



INTER-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION
2014 in Review



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Cover and this page: Handmade ñanduti lace from Estación A Núcleo Cultural, a current IAF grantee grouping craftspeople in Paraguay. Opposite page: Herminia Riveros of Estación A. Both photos: Courtesy Estación A.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION



2014 IN REVIEW

October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014



PATRICE DOUGE

THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent foreign-assistance agency of the United States government, was created by the United States Congress in 1969 to respond with grant funding channeled directly to grassroots groups and the organizations that support them throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Awards finance initiatives that prioritize the most disadvantaged people by furthering economic development, secure communities, participation in democratic processes and social inclusion. 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. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF shares its experiences through its publications, www.iaf.gov and 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 38 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. Additional resources are channeled to the IAF through inter-agency agreements and contributed in kind and in cash by external donors. Since 1972, the IAF has awarded more than 5,000 grants valued at more than \$700 million. IAF grantees have committed or mobilized some \$1 billion in additional resources toward their projects and their own sustainability. Together, the IAF and its grantees have improved conditions in thousands of communities throughout the hemisphere.

Grand'Anse, Haiti, site of the country's first community foundation (page 45).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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Geneva, Switzerland

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* On Sept. 30, 2014.

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Frank D. Yturria**
Yturria Ranch
President and Chief Executive Officer
Las Animas Energy Company

*On Oct. 5, 2014.

**Former Chair, IAF Board of Directors

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Karen Vargas, Executive Assistant

Office of the General Counsel

Paul Zimmerman, General Counsel
Natalia Mandrus, Associate General Counsel

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Lesley Duncan, Chief Operating Officer
Anthony Cochran, General Services Specialist
Daniel Glenn, Information Technology Specialist
Rajiv Jain, Chief Information Officer
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Stephen Cox, Managing Director for Networks and Strategic Initiatives
Marcy Kelley, Managing Director for Grants and Portfolio Management
Patrick Ahern, Foundation Representative, Nicaragua
Gabriela Boyer, Foundation Representative, Mexico
Miriam Brandão, Foundation Representative, Peru
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Amanda Hess, Program Staff Assistant
Seth Jesse, Foundation Representative, El Salvador
Jenny Petrow, Foundation Representative, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica
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John Reed, Foundation Representative, Honduras
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José Toasa, Foundation Representative, Belize, Guatemala and Panama
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Megan Fletcher, Congressional Affairs Specialist
Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías, Public Affairs Specialist

*On Sept. 30, 2014.



COURTESY RAIS

Trueque de Saberes y Productos Comunitarios brought 150 farmers and artisans representing 28 current and former Salvadoran IAF grantees to San Salvador's Cuscatlán Park to display their work (page 75).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



In March, President Barack Obama asked me to serve as chair of the board of directors of the Inter-American Foundation and I deeply appreciate the trust and confidence this honor carries.

My initial appointment to the board three years ago not only opened up an extraordinary opportunity but also closed a circle for me. When I was in grade school, I used to play in the Dante Fascell Park in Miami. I had no idea then who Fascell was, but I eventually learned of his service in the U.S. House of Representatives and of his vision for cordial, productive relations with the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. Upon joining the board in 2012, I was thrilled to learn of Fascell's connection with founding and nurturing the Inter-American Foundation.

It has been 45 years since Dante Fascell introduced, and the Congress passed, his signature legislation that would create the IAF. It called for an approach to foreign aid that would consider

the dreams of organized men and women, rely on their personal commitment and value their community, the site and the spirit. That's what the IAF has done since it opened its doors.

I can testify to the difference the IAF's investment of U.S.-taxpayer dollars at the grassroots has made toward economic progress, better living conditions, vibrant civic processes and a healthier environment. Not long ago, I visited IAF grantee partners in Guatemala. What I witnessed was a remarkable level of competence and organization in service to social justice and family well-being for the long term. One grantee, Sa Qa Choi Nimbla K'aleb'aal (SANK), a group of indigenous Q'eqchi' activists in central Guatemala, works to secure clear title to land so that Q'eqchi' owners retain possession and control of their most valuable asset. Land is livelihood for these farmers and legal certainty that safeguards their livelihood. Another grantee, Federación Commercializadora de Café Especial de Guatemala (FECCEG), an association of coffee cooperatives, stands out for business savvy that gets farmers the best price for their superior product. Its know-how goes well beyond sophistication with sales. Like all coffee farmers in Central America, those in FECCEG are battling the fungus that is devastating harvests and bringing hardship to poor families. With IAF support, FECCEG has assumed the regional leadership in the struggle and is sharing what works and what doesn't with farmers across borders.

The IAF funds development group by group, community by community, listening to people where they live to discover what might be possible in terms of practical solutions and material improvements. Year after year, this has produced results, often in hard-won increments, that are cause for optimism. I like to tell the inspiring stories of the smart, scrappy IAF-funded partners that help disadvantaged communities beat long odds. But doing so led me to see something missing from this picture. Although people are impressed when I talk about the success of the IAF's investment in the grassroots, they invariably say they never knew the IAF existed. As chair, I am committed to assuring that the IAF's good work becomes known, so that it is no longer the best-kept secret in Washington. Behind the stories are community organizations, already prepared to do the hard work to help themselves. Tapping into their energy and ideas just makes good sense.

I know that my colleagues on the board share my enthusiasm for the role we play in an agency that is making positive, measurable differences in people's lives and in their communities. As chair, I am grateful to these colleagues for their support, and especially to my predecessor, John Salazar.

Fortunately he will remain with us and I can count on his advice and counsel. The board and our hemisphere are well served by the IAF's strong and focused staff who value inclusion, respect the poor, connect with their aspirations and share their ideals. This annual report offers a glimpse into how this corps of dedicated professionals works. As they take the agency forward in 2015 and beyond, they can be confident that the board stands with them.



Eddy Arriola



Chair Arriola receiving a miniature solar oven from IAF grantee Amigas del Sol during an event attended by representatives of six Guatemalan partners.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The air crackles with energy when grassroots partners of the Inter-American Foundation gather. Renowned development economist Albert O. Hirschman remarked on this phenomenon 30 years ago in *Getting Ahead Collectively*, his book based on visits with 45 IAF-funded grassroots organizations in six countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Hirschman found that citizens who work together to improve their communities are a transformative force despite often daunting obstacles and even setbacks. When the IAF brings representatives of disparate grassroots groups together, as we do several times a year, the connective power is palpable and opportunities to increase impact proliferate.

I witnessed this last March in Peru, where the leader of one grantee partner offered guidance on communication to representatives of peer organizations from across the country. Despite their diverse backgrounds, the wide range of program areas and the great differences

in conditions where they work—from the Amazon rain forest to the Andean highlands to the arid northern coast—these committed men and women bonded because of a common passion to help their communities thrive. I saw this same spark in the Dominican Republic, where staff from our grantee partners prodded and encouraged each other to question assumptions and clarify intentions and strategies for improving their effectiveness. Once again, the same determination to transform their communities bridged a wide diversity of backgrounds, training and skill levels. Far from undermining the experience, heterogeneity enriched it.

Such clear indications of the utility of this latent social capital have prompted us to examine some of our own assumptions as well, and we decided this year to increase the IAF's investment in forming and fortifying networks among thousands of grassroots partners across the hemisphere. A new office at the IAF, with staff dedicated to curating and nurturing partnerships, will guide this effort, and we have begun reaching out to test the concept. At the core of this initiative is the essence of the IAF's distinctive approach, which puts ordinary citizens in charge. We are betting that strengthening heterogeneous networks and partnership opportunities will give citizen groups an additional means to improve their effectiveness. We hope it will also enhance their ability to collaborate with local government and businesses. Over the next few years, we will experiment as we go and carefully track what we learn so that others too may benefit from the collective experience. We invite you to join us!

Latin America and the Caribbean has made much economic and social progress over the last several years. Yet significant challenges remain. Many countries have entered an economic slowdown that could reverse some of the gains. Already some 30 million more people across the region live below the poverty line today than in 1980, and many others are struggling to stay above it. A quarter of the population of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the countries comprising the Northern Triangle of Central America, subsists on less than \$2 per day. Violence persists as well, as evidenced by the brutal murder of 43 students at a rural teachers' college in Mexico. It is impossible to imagine lasting solutions to these durable problems without the active involvement of organized citizens.

At the end of fiscal 2014, the IAF had active grants with 268 grassroots organizations in 19 countries, representing an investment of more than \$66 million from the IAF and another \$97

million from our grantee partners. During 2014 alone, the IAF awarded \$15.4 million in grants toward the work of 107 partners, whose commitment of counterpart resources exceeds \$20 million. Importantly, we have increased support in Central America and Mexico, which accounted for more than 40 percent of the IAF's funding this year.

The tally of dollars understates the magnitude of the efforts by many of the region's most able citizens, whose ideas and hard work demonstrate year after year their commitment to their communities and their countries. The IAF has been honored to support them, and I feel privileged to be part of an organization staffed with so many talented, dedicated and enterprising professionals. One, Kevin Healy, retired in April after a record 36 years on the job. I had the good fortune to travel with him in Bolivia where I saw for myself the long-term results achieved by organizations that he identified for IAF funding decades ago. This durable impact on the ground is a testament to the wisdom of the visionaries who, 45 years ago, created a different kind of development agency, one committed to empowering the organized poor as protagonists in their own communities. I met one of those visionaries, George Cabot Lodge, in August, and his aptly turned phrase "engines of change" still applies to the dedicated men and women whom the IAF supports.

Finally, in 2014 President Obama designated Eddy Arriola chair of the IAF's board of directors. The staff welcome Eddy's leadership and energy and look forward to supporting him in his new role. I want to thank his predecessor, John Salazar, who served so capably in the position since 2009. In over eight years on the board, John has always looked for ways to help the IAF become better and stronger and gain recognition for its work. I have learned from his wise counsel and gentle encouragement, and I cherish the personal friendship of John and his wife Terri.



Robert N. Kaplan

President Kaplan with the IAF corps of auditors in Panama (page 68).

EDITH BERMÚDEZ



FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT

	New Grants Fiscal 2014				All Grantees in 2014		
	New Grants	Grant Supplements	IAF Investment	Counterpart	Active Grants	IAF Investment	Counterpart
Argentina	3	3	\$895,935	\$1,166,532	14	\$4,099,626	\$12,114,778
Belize	1		184,805	127,164	2	229,545	144,754
Bolivia	3	1	887,024	1,426,525	14	4,668,628	5,218,922
Brazil	6	4	1,335,861	2,362,153	27	6,813,359	13,569,131
Chile					2	571,000	2,141,901
Colombia	5	2	818,531	1,022,141	22	5,630,477	6,761,265
Costa Rica	3		407,120	467,540	11	1,532,940	2,234,615
Dominican Republic	1	3	390,275	501,105	9	2,786,672	3,605,242
Ecuador	2	2	412,354	611,212	9	1,748,154	2,001,812
El Salvador	4	4	1,167,120	1,029,035	18	4,646,601	3,924,374
Guatemala	4	2	1,072,935	1,306,546	20	4,114,578	4,381,487
Haiti	6	3	495,483	1,219,850	14	2,876,150	3,933,422
Honduras	7		1,430,670	983,880	13	2,873,211	3,180,552
Jamaica	1		192,315	137,555	3	800,670	1,747,255
Mexico	5	2	972,445	2,015,279	28	5,427,716	12,462,967
Nicaragua	3	3	847,960	773,420	13	3,311,974	4,133,555
Panama	1		40,450	43,075	4	925,900	1,429,962
Paraguay	3	2	700,297	748,781	12	3,413,570	4,361,447
Peru	5	6	1,702,172	1,554,510	23	6,975,637	6,176,328
Uruguay					2	449,100	613,583
Multi-Country	6	1	1,428,011	2,848,443	8	2,365,022	3,442,926
TOTALS	69	38	\$15,381,763	\$20,344,746	268	\$66,260,530	\$97,580,278



YUPAY students at meal time (page 61).

JEFRY ANDRÉS WRIGHT

FISCAL 2014: NEW GRANTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

IAF Investment by Program Area

	Grants	Investment	Percentage
Agriculture/Food Production	32	\$4,879,982	31.7
Corporate Social Investment	4	675,830	4.4
Cultural Expression	4	517,496	3.4
Education/Training	36	5,695,639	37.0
Enterprise Development	14	2,154,680	14.0
Environment	10	1,077,365	7.0
Health	2	67,545	.04
Housing	1	30,000	0.2
Legal assistance	1	99,600	0.6
Research/Dissemination	3	183,626	1.2
Total	107	\$15,381,763	

IAF Investment by Region

	Grants	Investment	Percentage
Andean Countries	26	\$3,820,081	24.8
Brazil	10	1,335,861	8.6
The Caribbean	14	1,078,073	7.0
Central America	32	5,151,060	33.5
Mexico	7	972,445	6.3
Multi-Country	7	1,428,011	9.3
Southern Cone	11	1,596,232	10.4
Total	107	\$15,381,763	

PORTFOLIO OF 268 GRANTEES ACTIVE IN 2014*

IAF Investment by Program Area

	Grants	Investment	Percentage
Agriculture/Food Production	79	\$19,972,202	30.14
Corporate Social Investment	17	4,154,592	6.27
Cultural Expression	12	2,701,010	4.08
Education/Training	79	19,332,441	29.18
Enterprise Development	45	11,413,500	17.22
Environment	23	5,670,326	8.56
Health	4	1,225,589	1.85
Housing	1	30,000	0.04
Legal assistance	5	1,475,165	2.23
Research/Dissemination	3	285,705	0.43
Total	268	\$66,260,530	

IAF Investment by Region

	Grants	Investment	Percentage
Andean Countries	68	\$19,022,896	28.7
Brazil	27	6,813,359	10.3
The Caribbean	26	6,463,492	9.7
Central America	81	17,634,749	26.6
Mexico	28	5,427,716	8.2
Multi-Country	8	2,365,022	3.6
Southern Cone	30	8,533,29	12.9
Total	268	\$66,260,530	

*On Sept. 30, 2014.

