



Inter-American Foundation
2013 *in Review*

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Cover: Detail from a work by Guatemalan artist David Ordoñez who fused serigraphy, acrylic shadings and brilliant lacquers to create the color and texture that make this a prime piece in the IAF’s gallery of folk art.

Opposite page: Guatemalan farmer María Godínez Méndez de Domingo of FECCEG, page 32, inspects coffee. Both photos: Mark Caicedo



Inter-American Foundation
2013 *in Review*

Courtesy Los Masis



The musical ensemble and students from Central Cultural Los Masis, which received IAF support during the 1980s, in a recent performance in the Teatro Municipal in Sucre, the capital of Bolivia. See pages 62-63 for Los Masis' appearances in Washington, D.C., in 2013.

Inter-American Foundation

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent foreign assistance agency of the United States government, invests in citizen-led grassroots development initiatives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Created by Congress in 1969, the IAF responds directly to grassroots groups and the organizations that support them by extending grants that prioritize the hemisphere's most disadvantaged people and further economic opportunities, more secure communities, social inclusion and participation in democratic processes. 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 chief executive officer, managing a staff of 41 employees based in Washington, D.C.

Congress appropriates funds annually for the Inter-American Foundation. The IAF also receives support via 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 nearly 5,100 grants valued at almost \$709 million. IAF grantees have committed or mobilized an additional \$1.1 billion in counterpart resources. Together, the IAF and its grantees have strengthened thousands of communities throughout the hemisphere.

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*On Sept. 30, 2013.

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*On Sept. 30, 2013.



Mark Caicedo

Aldea Global, page 44, built its state-of-the-art center for processing agricultural products in 2010.



Message from the Chair



This report summarizes the work of the Inter-American Foundation in fiscal 2013 toward advancing a mission articulated some 40 years ago. Since its founding in 1969, the IAF has steadily invested in the ideas of people who use their skill, talent and hope to chip away at their problems, take charge of their future and strengthen their communities, often accomplishing more than they ever imagined. The results have been far-reaching in terms of increased income, better living conditions and inclusion in the services essential to thriving in our contemporary world.

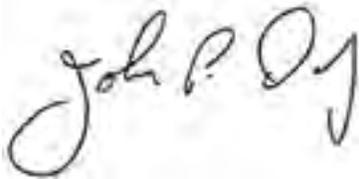
This year, especially, I have often been reminded how, over time, these grantee partners can defy their initial scope and catalyze the development of trends, movements and iconic organizations. Not long ago, *Bloomberg News* published an article by Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank,

that traced the soaring international popularity of quinoa to the IAF's pioneering support of Central de Cooperativas de Campesinos Agrícolas Operación Tierra (CECOAT) in the 1980s, as the organization took the first steps toward launching Bolivia's export of this product. The IAF's institutional journal for 2013 movingly chronicled the role of the IAF as an essential early donor to the grassroots organizations so crucial to the mobilization that led to the containment of HIV/AIDS in Brazil and to compassion for its victims. This past summer, the Smithsonian Institution hosted the musicians of Los Masis, whose school dedicated to Andean traditions expanded its activities nearly 30 years ago with IAF grants. In the spring, third-generation recycler Nohra Padilla was recognized as an environmental heroine for her leadership of the 20,000-strong Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB), which the IAF funded, as well as Colombia's National Association of Recyclers. And for the past year, Whole Foods stores in metropolitan Washington, D.C., have stocked the exquisite gourmet chocolate produced by the Bolivian cacao farmers comprising former IAF grantee partner El Ceibo, who developed their cacao enterprise with IAF assistance.

The IAF's staff worked with remarkable focus in 2013 to select from among hundreds of applicants 93 similarly committed organizations. Through audits and monitoring they will be held to a high expectation of accountability and responsible management—as important, perhaps, as the IAF's financing to their success. But how they go about reaching their goals is up to them; the IAF is there to support them, not intervene. Those funded in 2013 add to the program portfolio an exciting array of projects that include building the infrastructure for piped water and electric power; rescuing forests and soil; offering sanctuary from violence and protection from environmental hazards; reducing unemployment, especially among young people; and helping citizens of indigenous and African descent pursue economic and social justice.

My service on the IAF's board of directors has convinced me of the benefit of common-sense development aid that consistently yields superior value for the United States government. As chair of the IAF's board since 2008, I appreciate that 2013 was a particularly tough year for federal agencies and that hard decisions lie ahead. However, I am encouraged by the IAF's recognized leadership in grassroots development, its exploration of partnerships with other agencies in the foreign-affairs complex and its determination to engage new funding partners, so that its programs can continue.

The IAF's work matters to the people who struggle with poverty and work together to open possibilities for change and confront challenges with practical, inexpensive solutions. Their resolute dignity, common purpose and achievements are inspiring. In this connection, I am grateful to our staff for their daily dedication to the grassroots organizations that have counted on the IAF's responsive funding and added value. I also thank my committed colleagues on the board of directors for their unwavering support and our advisory council for its dedicated expertise and enthusiasm for the IAF's mission.



John P. Salazar
Acting Chair



Mark Caicedo

Los Masis in June at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. See pages 62-63.

President's Report



Traveling from Port-au-Prince through arid northern Haiti last year, two colleagues and I passed a forest of billboards and signs proudly announcing the contributions of many foreign donors. The extent of international support for Haiti, particularly after the devastation of the earthquake in 2010, is impressive and gratifying. It represents the best intentions of the citizens of the world, now more than ever connected through, and exposed to, global forces. Much less remarked upon are the courage, commitment and creativity of the Haitians who live in villages like those we visited. They do not think of their lives as projects—with objectives, inputs and evaluation indicators—and few signs proclaim their efforts. So it is easy to miss them, unless you are paying careful attention.

At the Inter-American Foundation, we listen to grassroots groups and ask how we can support their ideas and hard work without imposing our own designs and definitions. We are willing to fund initiatives that address a wide range of needs and aspirations because, above all, we look for evidence that local people are truly in charge and for ways that our involvement can empower their organizations, help mobilize their assets and connect their efforts with other partners. The driving force behind the IAF's approach is our conviction that, to thrive, communities require the active engagement of those who live in them. That is most effective when citizens have the confidence and skill to work together toward shaping the direction of their community, and ultimately, their nation.

This openness to ideas from the grassroots puts the IAF in a privileged position to learn with hard-working men and women about the challenges and opportunities they face. In August, 65 representatives of some 30 grantee partners from 15 Brazilian states gathered in Brasilia to discuss fair trade, agro-ecological production, fundraising strategies and other issues that their members had decided were important to the future well-being of their communities. Several similar exchanges take place every year in other countries, bringing together organizations representing a range of institutional competence in an array of areas. Some are documented on www.iaf.gov.

Our partners tell us that diversity makes these workshops especially powerful learning experiences. I was particularly struck by the outcome of the interaction of our Paraguayan grantee partners a few years ago. Participants came from groups working on a variety of topics including agriculture, handicrafts and disability rights. Engaging as colleagues over the course of a few days raised awareness of the talents and skills of citizens with disabilities and provoked reflection on how each group could make its own work more inclusive so that it could benefit from their input. While the individual relationships developed at these meetings are personally enriching, the institutional linkages are even more significant because they often endure and yield new opportunities for collaboration and partnership. At the IAF, we think such investments in building and reinforcing networks are vital for strengthening the social fabric that underpins a healthy democracy. Their long-term impact, though difficult to quantify, may go far beyond that of most development projects.

At the end of fiscal 2013, the IAF had active funding agreements with 252 grantee partners. The IAF is investing more than \$64.5 million in these organizations, and they have committed or mobilized more than \$99 million. During 2013 alone, the IAF awarded more than \$12.5 million in grants toward the work of 93 partners in 18 countries, whose commitment of counterpart resources is valued at nearly \$16.5 million. We are grateful to these grassroots organizations for the opportunity to support their important initiatives in areas as varied as community management of natural resources, ecotourism, cooperative enterprises, indigenous land rights, social inclusion and leadership development. We look forward to continuing to help them achieve their goals, become stronger and share their experience with others.

The Inter-American Foundation is the only agency of the United States government dedicated entirely to citizen-led community development in Latin America and the Caribbean. As we enter the 45th year since Congress passed our enabling legislation in 1969, we continue searching for ever more powerful—and empowering—ways to deploy our specialized institutional expertise. As I reflect upon our work, I have come to believe that the IAF's greatest asset is the collective experience of its grassroots partners. Our greatest challenge is to find effective means to help them give voice to what they know and continue to learn every day about the struggles, the successes and the failures that come from living, surviving and thriving in poor communities.

The IAF's mandate demands a staff with the sensitivity, intelligence and passion to put our grassroots partners first. I am grateful to work with such talented professionals so dedicated to our mission. I also want to thank the IAF's board and advisory council for their generosity with their time, wise guidance and unwavering support.

Jenny Petrow



President Kaplan in Haiti.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Petrow'.

Financial and Statistical Report

Grants by Country 1972-2013

	New Grants Fiscal 2013			
	New Grants	Grant Supplements	IAF Investment	Counterpart
Anguilla				
Antigua & Barbuda				
Argentina	2	2	503,552	1,035,350
Bahamas				
Barbados				
Belize	1		44,740	17,590
Bolivia	1	2	394,619	444,716
Brazil	5	2	1,042,089	1,184,604
Chile				
Caribbean Region				
Colombia	3	3	962,611	907,647
Costa Rica	4	1	465,120	415,775
Dominica				
Dominican Republic	3	1	1,036,531	1,861,160
Ecuador	3		338,920	296,210
El Salvador	5	3	1,037,555	627,750
Grenada				
Guatemala	5	3	907,930	635,877
Guyana				
Haiti	4	2	606,107	448,521
Honduras	2	2	454,510	230,973
Jamaica	1		208,355	77,200
Latin American Region		2	168,324	107,890
Mexico	7	3	1,256,260	3,694,517
Montserrat				
Netherlands Antilles				
Nicaragua	3	2	875,135	1,877,655
Panama				
Paraguay	3	4	1,066,310	1,492,801
Peru	5	3	1,143,100	1,051,640
St. Kitts & Nevis				
St. Lucia				
St. Vincent				
Suriname				
Trinidad & Tobago				
Turks & Caicos				
Uruguay	1		49,200	37,450
Venezuela				
TOTALS	58	35	12,560,968	16,445,326

All Grantees in 2013*			1972-2013	
Active Grants	IAF Investment	Counterpart	Grants	IAF Investment**
			1	3
			8	507
13	3,677,578	11,419,048	248	34,529
			7	144
			11	925
2	354,740	375,270	81	4,648
13	4,553,683	4,021,506	281	42,558
29	7,745,282	15,142,870	420	59,460
3	798,840	2,352,611	264	43,836
			62	7,308
22	6,438,819	7,631,432	335	48,938
10	1,770,070	2,739,058	231	17,188
			75	2,282
9	2,752,957	3,607,116	241	27,115
10	1,985,590	1,922,530	212	34,527
17	3,871,241	3,175,794	236	39,965
			17	540
18	3,290,253	3,333,061	212	33,147
			7	294
11	3,012,685	3,378,807	149	18,683
8	1,817,631	2,389,272	171	28,280
2	608,355	1,609,700	72	5,258
2	937,011	594,483	136	13,223
27	5,326,318	14,520,310	389	61,407
			1	3
			2	126
13	3,880,694	7,303,281	201	37,548
8	1,948,100	2,236,537	217	28,744
10	2,762,373	3,659,426	158	21,546
22	6,354,777	6,365,237	303	56,875
			6	541
			12	696
			12	746
			3	347
			14	949
			2	12
3	747,250	1,562,120	138	18,863
			159	17,212
252	64,634,247	99,339,469	5,094	708,972

* On Sept. 30, 2013.

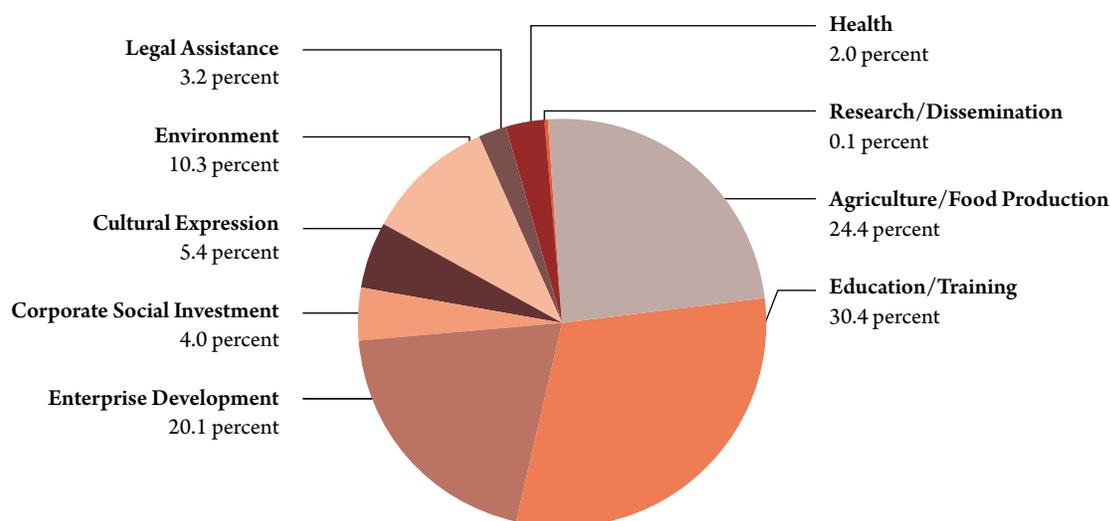
** In thousands of dollars.

Fiscal 2013: New Grants and Supplements

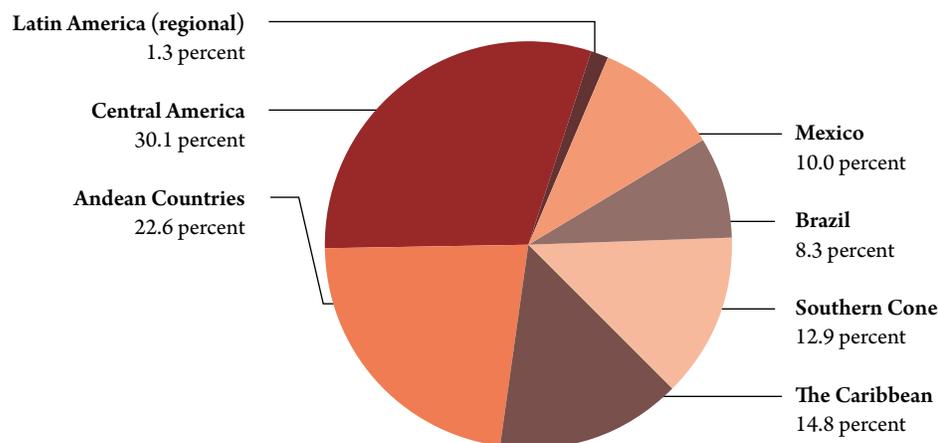
Grants Funded in Fiscal 2013 by Primary Program Area

Program Area	IAF Investment	New Grants and Supplements
Agriculture/Food Production	\$3,063,508	23
Education/Training	3,821,318	31
Enterprise Development	2,524,816	18
Corporate Social Investment	505,370	3
Cultural Expression	683,933	4
Environment	1,299,179	9
Legal Assistance	396,835	3
Health	256,085	1
Research/Dissemination	16,404	1
Total	\$12,567,448	93

Fiscal 2013 Investment by Program Area

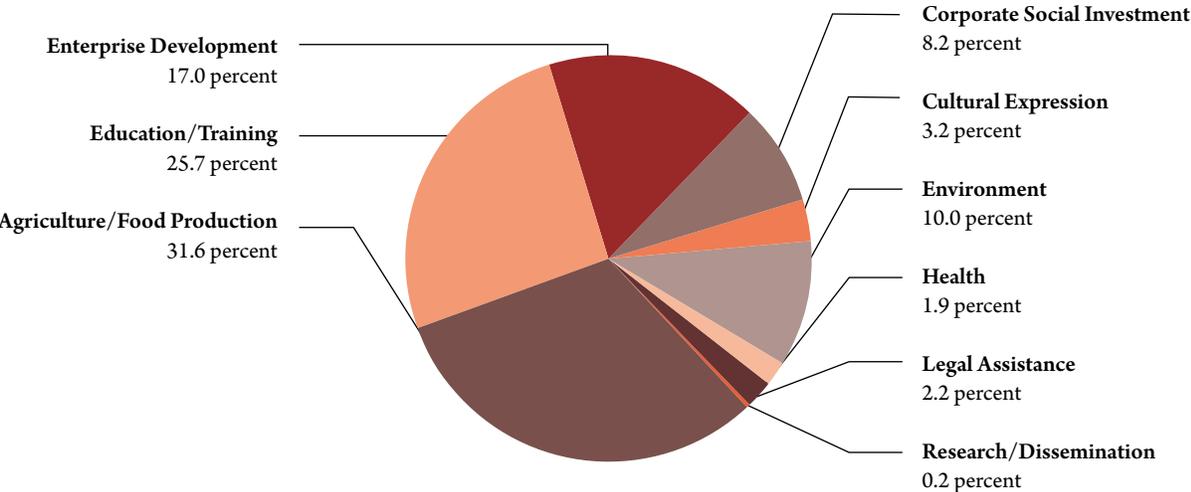


Fiscal 2013: Investment by Region

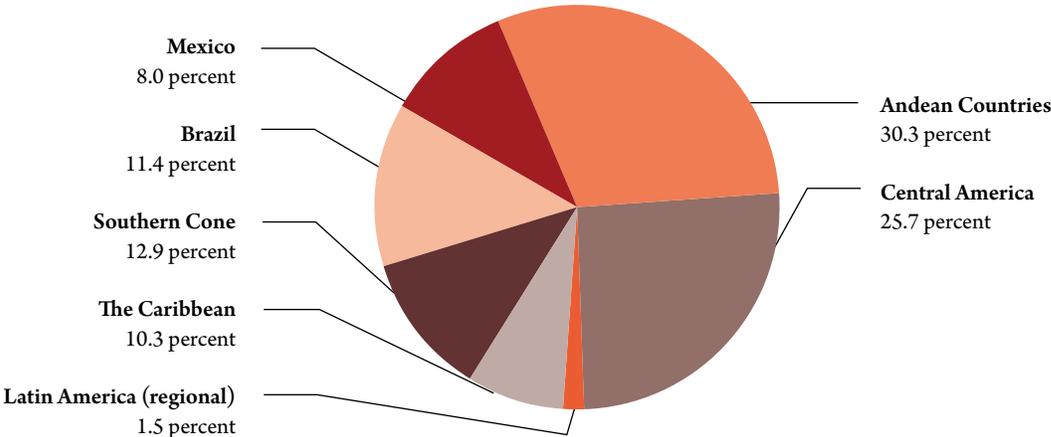


Portfolio of 252 Grantees Active in 2013

Investment by Program Area



Investment by Region



Argentina

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 13

IAF commitment:
\$3,677,578

Counterpart commitment:
\$11,419,048

Total investment:
\$15,096,626

Areas of emphasis: Access to water and utilities, agriculture, community tourism, enterprise development, legal assistance, inclusion of young people and indigenous Argentines.

