-298)

**Artesanías Ocueñas S.A. (AOSA)**, \$121,200 over two years

AOSA will train 200 women in the province of Herrera to produce embroidered tablecloths and garments, will manage a working-capital fund, and will develop a brand name, labels and other materials to promote sales. (PN-299)

## Supplemental Grants

**Instituto Panameño para la Promoción y Participación Ciudadana (IPPAC)**, \$67,534

IPPAC will manage a subgrant fund supporting small businesses in the community of Villa María. (PN-286-A3)

**Programa de Promoción y Desarrollo Social (PRODESO)**, \$64,700

PRODESO will file to legally constitute the local committees in charge of regulating the use of the upper Río Santa María watershed in central Panama, educate recently elected officials on the environmental importance of the watershed, train community organizers and will promote organic farming and market the produce. (PN-287-A1)



MARCY KELLEY



## Development in the Darien Gap

Jaque, a town of just 1,500 inhabitants on Panama's Pacific coast, is hot, humid and beautiful. Located in the Darien Gap, the strip of swamps and forests 99 miles long and 31 miles wide that separates Panama from Colombia, Jaque is also isolated. Because its rugged terrain defies road construction, the Darien Gap became a gap in the Pan-American Highway. In fact, no roads lead to Jaque. Travel and transport are via a network of footpaths or boats that navigate a maze of rivers. A commercial flight serves the area three times a week.

**Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPDH)** is a nongovernmental organization that arrived in Jaque in 2003 to help refugees fleeing the armed conflict in Colombia. It later focused on clearing title to community land and registering births, deaths and marriages. Eventually, CIPDH began working with the **Organización de Productores Embera Wounaan de Jaque (OPEWAJ)**, an organization composed of indigenous Panamanians. OPEWAJ once did a brisk business purchasing rice from its member communities and processing it for sale in the surrounding region and in Panama City. Operations suffered when violence spilled over the border in 2000 and movement became restricted. The area around Jaque has been relatively calm since 2002, but restarting OPEWAJ's enterprise has proved difficult.

With its IAF award, CIPDH will help OPEWAJ develop the management skills and trade networks necessary to a viable economy. A working-capital fund will help the subsistence-based communities buy seeds and other inputs as they diversify their crops to include coffee, sugar cane, tubers, fruits and vegetables. Production will be coordinated so that each community has a specialty. CIPDH will help OPEWAJ obtain the licenses required to operate five stores, which should improve the distribution of food and the local diet.

Embera and Wounaan crafts are beautiful and durable and have potential as a development resource. They include the water-tight baskets that take Embera women months to weave from local grasses colored with vegetable dyes, and the exquisitely detailed animals that Wounaan men carve from wood and tagua, a palm seed that simulates ivory. Jaque's artisans will have access to the working-capital fund and CIPDH will help them reach affluent consumers who appreciate fine workmanship. Along with OPEWAJ, it will document the struggles and accomplishments of these indigenous Panamanians as they pursue development in their remote and challenging corner of the world.—*Marcy Kelley, IAF representative*

# Paraguay

## New Grants

**Estación A–Núcleo Cultural** (Estación A), \$252, 939 over three years

Estación A will train 176 men and women to design and produce Ñanduti lace, weavings from palm fiber, pottery, and woodcarvings to market in Paraguay and abroad. It will organize events and tours that coincide with local festivals as well as develop networks to promote the workers' crafts and services. (PY-198)

**Institución EcuMénica de Promoción Social** (OGUASU), \$198,353 over three years

OGUASU will train 1,000 Mbya Paraguayans in the organic cultivation of traditional crops, reforestation, conservation, beekeeping, aquaculture, small-animal husbandry and their rights as an indigenous people. (PY-199)

**Mennonite Economic Development Associates del Paraguay** (MEDA-Py), \$221,000 over three years

In collaboration with Pro Desarrollo Integral Rural (PRODIR), a microfinance institution, MEDA-Py plans to organize 2,500 farmers and improve their manioc and sugar cane crops to market directly to agro-processors and exporters. Training, technical assistance and access to credit will help the farmers diversify crops for sale and consumption and develop their individual enterprises. (PY-200)

## Supplemental Grant

**Grupo Sunu** (Sunu), \$103,216

Sunu will continue working with indigenous Ava Guaraní and Angaité Maskoy in the departments of Canindeyú, Presidente Hayes and San Pedro to promote their cultural identity, their understanding of their rights and their economic development and to improve their nutrition and access to services. The project will directly benefit 3,600 indigenous residents of the communities served and will indirectly benefit 6,000 other indigenous Paraguayans. (PY-195-A1)

COURTESY OGUASU





## Struggling to Survive Surrounded by Soybeans

**S**oybeans are big business in the Southern Cone, where a frenzy is underway to fill the global demand. Paraguay has become a laboratory for experiments with genetically modified seeds as well as new pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, all designed to boost production. As forests are cleared and farms are absorbed into soybean plantations, migration to urban areas increases, threatening the survival of native seed stocks and traditional farming techniques. Making more land available for soybeans has led to the displacement of indigenous Paraguayans, who are often unaware of legal prohibitions on the sale of their territory or lack the clout to make local authorities enforce them. Communities have been duped by fake documents or, desperate for cash, have entered into leases that leave their land completely degraded at the end of the term.