ARGENTINA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 14

IAF commitment:
\$4,099,626

Counterpart
commitment: \$12,114,778

Total investment:
\$16,214,404

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

New Grants

Asociación de Pequeños Productores Aborígenes de la Puna (APPP), \$211,830 over three years; counterpart committed, \$375,855

APPP will work in 10 communities to improve the production, processing and marketing of llama meat and to encourage the consumption of foods native to the Puna. The goal is food sovereignty, employment opportunities, better income, a more robust Kolla culture, the development of APPP and the inclusion of women and young members in its leadership. The project should benefit 965 indigenous Argentines directly and another 2,095 indirectly. (AR-369)

La Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ) \$272,725 over three years; counterpart committed, \$300,492

In collaboration with the neighborhood council of Villa 21-24 and other partners, ACIJ will create a community center where 150 entrepreneurs will develop skills and receive support toward making their businesses more competitive and facilitating their entry into the formal economy of Buenos Aires. ACIJ will also help other residents of this low-income community overcome the barriers to full inclusion in social services and economic life. The project should benefit 1,500 residents of Villa 21-24 directly and another 25,000 indirectly. (AR-370)

Fundación Gran Chaco (FGCH), \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$114,000

FGCH will work with Cooperativa de Mujeres Artesanas del Gran Chaco, comprising 1,200 Wichi and Qomléec artisans from eight associations, to develop new lines of handbags, belts, blankets, rugs and clothing and to assess the feasibility of marketing its brand in niche markets in Argentina and abroad. Training in design, handling new materials and technologies, quality control and marketing, along with related technical assistance, should increase income and improve the cooperative's effectiveness in serving the artisans. (AR-371)

PAULA DURBIN

Yarn from llama fibers.



Supplemental Grants*

Caxi Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral (CAXI), \$131,900 over two years; counterpart committed, \$145,635

CAXI will encourage the application of “agroecology,” or farming practices that incorporate the science of ecology, including by introducing the approach into the curriculum of a rural high school. It will develop processes that add value to agricultural and livestock production and will train 410 farmers in marketing. (AR 361-A2)

Banco de Bosques (BdeB), \$99,600 over two years; counterpart committed, \$104,750

BdeB will build infrastructure for ecotourism near Puerto Iguazu, develop activities to attract visitors from Argentina and abroad, and train 265 indigenous Mbya in the skills necessary to make their community enterprise self-sufficient. (AR-364-A2)

Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz (FUNDAPAZ), \$129,880 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$125,800

FUNDAPAZ will develop the management and financial resources of Unión de Familias Organizadas de Pequeños Productores de la Cuña Boscosa y los Bajos Submeridionales de Santa Fe (UOCB) and train 105 member families in agriculture and animal husbandry. (AR-359 A2)

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





Sabino Gregorio processing llama sausage.

A Resource for the Kolla

Traditions native to the Andes persist among the Kolla people of northwest Argentina, giving their community cohesion and guiding their lives. The Kolla live concentrated in small towns and rural hamlets on the Puna, the stark plateau extending through the province of Jujuy and into Bolivia. Despite the harsh climate, high altitude, scarce resources and isolation, the Kolla value and respect the surrounding environment from which they derive material and spiritual sustenance. Farming is only possible in small pockets of the Puna, which is better suited to livestock, mainly sheep and llamas that yield fibers for yarn and textiles and meat for household consumption and sale.

For centuries the Kolla have endured poverty characterized by high levels of infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition, alcoholism, school dropouts, migration, unemployment and underemployment. The IAF has identified these Argentines as a priority for its portfolio and has

invested over the past decade in the ideas of Kolla organized for change as Warmi Sayajsung, whose membership spans some 80 communities, and Red Puna y Quebrada, a network of 35 grassroots groups, including **Asociación de Pequeños Productores Aborígenes de la Puna (APPP)**. Founded in 1996, APPP became legally constituted in 2008. Its mission is to improve conditions for indigenous Argentines and to assure their awareness of their cultural identity and their constitutional rights as their country's original settlers. APPP sets an example through its application of democratic practices, its respect for diversity and its equitable treatment of Kolla women, who are often overburdened as breadwinners with staggering family and community responsibilities.

APPP has been working to encourage the production of the llamas native to the Puna, livestock that require less forage and less water than sheep and do less damage to the limited arable land of this fragile ecosystem. As information has become available and cultural biases are overcome, llama meat has been gaining acceptance as an excellent source of protein, low in fat, and it is finding a niche in restaurants, hotels, schools and dining rooms beyond Jujuy. APPP has built a small meat-packing plant that has begun production and is collaborating with Argentina's Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI) to introduce new products, which could result in more jobs for young Kolla men and women. The IAF's award will help APPP further its production, processing and marketing of llama derivatives, develop as an institution and prepare young people to assume positions of leadership. The return on this investment should include a more reliable food supply, full employment, better income and a more vibrant Kolla culture, benefiting 965 indigenous Argentines in 10 communities of Jujuy.—*Florencia Álvarez, assistant liaison for Argentina*



BELIZE

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment:
\$229,545

Counterpart
commitment: \$144,754

Total investment:
\$374,299

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture, nutrition,
partnerships.

New Grant

Ya'axché Conservation Trust (YCT),
\$184,805 over four years; counterpart
committed, \$127,164

YCT will work with 72 farmers from six communities in the Toledo district to develop their leadership and organizational skills as well as their agroforestry practices. The farmers will learn techniques to apply to their cultivation of staples for consumption as well as cacao as a cash crop. The grant will directly benefit the farmers involved and their families and will indirectly benefit another 350 farm families. (BE-113)



From Day Labor to Farming

The dense rainforest and the diversity of wildlife of Toledo, in southern Belize, offer a stark contrast to the abject poverty of the majority of the people in the district. Fully half of Toledo's residents are considered indigent, and the statistics only get worse in the rural enclaves that trace their origins to indigenous Q'eqchi' Maya settlers who began leaving Guatemala for southern Belize in the 1940s. Day labor is the principal source of income in these villages where many survive on less than \$2 a day.

The **Ya'axche Conservation Trust (YCT)** was founded in 1997 as the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP) and renamed in 2002 to resonate more with these indigenous communities. Its mission is to maintain healthy forests, rivers and reefs in and around Toledo's Maya Golden Landscape through effective advocacy and the management of protected areas and as well as by enabling communities to use the land and its resources wisely. YCT got off to a bold start by purchasing 15,700 wooded acres threatened by the encroachment of citrus orchards and cattle. It converted the expanse into a reserve and drafted its own regulations for protecting the area consistent with stringent official guidelines. YCT's success earned the trust of the government whose Forest Department invited YCT to co-manage the 100,000-acre Bladen Nature Reserve, the crown jewel of protected areas in the country. The partnership is now in its sixth year.

YCT's staff has increasingly emphasized the role of local residents in its conservation mission. Last year, YCT added to those who have benefited from its assistance by beginning to train members of IAF grantee Trio Farmers Cacao Growers, a grassroots group, to use organic methods to cultivate cacao as a cash crop on a concession of land in the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve. Bartolo Teul, a founding member of YCT manages its community outreach and its program on livelihoods, which works to identify opportunities for residents to make agriculture profitable and still compatible with the responsible use of the environment. Teul is currently on leave to train with Coady International Institute in Canada in topics that include community organization and government accountability. When Teul returns, he will use his skills to help Toledo residents organize to obtain concessions in the reserves and manage them successfully.

As the IAF's grantee in this project, YCT will work with 72 Q'eqchi' families in six communities scattered around the Columbia Forest Reserve, a section of the Bladen Nature Reserve in which the government has awarded YCT its own concession. The plan is for these families to farm the land, but first they must learn to do so in compliance with government regulations. In YCT's nursery the future farmers will master organic techniques for cultivating cacao as a cash crop and staples for household consumption. Once trained, they will receive seeds for tubers and seedlings for cacao and citrus trees as well as agricultural tools. YCT expects the support to enable them to secure their food supply and eventually qualify to sell their cacao to fair trade markets. YCT will also offer workshops that prepare the villagers to become involved in decisions affecting them and to hold their mayors and village chiefs accountable for effectively representing them before levels of government with resources to allocate.—*Alexis Toussaint, program staff assistant*



BOLIVIA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 14

IAF commitment:
\$4,668,628

Counterpart
commitment: \$5,218,922

Total investment:
\$9,887,550

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture,
conservation, enterprise
development, inclusion
of indigenous
communities, women
and young people.

New Grants

Fundación Antropólogos del Surandino
(ASUR), \$242,618 over two years;
counterpart committed, \$478,209

ASUR will train 200 young, low-income Bolivians from 10 communities in the municipalities of Tinquipaya and Caiza, Potosí, in the skills necessary to produce embroidery, silverwork, traditional textiles, leather goods, woodcarvings, goat cheese, clothing and additional items and in financial management, marketing and other areas. The artisans will organize into units to develop their techniques and designs, the quality and diversity of their products, and their access to markets. Collaboration with the government on vocational education should give another 80 students the skillsets to work in food-processing, carpentry, construction, welding, and the installation of electrical and sanitation facilities. (BO-524)

Centro de Investigaciones de Energía y Población (CIEP), \$253,790 over three years; counterpart committed, \$211,590
CIEP and its partner organizations will bring residents of 10 rural Aymara communities into the tourism industry in the Batallas municipality, near Lake Titicaca, by developing a tour circuit that enables them to work as guides and sell food, crafts and services to Bolivian and international visitors. The project should benefit 300 Bolivians directly and another 900 indirectly. (BO-526)

Fundación Centro Arakuaarenda

(Arakuaarenda), \$258,880 over three years;
counterpart committed, \$262,643

Arakuaarenda educational program will reach 1,200 young Guarani in Charagua and Gutiérrez, department of Santa Cruz, reinforcing their cultural identity and encouraging the exercise of their constitutional rights. It should also result in an array of local and regional organizations in which they can articulate their needs, grievances and concrete proposals for greater inclusion as a sector within the process shaping autonomous indigenous municipal structures. (BO-528)

Supplemental Grant

Asociación de Artesanos Andinos
(AAA), \$131,736; counterpart committed,
\$474,083

AAA will improve and expand its community tourism services in Tapacari and Arque, diversify its textile production and develop its marketing strategies. (BO-521-A3)

ASUR weavers.



SEAN SPRAGUE



ELVIRA ESPEJO





KEVIN HEALY

Capturing a Clientele on Lake Titicaca

As the world's highest navigable lake, Titicaca draws visitors from around the globe to a natural wonder set amidst breathtaking vistas and the vibrant traditions of Andean community life. But tourism to the area is dominated by distant travel agencies, in Bolivia and abroad, and thus far has yielded few benefits for the indigenous Bolivians who live in the lake's basin. Now **Centro de Investigaciones de Energía y Población** (CIEP) is challenging that status quo. The nongovernmental organization has been working with the municipality of Batallas and Asociación de Productores del Circuito Turístico Posada del Artesano, a grassroots group led by Aymara women, most of them artisans, from 10 lakeside communities, toward capturing a share of the revenues generated by travelers en route to Copacabana, the legendary shrine overlooking the lake.

To date, CIEP has helped refine traditional crafts—ceramics, baskets, embroidery, knitted items, weavings—and facilitated the formation of Posada del Artesano with the goal of organizing rural entrepreneurs to reach a competitive visitor market not easily accessed by new entrants. CIEP has already invested international funding in the construction of a center for tourism on municipal land in the provincial town of Batallas. Staffed by women from the participating communities on a rotating basis, it offers food services to local residents. The IAF's award will enable CIEP to expand this incipient enterprise into a full circuit with multiple sites. These include the center itself, which will add a café, Internet access, crafts for sale and guides to explain archeological sites and community-based artisan workshops. Its restaurant, stocked with locally grown quinoa, Andean potatoes and vegetables, will benefit from CIEP's training in gastronomy for the community residents staffing its kitchen. After a renovation funded by the municipality, the IAF and other sources, the historic plaza in the town of Peñas, where the indigenous leader Tupak Katari was drawn and quartered by the Spaniards in the late 18th century, will become the circuit's main attraction.

CIEP is confident that its circuit will motivate some of the Bolivian and foreign travelers on their way to Copacabana to get off the tourist bus in Batallas, rather than bypass it as has been the pattern. Its three-year grassroots project should prepare the members of Posada del Artesano to eventually take over the management of the center and the circuit intended to capture tourist dollars, euros and pesos for the benefit of further grassroots development.—Kevin Healy, former representative for Bolivia

CIEP members and community residents with a replica of the balsa boat emblematic of the lake.

BRAZIL

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 27

IAF commitment:
\$6,818,359

Counterpart
commitment:
\$13,569,131

Total investment:
\$20,387,490

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

New Grants

Centro de Educação Popular (CENEP), \$195,595 over two years; counterpart committed, \$280,975

CENEP will research medicinal plants indigenous to the Curimataú territory in the Brazilian Northeast and work with communities toward their effective use in health care and conservation. The project is expected to benefit 350 residents of 10 municipalities in the state of Paraíba directly and another 2,500 indirectly. (BR-884)

Associação Quilombola São Miguel Arcajo do Bairro Morro Seco (AQSMA), \$45,315 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$26,975

AQSMA will work with residents of Morro Seco, a quilombo in the state of Sao Paulo, to preserve traditional agricultural practices, create a seed bank, develop the connection between young people and the land, help families use cultural events to generate income and improve its own ability to manage future grants. The project should benefit 50 residents directly and 90 indirectly. (BR-885)

Cooperativa de Agricultores Ecológicos do Portal da Amazônia (Cooperagrepa), \$263,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$336,500

Cooperagrepa will use a community-based extension service to develop the network of farmers applying agroecological methods that protect biodiversity and maximize the production of an area extending over 19,730 square miles in northern Mato Grosso. Work also includes the development a system for certifying production as organic so that it qualifies for the premium paid by ethical consumers. The project will benefit 350 farmers directly and another 1,200 Brazilians indirectly. (BR-888)

Associação Comunitária da Vila de São Jorge (ASJOR), \$163,230 over two and a half years; counterpart committed, \$283,985

ASJOR will work in the community of São Jorge, Goiás, to expand the reach of healthcare that complements conventional medicine by incorporating traditional practices, including the use of medicinal plants indigenous to the Cerrado, a savannah located in the heart of Brazil. An analysis of the benefits of the plants and the development of a plant nursery and a community health center should benefit 500 residents directly and another 5,000 indirectly. (BR-889)

Agência de Desenvolvimento Econômico Local (ADEL), \$210,434 over three years; counterpart committed, \$225,043

ADEL will train 160 rural youths in the skills necessary to become entrepreneurs and will give them access to microcredit and information technologies to help launch businesses, which might provide an incentive for them to remain in their communities in the semiarid region of the state of Ceará. Another 3,600 residents should benefit from the project indirectly. (BR-890)

Centro de Capacitação Zumbi dos Palmares (CCZP), \$168,520 over two years and six months; counterpart committed, \$245,591

CCZP will help beekeepers resettled in the semiarid region of Alagoas, pursuant to Brazil's program of land reform, transform subsistence honey production into a viable source of income by developing a processing facility and marketing strategies. The project will benefit 120 rural families directly and 1,500 other area residents indirectly. (BR-891)

Supplemental Grants

Centro de Apoio Sócio-Ambiental (CASA), \$91,700

CASA will use funding from the IAF and other sources to award 461 subgrants of up to \$5,000 each to Brazilian grassroots and nongovernmental organizations undertaking development projects compatible with the responsible use of the environment. (BR-846-A4)

Centro de Educação Popular e Formação Social (CEPFS), \$36,414 for six months; counterpart committed, \$12,000

CEPFS will introduce compost toilets and cisterns for the capture and storage of rainwater in farming communities of Paraíba with limited water resources and will encourage the application of better farming techniques via training and technical assistance offered to 728 farmers. An additional 2,912 residents should also benefit. (BR-858-A4)

Associação de Estudos, Orientação, e Assistência Rural (ASSESOAR), \$81,000
ASSESOAR will introduce farmers and public officials in southeastern Paraná state to agroecological practices by developing plots on family farms and at rural schools that demonstrate the benefits of “agricultural forests” combining farming and forest management and of low-cost, low-maintenance silos as well as cisterns. The project should reach 2,000 Brazilians directly; another 25,000 should become familiar with the technologies introduced. (BR-860-A2)

Bahia Street, \$80,153; counterpart committed, \$42,355

Bahia Street’s program of tutoring and mentoring in Salvador da Bahia will prepare an additional 200 girls between the ages of 6 and 17 to continue their education through secondary school and university. (BR-863-A4)

Inspecting a cistern.