New Grants

Asociación Civil “La Choza”- Centro de Iniciativas para el Desarrollo Local (La Choza), \$280,900 over three years; counterpart committed, \$502,750

La Choza will help 1,500 Argentines in the department of San Miguel, Corrientes, to develop a source of income from ecotourism in and around the nearby wetlands constituting a protected area. (AR-367)

Cooperativa Agroganadera Diaguita Limitada de Santa María (Diaguita), \$164,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$507,100

Diaguita will work with its members and residents of Santa María, Catamarca, to diversify agriculture, add value to their production, offer processing services and evolve into a regional resource for economic development. The project will benefit 230 Argentines directly and another 2,000 indirectly. (AR-368)

Supplemental Grants*

Asociación Pescadores del Chaco (ASOPECHA), \$29,152; counterpart committed, \$12,500

ASOPECHA will continue to work toward the conservation of fisheries along the Paraguay River and its tributaries and to improve the income of its 567 fishers. (AR-363-A1)

Banco de Bosques (BdB), \$29,000; counterpart committed, \$13,000

BdB will continue to build infrastructure and provide training and other support enabling indigenous Mbya Guaraní Argentines in the Yryapu community, province of Misiones, to engage in tourism as a source of income. It will also survey the community’s land and define its boundaries. (AR-364-A1)

*Only supplemental grants for \$10,000 or more are included in this report. All supplemental grants are for one year unless otherwise indicated.



Jeremy Coon



ASOPECHA

Ecotourism in El Parque Iberá

Located some 1,000 kilometers from Buenos Aires on the eastern shore of the Paraná River, the expanse known as los Esteros de Iberá comprises lagoons, grasslands, palm groves, jungles and forests spread over 1,300,000 hectares totaling 14.6 percent of the territory of Corrientes, an otherwise desperately poor province in northeastern Argentina. Together the diverse biomes provide a habitat for thousands of species, including upwards of 360 varieties of birds. The abundance of mammals ranges from the ubiquitous *carpinchos* to cougars that returned after a decades-long absence to the endangered swamp deer and anteaters that were recently reintroduced.

In 1983, the provincial authorities officially declared Iberá a conservation area, but the government controls only 40 percent of this territory. The remainder belongs to large estates producing rice, pine trees, eucalyptus and cattle on an industrial scale, often with harmful consequences for this fragile environment. Iberá might not yet be well known, but conservationists worldwide are aware of the threats to its survival as the treasure that it is. To protect more ecosystems, the Conservation Land Trust (CLT), based in the United States, purchased 150,000 hectares of privately-owned land. CLT has since announced its intention to transfer these holdings to the Argentine government for a national park under strict conservation and it is urging the provincial government to do likewise. Essential to the vision for a world-class destination for ecotourism are the residents of nearby communities—as stewards of a protected environment, managers of the basic infrastructure for camping and recreation that CLT has already installed, and artisans and entrepreneurs catering to visitors.

Founded in 1997 and legally incorporated in 2000, **Asociación Civil “La Choza”** (La Choza) has been working since 2004 with the communities of the district of San Miguel, whose 10,000 inhabitants live on the periphery of Iberá. As a result of La Choza’s efforts, 25 residents formed *Cooperativa Yací Verá*, built a facility for meeting and drafted a plan to make ecotourism a productive alternative to poorly paid day labor on the estates. In 2011, CLT granted the cooperative the concession to manage the infrastructure at nearby Estación San Nicolás. Members are already patrolling the area after training as rangers in collaboration with the National Parks Administration.

La Choza will use its IAF grant to bring another 1,500 residents of San Miguel into the cooperative—and into ecotourism—by teaching them the skills necessary to accommodate visitors while protecting the park. Compiling an inventory of cultural and historic sites, recreational possibilities and natural attractions will be their first step toward the goal of developing new services and enterprises, tripling the visitors to Estación San Nicolás and increasing income for local households while assuring the perpetuity of a priceless asset. In addition to CLT and La Choza, the community’s partners will include Argentine government agencies and the municipality of San Miguel.—*Monica Radwan, program staff assistant*



Courtesy La Choza

Belize

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment:
\$354,740

Counterpart commitment:
\$375,270

Total investment: \$730,010

Areas of emphasis: Agriculture, nutrition, partnerships.

New Grant

**Trio Farmers Cacao Growers (TFCG),
\$44,740 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$17,590**

Working with partner organizations, TFCG will finalize its application for a concession in the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve and develop its members' ability to farm the land. The project will directly benefit 35 farmers and their families. (BE-112)

Harvested cacao.





TFCG farmers with Emily Stone of MMC.

A Forest Concession for a Mayan Village

Of the countries comprising Central America, Belize is the most sparsely inhabited. However, the current population is increasing at the rate of 2 percent a year and as it increases so will pressure on productive land and scarce natural resources. This is already happening in the district of Toledo, located in southern Belize, a region known for its dense rainforest, where communities are growing. One of these is Trio, a Q'eqchi' Mayan village surrounded by plantations and also by woodlands protected as the **Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve** (MMNFR). Farming is allowed in the MMNFR but is strictly controlled and requires prior government approval.

Residents of Trio used to practice slash-and-burn agriculture, which completely degraded their soil, leaving them no arable land to cultivate. In the mid-2000s, several farmers from Trio decided to take stock of their options, which led them to the possibility of obtaining a concession of land within the boundaries of the MMNFR. With that goal in mind, the farmers began organizing their community into **Trio Farmers Cacao Growers (TFCG)**, which became legally constituted in 2011. So far, dues paid by TFCG's 35 members have financed the costs associated with applying for the concession, where the producers plan to use organic methods to farm cacao as a cash crop and grow staples for consumption.

TFCG will use its IAF funding toward finalizing its application and toward the training necessary to develop as an organization. This will bring TFCG into partnership with the Y'axche Conservation Trust (YCT), a nongovernmental organization based in Punta Gorda, a town two and a half hours away, and Maya Mountain Cacao (MMC), an enterprise, also in Punta Gorda that works to help farming communities prosper through more effective access to markets. Both YCT and MMC will train TFCG's farmers in the organic methods they want to adopt and will assist them through the final stages of the process to obtain a concession of land. Successfully farming in the woodlands should lead to a better supply of food for the residents of Trio and to more confidence in their own ability to shape their future.—*José Toasa, Representative for Belize, Guatemala and Panama*

Bolivia

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 13

IAF commitment:
\$4,553,683

Counterpart commitment:
\$4,021,506

Total investment:
\$8,575,189

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture emphasizing agroforestry and Andean livestock, enterprise development, indigenous autonomy, land tenure, textiles and other crafts, inclusion of indigenous women.

New Grant

Fundación Nueva Norte (FNN), \$171,407 over one year and 10 months; counterpart committed, \$359,642

FNN plans to increase income from crops, livestock and fisheries in 15 communities in the municipalities of Batallas and Pucarani, on the *altiplano*, by improving farming skills, product quality and marketing to niche outlets in the city of La Paz. The grantee's innovative institutional arrangement will benefit 250 farmers. (BO-527)

Supplemental Grants

TUKUYPAJ (TUKUYPAJ), \$65,320; counterpart committed, \$10,400

TUKUYPAJ will provide additional technical support in trout farming, sponsor exchanges

among farmers, support the development of the Centro Pisicola in Corani Pampi, and document the experience. (BO-494-A6)

Consultora en Servicios de Desarrollo Rural y Agricultura Ecológica (ECOTOP), \$157,892 over two years; counterpart committed, \$74,674

ECOTOP and participating communities will construct nine seedling nurseries, organize 10 family-based modules for raising swine and organize 20 new modules for raising *criollo* chickens. The grantee will offer specialized training to 150 farm families and provide related technical assistance. (BO-509-A4)

Sean Sprague

Sonia Flores, an agroforestry field technician with ECOTOP, and farmer Estanislao Quispe.

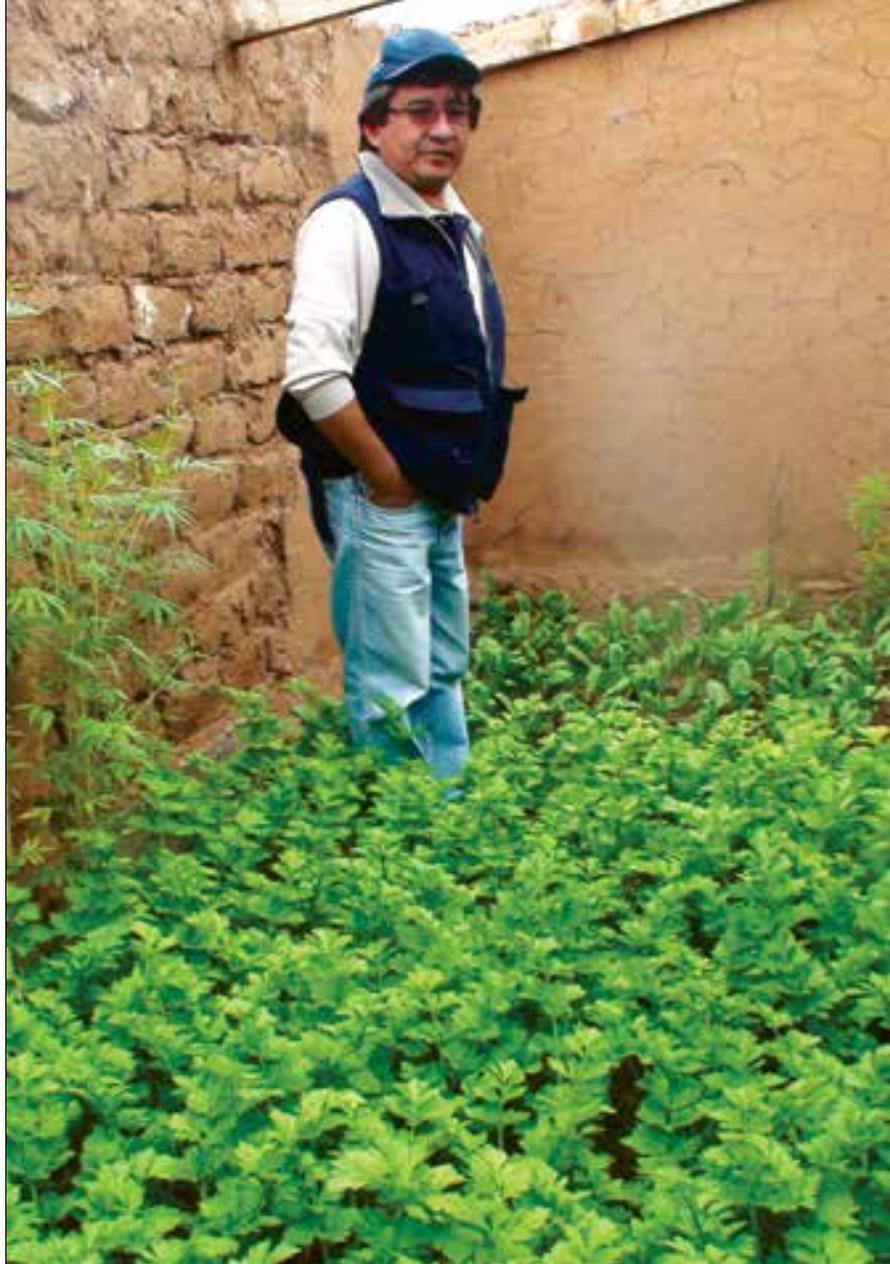


An Innovative Approach to Capturing Urban Markets

For decades, the climate and socio-economic conditions of the altiplano around Lake Titicaca have challenged attempts to bring about development that benefits farmers. In recent years, however, civil-society organizations have been experimenting with new institutional configurations that hold promise for a better balance in the development equation at these altitudes. One such approach that the IAF began supporting several years ago has brought grassroots and nongovernmental organizations into partnership with a private enterprise, which has succeeded in improving post-harvest technology, product quality and the prices paid to farmers by local and international purchasers of their quinoa.

Based in La Paz, **Fundación Nuevo Norte** (FNN) is pioneering its own plan to boost the income of 250 farmers of the *altiplano* through better access to upscale niches for their milk, meat, fish and vegetables. Toward that goal, FNN has formed a network that includes grassroots producer associations, the nongovernmental organization Pachamama Urupa Qhantawi (PUQ) and the agricultural college of Bolivia's Catholic University (UAC), whose involvement is the most original dimension of the collaboration. The UAC's role is to buy the harvests and add value through processing and packaging on its rural campus in Batallas, a municipality that rises through various microclimates and altitude levels. With oversight from FNN, UAC then markets the diverse end products in La Paz, targeting hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and gourmet coffee shops serving the most affluent neighborhoods. After several years of trial and error, FNN's multifaceted development strategy has proved a win-win for all participants. In addition to UAC and PUQ's excellent on-site technical assistance, indigenous Aymara farmers and herders benefit from annual contracts between their grassroots associations and the UAC that assure higher prices and a reliable stream of revenue protected from fluctuations in the market. Urban consumers enjoy a better selection of nutritious products. And UAC receives income to offset salaries and operating costs and invest in new food-processing technologies.

FNN will use its IAF grant to contract PUQ to provide training and technical assistance toward improving and standardizing the quality of the production of farmers and herders distributed through 15 communities. The program will include exchanges among the participating associations and communities and contests that reward the best producers. Short courses will disseminate the best techniques for preparing hay, irrigating on a small scale and managing fisheries in mountain lagoons, among other topics. The IAF's grant will also fund UAC's work toward the development of 15 new products for introduction into its niche markets. FNN's institutional marketing innovation could offer a model for effective rural development to other communities on the *altiplano* and beyond.—Kevin Healy, representative for Bolivia



Kevin Healy

Emilio Claure of PUQ monitoring celery and chard in a greenhouse in the Batallas region on Lake Titicaca.

Brazil

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 29

IAF commitment:
\$7,745,282

Counterpart commitment:
\$15,142,870

Total investment:
\$22,888,152

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, conservation, corporate social responsibility, enterprise development, inclusion of African descendants, indigenous communities, women and young people.

New Grants

Instituto Brasil Central (IBRACE) \$177,600 over two years; counterpart committed, \$211,835

IBRACE will offer training that enables residents of low-income communities in northeastern Goiás to monitor public policies and programs related to sustainable development, biodiversity and social services. The program will benefit farmers resettled as a result of land reform, *quilombola*, indigenous groups and their social movements. (BR-876)

Instituto Pró Educação e Saúde (Instituto Proeza), \$141,000 over two years; counterpart committed, \$333,200

Instituto Proeza will work on the outskirts of Brasilia to train victims of domestic violence in vocational skills; help them organize to take advantage of opportunities related to the 2014 World Cup; and offer after-school classes and tutoring for children at risk. The project will benefit 100 women and 200 children directly and another 1,500 Brazilians indirectly. (BR-881)

Associação Etnoambiental Beija-Flor (AEBF), \$187,478 over two years; counterpart committed, \$141,627

AEBF will plant native fruit trees and develop honey production in the community of Beija-Flor, Rio Preto da Eva, state of Amazonas. Results are expected to include a more reliable food supply and employment opportunities that should benefit 640 indigenous Brazilians directly and 1,000 other residents of Rio Preto da Eva indirectly. (BR-883)

Alternativas para Pequena Agricultura no Tocantins (APA-TO), \$229,300 over two years; counterpart committed, \$186,249

APA-TO will introduce technologies to mitigate the shortage of water that undermines the development of agroforestry and otherwise help

communities and ecosystems in northern Tocantins adapt to the effects of climate change. It will also work to generate income from non-timber forest products and diversify the food supply. This project will benefit 500 farmers directly and 5,000 other Brazilians indirectly. (BR-886)

Cooperativa de Trabalho, Prestação de Serviços, Assistência Técnica e Extensão Rural (COOPTER), \$201,850 over two years; counterpart committed, \$174,470

COOPTER will work with communities in Araguacema and Couto de Magalhães, Tocantins, to draft and formalize agreements regulating fishing in the lakes along the Araguaia River, to develop plans for managing stocks and to improve processing. The income generated and more reliable food supply will benefit 245 fishers directly and 980 other area residents indirectly. (BR-887)

Supplemental Grants

Associação Vianei de Cooperação e Intercâmbio no Trabalho, Educação, Cultura e Saúde (AVICITECS), \$32,951; counterpart committed, \$80,408

AVICITECS will develop training materials on agricultural methods and marketing and continue its related assistance to more than 150 women and their families in 21 communities in Santa Catarina, facilitating the renewal of their contracts to supply organic produce to the Brazilian government's Food Acquisition Program. (BR-862-A4)

Grupo de Informatica, Comunicação e Ação Local (GIRAL), \$71,910; counterpart committed, \$56,815

To generate income for its operations and for the graduates of its training in communication and information technology, GIRAL will form and oversee video production teams in each municipality in which it has offered its program. (BR-864-1)



Courtesy Amazon Spanish College

Pirarucu native to Brazil's Amazon region.