**Institución Ecuménica de Promoción Social (OGUASU)** is comprised of 37 members, mostly churches and church-affiliated individuals. Its mission is to further the development and inclusion of indigenous Mbya Paraguayans and the preservation of their Mbya identity. The Mbya have traditionally lived from hunting, gathering and from limited cultivation of species that grow in the wild. Each year less land is available on which to pursue their traditional way of life. Surrounded by soybean fields, Mbya face major problems with food security and nutrition.

OGUASU works with Ñoguerói Pave'i, an association of Mbya Guaraní communities in central Paraguay. It plans to use its IAF grant to train 1,000 individuals to cultivate maize and other crops using native seeds and organic farming methods and offer related technical assistance. The communities will receive the necessary materials and supplies to engage in aquaculture, small-animal production and beekeeping. OGUASU's reforestation and conservation programs will include the development of tree nurseries and seed banks and of natural barriers against contamination from chemicals applied on neighboring soybean fields. OGUASU and Ñoguerói Pave'i will also work to assure that all Mbya know their rights and protections under Paraguayan law. Ñoguerói Pave'i's weekly radio program will inform listeners about the Mbya culture and history and on agricultural and conservation practices.

The goal is greater autonomy for Mbya indigenous communities as they adapt to contemporary Paraguayan life. While the pressure from soybean cultivation will not disappear any time soon, the professional staff of OGUASU and Ñoguerói Pave'i expect Mbya Paraguayans to maintain the diversity and sufficiency of their traditional food supply, to develop the skills to negotiate in their own best interests and to communicate the value of their contribution to Paraguayan society.—*Jeremy Coon, IAF representative*

# Peru

## New Grants

**Acción Humanitaria sin Fronteras (AHSF)**, \$205,000 over two years

AHSF will work with two community associations to build and operate cassava-processing plants that add value to the members' crops. The plants will serve 610 families in 20 communities located along the banks of the Amazon River, in the district of Fernando Lores, Loreto, an hour by boat from the city of Iquitos. (PU-559)

**Asociación Cultural Ayllu Yupaychay (Yupay)**, \$260,000 over three years

Yupay will use the visual arts, the Quechua language and indigenous cultural values to further the educa-

tional development of rural Andean children between the ages of 3 and 7 in 10 Quechua communities in the Cusco region. The goal is the official institutionalization of this program. (PU-560)

**ALTERNATIVA, Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular (ALTERNATIVA)**, \$260,000 over three years

ALTERNATIVA will offer technical assistance and training for 440 recyclers, micro-entrepreneurs, community leaders and municipal authorities. It expects to strengthen the recyclers' organizations, increase recyclers' income and work with all participants to address solid-waste management in three districts of metropolitan Lima and in the province of Callao. (PU-562)

**Asociación Minga Perú (Minga Perú)**, \$332,000 over three years

Minga Perú will train 1,000 indigenous women from 45 communities in the Loreto region in the Amazon Rainforest with the goal of advancing their socio-economic development and improving their participation in public life. Its 200 new radio programs and rebroadcasts of 430 programs will reach 100,000 listeners every week. (PU-563)

## Supplemental Grants

**Asociación Cultural Ayllu Yupaychay (Yupay)**, \$10,000 over three months

YUPAY finished systematizing data collected over four years and concluded the audio-visual documentation and the evaluation of its methodology for teaching indigenous children basic math, science and cultural appreciation through art. (PU-531-A4)

**CooperAcción**, \$100,000

To consolidate the participatory budgeting processes begun with the IAF's support, CooperAcción will continue its training and technical assistance for representatives of government and civil society in 15 district municipalities in the provinces of Barranca and Huaura. (PU-539-A3)

**Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional (CEDER)**, \$130,500

CEDER's fund financing local development will extend to additional grassroots organizations in Arequipa, Moquegua and Puno. (PU-540-A2)





COURTESY AHSF

## A Root of Development along the Amazon

**T**he rural communities in the district of Fernando Lores, located on the edge of the Amazon River, in Peru's Loreto region, are connected to the outside world only by boat. Most households have no running water, no sanitation, no electricity. More than a third of the population is under 12 years of age and 30 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 9 suffer from malnutrition. Income derives principally from agriculture and fishing, although farming predominates. Farm families produce plantains, beans, rice, corn, papaya, sugar cane and pineapple in addition to cassava, their main source of income and food.

Cassava is inexpensive to grow and is well-adapted to the Amazonian region. It is forgiving of poor soil and does not require intensive labor. Once harvested, cassava is bulky to store and highly perishable, with spoilage beginning within one to three days. It can, however, be left in the ground unharvested for months, but only if the soil is dry. Therein lies the problem for farmers in Fernando Lores whose plots are routinely inundated between January and May due to rain and the rising river. This forces them to choose between harvesting just when prices for fresh cassava are lowest or losing a good part of their crop. Processing cassava can resolve this dilemma, but not if it is done manually.