COURTESY ASSESOAR

More Entrepreneurs for the Sertão

The area along the Medio Curu River in the semiarid Sertão of Ceará, in Northeast Brazil, is suffering its worst drought in 50 years. The *caatinga*, the vegetation of the dry forest, survives, its cacti and bromeliads blossoming in just a few drops of rain, but rural residents fare less well. As perennial rivers become seasonal, farmers on small plots are hard pressed to grow even a limited variety of crops and their children have been leaving for Fortaleza, the state capital, in search of better opportunities.

Agencia de Desenvolvimento Economico Local (ADEL) was founded in 2007 by a small group of young people, all sons and daughters of farmers, who managed to graduate from university and decided to try to help their neighbors in Pentecoste, Ceará, become entrepreneurs. The four founding directors constituting ADEL's governing board range in age from 23 to 26; the 20 local residents comprising its general assembly are between 18 and 26. To date, ADEL has worked with 2,800 farmers in 80 communities. Its assistance has inspired several hundred to organize into cooperatives and to launch businesses focused on poultry, goats and grain production. ADEL's program to train 50 young people in the skills needed to start businesses resulted in the launch of courier services, restaurants, a pasteurization facility and delivery systems for agricultural products, among other enterprises. The trained youths also organized the Network of Young Rural Entrepreneurs, a platform for the exchange of ideas and effective practices. It has encouraged members to find new partners and form clusters to work with each other and with local agricultural cooperatives. Fewer young people now leave for Fortaleza and some who have migrated are returning, attracted by the opportunities emerging in the Sertão that pay better than the menial jobs the city offers.

ADEL will use its IAF grant to develop another cohort of entrepreneurs for rural Ceará. Its program for 160 young Brazilians from eight communities will include the training, mentoring and access to microcredit, information and communication technology necessary to develop their own businesses. ADEL estimates that household income will increase by 50 percent as a result and that 80 percent of the trainees will remain in their communities to join the Network of Young Rural Entrepreneurs and participate in community groups. The availability of microcredit is expected to result in the installment or improvement of infrastructure needed to store and process agricultural products affordably, benefiting 3,600 other residents.—*David Fleischer, representative for Brazil*



COLOMBIA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 22

IAF commitment:
\$5,630,477

Counterpart commitment:
\$6,761,265

Total investment:
\$12,391,742

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 de Usuarios del Distrito de Adecuación de Tierras de Pequeña Escala San Miguel De Cariaco Bajo (Distrito de Riego), \$40,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$22,500

Distrito de Riego will work with members of Asociación de Comunidades Andinas de Nariño (Tierrandina) (CO-527) and Grupo Asociativo Agropecuario El Progreso Ciudadela de Bomboná (El Progreso) on the creation of Asociación de Productores de Galeras (Asoprogaleras), an umbrella organization that can access funds for development from a variety of donors. The grant will benefit 109 Colombians directly and 545 indirectly. (CO-538)

Grupo Asociativo Agropecuario El Progreso Ciudadela de Bomboná

(El Progreso), \$43,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$22,000

El Progreso will work with two other IAF grantees, Asociación de Comunidades Andinas de Nariño (Tierrandina) (CO-527) and Asociación de Usuarios del Distrito de Adecuación de Tierras de Pequeña Escala San Miguel De Cariaco Bajo (Distrito de Riego) (CO-538), toward creating an umbrella organization, Asociación de Productores de Galeras (Asoprogaleras). The grant will directly benefit 125 coffee farmers in the municipality of Consacá. (CO-539)

Asociación de Campesinos de la Vereda Palmas (Asocap), \$222,456 over three years; counterpart committed, \$152,073

Asocap will work with Asociación Comunitaria de Productores de Mora y Demás Cultivos de la Región (Asocomore) and Fundación Ecológica Produende (Produende) to encourage young people to remain in their rural communities by developing their leadership skills and income potential and providing them access to materials, supplies and equipment. The work will directly benefit 350 residents of the municipalities of Darien, Trujillo and Riofrio, department of Valle del Cauca; another 1,500 should benefit indirectly. (CO-540)

Asociación para el Desarrollo Campesino

(ADC), \$233,700 over three years; counterpart committed, \$356,270

ADC will work with its member *mingas*, or organizations, and with other community groups in the municipalities of Pasto, Buesaco, Chachagui, Ipiales, Puerres and Yacuanquer to encourage practices that benefit the environment and help farmers remain on their land. ADC's program also includes the formation of a network of its grassroots members and environmental education in primary schools. The project will benefit 700 Colombians directly and 2,000 indirectly. (CO-541)

Centro Nacional de Consultoría (CNC), \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$248,300

CNC will validate a new set of indicators of well-being by collecting information on households and agricultural production in indigenous Nasa communities in the municipalities of Jambaló and Caldono, department of Cauca. The training and research will directly involve 135 participants and benefit another 10,000 indigenous Colombians. (CO-542)

Supplemental Grants

Fundación Sumapaz (Sumapaz), \$50,744; counterpart committed, \$36,244

Sumapaz will continue to work with 300 leaders drawn from 150 grassroots groups and representatives of three community-based networks in Comuna 3, a neighborhood in Medellín, toward developing skills in planning, cooperation, conflict resolution and promoting awareness of human rights. It will also offer residents a venue for compiling, analyzing and distributing information relevant to their community. (CO-522-A5)

Corporación Taller de Promoción Popular y Desarrollo Alternativo

(Prodesal), \$173,631 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$183,754
Prodesal's activities related to local processes on policy decisions will reach 1,830 young Colombians in three additional municipalities in Córdoba, raise their awareness of their rights and improve their business skills. (CO-529-A2)

PHOTOS COURTESY ASOCAP



A Future for Farming Communities

What happens to grassroots organizations when young people abandon their rural communities, lured by the promise of a better life in the city? **Asociación de Campesinos de la Vereda Palmas** (Asocap), Asociación Comunitaria de Productores de Mora y Demás Cultivos de la Región (Asocomore) and Fundación Ecológica Produende (Produende) work in the municipalities of Riofrio, Darien and Trujillo, Valle del Cauca. As their members have grown older, they have noticed a dearth of young people interested in following in their footsteps. They worry about where new leadership will come from, especially with so many young residents leaving when they finish school.

Founded in 2003, Asocap represents 30 farm families from Riofrio and focuses on agricultural production that is compatible with the responsible use of the environment. Asocomore and Produende, founded in 2006 and 2004, respectively, work in Darien and Trujillo with farmers who grow blackberries and other fruit that thrives at higher altitudes. All three organizations are trying to identify economic opportunities that would motivate young people to commit to their communities and develop the ties that give rise to the mentoring and support they need to succeed. The collaboration has produced Rutas de Relevo Generacional, or road maps, for working with young people to develop economic opportunities for them in Valle del Cauca and to teach them the value of contributing to grassroots initiatives.

Between 2009 and 2013, Asocap was one of 10 grassroots groups that benefitted from the IAF's award to the nearby Asociación de Campesinos Agroecológicos de la Zona de Amortiguamiento al Parque Natural Regional del Duende (Asoduende), which trained Asocap's staff in accounting, management and organizational planning. Because of its new skills and its commitment, Asocomore and Produende agreed that Asocap should lead this project, but with input from a joint steering committee representing all three groups. Activities planned include training related to the development of leadership ability, to drafting business plans and to the management of a community-based organization. Exchanges among the three groups will allow the young participants to make contact and share experiences. The business plans that they draft will be screened by a committee that includes representatives from all three groups and a delegate from the young cohort, which will give preference to projects involving three or more entrepreneurs and requiring support from one of the grassroots groups. The best plans will be eligible for funding toward the purchase of materials, supplies and equipment. The work will directly involve 300 young Colombians and 50 members of the grassroots organizations. The organizations themselves should benefit from the future contributions and commitment of the young participants as should the municipalities of Riofrio, Darien and Trujillo.—*Juanita Roca, representative for Colombia and Chile*



COSTA RICA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 11

IAF commitment:
\$1,532,940

Counterpart commitment:
\$2,234,615

Total investment:
\$3,767,555

Areas of emphasis:
Community foundations,
conservation, corporate
social responsibility, credit,
enterprise development,
rural water supply,
inclusion of young people,
African descendants and
indigenous Costa Ricans.

New Grants

Asociación de Organizaciones del Corredor Biológico Talamanca Caribe (ACBTC), \$136,870 over three years; counterpart committed, \$178,550

With technical assistance from ACBTC, African descendants in Talamanca, south of Limón, will renovate their cacao plants, work toward certification of their farms as organic, cultivate native fruit trees to diversify their crops and organize to market their products. At least 125 Costa Ricans will benefit directly and another 700 will have access to more nutritious food. (CR-342)

Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales del Caribe Sur (APACS), \$139,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$144,000
APACS' members will work together to encourage responsible fishing consistent with government guidelines and international standards, control invasive lion fish and develop the skills to represent their interests effectively. The project will directly involve some 300 fishers and their families and reach 1,080 clients and students. A healthier coastal ecosystem should benefit tourists and the entire local population. (CR-343)

Liga de Comunidades Unidas en Conservación del Agua (Liga Cuenca), \$135,250 over three years; counterpart committed, \$144,990

Liga Cuenca will improve its protection of water sources by raising awareness of the importance of conservation, teaching farmers the danger of agrochemicals and setting up a loan fund to enable members to acquire watershed land. Borrowers will repay the loan principal in full; work to restore and protect the properties purchased will serve as interest. Volunteers from participating communities will plant trees and teach conservation in local schools. The initiative should benefit 13,000 residents of Alfaro Ruiz. (CR-344)

MARCY KELLEY



To Take Back the Reef

The flamboyant lion fish, or *pterois volitans*, is a nocturnal hunter that seems to devour everything in its path. Native to the Indo-Pacific, the lion fish is new to the Caribbean, where it has no predators, reproduces at the rate of 30,000 eggs every four days and gorges on up to 30 fry and fingerling an hour. Snappers, lobsters and other local species hardly stand a chance against this ravenous horde, which puts the ecology of reefs at risk. Also endangered is the livelihood of Costa Rican fishers in Caribbean coastal enclaves.

Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales del Caribe Sur (APACS) is leading the effort to control the lion fish. The majority of its 300 members are from communities where fishing is a tradition passed to children by their parents and grandparents. Their *nasas*, the traps used to catch lobsters in the eastern Caribbean, were a source of income and cultural pride until the lion fish began slipping into them to feast, then slipping back out. The fishers knew they had to work together to restore the environmental balance crucial to the continuity of their way of life.

APACS plans to use its IAF award to make coastal waters safer for other marine organisms and help its members add to their income by marketing the lion fish for human consumption, including through the local hotels and restaurants expected to feature it on their menus. Organized to motivate fishers, educate residents and increase their involvement in its mission to encourage responsible fishing, APACS' annual tournament this year became another means to control the invaders, with prizes for the contestants who caught the biggest, the smallest and the most lion fish. The entire campaign to alert the public and promote a new seafood got a boost when Luis Guillermo Solís, president of Costa Rica, visited in September and pitched the notion that the gorgeous creature at the top of the local aquatic food chain could itself provide an adventure in fine dining.

A diverse array of grantee organizations of fishers shares APACS' goal to control this invader and engage communities in marine conservation. Funded by the IAF, Mexican grantee Comunidad y Biodiversidad (COBI), based in Quintana Roo, collaborates with enterprises catering to tourists in Cancun that purchase lion fish from its members. Fishers from APACS plan to meet with colleagues from COBI and from other Mexican and Dominican grantees to share successful practices, so that the diversity of the Caribbean ecosystem is safe from this voracious predator and the sea continues to support responsible fishers.—*Amanda Fagerblom, program staff assistant*



HENRY AND TERSIA CLAASEN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 8

IAF commitment:

\$2,786,672

Counterpart commitment:

\$3,605,242

Total investment:

\$6,391,914

Areas of emphasis:

Agriculture, basic education, conservation and resource management, cooperation with Haitian organizations, development of young leaders, prevention of violence, women's rights.