Courtesy COOPTER

Fishing Agreements to Protect Resources and Livelihoods

The perennial lakes that connect to the Araguaia River during the rainy season in the Brazilian state of Tocantins are important breeding grounds for *pirarucu* (*arapaima gigas*), a species of large fish native to Brazil's Amazon region. Fishers in the communities of Araguacema and Couto Magalhaes have depended on the *pirarucu* stocks in the river for their livelihood. But now the *pirarucu* population is dwindling because of illegal recreational fishing along the river, so the fishers want to work in the lakes.

The problem for the fishers is that local farmers who own tracts of land along the lakes deter trespassers and squatters by fencing their properties all the way to the water's edge. All waterways in Brazil are federally controlled and protected and the expanse of land stretching 100 meters from the highest water level cannot be deforested or farmed. As long as the farmers observe that restriction, their fences are legal. The farmers claim that fencing furthers the federal government's interest in conservation, and, certainly, there has been no illegal fishing on the lakes.

Cooperativa de Trabalho, Prestação de Serviços, Assistência Técnica e Extensão Rural (COOPTER) was founded in 1997 by members of the rural labor movement in Tocantins. COOPTER has collaborated with fishers and farmers, including those resettled as a result of agrarian reform, to improve their conditions and advance fair-trade practices in the state. Its technical assistance is centered on protecting environmental resources and developing community-based organizations progress toward self-sufficiency. COOPTER will apply its IAF grant toward resolving the fishers' access to the lakes via an agreement that brings them and the farmers into accord with each other and with state and federal authorities and into compliance with government regulations. Once the agreement is in place, COOPTER and the authorities will work with the fishers to develop plans to manage fishing in a way that yields sufficient income for 245 families and is compatible with the responsible use of the lakes' resources, so that fishing continues to provide a livelihood in these communities.—*David Fleischer, representative for Brazil*

Colombia

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 22

IAF commitment:
\$6,438,819

Counterpart commitment:
\$7,631,432

Total investment:
\$14,070,251

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, civic participation, conservation, corporate social investment, enterprise development, inclusion of Afro-Colombians, indigenous communities, women and young people.

New Grants

Asociación Movimiento Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Comunidades Afrocolombianas (Cimarrón), \$247,775 over three years; counterpart committed, \$171,129

Cimarrón will provide 300 Afro-Colombian women training toward their more active participation in local government and social-protection programs. It will help them become more aware of their rights and leadership potential and will create opportunities for them to serve on civic committees in 10 localities in Bogotá. (CO-535)

Fundación Mujer y Futuro (FMF), \$238,937 over three years; counterpart committed, \$204,768

FMF will train 300 women in the municipality of Bucaramanga toward more active participation in local government and social-protection programs available to them in compliance with municipal policy targeting gender equality. They

will also receive technical assistance and participate in exchanges. (CO-536)

Corporación Funámbulos (Funámbulos), \$161,721 over three years; counterpart committed, \$200,000

Funámbulos' training, technical support and subgrants will help young people in Bogotá between the ages of 17 and 28 develop artistic skills, form a network with other alumni of the program and participate more actively in their communities. The grant will benefit 90 young Colombians directly and 400 other community residents indirectly. (CO-537)

Supplemental Grants

Asociación de Cabildos de Caldono de la Zona Nororiente Ukawé'sx Nasa Cxahb (Asociación de Cabildos), \$25,578

Asociación de Cabildos will continue to work with young Colombians in indigenous Nasa *resguardos*, or autonomous territories, department of Cauca, to develop enterprises marketing meat, wool and organic coffee. (CO-517-A3)

Corporación Buen Ambiente (Corambiente), \$167,100 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$145,000

Corambiente will help farmers in nine associations in the departments of Santander and Norte de Santander mitigate the effects of climate change and will work to involve more young people in the associations. The project will benefit 420 Colombians directly and 340 indirectly. (CO-523-A1)

Corporación Red Colombiana de Organizaciones Comunitarias Ambientalmente Amigables—Red Colombia Verde (RCV), \$121,500 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$186,750

RCV plans to improve communication and collaboration among its 42 environmentally-responsible, community-based enterprises; apply a marketing strategy; and develop the business skills of farmers who want to work in tourism. (CO-524-A3)





Courtesy FUNAMBULOS

Life on Balance in Bogotá

More than 40 percent of bogotanos between the ages of 16 and 26 neither attend school nor work, a statistic that makes municipal authorities, academics and other adults worry about vulnerability to drug addiction and recruitment into prostitution and gangs. Programs geared at prevention usually focus on helping young men and women go back to school, enroll in vocational training or find employment—all important to leading a productive life and assuming the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. **Corporación Los Funámbulos** (Funámbulos) recognizes that young people also need to express themselves and learn to engage constructively with their surroundings.

Funámbulos was officially founded in 1997, but its roots reach back to 1980 when it first began bringing theater to Bogotá's poor neighborhoods. Gradually it opened its productions to include young people who lived in these areas. As they acquired skill and confidence, the leadership decided the developing artists should reach a broader audience. So the group formalized its operations, acquired space and eventually branched into additional media. Funámbulos' Latin name refers to the tightrope walkers of medieval Europe and, implicitly, the balance essential to their art. For Funámbulos, life itself is a balancing act and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can avoid missteps by honing their talent for theater, photography and video production. According to Funámbulos, creativity drives positive change and the arts can catalyze conflict resolution, constructive engagement with others and the transformation of our surroundings. Its youthful clientele includes abused children, prostitutes and the traumatized victims of armed violence.

Funámbulos will invest its IAF grant in developing 120 young photographers, video producers and theater artists and in funding their exhibits, video showings and performances. Participants must offer solid evidence of their interest in any one of these pursuits and of their commitment to undergo a year of professional-level training. A new Red de Colectivos grouping alumni spread throughout the city will allow them to communicate via a virtual platform on the Funámbulos website so they can share knowledge and funding opportunities, including the possibility of obtaining subgrants from Funámbulos' new fund. The young people who complete the program will be expected to share their work via events that they themselves organize in their respective communities. Funámbulos' staff hopes the accomplishments showcased and the contribution to neighborhood life will change perceptions of young people and lead to more trust and collaboration among the residents of Colombia's capital.—*Juanita Roca, representative for Colombia*

Costa Rica

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 10

IAF commitment:
\$1,770,070

Counterpart commitment:
\$2,739,058

Total investment:
\$4,509,128

Areas of emphasis:
Community foundations,
conservation, corporate
social responsibility, credit,
enterprise development, in-
clusion of young people and
indigenous Costa Ricans.

New Grants

**Asociación Fondo Comunitario Monte-
verde para el Desarrollo Sostenible (FCM),
\$154,570 over three years; counterpart com-
mitted, \$151,225**

FCM plans to raise funds from visitors and local businesses to finance small grants supporting community-based initiatives consistent with a strategic plan developed in collaboration with other organizations in the municipality of Monteverde. The project will involve 285 residents directly; an additional 6,000 will benefit from the eventual investment in grassroots development. (CR-338)

**Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios
Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social, R.L.
(CoopeSoliDar), \$211,100 over three years;
counterpart committed, \$153,200**

CoopeSoliDar will work with fishers in Dominicalito toward the community's management of a marine reserve, develop the Red de Pesca as a nationwide organization and educate the public on small-scale fishing along the Pacific coast. The project will directly involve 2,200 fishers and

their families and will eventually impact another 5,000 area residents. (CR-339)

**Fundación Integral Campesina (FINCA),
\$50,000 over two years; counterpart com-
mitted \$78,700**

FINCA will design and test procedures and criteria for administering a fund that offers seed capital to community credit businesses (CCBs) owned by residents and grassroots associations. The CCBs extend loans to members based on rules defined during a training process coordinated by FINCA, which will assess whether the investment in CCBs yields sufficient income to cover its institutional costs. The project will benefit 200 Costa Ricans. (CR-340)

**Fundación Neotrópica (FN), \$49,450 over 18
months; counterpart committed, \$32,650**

FN will work with seven community associations in the Corredor Biológico Pájaro Campana (CBPC) to develop a plan for low-impact, community-managed tourism in the area extending from the Monteverde cloud forest to the Gulf of Nicoya. Approximately 50 community residents will participate. (CR-341)

Courtesy FCM

Treefrog in Monteverde's cloud forest.



Angling to Benefit Ecosystems and Fishing Families

Ballena Marine National Park, which extends from the Osa Peninsula and into the Pacific Ocean, ranks among the world's most biologically diverse wilderness areas. Of its more than 15,500 acres, 13,300 are under water. Its name refers to the humpback whales that migrate thousands of miles from the Poles to their breeding grounds offshore.

The community of Dominicalito lies close to the entrance to the park and its residents use their boats, nets and hooks to reel in their livelihood. Before the recent expansion of the park forced them to relocate to the other side of the highway that runs along the coast, these families had made their home on the beach for as long as anyone recalls. The expansion also reduced their fishing grounds and made access more difficult. New restrictions on facilities for cold storage put the fishers at the mercy of the intermediaries willing to purchase the catch before it spoils but at rock-bottom prices. Residents of Dominicalito understand the need to protect natural resources, but expansion of the park has jeopardized their livelihood, resulting in a scramble for odd jobs to make ends meet and straining relations with park authorities. Meanwhile, industrial-scale shrimpers trawl within 50 meters of the shoreline, unfettered by regulation, exacerbating the community's resentment.

Ana Carmona



Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social

R.L. (CoopeSoliDar) received an IAF grant in 2010 to work on behalf of fishers in Tárcoles, a community 75 kilometers north of Dominicalito. CoopeSoliDar facilitated mediation between the fishers and the Costa Rican government, developed effective monitoring and evaluation systems, and educated fishers and the public on responsible fishing—all directed toward the eventual designation of the beach in Tárcoles as a marine reserve under community management. Among the benefits accruing since the community took over have been more regulation of commercial fishing, grants awarded to enable fishers to upgrade their equipment, and an increase in the species that thrive in the local habitat, including whales that have returned in force after a 10-year absence.

CoopeSoliDar now wants to replicate its success in Dominicalito where it plans to use its new IAF grant to work with the fishers organized as Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales de Dominicalito Mar Nuestro (APAD). The award will fund equipment and education and will also contribute toward the development of the Red de Pesca Responsable [Network for Responsible Fishing], whose six member-communities apply and advocate for sound fishing practices. The process toward the long-term goal, another community-managed marine reserve rich in resources, should work to preserve small-scale fishing as a way of life rich in tradition.—*Amanda Hess, program staff assistant*

Dominican Republic

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 9

IAF commitment:
\$2,752,957

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,607,116

Total investment:
\$6,360,073

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, conservation and resource management, education (primary and secondary), cooperation with Haitian organizations, development of young leaders, prevention of family violence.

New Grants

Junta de Asociaciones Campesinas Rafael Fernández Domínguez, Inc. (JACARAFE), \$285,370 over two years; counterpart committed, \$183,130

JACARAFE will work with five member associations from the communities of Velot, Haiti, and Jengibre, Rincón and Horqueta, in the Dominican Republic, toward ensuring a reliable food supply, improving forest cover and reducing erosion through the development of agroforestry on the northern border. The project will directly involve 100 families, 50 from Haiti and 50 from the Dominican Republic, and will impact another 277 families indirectly. (DR-346)

GUAKIA AMBIENTE, \$312,930 over three years; counterpart committed, \$1,261,595

GUAKIA AMBIENTE will work with the residents of Mata de Café, Arroyo Frío, El Higuito, and Chinguelo, in the central part of the country, to construct, maintain and use community-run micro hydroelectric systems that generate energy from the natural flow of water. The clean and reliable source of electricity will benefit 400 residents and their community organizations directly and another 2,400 Dominicans indirectly. (DR-347)

Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples San Rafael (Cooperativa San Rafael), \$316,505 over three years; counterpart committed, \$345,615

Cooperativa San Rafael, located in Peralta, Azua, plans to work with member farmers to improve the quality of their processed coffee so that they can access niche markets. It will install a centralized dry mill; train farmers to apply organic practices and sort and classify beans; provide materials and financing to improve plantations; promote crop diversification; open a store selling basic goods; and start a seed bank. Approximately 250 farmers will directly benefit and another 1,250 residents of Peralta will benefit indirectly. (DR-348)

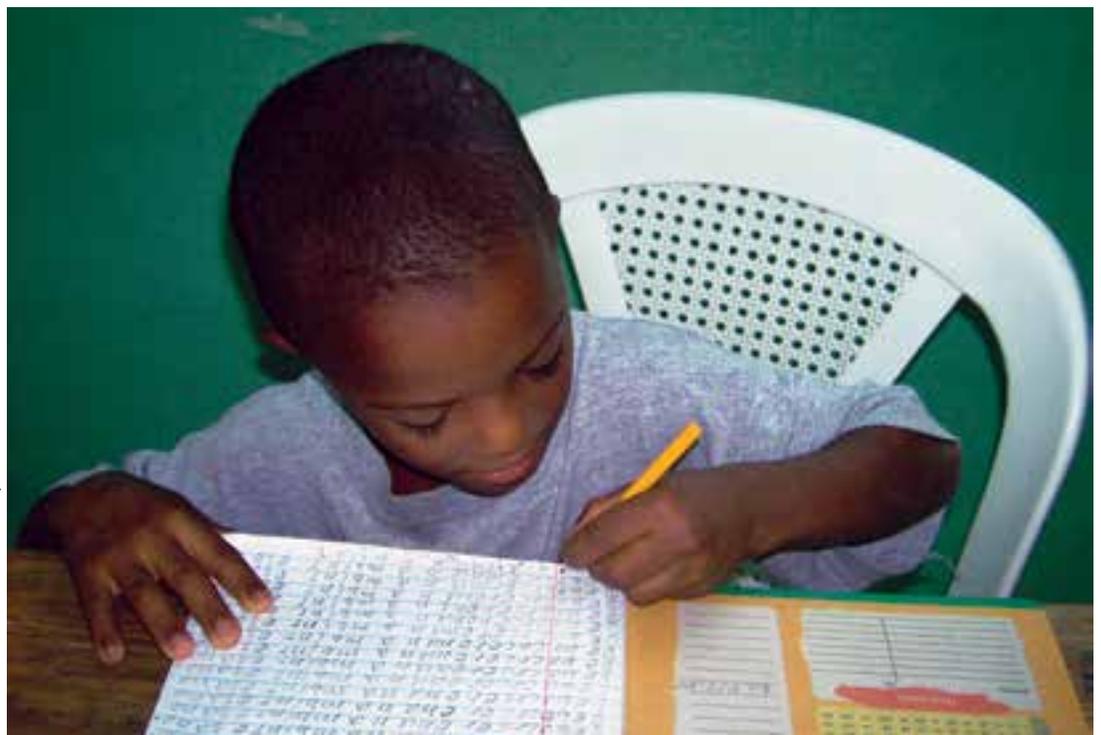
Supplemental Grant

Movimiento para el Auto-Desarrollo Internacional de la Solidaridad (MAIS), \$121,726 over two years; counterpart committed, \$70,820

MAIS will expand its academic classes and skills training to reach more children and adolescents of Puerto Plata at risk of dropping out of school. An additional 4,950 adolescents as well as parents, teachers and others will receive complementary training to raise their awareness of children's rights and improve their economic condition. (DR-341-A1)



Courtesy MAIS



Communities Power Up

Without access to electricity, families in the communities of Mata de Café, Arroyo Frío, El Higuito and Chinguelo, located in central Dominican Republic, burn wood and kerosene for light, which contaminates the air, causes respiratory problems, destroys trees and can create a fire hazard. Insufficient light limits the hours children can study, exacerbating illiteracy and the school drop-out rate. Without a reliable and affordable source of electricity, communities cannot develop alternatives to subsistence agriculture; new enterprises that depend on machinery and technology never materialize.

Micro hydroelectric systems that tap the natural energy of rivers have no direct emissions, can be operated with relative ease, require minimal maintenance and produce the same wattage as a traditional connection to the national grid. **GUAKIA AMBIENTE** is a nongovernmental organization founded in 2008 to bring rural communities development compatible with the responsible use of resources. It grew out of an initiative funded by a small grant from the United Nations Development Programme, one of the few donors financing grassroots groups in the Dominican Republic, which had been supporting access to hydroelectricity for 15 years and will contribute toward the project. What distinguishes the micro hydroelectricity systems introduced by GUAKIA AMBIENTE from others in operation throughout the world is an approach centered on *aprender haciendo*, or learning through doing, to teach the skills necessary to install, use and maintain them. GUAKIA AMBIENTE's staff, which includes agronomists and a specialist in community-managed micro hydroelectric systems, has years of experience offering training and technical support throughout the Dominican Republic, but the collaborating grassroots groups drive the process. According to Michela Izzo, executive director of GUAKIA AMBIENTE, the goal is for the groups' members to manage all aspects of their respective installations, including the finances. Their involvement in operations means that they understand the direct correlation between electric power and the environment. They know, for example, that if forest cover is increased near the water source, the flow is stronger and the power is intensified.