**Acción Humanitaria sin Fronteras** (AHSF) is a nongovernmental organization with an office in Iquitos, Loreto's capital, some 60 minutes away by boat. It has been helping develop cassava-processing plants that are expected to serve some 600 families in 20 communities of Fernando Lores. The families are members of Asociación Centro Industrial and Asociación San Felipe, which will manage the plants' operations, purchasing cassava, overseeing its processing into *fariña*, or flour, and *almidón*, or tapioca, and marketing the finished products in Iquitos and elsewhere in the region. The value added to the cassava crop is expected to produce enough revenue to increase the members' income, enable the plants to become self-sufficient, and fund essential community infrastructure and social services identified as priorities by the members.

Cassava is indisputably a development resource. *Fariña* and *almidón* are ingredients in baked goods, soups and sauces as well as in processed meats, pasta, beverage bases and snack foods. More surprisingly, *almidón*, which consists of starch granules, is used to manufacture textiles, paper, glue, plywood, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, animal feed, alcohol, glucose, dextrin and monosodium glutamate. Such a broad range of applications creates a significant demand. Taking advantage of it in rural Peru requires commitment, broad farmer involvement and effective management. With IAF's support, AHSF, whose mission is promoting social and economic development through participation and inclusion, can help communities in Fernando Lores realize their potential.

—Miriam E. Brandão, IAF representative

# Uruguay

## New Grant

### **Organización para la Conservación de Cetáceos (OCC), \$49,950**

OCC will support a network of environmental activists and representatives of civil society, government, small businesses and microenterprises, who work to assure that tourism benefits communities in the provinces of Rocha and Maldonado and is conducive to the survival of whales and dolphins offshore. Participants will receive the training and technical assistance necessary to develop activities compatible with the responsible use of the environment, including tours to watch whales in their habitat. (UR-184)

## Supplemental Grants

### **Una Casa Un Sueño (UCUS), \$66,365**

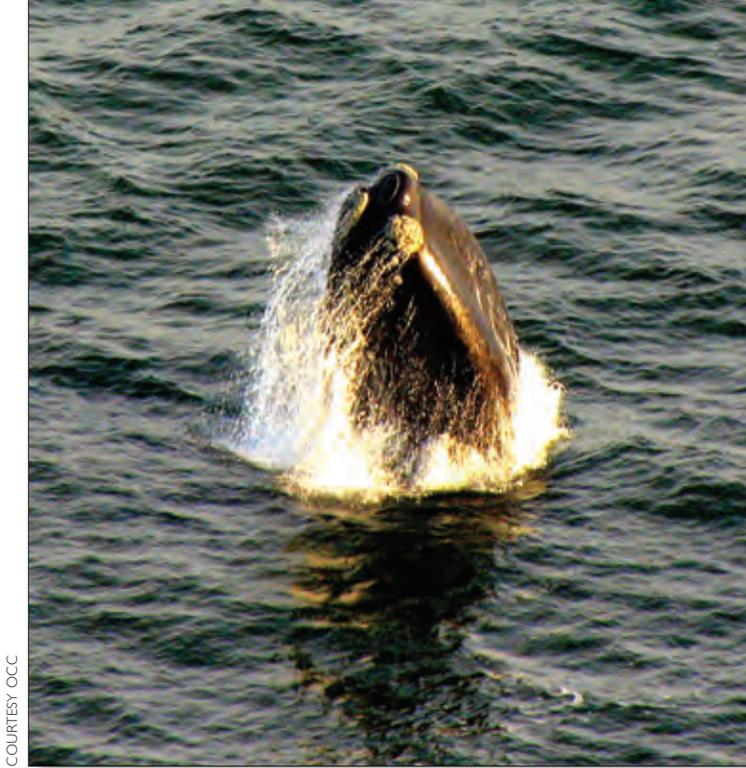
UCUS will complete its construction of 25 homes on land donated by private organizations, benefiting more than 100 residents of Montevideo. (UR-179-A6)

### **Coopertiva Delicias Criollas Producción y Venta de Servicios (Delicias Criollas), \$30,000**

Delicias Criollas will continue to offer training and technical assistance in the production and marketing of traditional foods, with the goal of developing its 15 affiliated enterprises managed and supplied by 170 women in 10 Uruguayan departments. (UR-181-A1)



JEREMY COON



COURTESY OCC

## Whale-Watching as a Community Resource

Whaling fleets navigated the seas from the 1600s until the 1950s, stalking the enormous beasts for their meat, bones and especially their oil. The blubber bonanza provided fuel for city street lamps during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and lubricated the machinery of the industrial revolution, and the fleets' owners amassed huge fortunes. Demand for whale products waned with the advent of mineral and vegetable substitutes, but the damage had been done. Whale populations were decimated. The International Whaling Commission was formed in 1946 to manage the seriously depleted stocks; 40 years later it imposed a moratorium on hunting the giants of the sea. Current populations of eight out of the 11 whale species that had been hunted to the brink of extinction remain dangerously low but show signs of recovery.