Supplemental Grants

Acción Callejera Fundación Educativa (Acción Callejera), \$127,755; counterpart committed, \$99,622

Acción Callejera's classes will reinforce academic skills of an additional 2,500 children in poor neighborhoods in Santiago, and introduce them to their rights under Dominican law. In collaboration with committees formed to protect minors, these young people will also undertake community development. Two psychologists will counsel children and families exposed to violence. (DR-343-A1)

Núcleo de Apoyo a la Mujer (NAM), \$15,685

NAM will expand services offered to victims of domestic and sexual violence and further develop institutional networks dedicated to preventing such violence in Santiago and Moca. The project is expected to reach 1,385 victims, members of grassroots and nongovernmental organizations, and local public-sector employees. (DR-345-A1)

GUAKIA AMBIENTE, \$98,000;

counterpart committed, \$90,000

GUAKIA AMBIENTE will work with the residents of Magazen, Haiti, located on the northeastern border with the Dominican Republic, to construct, operate and maintain community-run micro-hydroelectric systems that generate energy from the natural flow of water. The clean and reliable source of electricity will benefit 200 Haitians directly and another 700 indirectly. (DR-347-A1)



COURTESY NAM



MARTA PASCUAL CABALLERO



MICHELA IZZO



Cross-border cooperation on a hydroelectric system in Magazen, Haiti.

ECUADOR

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 9

IAF commitment:
\$1,748,154

Counterpart commitment:
\$2,001,812

Total investment:
\$3,749,966

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

New Grants

Fundación para Conservación y Desarrollo Colinas Verdes (Colinas Verdes), \$299,160 over four years; counterpart committed, \$322,520
In coordination with Asociación Agroartesanal de Productores Ecológicos de Café Especial del Cantón Loja (APECAEL), Colinas Verdes and 720 coffee farmers will undertake an integrated program of pest management, plant trees to diversify their food source and cash crops, and encourage young people to work on family farms. An additional 3,000 residents of Vilcabamba, Loja, in southern Ecuador will also benefit. (EC-431)

Asociación de Producción de Cacao y Derivados “Aromas del Sur” (ASOPROMAS), \$70,050 over three years; counterpart committed, \$316,560
ASOPROMAS will improve its members’ production of cacao, industrialize its processing of candies, cultivate new markets and develop as an organization. The project should directly benefit 100 Ecuadoreans in the province of Zamora Chinchipe and reach another 200 indirectly. (EC-432)

Supplemental Grants

Agrupación AfroEcuatoriana “Mujeres Progresistas” (AAMP), \$25,000; counterpart committed, \$5,072

AAMP will retain employees hired to complete the documentation and otherwise assist with the formalities required for the construction of Africa Mia, a conference center and business incubator in La Trinidad, Guayaquil. Africa Mia is expected to absorb these two positions within 18 months. (EC-426-A1)

Fundación de Organizaciones Campesinas de Salinas (FUNORSAL), \$18,144; counterpart committed, \$26,000
FUNORSAL will hire a bilingual community organizer to facilitate its expansion into six additional locations. The project is expected to benefit 1,000 families in the provinces of Bolívar, Tungurahua and Chimborazo. (EC-427-A1)

PHOTOS COURTESY COLINAS VERDES



More Farmers for the Coffee Klatch

Roya, or coffee rust, is estimated to have reduced the 2013-2014 coffee harvest significantly in Latin America, where farmers on small plots grow varieties especially susceptible to the parasitic fungus that destroys the plant's leaves and disrupts photosynthesis. Losses for the coming season could be even worse. The causes of the rampant spread of coffee rust include increasingly warmer and wetter climatic conditions that allow it to thrive at higher altitudes. If *roya* has hit growers hard, seasonal laborers have also suffered, with an estimated 441,000 jobs lost in 2013. Farmers are trying to diversify so they are not dependent on the success of a single crop.

Fundación para Conservación y Desarrollo Colinas Verdes (Colinas Verdes) was founded in 1994 by a group of local professionals to focus on the diversification of agriculture, environmental education and

reforestation of the buffer zone of the Podocarpus National Park. To further these goals, it responds to grassroots groups requiring technical assistance, most recently to Asociación Agroartesanal de Productores Ecológicos de Café Especial del Canton Loja (APECAEL), founded in 2009, which represents 15 groups of farmers who pool their coffee for processing and marketing. Members of Colinas Verdes and APECAEL are concerned that young adults are abandoning family farms for urban areas at an alarming rate because of the difficulty of making a living from the land. Colinas Verdes and APECAEL will use this award to address the problem by helping 720 farmers replace their coffee trees, diversify into other cash crops and manage pests and disease by, for example, introducing improved plant varieties and building a laboratory that produces *beauveria bassiana*, a mushroom that kills the coffee borer beetle. They will also encourage farmers to try new approaches to providing shade, pruning, weeding and fertilizing. A steering committee representing both organizations will manage these and other activities.

Colinas Verdes is among a dozen grantees spread through several countries affected by *roya*. Sponsored by the IAF, their representatives met in November 2013 in El Salvador to discuss coffee rust at Let's Talk *Roya*, a conference organized by Sustainable Harvest, a socially responsible importer of specialty-grade coffee grown in 15 countries. In May, grantee Federación Comercializadora Café Especial de Guatemala (FECCEG) hosted farmers from other IAF-funded organizations and shared its producers' experience using organic remedies to mitigate coffee rust. A meeting scheduled by Sustainable Harvest for October in Panama focused on niche markets. Such opportunities to network and share sound practices add value to the IAF's award by helping farmers cope with the crisis and enabling their organizations to serve them more effectively.—*Marcy Kelley, managing director, Office of Grants and Portfolio Management*



EL SALVADOR

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 18

IAF commitment:
\$4,646,601

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,924,374

Total investment:
\$8,570,975

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

New Grants

Asociación de Desarrollo Comunal Milagro de Dios (ADESCOMD), \$33,550 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$15,990

ADESCOMD will help residents of five villages in San Alejo, La Unión, diversify their agricultural production to include cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, green beans and other vegetables, and protect their soil by applying organic fertilizer, constructing natural barriers and reforestation. The work will benefit 55 residents of San Alejo directly and 370 indirectly. (ES-265)

Fundación Red de Sobrevivientes y Personas con Discapacidad (Red de Sobrevivientes), \$321,510 over three years; counterpart committed, \$311,105

Red de Sobrevivientes will work with grassroots disability groups and local authorities to create six municipal offices [OMADIS] that maintain a registry of disabled citizens, raise awareness of their needs, advocate for funding for their priorities and advise the respective local government on policy and practices. It will also develop the technical and administrative skills of 20 grassroots disability associations in the departments of La Paz, Cuscatlán, La Libertad and San Salvador. The project should benefit 1,200 Salvadorans directly and another 6,000 indirectly. (ES-266)

Instituto Salvadoreño del Migrante

(INSAMI), \$49,740 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$42,100
INSAMI will further develop a network of returned migrants, including deportees, facilitate reintegration into their communities and support their enterprises by offering financial education, technical advice and assistance with business plans. A group of representatives of public and private sector entities will work to assure that broader support and resources are available to the returned migrants. The project should benefit 60 Salvadorans directly and 100 indirectly. (ES-267)

Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (MUPI), \$300,805 over three years; counterpart committed, \$279,925

In collaboration with rural community organizations, MUPI will program exhibits and film forums on migration, women's issues, environmental concerns and other topics and will train rural residents to manage and develop materials for exhibits. It will evaluate the impact of migration-related programming on the likelihood of young adults to migrate and will collaborate with diaspora organizations on cultural events in the U.S. The work will benefit 3,600 rural Salvadorans directly and 10,000 indirectly and should make MUPI stronger as an institution. (ES-268)





COURTESY RAIS

Supplemental Grants

Sociedad Cooperativa Marías Noventa y Tres (MARIAS 93), \$130,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$110,810

MARIAS 93 will improve the financial and administrative skills of its cooperative; incorporate the control of coffee rust in its technical assistance for farmers; develop its tourism program by constructing infrastructure and training young adults to offer services; and include persons with disabilities in its poultry farming. (ES-229-A8)

Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos (Pro-Búsqueda), \$41,560 over six months; counterpart committed, \$23,175

Pro-Búsqueda will replace assets stolen or destroyed during a burglary of its office and will continue to work with Salvadorans affected by “disappearances” as a result of the civil war, to develop marketable skills, support their microbusinesses and assure their food security. (ES-245-A4)

Fundación para la Educación Social, Económico y Cultural (FUPEC), \$255,000 over two years; counterpart committed, \$212,580

FUPEC will collaborate with additional hometown associations in the United States to extend funding to microbusinesses and grassroots associations of producers and work to attract other partners. An additional 300 Salvadorans will benefit directly. (ES-252-A1)

Instituto para el Rescate Ancestral Indígena Salvadoreño (RAIS), \$34,955; counterpart committed, \$33,350

RAIS will continue training residents from seven communities in Suchitoto in the skills necessary to revitalize traditional crafts, market the products and offer services related to cultural tourism. Its program will include initiatives tailored to young adults. (ES-254-A1)

RAIS’ training for young weavers emphasizes locally significant designs and colors.



Beyond the Minefields

Salvadorans with disabilities represent about 13 percent of their country's population. They include victims still suffering from the psychological and physical trauma of the armed conflict that ended in 1992. **Fundación Red de Sobrevivientes y Personas con Discapacidad** (Red de Sobrevivientes) began serving Salvadoran casualties of war as part of an effort organized by the Landmine Survivors Network (LSN). When LSN closed its doors in 2008, after successes that resulted in the Mine Ban Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Nobel Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, Red de Sobrevivientes became legally constituted as an independent foundation and expanded its constituency to include all disabled Salvadorans.

Regardless of how their disabilities occurred, these Salvadorans face exclusion from community and economic life because of discrimination, inadequate services and lack of access. The programs organized by Red de Sobrevivientes call for the disabled to help each other overcome obstacles rather than rely on experts or doctors to take charge of their lives. Its services for Salvadorans with disabilities include supporting their businesses, training them in marketable skills, placing them in jobs, facilitating their acquisition of prosthetic devices and preparing them to organize and advocate for acceptance and accessibility. Red de Sobrevivientes received a grant from the IAF in 2010, which it used to form support groups for amputees and help other disabled Salvadorans earn income from businesses and employment as well as formalize their associations.

Red de Sobrevivientes will use its current grant to assure these Salvadorans of better access to municipal support services, more effective management of their organizations and more inclusive communities. In collaboration with grassroots disability groups and local authorities, it is working toward the creation of six municipal offices, called *Oficinas Municipales de Apoyo a Personas con*

Discapacidad (OMADIS), that will maintain a registry of disabled citizens, raise awareness of their needs, advocate for funding their priorities and advise local officials on policy and practices. Red de Sobrevivientes will also offer the necessary training to develop the technical and administrative skills of 20 grassroots groups in the departments of La Paz, Cuscatlán, La Libertad and San Salvador via workshops on leadership, conflict resolution, basic accounting, management, and drafting proposals and strategic plans. Enabling the associations to define needs, formulate solutions and cultivate partners should benefit 1,200 Salvadorans directly and another 6,000 indirectly

Red de Sobrevivientes itself as well as disability groups will benefit from a cooperative agreement that the IAF entered into with Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM)(page 64) to further develop a network of grassroots groups in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica that focuses on people with psychiatric disabilities, which can result from physical disabilities, and their caregivers. The relationship between Red de Sobrevivientes and ACISAM should prove mutually reinforcing and should provide broader support to the networks they serve.—Seth Jesse, representative for El Salvador

PHOTOS COURTESY, RED DE SOBREVIVIENTES



GUATEMALA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 20

IAF commitment:
\$4,114,578

Counterpart commitment:
\$4,381,487

Total investment:
\$8,496,065

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

New Grants

Asociación Semilla Nueva (SEN), \$272,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$359,400

SEN will provide technical assistance in drought-resistant agriculture to 250 farmers from 25 communities located on Guatemala's southern coast, and help them form long-term alliances with municipal governments. Another 250 farmers will benefit indirectly. (GT-317)

Coordinadora de Asociaciones Campesinas Agropecuarias de Petén (COACAP), \$161,210 over three years; counterpart committed, \$66,430
COACAP will work with 100 indigenous Q'eqchi' families in southern Petén to diversify crops toward the development of a more reliable food supply so that they are not forced to abandon their land and their community. Training for staff should improve COACAP as an organization. The grant is expected to benefit another 500 Q'eqchi' families indirectly (GT-319)

Asociación Rxiin Tnamet (RXIIN), \$25,985 over one year; counterpart committed, \$17,491

RXIIN staff, board members and clients will work together to develop a plan to expand RXIIN's infrastructure and attain its financial self-sufficiency so that the clinic can continue meet the needs of the Tzutujil community of the Santiago Atitlán area. (GT-320)

Supplemental Grants

Sa Qa Chol Nimla K'aleb'aal (SANK), \$194,400, over three years

SANK will work in 50 communities in the municipalities of Chisec, Raxuhá, Carchá and Ixcán to conform the possession and ownership of land to Q'eqchi' tradition; to raise awareness of environmental degradation; and to train farmers in the advantages of crop diversification and the risks associated with monocropping and the overuse of pesticides. (GT-303-A2)

Fundación ProPetén (PROPETEN), \$119,535 over two years

PROPETEN will work in three Q'eqchi' communities in the municipalities of Poptún and San Luis, Petén, to provide selected farmers technical assistance with growing and selling cacao. (GT-304-A1)

MARK CAICEDO





COURTESY COACAP

Protecting a Q'eqchi' Asset

Guatemala's indigenous Q'eqchi' people have endured an onslaught of brutality beginning with the Spanish *conquista* and extending through their forced conscription into the fight for independence, 36 years of civil war, a chaotic wave of development and the violence associated with the current bustling traffic in narcotics surrounding them. Nonetheless their identity persists and so, to varying degrees, does their culture. Scattered throughout Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Petén, some Q'eqchi' communities still follow ancient practices for managing land and natural resources, such as water and forests, as well as for resolving conflicts and allocating labor to communal initiatives. Even in villages where ancestral ways have been displaced, Q'eqchi' is the common language and women prefer their traditional dress.

Over the past two decades, the ethnic survival of the Q'eqchi' in the lowlands of the Petén, Guatemala's largest department, has been challenged by a series of well-intentioned programs aimed at securing their title to land consistent with Western concepts of possession, ownership and control. For Q'eqchi' farmers, the land to which they hold title is their most valuable asset, if not their only one. But, in addition to subjecting the property to taxation and allowing it to serve as collateral for loans, notions alien to many Q'eqchi', the acquisition of title facilitates its sale. According to a 2012 study funded by the World Bank, approximately 50 percent of the land titled in Petén through the various programs has been sold, resulting in a significant concentration of ownership. Parcel by parcel, ranchers, corporate palm plantations and narcotraffickers have acquired vast tracts from Q'eqchi' farmers, rendering water sources, roads and forests inaccessible to those who remain, which often makes them sell their own land for less than its value or just abandon it. With no place else to go, entire Q'eqchi' communities resort to squatting in forest reserves, from which they risk eviction as trespassers.