Residents of Mata de Café, Arroyo Frío, El Higuito and Chinguelo had been organizing around their need for electricity long before they approached GUAKIA AMBIENTE, and have saved for years to develop the infrastructure to house the micro hydroelectric systems they will build with their IAF grant. In addition to learning to install and maintain the system and use energy efficiently, they will receive training in climate change and conservation practices and will begin to reforest watershed areas. Each grassroots association will develop regulations applicable to usage and payment as well as a plan for funding future initiatives. One resident of Arroyo Frío expects to open a beauty salon and provide services to ecotourists. Once up and running, the systems should inspire similar bright ideas for years to come.—*Amanda Hess, program staff assistant*

Amanda Hess



Ecuador

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 10

IAF commitment:
\$1,985,590

Counterpart commitment:
\$1,922,530

Total investment:
\$3,908,120

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, enterprise development, inclusion of African descendants, indigenous Ecuadorians, women and young people.

New Grants

Movimiento Juvenil Paz Urbana, \$50,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$69,930

MJPU will offer training in technical skills to at least 100 former and current members of gangs, help 70 of them find employment or acquire vocational skills, and will hire 30 to work for its own enterprises in advertising, welding, computer literacy and programs providing access to online courses in secondary school subjects. MJPU will also organize sports and cultural events, including a Peace Festival, toward changing the perception of young people in Guayaquil. (EC-428)

Asociación Fe y Alegría Ecuador (FyA), \$50,000 over two years, counterpart committed: \$45,740

FyA will work to develop its program Cuéntame-lo Todo Ibarra targeting 400 children and adolescents and at least 50 adults in the neighborhood

of Alpachaca, Ibarra. Boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 and their parents will participate in reading, arts and crafts, and team sports. The program will use music and sports to deter young people between the ages of 13 and 25 from substance abuse, crime, and early pregnancy. Some parents will be trained to assist with both groups. (EC-429)

Asociación de Mujeres de Juntas Parroquiales Rurales de Ecuador (AMJUPRE), \$238,920 over three years; counterpart committed, \$180,540

AMJUPRE will offer 350 indigenous and African descendent women training that enables their more active participation in the economy and civic life of the provinces of Esmeraldas and Pastaza, including through public funding of their proposals for community development. The project will also benefit 1,400 family members. (EC-430)



Courtesy MJPU



Courtesy MJPU



Courtesy FyA

Approaches to Addressing Violence

Poverty, inequality, access to firearms, substance abuse, even law enforcement have been blamed for the violence that plagues cities throughout Ecuador. Murders account for just part of a brutal pattern that spans assault, sexual abuse and psychological trauma. Like the victims, the perpetrators are often under 30, which has led to generalized fear and suspicion of young people.

Two of the IAF's three new Ecuadorian grantees serve young people living in a context of violence. **Movimiento Juvenil Paz Urbana** (MJPU), founded in 2008 by former gang members and other youths, works in Guayaquil, estimated to be home to more than 1,000 gangs. Once associated with former IAF grantee partner Ser Paz, the members who now comprise MJPU succeeded in bringing five gangs into a healthy dialogue with a community exhausted from crime. MJPU will use its IAF grant to begin to build on this connection by offering training in computer literacy and access to high-school classes online to young Ecuadorians between the ages of 15 and 29, many of them gang members or otherwise at risk. A program in conflict resolution will involve municipal officials, representatives of civil society and media professionals, all of whom have a stake in creating a safe urban environment. A Peace Festival will invite participation community-wide, which MJPU's staff hopes will encourage a change in the perception of its youthful constituents.

Asociación Fe y Alegría Ecuador (FyA) works the neighborhood of Alpachaca, in Ibarra, two hours from the Colombian border. It focuses on girls and boys ages 12 and under, when intervention yields the best returns in terms of encouraging good choices later. Its programs in arts, crafts, reading and recreation, often conducted in the streets, have been providing children safety and structure throughout the afternoon. IAF funding will allow FyA to take this "mobile school" into some of the most dangerous parts of Alpachaca and also to approach the adolescents and adults who congregate to watch the children absorbed in the activities. It plans to offer the cohort between the ages of 13 and 25 music and sports as alternatives to drugs and crime; training in life skills, human rights, and financial literacy will be available to older adults.

MJPU and FyA are both trying to build resilience in marginal communities suffering from chronic violence. Their efforts should yield lessons for the IAF, its grantee partners and other donors and organizations working in similar difficult circumstances.—*Amanda Hess, IAF program staff assistant*

El Salvador

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 17

IAF commitment:
\$3,871,241

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,175,794

Total investment:
\$7,047,035

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, enterprise development, partnerships with the diaspora, inclusion of women and young people.



Courtesy ASALI

New Grants

Asociación Centro para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos “Madeleine Lagadec” (CPDH), \$49,125 over one year; counterpart committed, \$28,775

CPDH will engage residents who were resettled in five communities in San Vicente department in a process to draft action plans that directly benefit 250 Salvadorans, many of them single mothers and young adults, and impact at least 1,250 other residents. (ES-260)

Asociación Cooperativa de Producción Pesquera Reyes del Sol de R.L. (Reyes del Sol), \$152,405 over two years; counterpart committed, \$104,110

Reyes del Sol will provide training, technical advice, equipment and capital toward improving its members' production, storage, processing and marketing of fish, and will develop its management and access to markets. The grant will benefit the cooperative's 60 members directly and another 325 Salvadorans in San Francisco Menéndez, Ahuachapán, indirectly. (ES-261)

Fundación Santa Teresa (FUNDATERE), \$216,480 over two years; counterpart committed, \$100,990

FUNDATERE will work with residents of 15 communities in Santiago Nonualco, La Paz, to improve their organization; diversify vegetable, fruit and livestock production; and increase the involvement of U.S.-based diaspora organizations in their communities of origin. The project will benefit 150 Salvadorans directly and 750 indirectly. (ES-262)

Asociación Cooperativa de Producción Agropecuaria “San Raymundo” (SAN RAYMUNDO), \$208,675 over two years; counterpart committed: \$188,950

SAN RAYMUNDO, a coffee cooperative in Ahuachapán, will develop its administrative skills, update its equipment and provide its members training toward improving processing and sales. It will also test techniques related to

organic production and develop the infrastructure of its tourism center and the services offered. The increased income and sound practices will benefit 300 Salvadorans directly and another 1,500 indirectly. (ES-263)

Asociación Comunal Comité de Desarrollo Turístico de Meanguera (CDT-Meanguera), \$48,175 over eight months; counterpart committed, \$15,905

CDT-Meanguera will work with Asociación Cooperativa de Comercialización, Producción Artesanal, Agropecuaria e Industrial to develop its administration, partnerships and a plan for community-led tourism. The training, exchanges, outreach and resulting proposal will benefit 100 residents of Meanguera, Morazán, directly and 500 indirectly. (ES-264)

Supplemental Grants

Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos (Pro-Búsqueda), \$256,085 over two years; counterpart committed, \$164,420

Working with Salvadorans who were affected by disappearances as a result of the civil war, Pro-Búsqueda will expand its activities related to food security, microbusinesses and the environment; its vocational and leadership training for young adults; and its physical space. It expects to reach an additional 180 farmers and microentrepreneurs. (ES-245-A3)

Asociación de Desarrollo Comunal de la Isla de Méndez (ADESCOIM), \$66,065

ADESCOIM will expand its program of fishing and ecotourism in the Biosphere Reserve of the Bahía de Jiquilisco and work with young Salvadorans to improve their production and marketing of crafts. (ES-249-A1)

Asociación Acuícola Lago de Ilopango (ASALI), \$40,545; counterpart committed, \$24,600

ASALI will develop its member fishers' technical skills in producing and marketing tilapia. It will add fish feed to its product line and use the revenue to defray costs. (ES-251-A1)

A Cooperative Builds Cohesion

A sociación Cooperativa de Producción Agropecuaria “San Raymundo” (SAN RAYMUNDO) is a farmers’ cooperative in Ahuachapán, a community nestled in the hills between Tacuba and the Guatemalan border. Members and their families live on 629 manzanas, or 1,100 acres, granted to SAN RAYMUNDO during the agrarian reforms of 1980. The reforms initially provided for cooperatives to acquire title to the land distributed and take possession, but subsequent legislation would have allowed SAN RAYMUNDO to divide its holdings into parcels and assign them to individuals. Instead members opted for “economic unity,” working to accomplish together what no farmer could alone, which has turned out to be an advantage in obtaining sales contracts and loans.

Sustaining the cooperative required dedication to shared goals. “I was born here, grew up here and I am going to stay here. I am not going to emigrate,” manager Felix Chinchilla declared, reflecting the co-op’s commitment to community and an obstinacy that has proved stronger than the headwinds SAN RAYMUNDO has faced. The group weathered the 2001 coffee crisis by branching into aquaculture, tourism services and growing vegetables. Dollarization the same year made agricultural inputs more expensive, reducing already slim margins. Many cooperatives were forced to disband, sometimes selling their land to finance emigration to the United States. Those that held on, as SAN RAYMUNDO did, survived as a result of their members’ shared history and perseverance.

For years SAN RAYMUNDO has emphasized diversification as a bulwark against natural disasters, inflation and fluctuations in the price paid for commodities. Toward this end, it coordinates its members’ production of cane, coffee, grains, fish and vegetables and their management of a tourism center. Participating farmers receive a daily wage and an annual dividend. The local refinery that purchases their cane harvest also contributes toward their health care and housing. SAN RAYMUNDO is exploring agro-ecological practices as a means to improve efficiency and well-being. A visit to IAF grantee partner Cooperative Marias 93 helped SAN RAYMUNDO formulate a plan to test the application of organic methods in its own coffee fields. Members’ IAF-funded participation in *Let’s Talk Roya*, a conference sponsored by the Oregon-based nonprofit Sustainable Harvest International, offered an opportunity to learn to combat coffee rust, a fungus afflicting the crop throughout Central America.

SAN RAYMUNDO will use its IAF grant to update its equipment, develop its members’ administrative skills and provide training in processing and sales so that the cooperative retains a larger share of its revenue from coffee. It will test techniques related to organic production that protect farmland, lower costs and improve health and will disseminate effective practices. Cooperative members also plan to improve the infrastructure and services of their tourism center, an important source of jobs, income and community cohesion.—*Seth Jesse, representative for El Salvador*



Luis Gonzalez

Co-op president Mario Rodríguez and the co-op’s mechanized wet coffee mill.

Guatemala

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 18

IAF commitment:
\$3,290,253

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,333,061

Total investment:
\$6,623,314

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, community security, conservation, disaster mitigation, enterprise development, inclusion of indigenous Guatemalans, women and young people.

New Grants

Asociación para el Desarrollo Socio-Cultural y Agropecuario Kaqchikel (ASDEA-K), \$183,410 over three years; counterpart committed, \$91,160

ASDEA-K will train representatives from 29 indigenous communities in San Martín Jilotepeque to use traditional and contemporary practices to prepare for and reduce the effects of natural disasters and will encourage the municipality to fund their application in other communities. (GT-311)

Alcaldía Maya de Canillá, Quiché (AMC), \$34,030 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$8,920

AMC's staff will participate in training that develops the skills necessary to manage its office efficiently, raise funds and negotiate successfully. Additional sessions will help the staff determine the most appropriate legal status for AMC and become more informed on the rights of indigenous Guatemalans. (GT-312)

Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala (AANMG), \$190,235 over three years; counterpart committed, \$190,300

AANMG will work to enable farmers in the community of Se'konon to obtain clear title to land, diversify crops and develop a more reliable food supply. The results will benefit 300 families. (GT-313)

Asociación Agropecuaria y Artesanal para el Desarrollo, El Buen Sembrador (EBS), \$187,630 over three years; counterpart committed, \$136,267

EBS will work with member families to increase production of peas, broccoli and carrots for sale

to buyers who pay better prices for volume purchases. Staff will receive the training necessary to improve operations, encourage the participation of women, develop a business plan and identify new buyers. The work will benefit 150 Guatemalans directly and 900 indirectly. (GT-314)

Asociación de Comunidades Campesinas Indígenas para el Desarrollo Integral de Petén (ACDIP), \$178,555 over three years; counterpart committed, \$132,215

ACDIP will inform residents of 150 communities in the department of Petén of the benefits and risks of current programs to clear title to land and will introduce methods to manage land that are consistent with indigenous practices. It will develop educational materials in Spanish and Q'eqchi' for the residents, government officials and international donors. (GT-315)

Supplemental Grants

Amigas del Sol (ADS) \$ 50,330; counterpart committed, \$28,975

Selected staff will build 50 additional fuel-efficient stoves to use when sunlight is insufficient to power solar ovens and will be trained in mobilizing resources. (GT-296-A3)

Federación Comercializadora de Café Especial de Guatemala (FECCEG), \$14,600 over six month; counterpart committed, \$1,200

FECCEG will develop a plan to study the market for a coffee shop and will assist other IAF grantees with treating and preventing roya, a disease harmful to coffee plants. (GT-298-A4)

Asociación de Mujeres del Altiplano (AMA) \$69,140 over two years; counterpart committed, \$46,840

AMA will develop its strategy to identify new buyers for its products, including through attendance at trade fairs in Guatemala and abroad. (GT-301-A1)



Mark Caicedo

A solar oven under construction by Amigas del Sol.



Residents of Se'konon.

Land for the Q'eqchi' in Alta Verapaz

Unlike the Aztecs and Inca who lived under highly centralized rule, the indigenous peoples of Meso-America had to be conquered polity by polity. When the Spanish conquistador Pedro de Alvarado arrived in Guatemala in the 16th century, he easily took many of these city states. The Q'eqchi', who were spread through what today is Alta Verapaz, Izabal and southern Petén, managed to evade his army for a time and hold onto their social cohesion. Eventually, however, what de Alvarado could not accomplish by force, the Dominican order, led by Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, achieved via a 10-year campaign that resulted in the wholesale conversion of the Q'eqchi' to Christianity.

By 1544, the Q'eqchi' way of life, including their concept of holding land as a community asset, was no longer practiced and Q'eqchi' men and women had been pressed into the system of forced labor on which the conquerors built their fortunes. Guatemala's independence from Spain in 1821 did nothing to change conditions for the country's indigenous peoples—conditions that would lead to 36 years of civil war in the 20th century. While the Peace Accords of 1996 that ended the conflict included promises to restore the land and rights of indigenous Guatemalans, today, nearly two decades later, the circumstances of the Q'eqchi' have not significantly improved. In fact, the 21st century has brought new challenges that pressure Q'eqchi' communities off their land: narcotraffic, cattle-ranching, the cultivation of African palm on an industrial scale and plans for highways and massive hydroelectric dams.

The IAF has defined access to land as a priority for its portfolio in Guatemala, along with the legal ownership that brings permanence to possession and control. For almost 10 years, **Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala** (AANMG), comprised of some 110 Mayan lawyers and notaries, has successfully represented indigenous communities in controversies arising out of claims to land and natural resources and has helped them assert their right to govern themselves using traditional Mayan structures. AANMG will invest its IAF grant toward working with Se'konon, a Q'eqchi' community of 300 families located in Alta Verapaz, to obtain title to the land the community occupies as well as toward helping farmers diversify their crops to develop a more reliable food supply. The process of clearing title will bring residents into dialogue with government authorities, businesses and other landowners, who are expected to reach consensus on the correct interpretation of the applicable provisions in the Guatemalan Constitution, the Peace Accords and the International Labor Organization's Convention 169. Once the community is recognized as the legal owner of its territory, Se'konon residents can manage the land by applying Q'eqchi' practices. AANMG expects this to result in more effective organization of the community and in an incentive for residents to remain where they are and contribute to the development of their municipality.—José Toasa, representative for Belize, Guatemala and Panama

Haiti

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 11

IAF commitment:
\$3,012,685

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,378,807

Total investment:
\$6,391,492

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture and food security, arts and music, enterprise development, development of leaders to include women and young people, vocational training, partnerships with the diaspora and private sector.

Jenny Petrow



Bread-like cassave, above, made from manioc flour, right, in OGKPS' bakery.

New Grants

Association Planteurs Jonc-Tiby (ASPJ), \$206,720 over three years; counterpart committed, \$23,795

ASPJ will work with its members to increase their production and sale of vegetables by offering training in agriculture; distributing seeds, tools and other inputs; constructing a storage facility and processing center; developing a credit fund for women merchants; identifying clients for volume purchases; and introducing practices related to soil conservation and reforestation. The project will benefit 650 families organized into 38 grassroots groups in Camp-Perrin in the Sud department. (HA-217)

Lakou Lapè, \$49,985 over one year; counterpart committed, \$283,300

Lakou Lapè will develop its administration and structure itself as a national peace-building organization while working with Port-au-Prince neighborhoods to prevent violence and resolve conflict. The project will directly involve 400 residents and benefit another 125,000. (HA-218)

Fondation Sant Pon Ayiti (SPA), \$272,212 over three years; counterpart committed, \$77,646

SPA will work with Troupe Culturelle Dahomey (Troupe Dahomey) to expand its repertoire, document and disseminate traditional Haitian dance and music, and promote its work in Haiti and the Caribbean. The troupe should become more skilled in technique, performance, sound recording, management and business. SPA will increase the exposure of Troupe Dahomey and of other musical groups across Haiti, improving access to affordable studio space and encouraging cultural pride, especially among young people. Some 500 Haitians will benefit directly and another 10,000 indirectly. (HA-219)

Kowòdinasyon pou Developman Solidè Sidès (KODESS), \$50,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$37,650

KODESS will work to further develop four grassroots groups in Haiti's Southeast department, to ensure a more reliable food source and reduce vulnerability to natural disasters. Approximately 1,500 residents of the communities of Baint, La Vallée, Meyer and Montagne La Voute in Jacmel will benefit directly and another 3,150 indirectly. (HA-220)

Supplemental Grant

Oganizasyon Gwoupman Kominotè Pawas Sakrekè (OGKPS), \$27,190 over six months; counterpart committed, \$21,130

OGKPS will provide training, technical assistance, tools and plant material to 100 manioc farmers near Cap-Haitian to boost production and the supply of ingredients for its bakery/cassaverie. (HA-214-A3)





Nan Cocteau residents vow to work together.