Today more people would rather observe whales in their natural habitat than buy products derived from them. Whale-watching generates some \$2 billion annually and employs upwards of 13,000 individuals around the globe. **Organización para la Conservación de Cetáceos** (OCC) is betting on the Southern right whale to boost economic development in the department of Rocha. From early July through November, the austral winter and spring, these whales pass through the waters off Rocha as they make their way from the calving grounds off the Brazilian coast to their feeding grounds in the freezing waters of the Antarctic. In the course of this migration, they may elevate their flukes, or tailfins, to catch the wind for propulsion, a unique and fascinating maneuver known as sailing and still not fully understood by experts in cetaceans. Rocha stands in rustic contrast to the luxury hotels and chic restaurants catering to the jet-set that flocks to Punta del Este in the summer. But in recent years, the number of visitors attracted to Rocha has skyrocketed and so has pressure to build infrastructure that residents fear will only benefit the developers and industrialists.

OCC will use its IAF grant to work with three Rocha communities to identify alternatives that will assure a responsible approach to tourism and to determine the feasibility of forming local *grupos motores*, or boards representing the interests of civil society, government, businesses and residents. It plans to provide training and technical assistance to start-up businesses offering visitors opportunities to observe the whales as well as ride horses and hike. Workshops and activities planned for schools will cover conservation, marine ecosystems, water management, waste recycling and renewable energy technology. The goal is to develop a vibrant network of *rochenses* interested in tourism that safeguards the environment and benefits the entire community.—*Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías, contributing editor*

# Venezuela

## Supplemental Grant

**Grupo Ambientalista de Reciclaje Everest (GARE),**  
\$47,308

GARE will help young Venezuelans at risk and others acquire marketable skills by expanding its recycling initiative and its campaign to promote environmental awareness into two low-income communities in the Venacio Pulgar Parish on the outskirts of the city of Maracaibo, state of Zulia. (VZ-201-A1)

COSTA RICA

PANAMA

Maracaibo

Venezuela

COLOMBIA

GUYANA

SURINAM



COURTESY GARE





NAME

FRENCH  
GUIANA



# RedEAmérica

The Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development (RedEAmérica) is an IAF-initiated business-sector alliance committed to supporting self-help projects in the hemisphere. Launched in 2002 by 27 founding members, today RedEAmérica counts 64 companies and corporate foundations. Initially, much of their work in grassroots development was undertaken pursuant to bilateral cooperative agreements between individual members and the IAF. These have required the member to match or, more recently, double the IAF's contribution to their social-responsibility programs. While the IAF has entered into or amended such agreements every year since the network was founded, RedEAmérica has expanded its support well beyond this structure.

Pursuant to cooperative agreements entered into in previous years, nine Latin American corporations and their foundations matched the IAF's funding by at least two-to-one in 2010. This required counterpart totaled \$307,904. The same members also raised another \$69,419 from other corporate sources in furtherance of their programs. This joint funding reached individuals and communities through initiatives undertaken by grassroots groups, often incipient, whose projects were too small to qualify for IAF awards. The two 2010 supplements awarded in furtherance of RedEAmérica programs commit the grantees and their partners to a future contribution of more than \$460,000.

Additionally, during the fiscal year the IAF began collaborating with corporate foundations and institutes in Rio Grande do Sul to explore the launch of a second subgrant fund in Brazil. (The first subgrant fund,

"RedEAmérica Brazil," was developed in fiscal 2007 by 12 corporate foundations and institutes, including nine members of RedEAmérica.) One founding entity, RedEAmérica member Instituto de Cidadania Empresarial, entered into a cooperative agreement with the IAF that required members of the subgrant fund to double the IAF's investment in the fund. During fiscal 2010, "RedEAmérica Brazil" supported 11 grassroots projects; issued its third call for proposals; and joined forces with Grupo de Institutos, Fundações, e Empresas (GIFE), another Brazilian network of foundations, institutes and companies, to learn from GIFE's expertise with a broad range of organizations in order to expand membership.

RedEAmérica's second international forum held Aug. 26 and 27 in Lima drew 115 participants representing 45 member foundations, who discussed investment in sustainable growth and partnering with the government, civil society and other businesses. In September, 148 students from 11 countries completed RedEAmérica's online program, "Private Sector Investment in Grassroots Development" conducted in partnership with the Technological Institute of Monterrey, Mexico.—*Wilbur Wright, IAF regional director*

## Supplemental Cooperative Agreement

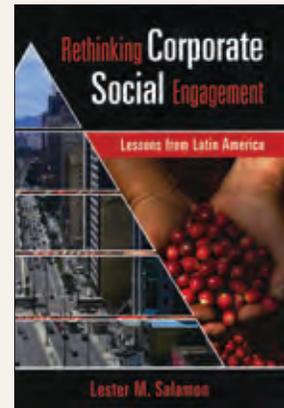
**Fundación Pehuén** (Pehuén), \$100,000 for three years

Fundación Pehuén will continue to provide small grants, training and other support to grassroots organizations in Chile's Alto Bio Bio region. (CH-511/CP-001-A8)

(See also on page 24 the description of the supplemental grant to Transparencia, which will work with RedEAmérica member Fundación Corona of Colombia.)