Coordinadora de Asociaciones Campesinas Agropecuarias de Petén (COACAP), based in Poptún, Petén, boasts a current membership of 230 Q'eqchi' families in Poptún and the neighboring municipality of San Luis. With most member-farmers holding clear title, COACAP has focused for the past decade on countering the pressure on them to give up their land. It has succeeded by reinforcing the farmers' ties to their plots, including by assuring that the plots yield an adequate food supply. COACAP's accomplishments have earned it an invitation to join Mesa Intersectorial de Tierra y Ambiente (MITA), an entity comprising representatives from nongovernmental organizations and government that meets regularly to discuss land and resources in the Petén. COACAP will use its IAF award to help an additional 100 families in southern Petén develop their connection to their land by diversifying crops toward the production of sufficient food and providing outlets where farmers can sell the excess, so they do not feel compelled to relinquish the asset so crucial to their livelihood and their survival as a people.—José Toasa, representative for Beliz, Guatemala and Panama

HAITI

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 14

IAF commitment:
\$2,876,150

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,933,432

Total investment:
\$6,809,582

Areas of emphasis:
Agriculture and food security, arts and music, community philanthropy, development of leaders to include women and young people, enterprise development, vocational training, women's rights.

New Grants

Union des Paysans 3ème Section Vieille-Hatte (UP3SV), \$50,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$29,560

UP3SV will build a farm for breeding goats and develop its seed storage and credit activities serving the 225 families in its three affiliated associations in the 3rd communal section of Jean-Rabel in Northwest Haiti. The result for the members should be a more dependable food source, reliable access to seeds and better income. (HA-221)

Centre de Formation Culturelle (CFC), \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$119,060

CFC will make structural improvements to its community facilities offering pre-kindergarten through secondary education, upgrade equipment, replace outdated materials and organize a cooperative store that sells goods at reasonable prices to generate income for the school. The project will benefit 550 children, adolescents and their families in La Pointe des Palmistes, a neighborhood of Port-de-Paix in Northwest Haiti. (HA-222)

Fanm Deside, \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$73,700

Fanm Deside will work to reduce violence against women in the Sud-Est department by training women from 25 of its grassroots affiliates, consolidating its relationship with its affiliates in all of the *communes* of Sud-Est, providing legal assistance to victims and researching the viability of a program to teach women the skills required to succeed in male-dominated trades. The 5,000 women in the 25 groups will benefit directly and the entire Sud-Est department indirectly. (HA-223)

L'Organisation pour la Promotion de l'Agroforesterie (OPA), \$50,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$33,605

OPA will offer training in agroforestry to 200 farmers belonging to nine associations in the first and third communal sections of Port-de-Paix in Northwest Haiti and will improve their organizational management. The farmers will build and operate two tree nurseries and will develop between 25 and 30 demonstration plots on their own land. Another 2,000 farmers and their families will benefit indirectly and OPA expects to reach additional farmer associations via the methodology piloted. (HA-225)

Economic Stimulus Projects for Work and Action (ESPWA), \$50,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$135,710

In partnership with the steering committee of the Haiti Community Foundation Initiative (HCFI) and the regional planning committee of the department of Grand'Anse, ESPWA will develop the governing and legal structure of the Haiti Community Foundation (HCF). Based on input from the 12 communes of the Grand'Anse, the pilot site, ESPWA will define the HCF's operations, assure its autonomy and independence, and continue to raise seed funds from Haitian and foreign donors for the official launch. The project will directly engage 1,200 people, indirectly benefit all 500,000 residents of the Grand'Anse and have an impact nationwide. (HA-226)



FFFJ students.

Platfòm Inite Òganizasyon Dezam (PLAIOD), \$155,790 over three years; counterpart committed, \$182,455

PLAIOD will work with its six member organizations of rural women and farmers in Désarmes in the Artibonite department to improve food security, the stability of the Morne August watershed and its own effectiveness and that of its constituent organizations. In addition to 1,300 individual members of PLAIOD, the project will benefit 30,000 Haitians residing in the third and fourth communal sections of Désarmes. Action Carême Suisse will contribute additional support toward rehabilitating the watershed. (HA-227)

Supplemental Grants

Kombit Fanm Kaskad-Dubreuil (KOFAKAD), \$17,825 over six months; counterpart committed, \$9,400

KOFAKAD will install a corn mill in Kaskad-Dubreuil and use the revenue charged for services to defray costs of running its training center constructed with IAF funds. The mill will be co-financed by the Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation; KOFAKAD will contribute the land. (HA-204-A8)

Fondation Festival Film Jakmèl (FFFJ), \$53,700 over six months; counterpart committed, \$626,360

FFFJ will work to diversify the donor base of its film school Ciné Institute and raise its profile. (HA-206-A7)

L'Ecole de Fabrication Métallique pour les Démunis (EFAMED), \$18,168

EFAMED will use the funds to cover unanticipated expenses and offer additional training to members of COOPAMEJ, a metalworking cooperative. Fifty young metalworkers are expected to benefit from a steady income and the entire department of the Grand'Anse from locally manufactured industrial doors, windows and gates, and agricultural tools. (HA-215-A2)



REBECCA JAMES



JENNY PETROW



Grand'Anse.

Relentlessly Reconstructing Hope

It has been five years since the devastating earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince and its environs, eliciting an international commitment of some \$10 billion to rebuild Haiti. According to a report issued by the Center for Global Development, barely 1 percent of that aid was channeled directly to Haitian organizations and businesses, confirming Haitians' impression that they do not control many decisions affecting their lives.

The community foundation, a concept that the IAF has supported in Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, puts local residents in control of the development process. A group of volunteers led by Marie-Rose Romain Murphy has been working since 2011 to create a community foundation for Haiti. "Our work has been relentlessly reconstructing hope for a vision that includes Haitians," explained Romain Murphy, the driving force behind the Haiti Community Foundation Initiative as well as founder and executive director of **Economic Stimulus Projects for Work and Action**, whose acronym, ESPWA, spells hope in Haitian Créole.

To date, the volunteers have laid many of the blocks for building the Haiti Community Foundation. Forums that they organized in 2011 and 2012 introduced the idea and brought Haitians together with leaders of community foundations in Kenya, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa. After studying various models and consulting further with foundation staff from Brazil, Nebraska and Kenya, the volunteers structured the foundation for Haiti as a network of regional funds. A planning committee, comprising representatives from ESPWA and other prominent citizens, decided to locate the first fund in the Grand'Anse, an area that received very little of the huge post-earthquake influx of aid. Both the government and donors have generally overlooked Grand'Anse, and residents have expressed interest in approach to development that values their own rich culture, their natural resources and their human capital as vital assets. Once the country's most isolated department and also its greenest, the Grand'Anse now risks massive deforestation due to the construction of a new road that connects residents to the rest of Haiti but allows poachers easy access to local wooded areas. ESPWA has already funded a needs assessment and planning process conducted by representatives of grassroots and nongovernmental organizations, schools, businesses and local governments in all 12 communes of the department. The findings will guide the pilot fund of the new Haiti Community Foundation.

ESPWA will use its IAF grant to develop the board and bylaws of the Haitian Community Foundation; to file for it to become legally constituted; and to define grantmaking in the Grand'Anse. "I was part of another project. It had positive aspects but was prescriptive," said a resident of Grand'Anse. "After [that], I looked for the perfect development model, one that started with the community and included it at every step. I found it with ESPWA." —*Jenny Petrow, representative for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean*

HONDURAS

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 13

IAF commitment:
\$2,873,211

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,180,552

Total investment:
\$6,053,763

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

New Grants

Asociación de Desarrollo Pespirens (ADEPES), \$250,000 over three years; counterpart committed, \$165,500
ADEPES will offer support to 200 rural youths who are undertaking 16 development projects and launching 16 microenterprises in the municipality of Pespire, located in a sparsely populated and drought-stricken region of southern Honduras. This work benefits a demographic group that has been excluded from economic life and is prone to migrate; another 1,200 Hondurans will benefit indirectly. (HO-259)

Junta Administradora de Agua y Saneamiento de las Aldeas de Guayabito, Confradía, Destino, Naranjal y Jicaro Gordo (GUAYABITO), \$73,525 over three years; counterpart committed, \$93,985
GUAYABITO will repair, update and expand the local water system, develop a nursery supplying trees for reforesting the watersheds and provide training in water management and sanitation for residents serving on water boards in the villages of Guayabito, Confradía, Destino, Naranjal and Jicaro Gordo. The work will benefit 1,500 Hondurans directly and another 7,500 indirectly. (HO-260)

Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), \$298,005 over three years; counterpart committed, \$161,520
CASM will work with farmers in 15 communities in the municipality of Choloma, department of Cortes, to improve their production, processing and marketing of cacao. Toward that goal it will encourage the application of scientifically based agroecological practices compatible with the responsible use of the environment, including the vital local watershed. The project will benefit 450 Hondurans directly and another 2,700 indirectly. (HO-265)

Asociación de Consejeros para una Agricultura Sostenible, Ecológica y Humana (COSECHA), \$251,100 over three years; counterpart committed, \$206,635

COSECHA will work in 18 communities in the municipalities of Alubarén, Cuarén and Reitoca in the southern region of the department of Francisco Morazán to encourage the use of responsible farming methods and to improve practices of water management. Forty local volunteers will offer the necessary training and technical assistance. The project will benefit 290 Hondurans directly and another 1,740 indirectly. (HO-266)

Asociación de Desarrollo Triunfeña (ADETRIUNF), \$267,540 over three years; counterpart committed, \$108,155
ADETRIUNF will offer training and financial support toward the development of microenterprises by 150 young Hondurans in 10 communities in and around the municipality of El Triunfo, department of Choluteca. Another 3,000 Hondurans will benefit indirectly. (HO-267)

Fundación Hondureña de Ambiente y Desarrollo Vida (FV), \$157,000 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$208,545
FV will work to increase the income of farmers in the drought belt of southern Honduras by encouraging agroecological practices that protect or improve the environment, including no-tillage farming and the use of wind breaks, live fences, green mulching and biological control of pests. The project will directly benefit 3,000 Hondurans, including many female heads of household, in the municipalities of Aguanqueterique and Lauterique, departments of La Paz, and Aramecina and Caridad, department of Valle. It will indirectly impact another 10,000 residents. (HO-268)

Vecinos Honduras (VH), \$133,450 over two years; counterpart committed, \$84,630. VH will enable coffee farmers in seven communities in the Azabache zone of the municipality of Danlí, department of El Paraíso, to reduce their dependency on a single crop, introduce the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, and apply agroecological practices that protect their soil and water supply. Training will enable them to manage their savings-and-loan associations more effectively. The work will benefit 850 farmers and their families directly and another 1,092 Hondurans indirectly. (HO-269)



CASM cacao farmer.

Farming for Better Income and Clean Water

Almost all of the economic wealth of Honduras and much of the commerce of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua passes through the Honduran department of Cortes. The highway running through the department from San Pedro Sula to Puerto Cortes is lined with hundreds of *maquilas*, foreign-owned factories where thousands of employees assemble imported raw materials and parts into products for export. The country's highest concentration of *maquilas* is in Choloma, a municipality with a resident population of some 300,000, 57 percent of whom are under 18 years of age. Some 100,000 commuters swell Choloma during the day, drawn by the opportunity to earn a steadier income than they would as farmers. Huge informal markets have sprung up around the *maquilas* to service the workers.

Demand from the *maquilas*, their labor force and the markets pressures urban Choloma's water supply that is already in jeopardy at the source. Desperately poor, farmers in the surrounding countryside apply traditional agricultural practices that not only degrade the soil but release toxic chemicals into the runoff that flows into the watershed. **Comisión de Acción Social Menonita** (CASM), which is attempting to mitigate the stark conditions in rural Choloma, will use its IAF award to work in 15 hillside farming communities, where most residents fall below the official poverty line, defined as US\$2.00 per day, and barely benefit from government services. CASM plans to introduce organic farming methods for managing the soil and will encourage other sound practices for improving the water supply in collaboration with the municipal government. Each community will have a nursery to provide saplings for reforestation, including young cacao that farmers will learn to cultivate with organic techniques, process and market. The expanded tree cover is expected to increase water retention and dramatically reduce runoff.

CASM's previous IAF award funded its work in the department of Lempira, resulting in reforestation and other successful measures to protect the watershed there. CASM is confident that its latest IAF-funded effort in the watershed of Choloma will yield similarly positive outcomes. Its training will involve 450 farm families, the cacao enterprises should benefit 2,700 residents of the hillside communities and the entire municipality will have access to a cleaner and more abundant water supply.—*John M. Reed, representative for Honduras*

JAMAICA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 3

IAF commitment:
\$800,670

Counterpart commitment:
\$1,747,255

Total investment:
\$2,547,925

Areas of emphasis:
Conservation,
environmental justice,
inclusion of LGBT.

New Grant

Pride in Action (PIA), \$192,315 over three years; counterpart committed, \$137,555

PIA will open a resource center for LGBT university students and young people between the ages of 16 and 30, which will serve as a base for its operations and will offer health services, support, counseling and information on issues of interest to this demographic group. The center will also be an incubator for budding activists and initiatives. The project will directly benefit 600 young Jamaicans and will reach several thousand members of their families as well as allies and other LGBT individuals. (JA-115)

Pride in Action's outdoor program develops young leaders.





Pride and a Safe Space for LGBT

The Mona campus of the University of the West Indies sprawls across 653 acres in bustling Kingston that once belonged to a colonial-era sugar plantation farmed with slave labor. While slavery has disappeared, abolished by the British Parliament in the 1830s, injustice rooted in discrimination has not. In particular, Jamaicans who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) face deeply-held prejudice and widespread hostility, often channeled as violence, for not conforming to the prevailing cultural norm in a society that wrestles with decriminalizing homosexuality as neighbors in the hemisphere embrace equality. LGBT Jamaicans come out at considerable risk; in 2004 a well-known openly gay activist was stabbed to death in his home. Young Jamaicans who identify as LGBT are especially vulnerable and might have to fend for themselves if their families and churches cannot accept them as they are. When families and friends are tolerant and accommodating, they too might become ostracized or targeted for threats and assaults.