Toward Peace in the Lakou

The Creole term *lakou* refers to the grouping of homes around a space where the extended family interacts. While the word comes from the French *la cour*, or courtyard, the concept is rooted in Africa. It was revived after Haiti won its independence from France in the hope that the support system implicit in the *lakou* would provide a bulwark against the return of the plantation. Over time the *lakou* took on a spiritual dimension, and in post-independence Haiti it came to represent the notion of rural resistance to the abuse of authority.

Lakou Lapè was launched in 2012 as a program of The Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Saint Martin (3PSM). Both Lakou Lapè and 3PSM emerged from the work of Concern Worldwide and the Glenree Center for Peace and Reconciliation, two Irish nongovernmental organizations. Representatives of Concern Worldwide had been unable to deliver aid in the neighborhood of Saint Martin in Port-au-Prince due to an uptick in kidnapping and gang-related killings after the 2004 coup that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They invited the Glenree Center, which had been involved in peacebuilding during the conflict in Northern Ireland known as The Troubles, to apply its expertise toward mitigating violence in the neighborhood and restoring social relations. Distinguishing features of the collaboration included invitations to representatives of Haitian civil society to visit Ireland and Northern Ireland and learn about the peace process there. The visitors returned so impressed that they founded Lakou Lapè to focus on a similar attempt at peacebuilding in Haiti.

Lakou Lapè currently works in Saint Martin-Bel Air, Martissant and Nan Cocteau—neighborhoods in the Haitian capital where a new generation of *baz*, or gangs, appeared soon after the aid in response to the earthquake of 2010 came to an end, and with it opportunities for young people. The organization, whose members represent various sectors of Haitian society, addresses violence by encouraging dialogue among a diverse cross-section of residents from grassroots groups, *baz*, businesses and churches. Lakou Lapè facilitates the process but the participants control the subject matter, and whatever agreement results originates from their work. An empty chair at the table signals that the representative of any sector of the community not yet identified has a place.

IAF funding will allow Lakou Lapè to become legally constituted and to form a steering committee whose members will be in charge of articulating the organization's vision, mission and values. Those elements will guide the approach to diffusing violence and its adaptation to each of the communities in which Lakou Lapè has chosen to work. As a means to prevent conflict, the group will collaborate with communities on developing early warning systems that can help identify potentially violent situations. Vulnerable young Haitians will be able to take advantage of workshops on peacebuilding and leadership. The goal is for Lakou Lapè to become Haiti's go-to peacebuilding expert and to take its approach nationwide, so that Haitians everywhere can live in peace.—*Alexis Toussaint, program staff assistant*

Honduras

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 8

IAF commitment:
\$1,817,631

Counterpart commitment:
\$2,389,272

Total investment:
\$4,206,903

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, access to credit, conservation, education and vocational training, enterprise development, inclusion of indigenous Hondurans and young people.

New Grants

Grupo Güinopeño Ambientalista (Grupo Guia), \$203,950 over three years; counterpart committed \$62,625

Grupo Guia will provide training and related technical assistance in communities in the municipalities of Yauype and Maraita in southern Honduras to help farmers and their families apply conservation practices, manage their water supply, plant gardens and raise small livestock for sale and household use. The work toward improving the food supply, income and the general quality of life is expected to benefit 190 Hondurans directly and another 1,300 indirectly. (HO-257)

Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO), \$49,990 over nine months; counterpart committed: \$28,000

ODECO will work with the Cumbre Mundial de Afrodescendientes (PCMA) to develop a proposal for a university managed for and by African descendants, advocate for a permanent Afro-descendent forum within the Organization of American States, draft an agenda for the near-term and a plan to raise the resources to fund the work, and to help PCMA become legally constituted as a nonprofit. This initial phase of

the PCMA will involve 100 African descendants representing 18 organizations from throughout the world. (HO-264)

Supplemental Grants

Centro de Educación Vocacional Grupo Juvenil Dion (GJD), \$104,570 over two years; counterpart committed, \$72,148

GJD will improve its training for 360 at-risk youths from Tegucigalpa and other communities as well as its assistance with identifying employment opportunities and will help parents raise their standard of living as it works toward becoming a premier center for vocational education, job placement and enterprise development. (HO-244-A6)

Consejo de Desarrollo del Sector Social de la Economía Regional de Intibucá (CODESSE-Intibucá), \$96,000 over two years; counterpart committed, \$68,200

CODESSE-Intibucá will develop up to 25 worker-owned enterprises selected from among its member-businesses, improving the income of 360 Hondurans of Lenca descent, including some with special needs. (HO-252-A3)

GJD student tailor.



A CODESSE business.

Mark Caicedo



Contending with Drought in the Southern Backlands

As the sun rises, the mist seems to retreat from Güinope, a town nestled in the lushly green mountains of El Paraíso.

Grupo Güinopeño Ambientalista (Grupo Guia) is headquartered in this delightful setting but it works in Choluteca and Francisco Morazán, a short drive and a world away in the barren belt stretching through southern Honduras. Droughts seem to occur there as points on a continuum rather than as episodic events, and farmland has suffered from decades of harmful practices, including the abuse of chemical fertilizers, which has accelerated desertification. In recent years tropical storms originating in the Pacific Ocean as the result of climate change regularly whip the area, further eroding the soil.



Courtesy Grupo Guia

Thirty years ago, Augustín Pio Camey, Grupo Guia's founder and director, fled ethnic violence in his native Guatemala and sought refuge in Honduras. Through his work with Vecinos Mundiales/Guatemala helping disadvantaged farmers adopt practices compatible with the responsible use of the environment, he was already on collegial terms with the staff of the organization's Honduran affiliate, a former IAF grantee. Once in Honduras, Camey began collaborating with Vecinos Mundiales/Honduras to reach similarly distressed farmers in the parched departments to the south. In 1997, he formed, which became legally constituted 1999. Its small but skilled staff has worked throughout southern Honduras in collaboration with other organizations. A reputation for effectiveness has prompted invitations to train professionals and technicians in other Latin American countries. Grupo Guia operates in remote communities that government programs have long since abandoned or completely neglected. Households in these communities are often on the margin of the cash economy; some handle less than \$50 a year. Malnutrition is common and potable water is scarce, contributing to the prevalence of intestinal disease and dehydration.

Grupo Guia will use its IAF grant to build on its work with the hard-pressed farmers in Maraita and Yauyupe, communities located in the sun-scorched backlands. To improve nutrition and income, technicians will help residents clear their land of stunted vegetation so that they can plant household gardens and begin to raise small animals. Local species that have fallen out of use will be revived to supply seed banks. Farmers will build catchments for rain and develop underused sources for drinking water and the new drip irrigation systems intended to support their eventual year-round production of basic grains for consumption and income. The key to success lies in a plan to train small groups of interested individuals who will then pass the knowledge acquired to their neighbors, so that responsible methods become routinely practiced on the farms in these communities.—*John Reed, representative for Honduras*



Jamaica

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment:
\$608,355

Counterpart commitment:
\$1,609,700

Total investment:
\$2,218,055

Areas of emphasis:
Conservation,
environmental justice.

New Grant

Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), \$208,355 over two years; counterpart committed, \$77,200

JET's training and legal assistance should enable five organizations representing residents of Bull Bay, Clarendon, St. Ann and Cockpit Country to monitor and manage the impact

of mining and quarrying on their respective communities as well as advocate for more effective regulation of the industry and public input on operations. The project, undertaken in partnership with The Access Initiative (TAI) of the World Resources Institute, will benefit 350 residents of these communities directly and another 16,300 indirectly. (JA-114)

Jamaica's national bird, the red-billed streamertail, finds a habitat in Cockpit Country, right.

Ted Lee Eubanks (FERMATA)





Jeremy Francis

Standing Up for the Environment

Bob Marley used music to defend the weak, lift the downtrodden and fight oppression. How appropriate, then, that people in Nine Mile, his hometown in St. Ann, would join forces to “get up, stand up” for a once-bucolic landscape now pocked with bauxite pits. Mining has displaced residents from Nine Mile and affected their ability to earn a living from agriculture. With support from the **Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)**, individual residents have successfully negotiated compensation from the mining company. Now Nine Mile United District Citizens Association (NUDCA) is working with JET to clarify the rights of local landholders and to explore alternative sources of income, including greenhouse farming.

Anyone who visits Jamaica is impressed with the island’s beauty and natural resources. Minerals that lie beneath tropical forests, crystalline streams and rolling hills brought in an estimated 5 percent of GDP in 2011, but their extraction has taken a toll on ecosystems and communities that includes erosion, loss of biodiversity, and compromised air and water quality. Laws intended to protect the environment and elicit public input on mining and quarrying operations fall short of international standards and are not strictly enforced. Communities lack information on activities proposed and their potential impact. Residents are not adequately engaged in decisions about mining and therefore cannot influence them. With this IAF grant, JET and its partners—the Windsor Resource Center, The Access Initiative and Global Community Monitor—will help Nine Mile and four other communities develop the ability to measure and monitor the impact of mining and quarrying and also access information in support of their advocacy for more effective regulation and a public consultation process.

JET will engage each community on its own terms. Residents of Nine Mile will address the consequences of mining. Led by Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs), residents of Cockpit Country, whose original-growth limestone forests extend across west-central Jamaica, will work with JET to resolve a boundary dispute complicated by the grants of licenses to prospect. Their goal is the designation of Cockpit Country as a protected area based on its historical significance as a refuge for maroons; the lush habitat that it offers countless species of fauna, including the black-billed parrot, the Jamaican boa and the giant swallow-tail butterfly; and its abundance of fresh water, which supplies 40 percent of the country’s needs. Concerned citizens in Clarendon, a stone’s throw from an alumina refinery, and Bull Bay, located in the shadow of a cement plant, will focus on their worsening air and water quality and the effect on health. They will learn to collect and analyze soil, water and air samples and to apply the results toward more responsible practices in both industries.—*Jenny Petrow, representative for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica*

Latin America (Regional)

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment:
\$937,011

Counterpart commitment:
\$594,483

Total investment:
\$1,531,494

Areas of emphasis:
Training for practitioners,
research, inclusion of
African descendants and
indigenous peoples.

Supplemental Grants

DELNET, \$151,920 over two years; counterpart committed, \$99,980

Training materials for the International Labour Organization's Delnet Program will be adapted to feedback obtained from surveys; 185 additional partial scholarships will be available; and three new courses will cover strategic planning and project design, sustainable tourism, and development with a focus on disaster mitigation. Approximately 185 individuals will benefit directly. (LA-160-A9)

Universidad de la Cordillera/Observatorio del Racismo en Bolivia (UNICOR), \$16,404; counterpart committed, \$8,000

UNICOR, as coordinator of the Red de Acción e Investigación Anti-Racista en las Américas (RAIAR), will organize a conference in Rio de Janeiro that will bring together RAIAR members from Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil and Guatemala to share the findings of their research and to develop unified strategies for combating racism on a hemispheric level. (LA-174-A2)

Ayda Chura and Javier Sanjurjo Guadama of Dorado Chico, Los Yungas, a Bolivian community where the majority of the residents are of African descent, celebrate the Fiesta de San Benito honoring the most prominent Afro-European saint, St. Benedict the Moor.

Linda Kolko



Mexico

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 27

IAF commitment:
\$5,326,318

Counterpart commitment:
\$14,520,310

Total investment:
\$19,846,628

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, community foundations and museums, corporate social responsibility, credit programs, education, enterprise development, forest management, land use, inclusion of indigenous peoples.

New Grants

Fundación Merced (FM), \$324,925 over three years; counterpart committed, \$2,076,156

FM will develop a program of challenge grants for community foundations supporting grassroots initiatives, will conduct training in grantmaking for their staff, will offer related technical assistance and will disseminate what has been learned and accomplished. The project should directly impact 14,900 residents in 14 localities and benefit 120,000 other Mexicans indirectly. The C.S. Mott Foundation is co-funding this grant. (ME-521)

Alianza de Fundaciones Comunitarias México, A.C. (Comunalia), \$41,620 over one year; counterpart committed, \$52,630

Comunalia will engage 50 employees from its network of 14 member foundations in designing a plan for the network that draws upon the principles of grassroots development and its members' grassroots practices. The project, co-funded by the IAF and C.S. Mott Foundation, will benefit the participating foundations and their 15,000 grassroots beneficiaries. (ME-522)

Union de Esfuerzos para el Campo (UDEC), \$235,800 over three years; counterpart committed, \$537,400

UDEC will work with Cooperativa Cosechando Juntos lo Sembrado, S.C. (CSJ) in 40 communities of Queretaro, to provide training and technical assistance in business skills to 500 backyard gardeners and 125 rural microentrepreneurs selling food, clothing, soaps and shampoos and crafts. The program also offers them access to credit through savings-and-loan associations. (ME-523)

Voces por la Naturaleza (SuMar), \$252,937 over two years; counterpart committed, \$279,559

SuMar's training, technical assistance and small grants will enable 10 community-based enterprises

along the Gulf of California to undertake initiatives related to tourism as a source of income, form a network to support the conservation of species and habitats, share experiences and influence tourism programs sponsored by the state of Sinaloa and the Mexican government. Partners include Red de Turismo Sustentable and Onca Expediciones. At least 292 Mexicans will benefit directly and more than 600 others indirectly. (ME-524)

Finca Triunfo Verde, Sociedad Civil (FTV), \$143,565 over two years; counterpart committed, \$428,455

FTV, a cooperative located in a buffer zone of the El Triunfo Reserve, plans to improve the quality of its coffee certified as fair trade and organic by investing in equipment, infrastructure, training and technical assistance for farmers. Increased sales will improve the income of 447 farmers and benefit 2,235 family members. (ME-526)

Procesos Participativos para el Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. (Procesos Participativos), \$49,900 over one year; counterpart committed, \$68,638

Procesos Participativos will work with residents of five communities in Baja California Norte to draft a proposal for development that takes into account local assets, skills, priorities and institutional support and to mobilize funding for it. (ME-527)

Estudios Rurales y Asesoría Campesina, A.C. (ERAC), \$42,100 over one year; counterpart committed, \$37,720

ERAC will conduct research in seven forest communities and will work with their respective grassroots organizations on a plan to address the challenges to economic success and environmental viability. The work will involve at least 75 members of the organizations directly and benefit more than 5,000 other residents. (ME-528)

Supplemental Grants

Ecosta Yutu Cuii, Sociedad de Solidaridad Social (Ecosta), \$60,000; counterpart committed, \$95,670

Ecosta will help Mexicans along the coast of Oaxaca develop three microenterprises, will provide training in rabbit farming and in marketing organic products, and will expand access to working capital to farmers and entrepreneurs in 10 additional communities. (ME-492-A3)

Despertar Maya, Asociación Civil (DE-MAAC), \$68,919; counterpart committed, \$59,887

DEMAAC will expand its training to reach 160 spouses of beekeepers, who are also involved in

honey production; will help diversify household income by reaching the Chiapas market; and will bring its storage and processing facility into compliance with new regulations promulgated by the Mexican government's Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad, y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA). (ME-500-A3)

Colectivo de Mujeres Campesinas de la Costa Grande de Guerrero S.C. (COMUCAM), \$36,494; counterpart committed: \$58,402

COMUCAM will further develop a credit fund accessible to 22 savings-and-loan associates and will train members in financial literacy. (ME-502-A2)

Courtesy FTV





Gabriela Boyer

Marín Mejía Morales of FTV.

A Coffee Cooperative Calls the Shots

El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve soars 2,750 meters above sea level into cloud forests on the upper slopes of the Sierra Madre and descends through the lush tropical rainforests of Chiapas to the Pacific Ocean. The reserve's sprawling expanse—119,221 hectares—captures 10 percent of all the rain that falls in Mexico and includes the Angostura dam, which provides 30 percent of the country's electricity. In addition to providing a safe habitat for migratory birds, it is home to endangered species of spider monkeys, jaguars and pumas. El Triunfo is an important site for conservation, research and education, but the 18,000 farmers who live in its idyllic but isolated buffer zone are among the poorest in Mexico and often have no more than one or two years of schooling. Nonetheless the coffee they grow is considered among the best produced in Mexico—full bodied, aromatic and pleasantly acidic.

Some 450 of these farmers belong to **Finca Triunfo Verde** (FTV), a cooperative founded and legally constituted in 2000 that has worked steadily to improve their income. FTV's introduction of organic practices early on attracted clients willing to pay the corresponding premium. These initially included the Starbucks Coffee Company, but FTV terminated that agreement when Starbucks wanted to insert a corporate intermediary, which would have reduced the portion of the price that flowed to the struggling farmers. To compensate for the loss of a customer of that magnitude, FTV joined other organizations to form Unión El Triunfo, which bought the equipment that strips the "parchment" layer from the bean after the fruit, pulp and mucilage have been removed—adding more value to the harvest. Certification of FTV's coffee as fair trade resulted in another premium as well as new clients in the United States and Europe willing to pay it. They expect not only quality from the cooperative's coffee but also transparency from the organization, demands that FTV easily meets, given its organic farming methods and fair-trade business practices. "All the numbers and proposals are discussed and vetted at our quarterly meetings," said Hugo Lares, FTV's manager.