## RedEAmérica: Featured in Print and at LASA

Drawing from the massive documentation collected during his research for the IAF into socially engaged businesses in Latin America, Lester Salamon of Johns Hopkins University produced a lively and cohesive narrative for his book *Rethinking Corporate Social Engagement: Lessons from Latin America*, released in July by Kumerian Press. Salamon credits the IAF for initiating partnerships with corporations that developed new attitudes and more effective practices, points developed earlier in his article for *Grassroots Development* 2008 based on the same research. In the course of his research, Salamon interviewed many Latin Americans associated with RedEAmérica. His book contains frequent references to the network, which he terms “a dynamic center of support for the participatory approach [to social engagement] in the region.” This approach, he says, uses corporate social engagement as a vehicle “not only for providing temporary assistance, but for achieving empowerment and self-reliance and thus overcoming the dependence and submissiveness that close observers have long found to be pervasive in Latin American society.”



As the fiscal year drew to a close, Marta Smith de Rangel and Anfilio Salles Martins of Fundación del Emprendariado en México A.C. (Fundemex) and Fundação Arcelor Mittal Acesita (Acesita) of Brazil, respectively, and RedEAmérica’s executive director Margareth Flórez prepared to travel to Toronto to join Salamon and Amy Kirschenbaum, IAF representative for Brazil, on the featured panel “The Role of the Private Sector in Development” at the 2010 International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association held Oct. 6-9. Salamon focused on his new book during the discussions of RedEAmérica as a hemispheric initiative and of the specific experience of members Acesita and Fundemex in Brazil and Mexico.



CHRISTIANA KASNIER

Lester Salamon, Martha Smith de Rangel, IAF representative Kevin Healy, Margareth Flórez, Anfilio Salles Martins and Amy Kirschenbaum at the Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Toronto.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The IAF's Office of Evaluation tracks and audits grantees and evaluates a sample of their projects after completion. Grantees report every six months on progress toward defined goals as measured by indicators selected from the Grassroots Development Framework, the IAF's tool for assessing the results of its investment. After verification by professionals contracted in the respective countries, the information is summarized in the IAF's annual Results Report. Additionally, grantees are audited yearly by in-country firms and upon completion of the project

Beyond compliance with the grant agreement, the IAF is interested in the grantee's long-term success.

In fiscal 2010, the IAF evaluated the current status of three grantees whose projects were completed in 2005: Asociación Consejo de Mujeres Mayas, an organization offering health care services in San Cristobal, Totonicapán, Guatemala, which now receives funding from the Guatemalan Ministry of Health; Patronato para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades de Morazán y San Miguel, of El Salvador, which continues to offer services in health care, education, agriculture and microcredit; and Grupo de Asesoramiento Multidisciplinario en Medio Ambiente y Agroecología which still works in Oruro, Bolivia, to maintain reservoirs and pastures.—*Emilia Rodríguez-Stein, IAF director of evaluation*

### Highlights of Results Reported by Active Grantees *Fiscal 2009*

- Beyond their required counterpart, IAF grantees raised \$3.6 million (\$2.8 million in cash and \$0.76 million in kind) to invest in their projects and toward their ongoing impact.
- Grantees extended more than 7,000 loans averaging \$972 each. Loans for business development, averaging \$1,289, represented 48 percent of the total.
- Grantees trained approximately 14,500 individuals in agriculture; 6,700 in civic participation; 9,300 in the legal system; 8,200 in management; 8,900 in topics related to manufacturing.
- New enterprises emerging out of training and technical-assistance programs created more than 3,600 full-time and part-time permanent jobs.
- The introduction of poultry and fish farming improved the diet of more than 8,350 individuals.
- More than 14,000 Guatemalans and Panamanians received medical attention.
- Approximately 6,800 Panamanians and Dominicans gained access to potable water.
- A Uruguayan grantee replaced cardboard shacks with 35 new homes on the outskirts of Montevideo; grantees elsewhere improved 260 existing homes.

## DISSEMINATION

The IAF's annual report for 2009 and Grassroots Development 2010 were published and distributed in English and Spanish and posted in English, Spanish and Portuguese versions on the IAF's Web site. Articles in the 2010 journal included features on the relief efforts of Haitian grantees; the commitment of Chet Thomas to Honduras; the IAF's work in Chiapas; the inclusion of Latin Americans with psychiatric disabilities in grassroots development; multifaceted improvement in a town in the Brazilian Northeast; and how the revocation of an IAF grant tested the resolve of Salvadoran fishermen. IAF Fellows contributed two articles to a section on the IAF's program of Grassroots Development Fellowships. An extended profile of the late Rex Nettleford commemorated the rich contributions of this Jamaican to the IAF's approach to grantmaking.