Pride in Action formed in 2006 to offer support to LGBT Jamaicans enrolled in UWI and other youths. According to Mark Clifford, one of its founders, the group focuses on the health and wellness of its constituents and works to give students “a full sense of who they are so that they are empowered to ensure their rights are upheld.” The emphasis is on building the strength and confidence of each LGBT individual. Young members are encouraged to navigate their identity in ways that counter corrosive mental conditioning and to take advantage of their education to change the system. This approach might differ from the more focused advocacy of other Jamaican initiatives, but it also complements them and is an important element in the country’s LGBT movement.

Pride in Action will use its IAF award to create a resource center and drop-in facility that will be a base for its operations and should make possible a range of services and activities. The center will connect students to counseling on health practices and other subjects and will serve an incubator for budding activists and fledgling LGBT initiatives. Pride in Action will expand its outdoor program for developing young leaders, explore the possibility of for-profit ventures to help cover costs and develop a plan for staying in operation. Members will travel to share experiences with LGBT activists and to meet with potential donors. The group’s work should directly benefit 600 LGBT students and its impact should reach several thousand other LGBT Jamaicans, family members and allies. For the IAF, this grant represents a significant first step toward reaching a historically excluded group and furthering its inclusion in community life and participation in the development process.—*Amanda Fagerblom, program staff assistant*

MEXICO

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 28

IAF commitment:
\$5,427,716

Counterpart commitment:
\$12,462,967

Total investment:
\$17,890,683

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

Desarrollo Autogestionario, A.C.

(AUGE), \$250,425 over three years; counterpart committed, \$709,385

AUGE will offer training in job skills to 300 young Mexicans, between the ages of 16 and 22, from 40 communities in six municipalities surrounding Xalapa, Veracruz, and will support their small enterprises or further education. In addition to the trainees, 1,200 family members are expected to benefit. (ME-529)

Coalición Indígena de Migrantes de

Chiapas, A.C. (CIMICH), \$181,536 over two years; counterpart committed, \$183,854

CIMICH will work with 29 transnational community committees in seven municipalities of the Chiapas highlands to help resettle 550 indigenous Tsotsil and Tzeltal migrants returning home and will encourage their participation in municipal rural development councils and their initiatives to generate income. The work should indirectly benefit 1,450 members of the migrants' families. (ME-530)

Senderos y Encuentros para un **Desarrollo Autónomo Sustentable, A.C.**

(SENDAS), \$145,340 over three years; counterpart committed, \$227,381

SENDAS will support the Comité de la Cuenca del Río Pixquiac (COCUPIX), comprising residents of four indigenous communities as well as civil society organizations and the municipal government of Xalapa, in its management of natural resources in the watershed of the Pixquiac River in Central Veracruz. The program, which includes payment for environmental services, will directly involve 575 families living on 161 hectares of agricultural and forested land in the watershed. It will also benefit another 1,140 *ejidatarios*, or residents of indigenous communities, and 125,000 water-users in the city of Xalapa. (ME-531)

Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía,

A.C. (CEMEFI), \$141,630 over three years; counterpart committed, \$488,460

CEMEFI, a fundraising and donor organization, is a founding member of IAF-initiated Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development (RedEAmérica) launched in 2002. In partnership with five other RedEAmérica members, CEMEFI will develop and manage a subgrant fund to finance grassroots development and will otherwise encourage corporate social investment in Mexico. The grant will directly benefit 600 Mexicans and will reach 3,000 members of their families. (ME-532)

Yankuik Erandi Rural, A.C. (ERANDI),

\$49,700 over one year; counterpart committed, \$139,979

In collaboration with Red Campesina de Pequeños Productores (RCP), ERANDI will assess income-generating opportunities in 14 communities in the states of Chihuahua, San Luis Potosí, Oaxaca and Tabasco. Mexican farm workers in the United States with H-2A visas, members of their families and other residents will use the assessments to draft proposals for municipal funding and for the Mexican government's "3 x 1" program matching support from overseas communities. Vista Hermosa Foundation, based in the state of Washington, will contribute to the planning process involving 600 farmers and benefiting 3,000 members of their families as well.

Supplemental Grants

Centro Campesino para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C. (CAMPESINO), \$103,814 over one year; counterpart committed, \$116,222
 CAMPESINO will work with farmers in the state of Tlaxcala to improve their income and food supply through training in conservation, leadership, planning, participatory certification of crops as organic and related subjects. It will develop it cooperative, offer access to working capital and assess urban marketing options. (ME-501-A4)

Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de una Economía Alternativa y Solidaria A.C. (Ideas Comunitarias), \$100,000 over one year; counterpart committed, \$99,998
 Ideas Comunitarias will reach an additional 200 young indigenous leaders in Oaxaca with its curriculum that trains them to undertake organizational development and projects for generating income. Students will be eligible for internships and subgrants to fund their proposals. (ME-512-A3)



Don Ricardo Palafox of CAMPESINO's leadership in La Colmena, its cooperative store.

Resettling Returned Migrants

The Tseltal and Tsotsil inhabitants of the central highlands of Chiapas often speak their own indigenous language in addition to Spanish and they have kept alive a rich array of their cultural traditions. Their communities, however, score low on the human development index, which measures the quality of life in terms of education, access to basic services, health and nutrition. Only a small percentage of these Mexicans receive a *jornal*, or daily wage; most eke out a bare subsistence from farming. Poverty pushes many young Tseltal and Tsotsil to join the 30,000 to 50,000 *chiapanecos* who leave the state annually in search of jobs in Sinaloa, Baja California, Yucatán, Quintana Roo or the United States. Those who are undocumented and want to cross the U.S.-Mexico border undertake a journey that, according to Amnesty International, “is one of the most dangerous in the world. They suffer extortion, discrimination, beatings, kidnapping and murder at the hands of criminal gangs.” Of the *chiapanecos* who manage to enter the United States undocumented, the Mexican government estimates that 20,000 are deported each year; no one knows how many others go home voluntarily. Whatever the motive, returns from the U.S. and other destinations are on the rise in highland communities.

Lucio “Lucho” Díaz González left the highlands in 2005 to try his luck in a metal-recycling plant on the Yucatán Peninsula and then washed dishes and picked tomatoes in the U.S. Now back home, he is president of **Coalición Indígena de Migrantes de Chiapas, A.C. (CIMICH)**, which was legally constituted in 2013 and is based in San Cristóbal de las Casas. CIMICH partners with 29 transnational community committees across seven municipalities to help deportees and other returned migrants

Transnational community committee from Dos Lagunas.



access services and earn a living from handicrafts, beekeeping, goat-farming and other small enterprises. CIMICH coordinates its programs as well with Voces Mesoamericanas, Acción con Pueblos Migrantes, A.C., also based in San Cristóbal, whose advocacy for changes in government policy on development and migration has succeeded in improving the migrants' access to services.

CIMICH will invest its IAF award in subgrants supporting additional ideas from the committees for returned and would-be migrants to earn income. The program calls for the committees to match the IAF's funds in kind or in cash, to work with CIMICH toward acquiring the skills to manage the initiatives proposed and the funding received, and to open accounts in microbanks run by former IAF grantee Asociación Mexicana de Uniones de Crédito del Sector Rural (AMUCSS). CIMICH will also help the committees reach out to U.S.-based migrant organizations for resources and develop into self-sufficient organizations. The Mexican nongovernmental organization Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Rural will offer the committees additional training and technical assistance.

Returned migrants can attend CIMICH's workshops on the rights of citizens to hold public office, to access information and to monitor the use of municipal resources, which should prepare them to participate in Municipal Development Planning Councils and Sustainable Rural Development Councils that work to improve conditions in highland communities. In addition to helping migrants readjust, CIMICH expects the economic opportunities emerging from the committees and the councils to convince young Tzeltal and Tsotsil that their best options for the future might be found where they live. "This relatively new initiative has given hope and renewed energy to young people in these communities," explained Díaz Gonzáles.—*Gabriela Boyer, representative for Mexico*



COURTESY CIMICH

NICARAGUA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 13

IAF commitment:
\$3,311,974

Counterpart commitment:
\$4,133,555

Total investment:
\$7,445,529

Areas of emphasis: Access to water and sanitation, agriculture, ecotourism, education, enterprise development, inclusion of African descendants, women and young people.

Chef trained by CAN.



New Grants

Asociación para el Desarrollo del Norte de Chinandega (ADENOCH), \$214,853 over three years; counterpart committed, \$304,922

ADENOCH will provide technical assistance and credit to farmers and merchants in 12 communities toward developing their agricultural production and their businesses and increasing their income. The project will benefit 350 Nicaraguans directly and 1,400 indirectly. (NI-303)

Instituto de Acción Social Juan XXIII (Juan 23), \$30,000 over six months; counterpart commitment, \$30,910

Juan 23 will conduct research toward identifying financial institutions and donors interested in partnerships aimed at providing housing for low-income residents of metropolitan Managua via mechanisms that include loan guarantees. (NI-304)

Centro de Comunicación y Educación Popular Cantera (CANTERA), \$230,670 over three years; counterpart committed, \$237,363

CANTERA plans to reduce violence in the municipality of Ciudad Sandino, near Managua, by training young Nicaraguans in technical skills and entrepreneurship, providing seed capital for their businesses and engaging them in community development. Collaboration with the community police, known for its positive influence on Nicaraguan neighborhoods, will be documented in print and on video, as will the work of young community organizers with peers. The project will directly benefit 560 youths and reach 2,520 members of their families. (NC-305)

Supplemental Grants

Asociación de Comunidades de la Península de Cosigüina (ACODEPEC), \$137,400 over 28 months; counterpart committed, \$95,951

ACODEPEC will launch a revolving loan fund, provide training in leadership and democratic practices, and purchase a tractor to improve the agricultural production and the quality of life in 18 communities of the Cosigüina Peninsula. (NC-294-A3)

Centro de Promoción Cristiana de la Paz y la Vida (CPCPV), \$100,410 over 15 months; counterpart committed, \$37,940

CPCPV will train youths and other members of a network in San Ramón that offers services to tourists, and will provide access to a loan fund. It will also develop its school extending instruction in folk arts, crafts, music and dance. The program will reach 400 Nicaraguans. (NC-297-A2)

Casa Alianza (CAN), \$134,627 over one year; counterpart committed, \$66,334

CAN will develop 100 young leaders who will train other youths in three low-income neighborhoods of Managua. Its intense program of community organizing includes developing job skills and microenterprises; opportunities to participate in internships and sports leagues; seed capital for new businesses; and psychological support for youths and families dealing with addictions and violence, including sexual abuse. (NC-298-A1)



Nothing Stops a Bullet like a Job

The statistics on murder in the three countries of “the northern triangle” of Central America are horrific: Homicides in Honduras have fluctuated between 60 and 90 per 100,000 inhabitants over the last several years; in El Salvador and Guatemala they hover between 40 and 50. With its dramatically lower rate of 12 homicides per 100,000, Nicaragua is an exception to the epidemic, the untold story of the region. Why? Among other factors, experts cite a community-focused, less corrupt police force and less immigration to the United States. Nicaraguans do leave to work in neighboring countries, especially Costa Rica, but, unlike undocumented workers in the U.S., they can easily return home during Christmas, Holy Week and other breaks, a factor in family and community cohesion.

The country does have its share of grim statistics: 40 percent of Nicaraguans under 30 are unemployed or underemployed and more than 50 percent earn less than a dollar a day. Of the pregnant women attended by government health services, 33 percent are adolescents, nearly half of whom never completed primary school. In Ciudad Sandino, a teeming barrio outside Managua, these problems are concentrated. Designated by the regime of Anastasio Somoza for the relocation of victims of the earthquake that devastated Managua in 1972, the site attracted refugees fleeing other disasters, including the Contra War. Given the settlers’ desperation and the utterly inadequate basic services, Ciudad Sandino, whose name dates post-1979, after Somoza’s overthrow, became a tough neighborhood, to say the least. Violence there generally falls short of homicide, but includes muggings, turf wars among gangs, vehicle robberies, frequently drug-related, and the curse of domestic abuse, often fueled by alcohol.

Centro de Comunicación y Educación Popular Cantera (CANTERA), which has operated in Ciudad Sandino since 1989, offers programs that give young men and women hope and viable options. CANTERA will use its IAF grant to reach young residents of Ciudad Sandino with training in marketable skills and entrepreneurship, seed capital for business initiatives and opportunities for involvement in community development. Transportation, meals and fees will be subsidized while the trainees attend classes in the participating technical and vocational colleges and prepare to earn a living from auto mechanics, agriculture, cosmetology, baking, catering and repairing computer and cell phones. An intensive one-month “boot camp” for future entrepreneurs will require each student to draft a business plan for a jury of specialists. The best ideas will be eligible for mentoring and up to \$500 in start-up funding.

The trainees will also be exposed to values that can guide their career and life choices. Some will learn to conduct workshops that should reach 450 of their peers. All youths in the program are expected to participate in sports leagues, neighborhood clean-ups, public-health fairs, arts initiatives and other efforts to improve local conditions. CANTERA proudly incorporates the community police force in this aspect of its work and will document this collaboration, along with its peer training, in print and on video so other IAF grantees in Central America benefit from its effective measures to address violence.—*Patrick Ahern, representative for Nicaragua*

PHOTOS COURTESY CANTERA



CANTERA workshops.

PANAMA

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 4

IAF commitment:
\$925,900

Counterpart commitment:
\$1,429,962

Total investment:
\$2,355,862

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

New Grant

Consejo Consultivo de las Subcuencas de los Ríos Los Hules, Tinajones y Caño Quebrado (CC), \$40,450 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$43,075

CC will engage local authorities, schools and contributing grassroots groups in the application of its plan for protecting the watershed of three rivers. Training in reforestation and soil and water management will reach 60 Panamanians who will train another 400. The work should benefit most residents of the 31 communities represented in CC and dependent on the watershed. (PN-304)

Nursery for seedlings to reforest the watershed.