FTV plans to use its IAF grant to build and equip a cupping laboratory and to train its farmers to develop the best possible crop by cataloguing beans after sampling coffee brewed from different lots under controlled conditions. This should set an even higher standard for farmers, and meeting it should increase FTV's power to bargain on their behalf. FTV knows that discerning consumers will pay top dollar for a sublime shot of espresso; the more they are willing to spend on that shot, the more income flows to the farmer. "To benefit our members, we have to focus on quality," Lares explained.—*Gabriela Boyer, representative for Mexico*

Nicaragua

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 13

IAF commitment:
\$3,880,694

Counterpart commitment:
\$7,303,281

Total investment:
\$11,183,975

Areas of emphasis:

Access to water, agriculture, conservation, education, enterprise development, inclusion of African descendants, women and young people.

New Grants

Fundación Nicaragüense Cosecha Sostenible (FUNCOS), \$300,000 over three years; counterpart committed \$275,959

FUNCOS will work with 30 communities in the municipalities of Kukra Hill and Bluefields to store and process cacao, coconuts, vegetables and tropical roots for markets in Nicaragua and abroad. Approximately 350 farmers and their families will benefit. (NC-300)

Asociación Para el Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer (APADEIM) \$42,335 over one year; counterpart committed, \$38,315

APADEIM will work with women in the municipality of El Viejo to assess the needs of 21 rural communities and develop a plan identifying income-producing activities that can lead to economic independence for the women and better living conditions for their households. The project will benefit 420 women directly and 2,100 indirectly. (NC-301)

Asociación Aldea Global, \$300,800 over three years; counterpart committed, \$1,267,582

Aldea Global will train farmers in 18 cooperatives and other groups to manage credit funds, develop their organizations, control the quality of their production, improve their marketing

and incorporate more women. The training and related assistance will benefit 1,800 farmers and their 9,000 family members. (NC-302)

Supplemental Grants

Asociación Familia Padre Fabretto (FAB-RETTO), \$110,000; counterpart committed, \$188,974

FABRETTO will reach more than 1,200 secondary-school students by applying el Sistema de Aprendizaje Tutorial (SAT) in rural communities of San José de Cusmapa and in a peri-urban settlement near Managua, San Isidro de Bolas. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in community development or work to help their newly formed cooperatives earn income. (NC-287-A2)

Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU), \$122,000; counterpart committed, \$106,825

BICU's training, technical assistance and other support is expected to develop agriculture, small businesses and cooperatives in a manner consistent with the preservation of the natural environment of the Mahogany Wetlands Municipal Ecological Park in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region. The increased income and more reliable food supply will benefit 150 families residing in eight communities. (NC-291-A3)



Processing malanga for export at Aldea Global's center in Jinotega.

Mark Caicedo



Farmer Santos Agustín Reyes of Aldea Global.

More Profitable Farming on the Atlantic Coast

One of the last frontiers of Central America is the humid jungle extending along the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Much of this sparsely populated territory has been designated for use as parks and reserves. The indigenous and Afro-Caribbean communities that live there speak languages other than Spanish and are culturally distinct from the majority of Nicaragua's population. But there is trouble in paradise. Despite laws on the books to protect this rain forest, huge swaths are cleared every year to make way for industrial-scale cattle ranches and plantations of African palm. Traffickers move drugs over the isolated terrain and along the lengthy coastline to transport points for shipment to the United States by land, air and sea. All this pressures farmers to sell their land and take up a hardscrabble existence as day laborers.

Fundación Nicaragüense Cosecha Sostenible (FUNCOS) was founded in 2001 to protect the environment and contribute to the development of Atlantic Coast communities, including many located along a vast network of rivers and reachable only by small boats. Over the years, FUNCOS has formed community residents into a cadre of skilled technicians who have introduced their neighbors to organic methods, agroforestry and crop diversification, with the goal of increasing income and mitigating damage to the environment.

Patrick Ahern



FUNCOS farmer Pilar Serafin Vásquez with malanga, a variety of taro root.

IAF funding will allow FUNCOS to work in 30 communities in the municipalities of Kukra Hill and Bluefields, where farmers have been at the mercy of boat owners who force them to accept bargain-basement prices for their fruit and vegetables. With the IAF's assistance, FUNCOS and the farmers have already constructed a small cargo vessel, which should end the boat captains' monopolistic control, allowing farmers to market their produce for a better margin. FUNCOS is reaching more and more farmers and encouraging them to increase their cultivation of cacao, coconuts, and malanga and quequisque, which are varieties of taro. These crops generate significant income without leaving a large footprint on the land. FUNCOS and the farmers are building collection centers with sufficient space for pooling harvests and adding value to produce by washing, sorting items by size and packaging them. A marketing expert is identifying additional sales outlets in Nicaragua and abroad. As FUNCOS is showing, farming can be profitable without destroying the environment. —Patrick Ahern, representative for Nicaragua

Paraguay

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 10

IAF commitment:
\$2,762,373

Counterpart value:
\$3,659,426

Total investment:
\$6,421,799

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, civic participation, enterprise development, inclusion of people with disabilities and indigenous Paraguayans.

Courtesy Fundación Saraki



New Grants

Fundación Saraki (Saraki), \$359,070 over three years; counterpart committed, \$732,920

Saraki will work with 50 grassroots and non-governmental organizations in 11 departments to develop the leadership and advocacy skills necessary to assure the enforcement of laws protecting the rights of Paraguayans with disabilities, including the right to equal opportunity in employment. The coalition will offer training in job skills and will also educate the public. The project is expected to benefit 1,960 Paraguayans directly and 900,000 indirectly. (PY-205)

Asociación Paí Tavytera Rekopavé (APTR), \$200,630 over three years; counterpart committed, \$187,300

APTR will work with 17 Paí Tavytera communities in northern Paraguay to improve agricultural production, cultivate traditional crops, develop a more reliable food supply, protect the environment and further their rights as indigenous Paraguayans. The project is expected to benefit 1,500 Paraguayans directly and another 5,200 indirectly. (PY-206)

Asociación Folklórica Alo Paraguaieté (AFAP), \$50,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$47,310

AFAP expects to improve its management and operation, articulate the development priorities of its 13 member organizations and the communities they serve, and advocate for its members' rights under Paraguayan law. The grant will directly benefit 165 individuals belonging to AFAP's member groups; another 1,500 Paraguayans will benefit indirectly. (PY-207)

Supplemental Grants

Federación de Entidades Vecinalistas del Paraguay, (FEDEM), \$125,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$143,134

FEDEM will train diverse community leaders and members of 200 neighborhood associations

in Asunción in grassroots oversight and monitoring and in organizational development; provide related technical assistance; and hold a nationwide conference expected to result in formation of a network. (PY-197-A3)

Estación A–Nucleo Cultural (Estación A), \$232,610 over two years; counterpart committed, \$268,960

Estación A will increase the number of artisan organizations it reaches, their partnerships with the private sector and their collaboration in tourism. It will use art to engage young people in the economic and social development of their communities. (PY-198-A5)

Institución EcuMénica de Promoción Social (OGUASU), \$61,650; counterpart committed, \$44,900

OGUASU will continue to train 1,000 Myba Paraguayans in beekeeping, aquaculture, animal husbandry, conservation, reforestation and the organic cultivation of traditional crops. It will increase demonstration plots, develop plans for five communities to sell surplus production, and support the participation of Ñoguerói Pave'í, an indigenous association, in the formation of a council to improve indigenous involvement in curriculum development and decisions affecting local schools. (PY-199-A3)

Centro de Educación, Capacitación y Tecnología Campesina (CECTEC), \$37,350; counterpart committed, \$68,277

CECTEC will work in six rural communities whose residents were resettled pursuant to Paraguay's agrarian reform program. It will offer farmers training and technical assistance toward identifying their development priorities and improving their output and marketing of organic products. The project is expected to benefit 250 families in the department of Itapúa. (PY-202-A2)

Background: Ñanduti lace crafted by artisans of Estación A.



Leading the Way on Disability Rights

According to a report issued by the World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) in 2011, some 15 percent of the earth's inhabitants live with some form of disability. Until 2012, Paraguay reported its disabled citizens at just 1 percent of its population. But in 2012, **Fundación Saraki** (Saraki) led dozens of Paraguayan disability organizations in a nationwide IAF-funded campaign to raise awareness of the numbers they represented. The effort also included correcting the attitudes and assumptions that had distorted the results of previous census surveys and contributed to inadequate services and accessibility. As a result of IAF-funded training for census takers, massive media outreach, the dedication of disabled Paraguayans and a questionnaire that conformed to internationally recommended guidelines, the nation now officially knows that 12.4 percent of its citizens have reported that they live with a disability.

Success in bringing visibility to this community and in changing perceptions by challenging prejudices has made Saraki a global leader in disability rights, but the organization and the Paraguayans whom it serves continue to face challenges. These include assuring the application of data from the 2012 census toward updating public policies and programs to reflect reality. Saraki began to approach this goal by investing some of its previous IAF grant toward furthering collaboration among disability organizations, and their hard work and advocacy made some headway. One result was a law that created the National Disability Secretariat (SENADIS), an executive agency to formulate government policy that conforms to the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the Paraguay Congress has ratified, and to work with other public institutions to ensure the rights of Paraguayans with disabilities. The National Disability Council (CONADIS), which oversees SENADIS and tracks progress on the exercise of the rights of the disabled, includes seven citizens who represent various communities: the deaf, the blind and people with physical, cognitive and psychiatric disabilities.

Saraki will use part of its new IAF award to develop a process that brings Paraguayans with disabilities together to assure that government social protection programs are accessible, effective and adapted to their needs. As a partner in a coalition of Paraguay's disabled citizens, Saraki has paid attention to the priorities articulated as the most urgent: affordable health care, reliable transportation, education and training that leads to employment. Of these, Saraki plans to focus IAF funding on training and on identifying job opportunities, both essential to independence and to showing the country how disabled Paraguayans can contribute to a society that includes them. —*Jeremy Coon, representative for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay*

Peru

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 22

IAF commitment:
\$6,354,777

Counterpart commitment:
\$6,365,237

Total investment:
\$12,720,014

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, conservation, education, enterprise development, inclusion of Afro-Peruvians and young people.

Nelida Pizango Huaratapairo, a community organizer with Minga Perú.



Courtesy Minga Perú

New Grants

Asociación Kallpa para la Promoción de la Salud Integral y el Desarrollo (Kallpa), \$298,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$195,150

Kallpa will help consolidate two Centers for Youth and Employment, create two Youth Business Incubators and develop two networks that focus on employment and entrepreneurship. Activities scheduled for San Juan de Miraflores in Lima and for Cusco are expected to help 1,300 Peruvians between the ages of 15 and 29 find meaningful work or start a small enterprise. (PU-573)

Taller de Capacitación e Investigación Familiar (TACIF), \$138,360 over three years; counterpart committed, \$128,585

TACIF will help 130 indigenous Peruvians improve their nutrition and income by expanding their farming and marketing of native fish farmed and by diversifying these enterprises. The activities planned, which are also expected to reduce overfishing in the Amazon River basin, will take place in Santa Maria de Ojeal, a rural community in the Punchana district, department of Loreto. (PU-574)

Asociación No Gubernamental Rural Amazónica Andina Choba Choba (Choba-Choba), \$200,000 over three years; counterpart committed, \$129,930

Choba-Choba will help communities located in the buffer zone of the Cordillera Azul national park recover traditional practices related to land management, including conservation, and agriculture. The project will benefit 3,680 Peruvians residing in the districts of Pilluana and Tres Unidos, located in the Mishikiyacu Valley of San Martín Region. (PU-576)

Innovaciones para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IDES), \$260,000 over three years; counterpart committed, \$399,500

IDES will work to bring small groups of farmers and microentrepreneurs into the value chains for

dairy products and goods from alpaca fiber, and will improve the ability of local units of government to stimulate and support economic development. The project will benefit approximately 3,300 Peruvians in 216 communities in Melgar Province, Puno. (PU-577)

Asociación Negra de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (ASONEDH), \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$23,250

ASONEDH will use a virtual platform to extend the activities of the Lima-based First School of Afro-descendent Youth Leaders into the Ica region to reach Afro-Peruvian youths with its training in civic participation and human rights. Activities conducted in partnership with Ashanti Peru, a youth network, will benefit 30 young Peruvians in rural and urban communities in the provinces of Chinca, Pisco, Ica and Nazca. (PU-578)

Supplemental Grants

Comunidad Nativa Marankiari Bajo (CIAMB), \$85,000; counterpart committed, \$105,000

CIAMB will expand its plant producing organic compost, build a center for training in organic agriculture and strengthen its own management. (PU-553-A3)

Asociación Minga Perú (Minga Perú), \$85,000; counterpart committed, \$16,500

Minga Perú will extend its training into an additional community and consolidate the results of its project intended to advance the economic development of indigenous women and improve their participation in public life. (PU-563-A2)

Centro de Estudios, Desarrollo y Acción Social (CEDAS), \$26,240; counterpart committed, \$53,725

CEDAS will construct approximately 200 sheds for storing feed for farmers working to increase their production and sales of milk and cattle. (PU-568-A1)



Employment and Inclusion for Young Peruvians

The transition from childhood to adulthood is a crucial period of great potential and great risk. Channeled in the right direction, the creativity, energy, intelligence and hope of young people can have a positive impact on society. Employment is an important means by which they discover their abilities and develop their talents, commitment, a sense of belonging and a vision for the future. Unemployment can obstruct their passage through adolescence, damage them as individuals and lead to alienation from their families and communities.

Young people between 15 and 24 make up 25 percent of the world's population of working age, and 12.6 percent are unemployed, a rate double that of adults, which stands at 4.6 percent (International Labor Organization, 2012). This translated into more than 73 million jobless youths in 2013, an alarming statistic that tells only part of the story since most work available to young people is in the informal sector and barely provides for survival let alone an exit from poverty. In Peru, the numbers are even more dramatic. The national census taken in 2007 recorded 7.5 million Peruvians between the ages of 15 and 29 or 27 percent of Peru's population of 28 million. In 2011 the World Bank's World Development Report put their unemployment rate at 16.2 percent; in some areas it reaches almost 20 percent (Americas Quarterly, September 2011).

Asociación Kallpa para la Promoción de la Salud Integral y el Desarrollo (Kallpa) was founded in 1990 to assure the full development of children and adolescents. Its community-centered approach is cornered on collaboration with government, the private sector and other nongovernmental organizations, including Fondation Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi de l'Outaouais, based in Canada, whose principles of democracy, active citizenship, social justice and self-determination have clearly influenced Kallpa's work. The IAF's award to Kallpa will allow 1,300 Peruvians between the ages of 15 and 29 in Cuzco and the district of San Juan de Miraflores, in metropolitan Lima, to access training opportunities, find meaningful employment, launch small enterprises and acquire self-confidence. The grantee's centers for youth and employment will provide vocational assessment and orientation and assist with job placement while its new business incubators will offer young entrepreneurs office space and loans as well as guidance toward turning their start-ups into reliable sources of income. Kallpa's success in reducing the unemployment, and the consequent exclusion, of young people should bolster their eventual contributions to the well-being of the families they form and to the health of the communities in which they live.—*Miriam E. Brandão, representative for Peru*



Courtesy Kallpa

Uruguay

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 3

IAF commitment:
\$747,250

Counterpart commitment:
\$1,562,120

Total investment:
\$2,309,370

Areas of emphasis:
Enterprise development,
rural development, inclu-
sion of women and Afro-
Uruguayans.

New Grant

**Organización Social Salvador (OSS), \$49,200
over one year; counterpart committed, \$37,450**

OSS will work in five departments to develop organizations serving Afro-Uruguayans, including by formalizing eight community groups so that they can access funding available from the Uruguayan government. (UR-186)

Equality for Afro-Uruguayans

Scholars estimate that more than 12 million Africans survived the brutal voyage to the auction blocks of the Americas, including in Montevideo, a port once designated to receive the slaves destined for sale in the Rio de la Plata colonies, Chile and Peru. Contemporary Afro-Uruguayans count among their ancestors not only victims of the legal trade but also others sold as contraband. Uruguay's relatively early progression toward abolishing slavery eventually led to full emancipation, which attracted fugitives from other countries. African descendants constituted a third of Uruguay's population by the end of the 19th century, when a wave of European immigration began that would persist into the 1950s and bolster the image of Uruguay as a nation of whites only.

For a time, Afro-Uruguayans were all but invisible and their existence was denied despite their obvious impact on local cultural expressions. But as a community they managed to keep up a remarkable tradition of organization that led them to mobilize toward correcting distortions and overcoming injustice. Today, the nation acknowledges its citizens of African descent, officially reported at 15 percent of its population, and the racism at the root of a poverty rate documented at double that of whites. The activism of organized Afro-Uruguayans, including those in IAF grantee Organizaciones Mundo Afro, to date their largest, most effective and best-resourced association, helped bring about this change along with the passage of laws to further full inclusion in economic life, civic processes and social services.