The focus on African descendants in IAF's 2007 journal was the inspiration for the international conference held at the University of South Florida in June: "Reexamining the Black Atlantic: Afro Descendants Still at the Bottom?" IAF vice president Linda Kolko gave an overview of the IAF's support for African descendants through grants and exchanges. Representatives of two grantees testified to the IAF's engagement and shared their experiences. Of the donors present at this event, the IAF had responded the most consistently to the efforts of African descendants to overcome poverty and improve conditions in their communities. Its support had extended for the longest term and over the broadest geographic territory.

[www.iaf.gov](http://www.iaf.gov)

The IAF's redesigned new Web site is in the final stages of testing its compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act. The new secure site will have a more modern look and include many other technical improvements. IAF's site currently receives approximately 54,500 hits per month, which translates into nearly 1,800 daily. It is regularly updated with publications accessible in English, Spanish and Portuguese in graphic and text formats.



## FELLOWSHIPS

The Inter-American Foundation is the only institution that specifically funds research on grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its Fellowship Program, launched in 1974, has supported doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, master's degree candidates and, between 1991 and 1995, a handful of outstanding Latin American and Caribbean grassroots leaders awarded the Dante B. Fascell Inter-American Fellowship to pursue independent study. In the 26 years before its suspension in 1999 for budgetary reasons, the program supported nearly 1,000 Fellows; they worked in 35 countries and represent 117 U.S. universities in 36 states. Their ranks include many individuals now at the forefront of development scholarship.

In 2007, one component of the program was reinstated: support for doctoral dissertation research undertaken by students in U.S. universities who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy. In fiscal 2010, the third cycle of Fellows under the reinstated program reported to sites in Latin America to conduct research on a broad range of issues related to grassroots development. Ambassador Thomas Dodd, vice chair of the IAF's board of directors; staff from the IAF and from the Institute for International Education, IAF's contractor that administers the Fellowships; as well as members of IAF's Academia Review Committee, joined the Fellows in Mexico City in February for the annual mid-year meeting, a unique feature of the IAF program, which gives the Fellows the opportunity to share their work.



CHRISTIANA KASNER

*Grassroots Development Fellows for 2009-2010, their academic review panel, and IAF and IIE staff in Mexico City.*

The IAF awarded 15 Grassroots Development Fellowships in 2010. The 2010-2011 Fellows, who constitute the fourth cycle since reinstatement, were selected on the strength of their academic record, their proposals and their potential contribution to grassroots development. All U.S. citizens except as noted, they will research the following topics:

- **Rebecca Hope Dirksen**, University of California at Los Angeles, *contemporary Haitian music and community-led development in Port-au-Prince*;
- **Adam Kerry French**, University of California at Santa Cruz, *climate change, adaptation, and sustainable resource management in the Peruvian Andes*;
- **Lesli Michelle Hoey**, Cornell University, *reducing malnutrition in Bolivia*;
- **Craig Michael Kauffman**, George Washington University, *watershed management reforms in Ecuador*;
- **Meghan Krausch**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, *utopian activism in Argentina*;
- **Caela Brigid O'Connell**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *the practice and prospects of fair trade in St. Lucia*;
- **Amy Carol Offner**, Columbia University, *anti-poverty programs in Colombia and the U.S., 1948-1980*;
- **Ritaumaria DeJesus Pereira**, Brazilian citizen, Michigan State University at East Lansing, *cattle production chains in Amazonia and the implications for grassroots development*;
- **Maria Amalia Pesantes Villa**, Peruvian citizen, University of Pittsburgh, *negotiating intercultural health in the Peruvian Amazon*.
- **Jelena Radovic**, University of California at Riverside, *seasonal labor, neoliberalism, and the formation of identity in the Aconcagua Valley*;
- **Ellen J. Sharp**, University of California at Los Angeles, *grassroots justice in Guatemala*;
- **Rebecca Senn Tarlau**, University of California at Berkeley, *rural development, education and collective action in Brazil*;
- **Jennifer Vogt**, Vanderbilt University, *the impacts of legal reform on an artisan cooperative in Peru*;
- **Alice Brooke Wilson**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *the politics of transgenic corn in Mexico*;
- **Joseph L. Wiltberger**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *grassroots responses to Salvadoran emigration*;

IAF's Grassroots Development Fellowships provide international transportation to the research site, a monthly stipend for up to 12 months and a research allowance. For more information, visit [www.iie.org/iaf](http://www.iie.org/iaf).



*Amalia Pesantes, an IAF Fellow for 2010-2011, on site in Comunidad Nativa Santa Rosa de Aserjali, Peru.*

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

In fiscal 2010, more than 400 academics, local officials and representatives of nongovernmental organizations, including IAF grantees, received travel grants from the IAF to attend more than 70 workshops, conferences and exchanges that improved their skills and offered opportunities to network. Many events held in 2010 allowed African descendants and Latin Americans with disabilities to work toward inclusion of their concerns in the agendas of their governments and international organizations. IAF staff and representatives of grantee organizations shared IAF's grassroots approach with audiences in a variety of fora.