MARCY KELLEY



The Canal, the Watershed and a Grassroots Plan

The rivers Caño Quebrado, Los Hules, and Tinajones feed into Lago Gatún, an artificial reservoir essential to the operation of the Panama Canal, one of the busiest commercial waterways on the planet since its inauguration exactly 100 years ago. Communities in the municipality of La Chorrera, southwest of Panama City, depend on these rivers to sustain life itself. For some two decades, however, their water supply has been compromised by threats that include the deforestation of the watershed to make space available for industrial-scale production of African palm and, more recently, waste runoff from commercial poultry operations.

Acting on their own initiative, residents of 31 communities along the rivers joined forces in the early 2000s to prevent depletion of their source of water and toward that goal they developed a successful plan for reforesting the watershed. The Inter-Institutional Commission for the Panama Canal Watershed (CICH), which has enjoyed a legislative mandate since 1997 to coordinate such efforts, formalized the loose coalition into **Consejo Consultivo de los Ríos Los Hules, Tinajones y Caño Quebrado** (CC), whose members include 22 environmental organizations, producer associations and cooperatives, businesses and other groups. CC has since benefited from an IAF grant awarded in 2012 to Asociación Panameña para la Sostenibilidad de la Agricultura y la Naturaleza (APASAN), a nongovernmental organization and CICH's contemporary, which works in conservation and community development. With APASAN's support, CC became legally constituted and developed a plan to plant trees and install fences that, when applied, effectively countered or contained damage from cattle grazing.

APASAN also prepared CC to begin managing funds from donors, making it a suitable candidate for one of the "small grants" of up to \$50,000 that the IAF awards to organizations conducting the research and planning necessary to develop an ambitious idea into a promising proposal. CC will invest its IAF funding in the groundwork necessary to expand its current program to address pollution as well as deforestation. Its plan calls for outreach to schools to recruit teachers as well as students and parents to contribute toward an effort propelled by input from everyone in the community, including business owners and local government. Training for CC's coordinators will develop their ability to mobilize funds and the managerial skills to take the newly formalized organization to the next level, so that its competence evolves to meet the challenges as the context becomes more complex. That way, CC can continue to take the lead in assuring an abundant flow of safe water for the communities that depend on the watershed along the three rivers.—*Amanda Fagerblom, program staff assistant*

PARAGUAY

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 12

IAF commitment:
\$3,413,570

Counterpart commitment:
\$4,361,447

Total investment:
\$7,775,017

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

New Grants

Fundación Casa de la Juventud (CdJ), \$193,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$195,902

CdJ will work with youth councils to expand and develop Red Enrédate, a network that includes representation from all 19 municipalities in Paraguay's Central Department, and train young leaders to communicate their ideas, interact with their respective local and departmental governments as well as community organizations and become involved in decisions on development. The project should benefit 250 Paraguayans directly and 30,000 others indirectly. (PY-208)

Alter Vida, \$144,600 over three years; counterpart committed, \$119,920

Alter Vida will work in tandem with the small dairy cooperative Ciervo Cuá (PY-210) to increase the members' income by improving their production and their ability to negotiate with their clientele for better prices and with their local government for better services. The members will also begin the transition from conventional to agroecological practices that improve food security and protect the environment. The project will benefit 500 Paraguayans directly and another 1,500 indirectly. (PY-209)

Cooperativa Ciervo Cuá (Ciervo Cuá), \$53,400 over three years; counterpart committed, \$102,000

Members of the dairy cooperative Ciervo Cuá will work with Alter Vida (PY-209) to develop a more reliable food supply and increase their income by improving production and their organization. The project should benefit 100 families in the community of Ciervo Cuá-San Francisco directly and another 1,500 residents indirectly. (PY-210)

Supplemental Grants

Grupo Sunú (Sunú), \$143,290 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$110,909
Sunú will train residents of Angaité and Avá Guaraní indigenous communities in gardening and animal husbandry as reliable sources of food, and will help them reconcile modern and traditional practices directed at resolving internal conflicts and protecting their rights. The experience will be documented and shared with government agencies, educational centers and civil society organizations in an effort to further the awareness and enable the exercise of the rights and cultural practices of indigenous Paraguayans. (PY-195-A6)

Institución Ecueménica de Promoción Social (OGUASU), \$154,650 over 18 months; counterpart committed, \$220,050
Oguasú will work with residents of the 18 member communities of Asociación Ñoguerói Pavéí toward food security via training in agriculture and animal husbandry, including in agroecological practices that benefit the environment, and will also train them in marketing. Approximately 1400 Paraguayans should benefit. (PY-199-A5)

Assuring Young Voices Are Heard

Paraguayans under 30 constitute 57 percent of their country's population, with adolescents and children under 18 making up 40 percent. For the entire cohort, the brutal dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner is a vague memory or a period that most have experienced only vicariously. This generation that has not known authoritarian rule would seem to offer special hope for the future. But expectations dim in view of the fact that only one out of four young Paraguayans complete secondary school, a lower graduation rate than for Latin America as a whole, which stands at one out of three. Some 80 percent of Paraguayans under 18 are already in the workforce but very few are even paid the legally mandated minimum wage for their labor. Nor do the numbers on this demographic bode well for the stimulation of civic life by vigorous debate or for the continued vibrancy of civil society. More than 40 percent of eligible young Paraguayans are not even registered to vote and 60 percent of those under 18 have never participated in an organized group.

Fundación Casa de la Juventud (CdJ) was founded in 1995 by young people to develop youth organizations that contribute to a Paraguay guided by principles of equality, inclusion and the application of lessons from the past toward staying relevant in the future. It has risen to the challenge of mobilizing a disconnected young population and improving its voting record and its engagement with local government, the private sector and other civil society organizations. CdJ used an IAF grant awarded in 2004 toward mobilizing young people into groups and councils and encouraging them to advocate for themselves and their communities in public hearings, which resulted in more input into municipal policies in five Paraguayan departments. Funding from the European Union allowed CdJ to build on that involvement by organizing youth groups and councils in 10 communities in Central, the most populous department in Paraguay, into Red Enrédate—whose name involves a clever play on a word that invites the listener to both join a network and become entangled in it. The IAF's recent evaluation of CdJ's work highlighted the effectiveness of the complementary donor funding, which had led the Paraguayan government to create a Secretariat for Youth headed by Karina Rodríguez, a young activist with CdJ, whom then-president Fernando Lugo appointed vice-minister of the new agency. She was recently elected to the Paraguayan Congress.

CdJ will use its current IAF award to work in 19 additional municipalities to help young people understand elections and the democratic process and enable them to communicate their ideas, identify their needs, advocate for solutions and for their rights, and further develop Red Enrédate. CdJ's training will reach 250 young Paraguayans and should result in the participation of an additional 30,000 in the democratic process—*Jeremy Coon, representative for Paraguay*

COURTESY CDJ



PERU

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 23

IAF commitment:
\$6,975,637

Counterpart commitment:
\$6,176,328

Total investment:
\$13,151,965

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

New Grants

Asociación Chico Latino (ACL), \$170,325 over three years; counterpart committed, \$267,185

ACL will work in Choquepata, Cusco, to help indigenous women improve their production and sale of guinea pigs, develop the skills necessary for the community to manage its natural resources, prepare residents and their local government for a participatory budgeting process, and raise awareness of issues related to domestic violence, health and nutrition. The project should benefit 110 Peruvians directly and another 850 indirectly. (PU-575)

Centro de Estudios Cristianos y Capacitación Popular (CECYCAP), \$298,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$211,410

CECYCAP will provide training and technical assistance to 150 women recyclers toward improving income, leadership skills and productivity, and to 300 youths and 20 municipal employees so they support the recyclers more effectively, including in awareness campaigns targeting schools, households and businesses.

CECYCAP's support will help Asociación de Mujeres Ecosolidarias, a network of five recycling groups, purchase basic processing equipment and acquire the business skills necessary to develop a viable recycling enterprise and access the banking sector and government programs. The goal is the participation of an additional 10,000 residences and businesses in municipal programs that generate more materials for the recyclers and reduce the volume of solid-waste for disposal. (PU-579)

Minka Trujillo (Minka), \$290,000 over three years; counterpart committed, \$229,580

MINKA will help 130 farmers, including dairy farmers, in Trujillo's Santa Catalina Valley increase their income by improving their production of organic foods for sale to consumers and upscale restaurants via Minka's marketing arm, MINKA VERDE. (PU-580)

Centro para la Investigación en Salud Ambiental (CREEH Perú), \$237,420 over two years; counterpart committed, \$316,550

CREEH will train 250 artisanal gold miners in practices that reduce exposure to mercury and will develop the ability of their communities and local government to undertake sound measures to reduce the impact of this contaminant. The miners and their families will directly benefit from better health, income and living conditions; another 100,000 Peruvians will benefit from a safer environment in the province of Canta, in the Lima Region. (PU-581)

COOPERACCION-Acción Solidaria para el Desarrollo (COOPERACCION), \$255,000 over 30 months; counterpart committed, \$155,000

COOPERACCION will provide training and technical assistance to 285 artisans, harvesters and representatives of civil society so they can manage the production of rush and *tatora* reeds, diversify their crafts and increase their output, boost family income and protect the local ecosystem. The project will indirectly benefit 3,000 residents of communities surrounding three wetlands in the north-central coast of Peru: Albufera de Medio Mundo, Santa Rosa and Paraíso. (PU-582)

Supplemental Grants

Asociación Comunidad, Promoción, Desarrollo y Liberación (COPRODELI), \$30,000; counterpart committed, \$10,000

COPRODELI will continue to provide support to micro- and small enterprises damaged by an earthquake and will work to attract more businesses to the IAF-funded industrial park that it developed, thereby contributing to its sustainability. (PU-552-A7)

Asociación Cultural Ayllu Yupaychay (Yupay), \$60,777; counterpart committed, \$64,800

Yupay will prepare for publication a camera-ready master version of all educational materials incorporating the Quechua language and indigenous Peruvian cultural values that it has developed for rural school children between the ages of 3 and 7. (PU-560-A4)

Acción y Desarrollo, \$85,500; counterpart committed, \$52,485

Acción y Desarrollo will continue to help students enrolled in José Carlos Mariátegui School develop the skills necessary to compete in the job market or launch enterprises; will evaluate the impact on the youths and their families; and will replicate the program in two rural schools in the region of Junín. (PU-561-A2)

Fundación CEPICAFE (CEPICAFE), \$99,300; counterpart committed, \$101,800

CEPICAFE will continue to offer marketing support to 12 producer associations from Piura, Amazonas and Tumbes, as well as technical assistance that enables members to improve the quality of their cacao and increase their yields. (PU-566-A3)

ALTERNATIVA, Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular (ALTERNATIVA), \$85,700; counterpart committed, \$86,000

ALTERNATIVA will continue to support 12 recyclers' associations and help develop their microenterprises. (PU-562-A3)

Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Desarrollo Andino (CIPDA ANDINO), \$89,650; counterpart committed, \$31,700

CIPDA ANDINO will work with farmers in SitAcocha, Cajamarca, to add value to quinoa and milk and will support their efforts to market the resulting products. (PU-567-A2)

CREEH will train miners to safely extract gold embedded in the rocks that they bag.



Toward Safer Mining

More than 15 million people, including some 3 million women and children, are involved in Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in 70 countries around the world, according to the United Nations Environment Program. ASGM is a traditional livelihood in Peru, especially in the Andes, providing needed income for impoverished indigenous communities. It has grown steadily for the past 30 years, due to the lack of other opportunities and to the international price of gold that soared to more than \$2,200 an ounce and now hovers around \$1,300. Today, an estimated 300,000 Peruvians are engaged in ASGM. “Illegal” and “informal” are used interchangeably with “artisanal” to describe operations, both inaccurate and damaging terms that cause confusion and misdirected hostility.

Gold is not normally found in easily identifiable nuggets as commonly imagined; it is embedded in rock as small precious particles. To separate gold from rock, artisanal miners use a technique known as amalgamation. It calls for combining mercury with gold-laden crushed or milled ore to form an amalgam that is heated so that the mercury evaporates, leaving behind the gold. Nearly all the mercury is released as vapor that is inhaled by the miners, their families and other residents of nearby communities. Bacteria convert metallic mercury into methyl mercury, which can poison rivers, crops and fish, jeopardizing biodiversity and human health.

Centro para la Investigación y Salud Ambiental (CREEH Peru) was founded in 2007 and legally constituted as a nongovernmental organization in 2009. Its mission is to collaborate with communities, associations, governments and Peruvian and international institutions toward improving the health and quality of life of Peruvians vulnerable to the adverse impact of environmental contamination. CREEH conducts research, develops skills and monitors human and environmental well-being in communities affected by toxic pollution, including mining communities. CREEH will use its IAF award to help artisanal gold miners in the province of Canta, in the Lima Region, adopt mercury-free practices conducive to better health, income and living conditions. It will train 250 miners in methods that reduce exposure to mercury and will develop the ability of their communities and local government to introduce sound measures to reduce the impact of this contaminant. The borax method, for example, is mercury-free and requires little or no investment in new equipment. Borax, which has been used for decades in cosmetics and detergents, is environmentally benign, cheaper than mercury and readily available in local markets. The method has proved effective in the Philippines. If the miners apply it successfully, it could revolutionize the approach to mercury reduction in Peru.—*Miriam Euclides Brandão, representative for Peru*



Artisanal mining facility.

MULTI-COUNTRY

Current Portfolio

Grantee partners: 8

IAF commitment:
\$2,365,022

Counterpart commitment:
\$3,442,926

Total investment:
\$5,807,948

Areas of emphasis:
Communications,
corporate social
investment, research,
training for practitioners,
inclusion of African
descendants, indigenous
peoples and people with
disabilities.