Organización Social Salvador (OSS) emerged in 2008 when some young members of Mundo Afro decided that laws on the books had to be followed on the ground, where people live, if African descendants were to have the same rights and opportunities enjoyed by all Uruguayans. Toward this end, OSS plans to develop and formalize community groups serving Afro-Uruguayans, so that inclusion advances and access to education and good jobs improves. OSS is coordinating its work with the Uruguayan government's Directorate of Human Rights and has brought individual activists and established organizations—Afros Sin Fronteras, Centro Cultural Zumbi dos Palmares, Cooperative Agua Salto, Frontera Afro Chuy, Centro Uruguay de Melo, and UNKWUELU—into its new Afro-Uruguayan Social Platform. OSS will use its IAF grant to help eight Afro-Uruguayan grassroots groups in Montevideo, Melo, Rivera, Salto, Treinta y Tres and Rocha become legally constituted and access government resources available to fund their efforts toward the elimination of disparate treatment in their respective communities. Work with these partners will help OSS improve its internal management and its coordination at the grassroots. The origins of racism in Uruguay date back centuries and full citizenship will require concentrated energy. OSS has the advantage of building on the foundation laid by the gamut of Afro-Uruguayan organizations to help all Uruguayans accept and benefit from their nation's diversity.—*Priscila Silva, program staff assistant*

Additional Current Portfolios*

Chile

Grantee partners: 3

IAF commitment: \$798,840

Counterpart commitment: \$2,352,611

Total investment: \$3,151,451

Areas of emphasis: Corporate social responsibility, enterprise development.

Panama

Grantee partners: 8

IAF commitment: \$1,948,100

Counterpart commitment: \$2,236,537

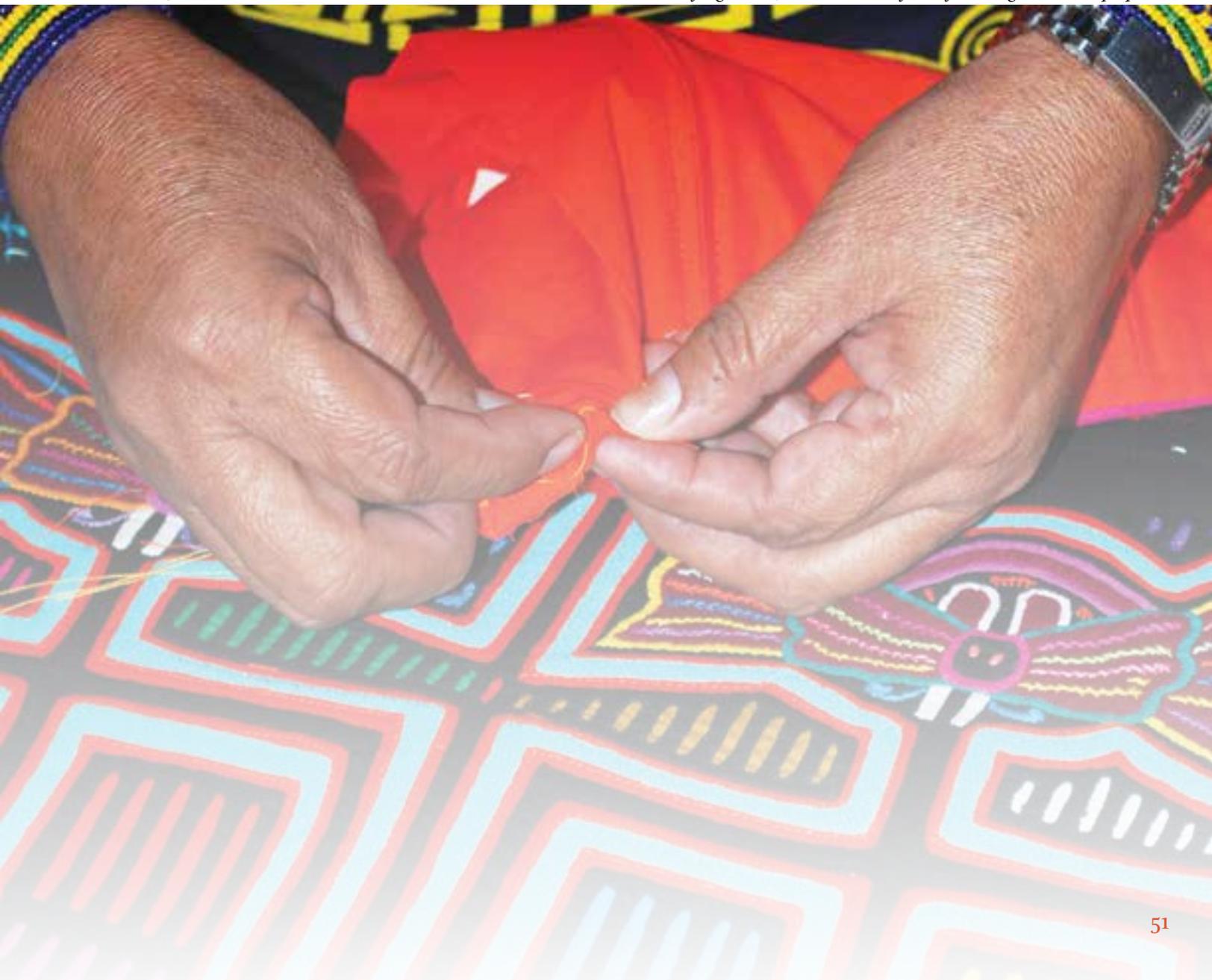
Total investment: \$4,184,637

Areas of emphasis: Agriculture, access to water, environment, handicraft development, inclusion of indigenous Panamanians and women.

*There was no new funding in these countries in fiscal 2013.

Mark Caicedo

Member of PROARTESANA, a current Panamanian grantee, crafting a mola, a traditional art form of the indigenous Kuna people.



RedEAmérica

The Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development (RedEAmérica), an IAF-initiated business-sector alliance, was launched in 2002 with 27 founding members. It has since developed into a corps of 74 dues-paying members representing more than 360 socially responsible corporations committed to supporting self-help projects in the hemisphere.

Much of RedEAmérica's early work in grassroots development was undertaken pursuant to bilateral agreements between individual members and the IAF. These agreements initially called for the corporate parties to match the IAF's contribution to their social-responsibility programs. Subsequently, they were required to double and, more recently, triple the IAF's investment. While there were no new agreements signed during fiscal 2013, the 11 active agreements funded in prior fiscal years represented a commitment of \$7,267,910 in corporate resources for grassroots development, much of which funded subgrants awarded to incipient or isolated groups.

A highlight for RedEAmérica during 2013 was the award of the First Latin American Grassroots Development *Transformadores* prize sponsored by RedEAmérica and the IAF and inspired by more than a decade of collaborating to fund successful community development initiatives. Four groups, and the donors that supported them, were honored as Transformadores in a ceremony held Feb. 27 in Antigua, Guatemala:

- Empresa Comunitaria que Genera Desarrollo en el Cauca, undertaken by Cooperativa de Productores de Fresa de Sotará (FRESOTA), with funding from Fundación Smurfit Cartón de Colombia, to improve the income of strawberry farmers in Sotará, department of Cauca;
- Parceria Votorantim pela Educação, funded by Instituto Votorantim as a massive effort to boost education, which mobilized families, schools, local governments and businesses in 28 municipalities in 12 Brazilian states;
- Instituto Holcim, the corporate foundation of Holcim Brazil, which worked with residents, businesses and local government in Barroso, Minas Gerais, to improve the municipal cultural and sports infrastructure;
- Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES), which improved access to electricity, water and education in Caluco, one of the poorest municipalities in El Salvador, and helped subsistence farmers earn more income.

On Feb. 28, RedEAmérica organized its fifth forum on grassroots development, focused this year on youth. A workshop on participatory assessments took place June 13-14 in Buenos Aires. In August, Rutas, an exchange of experiences and strategy, was launched in Medellin; it is expected to become an annual event. In fiscal 2013, RedEAmérica also developed and tested a mechanism to evaluate members' adherence to the principles of grassroots development; continued to offer representatives of its member-foundations online certification; and joined the Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (www.oecd.org/site/netfwd), whose members are committed to collaborating to assure the maximum impact of their philanthropy.

To learn more about RedEAmérica, visit www.redeamerica.org. For more on Transformadores, log on to www.redeamerica.org/premiolatinoamericano or see *Grassroots Development* for 2013.

Courtesy Instituto Holcim

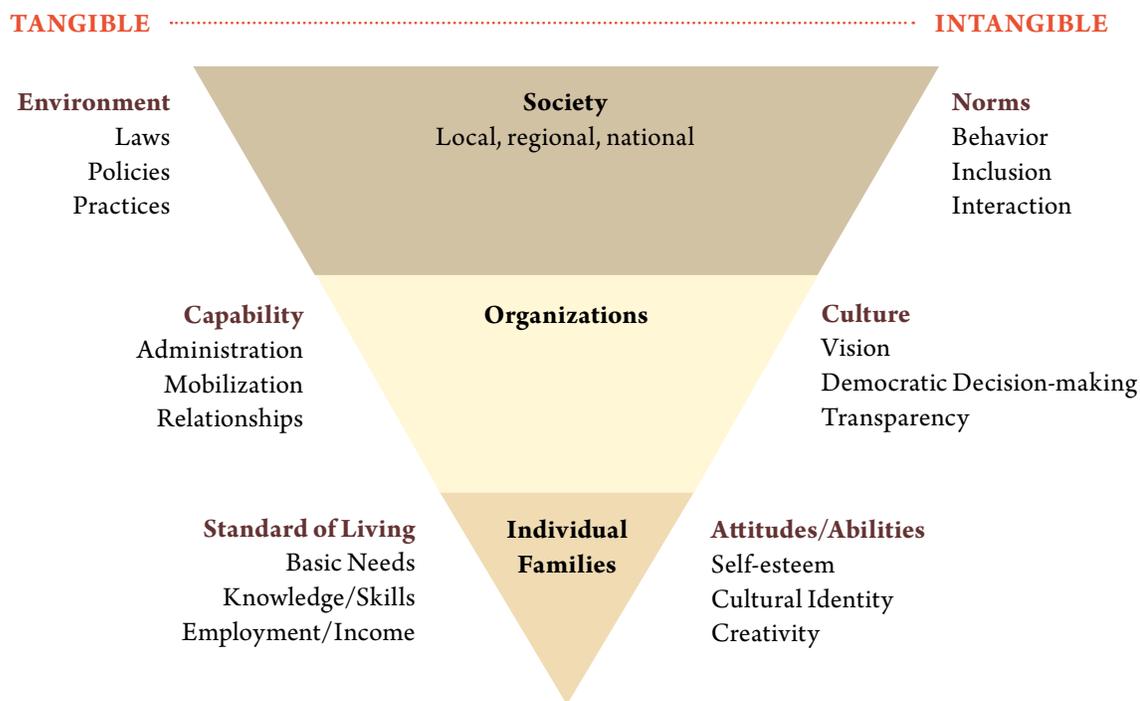


A Brazilian recycler working with Instituto Holcim and Associação Ortopólis Barroso, both of which were honored as Transformadores in fiscal 2013 for this successful initiative to improve the municipality of Barroso, Minas Gerais.

Results

The IAF uses a rigorous system of reporting, verification and audits to track its investment in grassroots development. Grantee partners report every six months to the Office of Evaluation on progress using indicators selected from the Grassroots Development Framework (GDF), the IAF's tool for evaluating the tangible and intangible results of its funding as they affect the well-being of individuals, the management and development of organizations, and the norms, practices and policies adopted by the community. After independent verification by professionals based in country, the information is forwarded to the IAF and compiled into an annual report. In-country auditors conduct financial reviews every six months and upon completion of the projects. They also organize orientations for new grantees, undertake risk assessments and offer guidance in accounting and fiscal management, all directed at assuring the use of public funds for the intended purpose. Finally, selected organizations are visited five years after the conclusion of their IAF funding to evaluate their ongoing impact. In fiscal 2013, the Office of Evaluation completed its study of a cluster of five grantees that are successfully accessing global markets. Findings are available at www.iaf.gov.

Grassroots Development Framework



Application of the GDF helps ensure observable progress toward each grantee partner's goals, identify factors that determine success and assess long-term benefits extending beyond the achievement of immediate objectives. For more information on the GDF and its use, visit www.iaf.gov and see "Measures to Match the Mission" by Marion Ritchey Vance in Grassroots Development 2009.



Former grantee Sociedad de Pequeños Productores Exportadores y Compradores de Café (SOPPEXCCA) processes organic fertilizer that its Nicaraguan farmers use to cultivate coffee for an international clientele. José Francisco Talavera contributed a report on the fertilizer enterprise to the study of IAF-funded organizations that supply global markets.

Highlights of the IAF's Investment in Grassroots Development

The IAF's results report published in 2013 summarized progress toward a broad array of goals by a diverse portfolio of 208 grantee partners that were active in fiscal 2012. As the data reflected, their work benefited more than 342,000 individuals. Among these were numerous representatives of historically excluded groups, who were able to participate more fully in economic and civic life and social services: African descendants, Latin Americans of indigenous descent, persons with disabilities and disadvantaged women and youths. Results reported in fiscal 2013 included the following:

- Nearly 75,000 individuals acquired knowledge and skills through IAF-funded training: 21,064 were trained in agriculture; 31,342 in civic participation; 18,302 in planning and administration; 13,376 in finance; 11,836 in environment; 9,627 in manufacturing; and 7,736 in leadership. Many enrolled in multiple training sessions covering various topics.
- Approximately 3,500 jobs were created as a result of IAF-funded training, technical assistance and credit programs; another 1,892 positions were preserved; working conditions improved relevant to 1,846 jobs.
- More than 33,700 individuals benefitted from better health and more than 20,000 from better nutrition.
- Grantee organizations collaborated with 727 new partners and otherwise maintained relations with nearly 2,000 organizations, which enabled them to mobilize resources and exchange experiences.
- In 2012, IAF grantees contributed \$8.97 million in required counterpart resources and mobilized another \$3.76 million toward the success of their projects and their organizations

Learning Initiative

Chronic Violence and Grassroots Development

Many IAF grantee partners live and work in communities where violent crime is increasingly a feature of everyday life; some have been targets of robbery, assault, extortion or kidnapping. The harm this inflicts on the individuals and institutions involved is obvious and alarming. As worrisome, but less well understood, is the insidious effect on community social capital. There may also be lessons to be drawn from communities that have demonstrated resilience. This prompted the IAF to commit, in 2012, to a learning initiative on the impact of violence on grassroots development and the complex interactions it unleashes. The IAF's primary collaborator is anthropologist Tani

Adams, who has already conducted extensive relevant research for the Myrna Mack Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Center, USAID and Instituto Internacional de Aprendizaje para la Reconciliación Social, a Guatemalan nongovernmental organization.

In contrast to episodic violence, Adams characterizes the violence so prevalent in many parts of Latin America and Caribbean as chronic, meaning that it persists over time, its manifestations often passing from one generation to the next, and is embedded in multiple social spheres. Drawing on Adams's framework, IAF staff met in June and July of 2013 with representatives of grantee partners and other neighborhood residents in five communities in Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico to engage in focused explorations of how chronic violence shapes individuals, relationships and the ability of grassroots organizations to function. (In this connection, the *Latinobarómetro* for 2013 reported that its Ecuadorean, Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Mexican respondents were among those surveyed who most often identified crime/public safety as their respective country's most important problem.) The 60 youths and adults who participated in the five workshops reflected on their experience with violence and on how it has affected them personally as well as the life of their community and the work of their organizations. Most had not openly discussed violence before; the workshops helped them analyze their experiences and appreciate the value of organizing to effect change. The IAF will continue its project on chronic violence through 2014.—*Marcy Kelley, representative for Costa Rica and Ecuador, and Juanita Roca, representative for Chile, Colombia and Venezuela*



Marcy Kelley

Workshop exercise.

Fellowships



Fellows for 2012-2013 in Antigua, Guatemala, with the IAF's academic review committee and selected IAF board members and staff.

The Inter-American Foundation is the only institution that specifically funds academic research on grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2013, the IAF awarded 16 Grassroots Development Fellowships to Ph.D. students who have advanced to candidacy in U.S. universities and are undertaking dissertation research throughout the hemisphere. Fellows were selected on the strength of their academic records, their proposals and their potential contributions to grassroots development. All U.S. citizens except as noted, they are researching the following topics

- **Caitlin Baird Peterson**, University of Florida, *the first thousand days: childhood stunting in rural Guatemala;*
- **Abigail Bennett**, Duke University, *market-based certification of cooperative-managed lobster fisheries in Mexico;*
- **Christopher Courtheyn**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *land, politics, and peace in San José de Apartadó, Colombia;*
- **Raquel De Souza** (Brazil), University of Texas, Austin, *the politics of race and resistance in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil;*
- **Anne Gillman**, Johns Hopkins University, *state-society interactions within Brazil's pontos de cultura;*
- **Laura Gutiérrez-Escobar** (Colombia), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *cultural politics of seeds in Colombian peasant communities in the context of the FTA;*
- **Eric Hirsch**, University of Chicago, *grassroots development, indigenous identity "revalorization" and financial citizenship in Peru's Colca Valley;*

- **Joshua Holst**, University of Arizona, *The struggle for sustainability in development decision-making in Ecuador*;
- **Williams Martins Castro** (Brazil), Michigan State University, *mechanized agriculture in Brazil's Amazon Forest and impacts on smallholders and landscapes*;
- **Claudia Monzón-Alvarado** (Guatemala), University of Florida, *fire management and human and environmental outcomes in Calakmul, Mexico*;
- **Meghan Morris**, University of Chicago, *property and development in Colombia's land restitution program*;
- **Sebastián Ramírez** (Colombia), Princeton University, *rebuilding lives among displaced families in Colombia*;
- **María Rios-Marín** (Colombia), University of Florida, *local networks of private reserves in Colombia, conservation and sustainable rural development*;
- **Claudia Rosty** (Brazil), Colorado State University, *fairtrade, workers' empowerment and gender equity in Brazilian coffee plantations*;
- **Kristin VanderMolen**, University of Georgia, *understanding stakeholder interpretations of ethnodevelopment in highland Ecuador*;
- **Ruth Velásquez Estrada** (El Salvador), University of Texas, Austin, *paradoxes of grassroots peace-making in the transition to a post-conflict El Salvador*.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fellowship Program. In consultation with the IAF, IIE assembles an Academic Review Committee (ARC) that screens applications and selects the best-qualified applicants to recommend as Fellows. In 2013, the committee included the following distinguished scholars:

- **Dr. Elizabeth Cartwright**, Professor of Medical Anthropology, Idaho State University;
- **Dr. Marc Chernick**, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown University;
- **Dr. Kevin Healy**, IAF Representative for Bolivia and Adjunct Professor of Sociology, George Washington University;
- **Dr. Maureen Hayes-Mitchell**, Professor of Geography, Colgate University;
- **Dr. Marianne Schmink**, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida; and
- **Dr. Peter Wilshusen**, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Bucknell University.