### African Descendants

Fiscal 2010 was the second year of IAF's collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and the Brazilian government on the U.S.-Brazil Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination. The IAF's participation this year included funding eight Brazilian representatives of civil society at two steering committee meetings and brokering an agreement between the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and a current IAF grantee expected to administer a subgrant fund available to grassroots organizations promoting equality. The Department of State has invited the IAF to participate in a similar initiative with the Colombian government.

In May, former grantee Mundo Afro invited representatives of municipalities in Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay and Colombia to discuss race relations at a follow-up to last year's Primer Foro Regional de Organismos Municipales de Equidad Racial e Igualdad de Oportunidades, also sponsored by the IAF. The city of Tumaco, Colombia, hosted the meetings that resulted in agreements to cooperate on antidiscrimination policies as well as

training and programs in tourism, health care and information technology.

Representatives of IAF grantees serving African descendants in Central America and Mexico spoke of their organizations' concerns at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza (NLCR) held in July in San Antonio, Texas.

Both Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora and Global Rights Partners for Justice held meetings throughout the year to prepare representatives of organizations of African descendants to participate in the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and assuring inclusion of their concerns in the OAS agenda.

### People with Disabilities

Ana Nuñez of former Peruvian grantee Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) discussed the successes and challenges of people with psychiatric disabilities in grassroots organizations at the Primer Congreso Internacional sobre Discapacidad y Derechos Humanos held in Buenos Aires in June.

Representatives of disabled people's organizations gathered in April in San Salvador at an IAF-cosponsored event running parallel to the Third Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, organized by the OAS. They also shared their perspective with the OAS officials considering a convention that would discourage such discrimination and apply hemisphere-wide.

Women representing organizations of disabled Hondurans attended a workshop held in August by Asociación Nacional de Discapacitados (ANADISH) to discuss their rights, launch a network to address them and learn about opportunities for IAF funding.

## Sharing the Approach

In November IAF representative Kevin Healy was the keynote speaker at the Tinker Foundation's conference on recent rural development in Bolivia and Colombia at the University of Arizona.

Working with the United States Institute of Peace, Healy organized "Land Reform as a Path to Democracy and Development in Bolivia and Colombia," held in May at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace and featuring representatives of several IAF grantees.

The responsible use of natural resources as a component of development was the subject of an IAF-sponsored panel at the annual conference of Grantmakers Without Borders in June. "Green at the Grassroots: Case Studies of Organic Production and Sustainable Consumption in Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil" featured the respective representatives Gabriela Boyer, Zakiya Carr-Johnson and Seth Jesse. Also in San Francisco for the event were Amy Kirschenbaum, representative for Brazil and Jenny Petrow, representative for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean.

The IAF cosponsored the XVI Latin American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities held in June in Miami. Some 450 mayors and municipal officials from 14 countries participated in interactive workshops led by IAF staff and grantee representatives. "Local Government and its Leadership in a Time of Crisis" included a panel of experts from Chile and Peru;

"Opportunities for Economic Development within a Multicultural Context: the Case of Uruguay" featured officials from Montevideo.

Staff from Organización de Ejidos Forestales de la Zona Maya of Mexico, Asociación Mangle of El Salvador, Una Casa Un Sueño of Uruguay, Fundación Cambio Democrático of Argentina, Centro Diocesano de Apoyo ao Pequeno Produtor of Brazil and Konbit Fanm Kaskad-Dubreuil of Haiti joined Dieusibon Pierre-Mérité, the IAF's Haitian liaison, and representatives Boyer, Krischenbaum, Petrow and Jeremy Coon in New Orleans at "The Role of the Community in Economic and Disaster Recovery," an international conference organized by the Community Development Society and the International Association of Community Development in July. Their panels, "From Conflict to Collaboration: Essential Skills for Economic and Disaster Recovery, Cases from Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil" and "Thinking Outside the Box: Flexibility and Resourcefulness are Key to Disaster Recovery—Tales from Mexico, El Salvador and Haiti," used the grantees' experiences to illustrate emergency situations common to stricken areas worldwide and the challenges of disaster preparedness.



*IAF staff and grantee representatives visited Café Reconcile and Donna Bowie, fourth from the left, who directs its program of job training for young people from communities at risk in New Orleans.*

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Celebrations open to the public marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the legislation that created the IAF as a bold alternative to traditional development assistance in the Western Hemisphere. Spread throughout the year, these events emphasized the IAF's mission of inclusion with examples of the IAF's long and productive history with indigenous peoples and its outreach to African descendants.

Kuna craftswomen from IAF grantee Asociación Pro Artesana Panameña joined in "The Power of Chocolate," the popular Valentine's Day celebration of the pre-Colombian origins of cacao held at the National Museum of the American Indian. The indigenous



MARK CAICEDO

Panamanians exhibited their colorful *mola* featuring the cacao pod, a favorite pattern for these traditional appliques. Returning for their third consecutive exhibit at the February observation were Aymara farmers/business managers from former Bolivian grantee El Ceibo, a federation of 40 cooperatives that, with IAF's funding, evolved into a leading exporter of cacao and chocolate.



Rita DiMartino, third from the left, of the IAF's Advisory Council and the board of trustees of the City University of New York, organized April events on African descendants in the Americas. With her are Juan Flores, Linda Kolko, Miriam Jiménez, Karen Vargas, Paola Ortiz Murillo, Jade McPherson and Guesnerth Josue Perea.

“The Afrolatin@ Experience: An Exploration of Identity in the Americas,” a series of events held in April, brought together Karen Vargas of the Honduran Ethnic Community Development Organization (ODECO), Paola Ortiz Murillo of the Americas Afrodescendent Youth Circle and members of the New York-based

afrolatin@ forum to share perspectives at Hostos Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, NYU and El Museo del Barrio. A commemorative photo exhibit, “Toward Full Inclusion: The Inter-American Foundation and the Hemisphere’s African Descendants,” remained at Hostos through June.



SEBASTIAN ALOOT



REBECCA JAINES

Photos from the display at Hostos Community College: left, Lazaro Medina of grantee Asociación Afro Paraguaya Kamba Cua and, right, Haitian girls in a school built in collaboration with grantee Fondasyon Enstityon-yo pou Devlopman ki Sòti na Baz-la.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A gala reception opened a magnificent display of crafts from the eastern lowlands of Bolivia, the first such exhibit showcased in the Potomac Room of the National Museum of the American Indian. The 2,000 items on display June 10-20 had been fashioned by members of ARTECAMPO, a cooperative representing 1,300 indigenous Bolivian embroiderers, potters, weavers and sculptors in the Santa Cruz region. ARTECAMPO's partner, IAF grantee Centro de Investigación Diseño Artesanal y Comercialización Comunitaria (CIDAC), has, for 25 years, led the effort to rescue and develop traditional handicrafts.

These artisans were joined by dancers, musicians and weavers from former IAF grantee Nativos de Taquile, a grassroots organization comprised of the Quechua residents of the Peruvian island in Lake Titicaca, whose textile tradition is recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Some years ago, the islanders used their IAF award to develop a cultural tourism that now attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world. The more than 20,000 people who visited this exhibit, held during the NMAI's Fifth Annual Indian Summer Showcase, exhausted the supply of 2008 journals featuring an article on CIDAC. The Bolivian press covered the event.



MARK CAICEDO

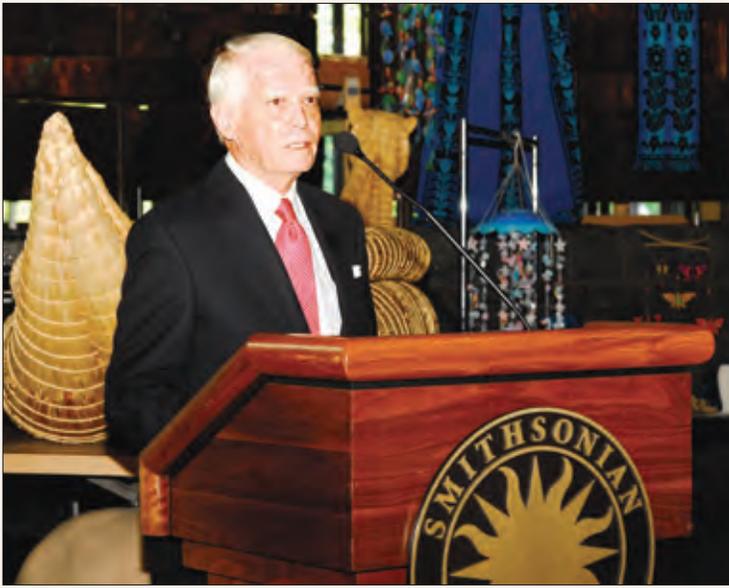
*Kevin Healy with Taquile islanders.*

JERRY ANDRÉS WRIGHT



ARTECAMPO crafts: figurine from Cotoca, Chiquitano embroideries and Guarayo wind chime.

JERRY ANDRÉS WRIGHT



Ambassador Thomas Dodd, vice-chair of the IAF's board of directors.

MARK CALCEDO



ARTECAMPO weavers Suia Picaneray (page 7) and Mary Morales, an indigenous Guarani Bolivian, with CIDAC director Ada Sotomayor.

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The 20 participants in “MAKIYKUMANTA-Peru: Arts and Cultural Legacy,” also in the Indian Summer Showcase, included other artisans from Taquile as well as weavers from IAF grantee Centro de Textiles Tradicionales de Cusco. Sponsored by the IAF, the Embassy of Peru, Restaurant Associates and the NMAI, this crafts-and-cuisine extravaganza exposed the huge crowds of visitors to the IAF’s work.



*Jenny Callañaupa Huarhwa of Centro de Textiles de Cusco with a customer.*



PAULA DURBIN

*Weaver Antonia Arapa.*





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