Mark Caicedo

Dr. Maureen Hayes-Mitchell, right, with Fellow Carolina Arango-Vargas, left, and residents of Las Delicias, a Guatemalan community served by IAF grantee CODECA.



Dr. Marc Chernick with a loroco farmer.

A unique feature of the IAF program is the mid-year meeting that gives Fellows an opportunity to share the results of their work with each other, with the IAF and with the Academic Review Panel that selected them. The meeting of the 2012-2013 cycle of Fellows, held in Antigua, Guatemala in March, included travel to communities in Suchitepéquez whose residents receive support from IAF grantee Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (CODECA) toward their productive cultivation of loroco. Kevin Healy, whose academic expertise includes indigenous movements, invited Mayan activist Dr. Irma Velásquez Nimatuj to speak to the Fellows on her work in furtherance of social justice for Guatemala's indigenous citizens.

Current and former Fellows total more than 1,000. In 2013, 22 recent Fellows reported on their IAF-funded research at the Congress of the Latin American Studies Association held in Washington, D.C. in May. All Fellows in the cycles since 2007 have been eligible to submit manuscripts to the IAF's juried competition. The anonymous peer review by members of the Academic Review Committee resulted in the selection of two articles for publication in the 2013 journal, one on the educational efforts of the Brazilian landless workers' movement, by Rebecca Tarlau (2010-2011 cycle), and the other on social capital among indigenous Peruvians in the Amazon region, by Danny Pinedo (2011-2012 cycle). A third Fellow, Jessica Rich (2009-2010 cycle) whose research focused on a former IAF grantee, collaborated with John Garrison, now of the World Bank, the original IAF representative who had awarded and monitored the grants. The article, which underwent an independent peer review in Brazil, covered the Brazilian movement of grassroots activism that proved remarkably effective in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis, a struggle the IAF supported as an essential early donor. Among other benefits, publication of these articles brings the Fellows' IAF-funded research to a broader audience. All entrants benefit from the reviewers' insights.

The Fellowship Program, launched in 1974 in furtherance of the IAF's mission, has supported doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers and master's degree candidates from throughout the hemisphere. Between 1991 and 1995, the program included the Dante B. Fascell Inter-American Fellowship funding independent studies by outstanding Latin American and Caribbean grassroots leaders. All awards have been conditioned on a clear demonstration of the relevance of the work undertaken to the IAF's grassroots approach that has consistently been validated in development literature. The 1,112 alumni of the program include many highly respected scholars and practitioners who have influenced generations of students as well as institutions and public policy, including development assistance policy. For more information on the program and application procedures, visit www.iie.org/iaf.—P.D.

Dissemination

The IAF shares its experience and approach with a broad and diverse audience via publications, news releases and www.iaf.gov, produced by the staff of its Office of External and Government Affairs, and through events and attendance at conferences and other fora held throughout the world. Public recognition of individuals associated with grantee organizations, as well as their organizations and the movements they drive, gives their work exposure and confirms the effectiveness of IAF's investment in the grassroots.

In Print and Online

The IAF's flagship publications, its annual report and its journal *Grassroots Development*, are printed in English and Spanish and posted to www.iaf.gov in English, Spanish and Portuguese. In 2013 *Grassroots Development* emphasized the IAF's investment in young people with profiles of effective grantees: the Bosconia program in Colombia, which ranks among the most successful efforts anywhere in terms of offering an alternative to life on the street; Defensores del Chaco, whose young leadership is changing communities in the Cono Urbano of Buenos Aires; and Grupo Juvenil Dion, offering vocational training in Tegucigalpa and a tested model for the region. Marion Ritchey-Vance's article on her course on foreign assistance at Carleton College summarized and analyzed four decades of IAF work. Among resources reviewed was *O Mundo Negro: Relações Raciais e a Constituição do Movimento Negro Contemporâneo no Brasil*, Amílcar Araujo Pereira's history of race relations in Brazil, which includes a reference to the IAF's pioneering and then-controversial support for Afro-Brazilian organizations. Two additional features were posted online. Peer-reviewed articles published in the journal are detailed in this report's section on the Fellowship Program.

The IAF website logged more than 94,000 visitors this year. The site serves as the IAF's primary platform for grant applications and is regularly updated with publications and news accessible in English, Spanish and Portuguese in graphic and text formats. In 2013 several multi-media features were added including an institutional video detailing the IAF's mission along with shorter videos featuring the work of selected grantee partners. IAF's new Twitter feed, @iafgrassroots, was launched in 2013 and currently has more than 200 followers. Lester Salamon's *Rethinking Corporate Social Engagement: Lessons from Latin America* (Kumarian Press, 2010), based on his extensive IAF-funded research, was translated for a Spanish edition expected in 2014.



Travel Grants

The Office of External and Government Affairs also administers the IAF's program of travel grants. During the fiscal year, 409 travel grantees drawn from grantee partners and other nongovernmental organizations participated in 40 conferences and workshops that supported the development process and furthered the IAF's strategic goals of inclusion and better living conditions. Highlights follow:



Mark Caicedo

Los Masis at the Kennedy Center.

- The IAF continues to be a leader in supporting the efforts of African descendants in the Americas toward full equality and inclusion. Since 2005 it has partnered with **Global Rights**, a nongovernmental organization fighting discrimination, to ensure the incorporation of issues relevant to African descendants in the agenda of the **Organization of American States (OAS)** through annual workshops and conferences that prepare activists to participate in the OAS General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas. In April, Global Rights offered a week of training in Washington, D.C., in preparation for a session of the working group that is drafting the Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. Participants included representatives from the **Network of Afro-Latino, Caribbean and Diaspora Women; the Central American Black Organization (ONECA); the Network of Afro-Brazilian Women's NGOs; Afroamérica XXI; the Jacques Viau Network** representing constituents in the Dominican Republic and Haiti; and from **Colombian LGBT organizations**.
- Musicians from former IAF grantee **Centro Cultural Masis** displayed their Andean heritage on the National Mall in Washington at One World Many Voices, a celebration of linguistic diversity organized as part of the **Smithsonian Folklife Festival**, an annual two-week summer event that brings the living culture of countries around the globe to 1 million visitors via a lavish array of performances, educational venues, and culinary experiences. Centro Cultural Masis, whose IAF-funded workshops in traditional folklore, music and art attracted thousands of enthusiastic young residents of the city of Sucre, is credited with pioneering bilingual Quechua-Spanish education. On June 27, the musicians known as **Los Masis** showcased their rhythms at the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** to an enthusiastic capacity crowd.



Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías, left, of the IAF with visitors from Fundación Saraki.

- At the invitation of the **National Council on Independent Living** and **USAID**, representatives of IAF Paraguayan grantee partner **Fundación Saraki**, a successful disability-rights advocate, joined international colleagues in Washington in August for a program to further the full participation of disabled individuals in community life. Since 2008, Saraki has invested its IAF funding toward enabling 100 organizations to serve their constituents effectively. (See page 47.) Shirley Ayala Güimaraens and Carlos Viera of Saraki; Regina Nogués Peña, president of the Association for Paraguayans with Cognitive Disabilities; and Mario Marecos, a leader of the disability rights movement in Asunción also briefed IAF staff and visited Gallaudet University, the world's first university for the hearing impaired; the Trust for the Americas, which works toward full employment of Latin Americans with disabilities; and the Voice of America, for interviews.
- In September Mayor Mauricio Macri of Buenos Aires welcomed nearly 80 representatives of former and current IAF grantees, other grassroots organizations and donors to **II Encuentro Mundial del Gran Chaco**. The event was organized by REDES Chaco, a network advocating for the sustainable development of the Gran Chaco, South America's second largest forest, which straddles Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, the countries represented at the Encuentro. Participants discussed rural development, water and soil management, and the effects of climate change on the semi-arid Chaco region.

Thematic Outreach

As part of the IAF's agency-wide dissemination effort, IAF staff and representatives of IAF grantee partners are encouraged to share the IAF's responsive approach and their own expertise with the development and foreign affairs communities, with interested scholars and researchers, and with the general public. In fiscal 2013, these engagements included the following:

- Robert Kaplan joined the panel on philanthropy and social investment at **Tijuana Inovadora 2012**, a conference held in October to showcase the dynamism of the binational metropolitan region formed with San Diego. Kaplan spoke on IAF's work supporting communities, developing organizational capacity and thinking beyond the immediate impact of projects. Richard Kiy, CEO of International Community Foundation in San Diego, moderated the panel that also included Michael Chu, social venture capitalist and professor at the Harvard Business School; Rick Goings, CEO of Tupperware; and Cole Wilbur, former president of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. President Felipe Calderon opened the conference attended by some 900,000 people.
- IAF representative Jenny Petrow joined representatives of the American Jewish World Service and Grassroots International in January in Boston for the panel "Funding Grassroots Change in Haiti" at the **Haiti Funder's Meeting: Seeking Strategies to Achieve Effective Aid Delivery in Haiti** sponsored and hosted by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** and **The Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation**.
- IAF representative David Fleisher presented his paper on territorial management, food security and environmental conservation in forested areas in Brazil at the **Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology**, held in March in Denver.
- President Kaplan chaired **Citizen-Driven Development: Lessons from Grassroots Groups in Latin America**, the IAF's panel at the **XXXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association** held May 29-June 1. Panelists representing IAF grantee partners included Juan Francisco González of **Federación Comercializadora Especial de Guatemala**, César Mendoza of **Fundación Sumapaz** of Colombia, and Esteban Sanjines Delgadillo of **Fundación Taller de Inicativas en Estudios Rurales y Reforma Agraria** of Bolivia. John Gaventa of the **Coady International Institute** discussed the presentations.
- In July, Ernesto Tzi, director of Guatemalan grantee **Sa Qa Chol Nimla K'aleb'aal (SANK)**, joined IAF representative José Toasa in Winnipeg, Canada, at the **Second International Indigenous Voices in Social Work Conference** sponsored by the **University of Manitoba**. They spoke on SANK's experience working with indigenous Q'eqchi' Guatemalans to clear title to land, diversify crops and introduce conservation practices.
- On Sept. 20, Paula Durbin spoke to the **Fulbright Nexus Scholars** funded by the **United States Department of State** on the IAF's Fellowships Program and its responsive approach to development.
- IAF representative Kevin Healy, an internationally recognized academic authority on Bolivia, indigenous social movements and the impact of drug traffic, continued to offer graduate courses at **Georgetown University** and the **George Washington University**. He spoke on the IAF's support for African descendants on a panel included in the conference **Refashioning Blackness: Contesting Racism in the Afro-Americas** held Feb. 20-22 at the **University of Texas**. On May 20, as one of three experts featured in the conference **Indigenous Movements in the Andes**, held at the **Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars**, Healy discussed the political divide between highland and lowland indigenous organizations in Bolivia. In June, he introduced **Los Masis'** performances at the **Kennedy Center** and at the eight-day **Smithsonian Folklife Festival** and joined the musicians for talks on Quechua and its preservation.



Tie Xu Kevin Healy, left, Roberto Sahonero Gutiérrez and Edgar Sahonero Gutiérrez of Los Masis, and other experts on Quichua, also called Quechua, from Hatun Kotawa, the traditional flute school in Otavalo, Ecuador.

Below: Gilmar Sandy Gilders on charango and Walter Montero on guitar were among the musicians who animated Dr. Walter Alvarez, his dance partner and eventually most of the audience at this performance of Los Masis at the Folklife Festival.



Honored and in the News

- Among the six grassroots activists from six continents honored with the prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize** at a ceremony held in April in San Francisco's Opera House was **Nohra Padilla**, who heads the 20,000-strong **Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá** (ARB), a former IAF grantee, as well as Colombia's National Association of Recyclers. "I offer an essential public service, recovering materials that would otherwise end up in landfills or incinerators," Padilla told the *Los Angeles Times*. An article on Padilla and her work in *Grassroots Development* for 2011 was among the documentation submitted to the panel that selected the winners of the prize created by San Francisco philanthropist Richard M. Goldman in 1989. Each received \$150,000, the most substantial monetary recognition of environmental activism. The honorees' work was further celebrated in Washington, D.C.
- On June 10, **Guadalupe Arizpe de la Vega**, a founding director of former IAF grantee **Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte** in Ciudad Juárez (FCFNAC), became the first Mexican woman to receive the prestigious **Woodrow Wilson Award** recognizing outstanding service and special commitment to the well-being of the city. At the ceremony held in Chihuahua, Mexico, Roger Wallace, who currently serves on the IAF's board of directors and is co-chairman of the advisory board for the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, commended Doña Guadalupe, who was profiled by CNN as part of its "Heroes" series for her work to improve the health of residents of Ciudad Juárez.
- The Honduran Secretariat of Natural Resources and Fundación Cervecería Hondureña honored IAF grantee **Comisión de Acción Social Menonita** (CASM) with the **National Honduran Environmental Prize** and 100,000 lempiras (approximately \$5,000) during a ceremony held June 5 at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. CASM also received the award in 2005 and 2003. According to the Honduran daily *Tiempo*, the most recent prize acknowledged CASM's efforts to preserve watersheds in four municipalities in the department of Lempira, which the IAF supported along with other facets of CASM's program of economic development compatible with the responsible use of the environment.

Mark Caicedo



Nohra Padilla.



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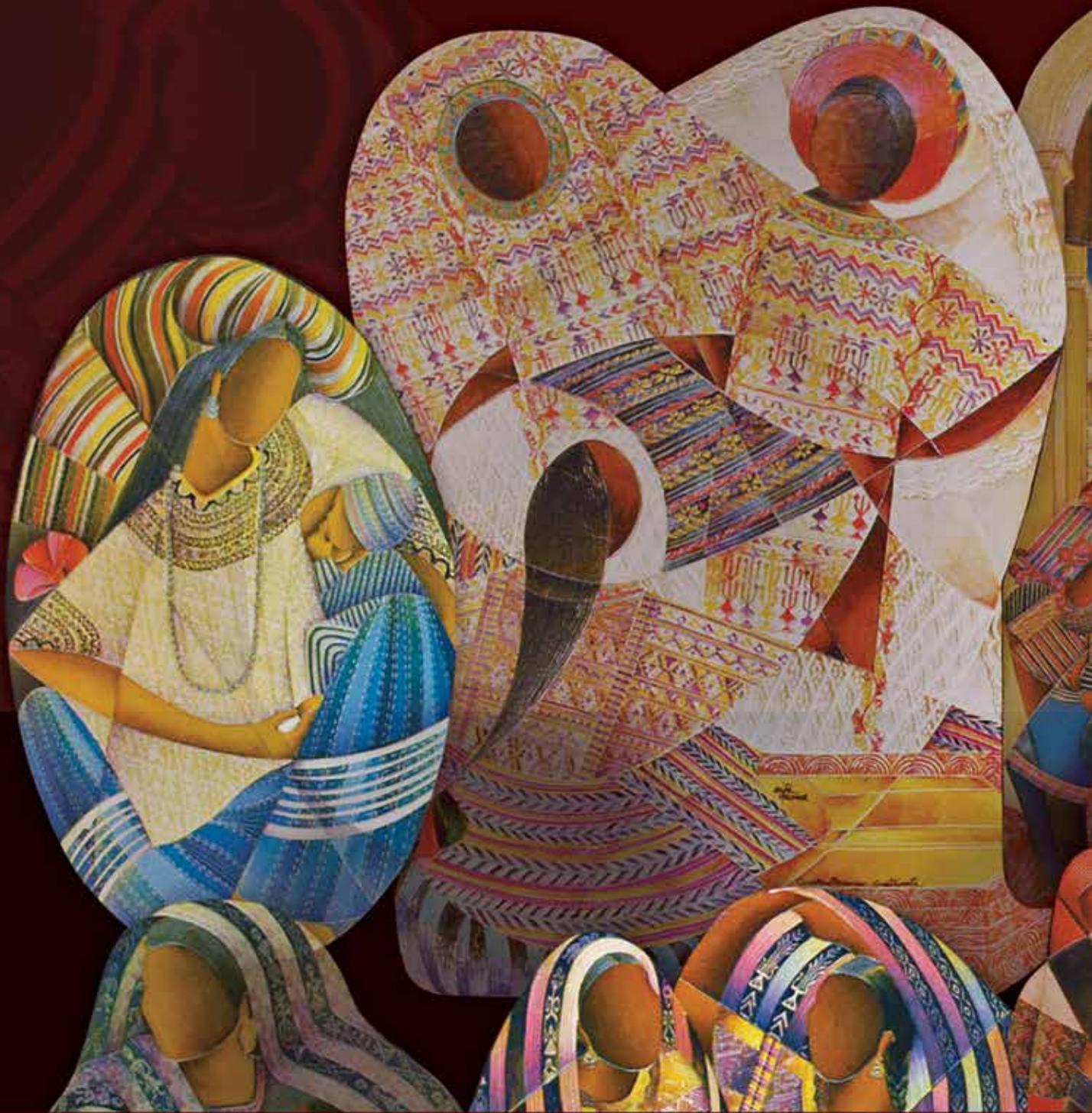
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