New Grants

Fundación Social de Holcim Colombia (Holcim/CO), \$153,500 over three years; counterpart committed, \$454,813

Holcim/CO is the social investment-arm of a Colombian cement manufacturer and a member of the Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development (RedEAmérica), an IAF-initiated business-sector alliance launched in 2002. In collaboration with various Holcim foundations incorporated in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador, it will develop a subgrant fund to finance grassroots projects and otherwise increase the parent corporation's social investment. Holcim's counterpart more than doubles the IAF's funding. (LA-175)

Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM), \$295,225 over four years; counterpart committed, \$277,895

ACISAM will work in four countries to further develop a network of eight grassroots associations focusing on services for people with psychiatric disabilities and for their caregivers. The grantee and the associations will collaborate on organizing educational events; facilitating communications; improving their administration, leadership and partnerships; and managing a subgrant fund for economic initiatives, training and outreach. Some 800 Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, Panamanians and Costa Ricans will benefit directly and another 7,000 indirectly. (LA-176)

Asociación Minga Perú (Minga Perú), \$335,060 over two years; counterpart committed, \$215,980

Minga Perú will provide training in communications, planning and evaluation for 60 individuals drawn from current and former IAF grantees in Dominican Republic and Peru and their partner organizations. Participants will document lessons and results to share with donors and other interested parties. The benefits should flow to between 10,000 and 15,000 individuals connected with the organizations, their communities and their partners. (LA-177)

Fundación AVINA (AVINA), \$147,000 over two years; counterpart committed, \$349,623

AVINA will work with Red de Organizaciones del Chaco Americano (Redes Chaco) to further community development in the Gran Chaco Americano that incorporates parts of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. The collaborative effort undertaken by grassroots groups and donors should benefit 2,000 residents. (LA-178)

JASS Mesoamerica (JASS Meso), \$250,000 over two years; counterpart committed, \$1,483,382

JASS Mesoamerica will reach 400 women representing 52 Mexican and Central American grassroots organizations of activists with its program to advance the rights of women and to improve participants' collaboration on related public policy. An additional 500 women in grassroots and nongovernmental organizations across Mexico and Central America should benefit indirectly as well as networks of IAF-funded women's organizations throughout the hemisphere. (LA-179)



Supplemental Grant

Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional (CEDER), \$172,750 over one year; counterpart committed, \$25,750

CEDER, headquartered in Arequipa, will facilitate training to further the exchange of experiences among nine IAF grantees from Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay whose projects focus on social protection, defined as the complex of services that reduce the adverse impact of poverty, illness, unemployment, disability and age, among other common risk factors that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. It will also organize a regional meeting where the grantees and others can share experiences and extract lessons, and will draft a report summarizing the most effective practices, to be presented at the Summit of the Americas. The effort is supported by an agreement with the U.S. Department of State. (LA-180)

Corporación Hileros/Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN), \$83,626; counterpart committed, \$41,000

PCN, a Colombian organization, will rotate into the position previously held by Universidad de la Cordillera/Observatorio del Racismo en Bolivia (UNICOR) as the coordinator of activities undertaken by Red de Acción e Investigación Anti-Racista en las Americas, RAIAR, which monitors and documents the incidence of racism in Guatemala and Bolivia as well as Colombia. The agenda includes meetings in Austin, Texas, and Guatemala; exchanges among network members; and management of the webpage. (LA-174-A7)

Afro-Bolivians.

LINDA KOLKO



Networks in the Gran Chaco

In addition to allocating its resources by country, the Inter-American Foundation supports proposals submitted by organizations that plan to work regionally. Fiscal 2014 was a strong year for the multi-country portfolio, with six new grantees that cross borders to reach others with common concerns. The IAF's award to **Fundación Avina** funds a partnership with Red de Organizaciones del Chaco Americano (Redes Chaco) that spans the Gran Chaco Americano and benefits from a complementary division of labor.

The Chaco stretches some 1 million square kilometers through vast swaths of northern Argentina, southeastern Bolivia and northwestern Paraguay and into Brazil. Worth noting is that during the colonial era the Spaniards governed the region as a single unit; its current borders were shaped by brutal wars over territory. Straddling all four countries is the world's largest dry forest, also ranked as Latin America's second most extensive forested area. But as the agricultural frontier advances with the encroachment of ranches and factory farms, deforestation is accelerating at an alarming rate. The Chaco's extravagant and unique biodiversity is endangered and, in the rush to exploit them, so are reserves of water and energy as well as a way of life.

Redes Chaco was founded in 2008 to group networks that had emerged thanks in part to international donor funding disbursed over the past two decades to address the needs of disadvantaged and neglected rural communities. Their residents, mainly subsistence farmers and day laborers, represent some 30 indigenous ethnicities and include mestizos and criollos who identify first as *chaqueños*, regardless of citizenship. Redes Chaco also identifies as regional, which accounts for its choice not to incorporate in any of the four countries from which it draws its membership. Issues that might arise from that position are resolved by the association with Fundación Avina, which serves as a conduit for resources from its own trust and other donors including now the IAF. The arrangement allows Redes Chaco to focus on fieldwork, unencumbered by the daily demands of grant management and fundraising.

Together Redes, its members and allies have been effective in publicizing illegal deforestation, developing a system of flood and drought alerts based on river temperature and forming a comprehensive network to confront climate change, among other accomplishments funded by a first round of subgrants. In 2013, IAF support enabled 80 individuals to join the 1,000 participants in Redes' II Encuentro Mundial del Gran Chaco and discuss specific aspects of sustainable rural development. The event, along with Redes' record, helped attract more attention to the region, sharpen the focus and increase donor involvement in a new wave of initiatives. Collaborations that cross borders have priority and subgrantees must match 25 percent of donor funding in cash

or in kind. With dozens of grassroots groups working transnationally on complex issues, communication will be key. So regular meetings are scheduled for representatives of member networks to assess investments and reflect on Redes Chaco's course toward better living conditions as it works to preserve this multi-country, resource-rich territory.—P.D. and E.R.F.

Digging a well for better access to water.



COURTESY REDES CHACO

ADDITIONAL CURRENT PORTFOLIOS*

Chile

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment: \$571,000

Counterpart commitment: \$2,144,900

Total investment: \$2,712,901

Areas of emphasis: Corporate social responsibility, enterprise development.

Uruguay

Grantee partners: 2

IAF commitment: \$449,100

Counterpart commitment: \$613,583

Total investment: \$1,062,683

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

**There was no new funding in these countries in fiscal 2014.*

DAVID FLEISCHER



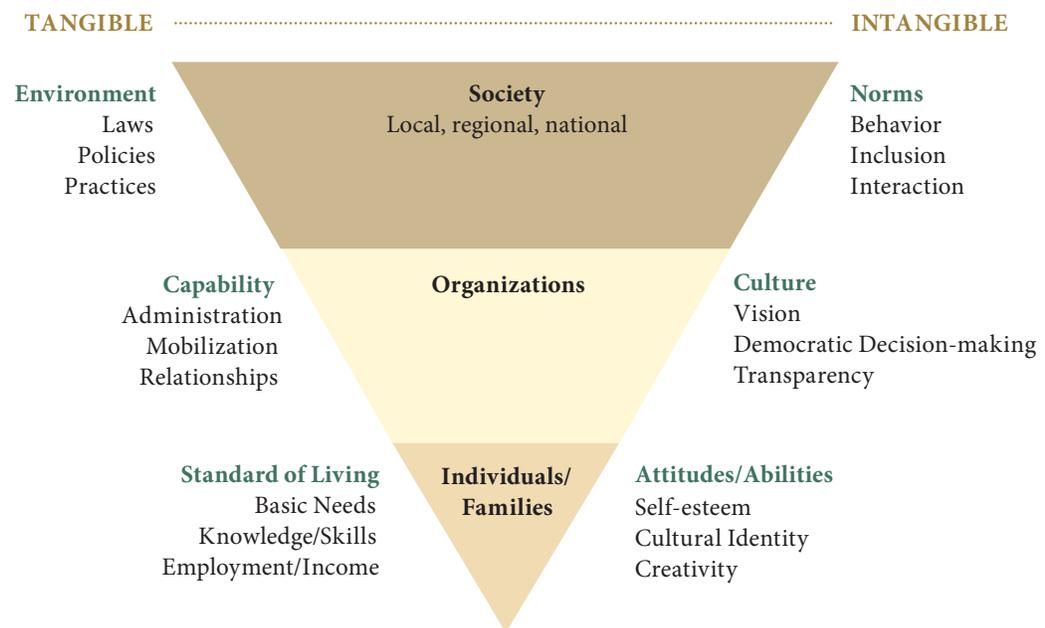
Uruguayan grantee CEPRODEH's workshop for seamstresses in Montevideo.

RESULTS

The IAF uses a rigorous system of reporting, verification and audits to track its investment in grassroots development. Auditors contracted in country conduct a financial review of grantee partners' use of IAF funds disbursed during the first year, as well as donations to the project from other sources, and thereafter as appropriate. They also organize orientations for new grantees, assess risks and offer guidance in accounting and fiscal management, all directed at assuring the use of public resources for the intended purpose. For an in-depth analysis and commentary on the work of the IAF's auditor corps see "Audits: Beyond the Bottom Line" in *Grassroots Development 2014*.

Grantee partners report every six months to the Office of Evaluation on their progress on indicators selected from the Grassroots Development Framework (GDF), the IAF's tool for evaluating the tangible and intangible results of its investment as they affect the well-being of individuals, the management and development of organizations, and norms, practices and policies adopted by the community. After verification by professionals contracted in country, the information collected is forwarded to the IAF and compiled into a report issued yearly. Selected organizations are visited five years after the conclusion of their IAF funding to evaluate their ongoing impact. At the end of fiscal 2014, the Office of Evaluation was completing its study of a cluster of eight grantees whose IAF-funded activities offered ordinary citizens the opportunity to participate in democratic decision-making. Findings are available at www.iaf.gov. In August, all auditors and evaluators, attended a four-day workshop to discuss and share methods and experiences useful to better standardization and practices.

Grassroots Development Framework



*Application of the GDF helps confirm 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*.*

Highlights of the IAF's Investment in Grassroots Development

The results report published in 2014 summarized progress toward a broad array of goals by a diverse portfolio of 224 active grantee organizations. The data reflected that their work benefited more than 356,000 individuals, of whom 59 percent were disadvantaged women. Numerous representatives of historically excluded communities were able to participate more fully in economic and civic life and social services: African descendants, Latin Americans of indigenous descent, people with disabilities and youths. Results reported for fiscal 2013 included the following:

- Some 62,000 individuals acquired new knowledge and skills: 25,369 were trained in agriculture; 3,877 in civic participation; 5,884 in marketing; 9,034 in topics related to the environment; and 9,750 in manufacturing.
- Approximately 1,700 jobs were created or preserved as a result of training, technical assistance and credit programs.
- More than 10,700 individuals reported better health.
- Grantee organizations initiated 913 partnerships and otherwise collaborated with allied organizations, which enabled them to mobilize resources and exchange experiences.
- Grantee organizations contributed \$8.2 million in required counterpart resources to their IAF-funded projects and mobilized another \$3.5 million toward their ongoing effectiveness.



MIGUEL CUEVAS

As part of the 2014 study on democratic decision-making, members of a network developed for elderly Bolivians in Potosí, through a 2003 grant to Fundación Horizontes, updated IAF evaluators on their advocacy toward improved services for seniors.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Inter-American Foundation is the only institution that specifically funds academic research on grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2014, 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:

- **Florencia Arancibia** (Argentina), State University of New York (SUNY), Stony Brook, *the struggle to regulate pesticides in rural Argentina*;
- **Giovanni Batz**, University of Texas, Austin, *Ixil resistance, tichajil and autonomy in Guatemala*;
- **Eloisa Berman-Arevalo** (Colombia/USA), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *the re-emergence of campesino politics in the Colombian Caribbean*;
- **Alicia Bravo-Frey** (Peru), Clark University, *resource governance in the Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha Biosphere Reserve, Peru*;
- **Jorge Derpic** (Bolivia), University of Texas, Austin, *lynchings and modalities of state presence in El Alto, Bolivia*;
- **Rebecca Kruger**, Columbia University, *social capital, gender, and development in fair trade coffee co-operatives in Northern Nicaragua*;
- **Lucy Miller**, Indiana University, *identity and generational transition in Amazonian extractive reserves in Brazil*;
- **Gustavo Oliveira** (Brazil/USA), University of California, Berkeley, *Brazil-China agroindustrial partnerships*;

Fellows for 2014-2015 in Mexico City with IAF's Academic Review Committee, selected staff and, front row, right, Ambassador Tom Dodd of IAF's board of directors.



- **Justin Perez**, University of California, Irvine, *antidiscrimination efforts among sexual minorities in Peru*;
- **Luz Rodríguez Ramírez** (Colombia), Duke University, *beneficial environmental governance for small-scale gold mining in Colombia*;
- **Manuel Rosaldo**, University of California, Berkeley, *Colombian waste pickers' struggle for social and economic inclusion*;
- **Nicosia Shakes** (Jamaica), Brown University, *mobilizing women through performance in Jamaica: a study of Sistren Theatre Collective*;
- **John Soileau III**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, *a case study of quilombolas and ribeirinho extractive reserves in Brazil's lower Amazon*;
- **Zareen Thomas**, University of Connecticut, *young people, the state and youth organizations in Bolivia*;
- **Andreina Torres Angarita** (Venezuela), City University of New York (CUNY), *the politics of state-sanctioned land seizures and autoconstrucción in Caracas*;
- **Marcela Torres Wong** (Peru), American University, *politics of identity in the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon*.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fellowship Program. In consultation with the IAF, IIE assembles an Academic Review Committee that screens applications and selects the best-qualified applicants to recommend as Fellows. In 2014, 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, George Washington University, and in the Latin American Studies Program, Georgetown University;
- **Dr. Maureen Hayes-Mitchell**, Professor of Geography, Colgate University;
- **Dr. Thomas Perreault**, Professor of Geography, Syracuse University; and
- **Dr. Marianne Schmink**, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida.

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 IAF staff and with the Academic Review Committee. The meeting of the 2013-2014 cycle of Fellows, held in Mexico City in February, included travel to the state of Tlaxcala and to farmers affiliated with IAF grantee CAMPESINO (page 51) that has made agriculture profitable in an area with limited access to water. As the guest lecturer for the conference, Dra. Alicia Castellanos Guerrero of the Department of Anthropology of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana spoke to the Fellows about her research into racism in Mexico. Dr. Castellanos is affiliated with Unidad Iztapalapa, a member of Red de Observatorios del Racismo en las Americas, which documents racism and works to eliminate it in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. Red de Observatorios is funded by an IAF grant channeled through Universidad de la Cordillera.

In May, 21 recent Fellows reported on their IAF-funded research at the Congress of the Latin American Studies Association held in Chicago. These included several from the 2012-2013 cycle who organized the panel (Re)framing Grassroots Environmental Development among Indigenous/



MARK CAICEDO

*Tlaxcala, Mexico:
IAF Fellows hear
from a farmer with
CAMPESINO (page 51).*

Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America, with Dr. Healy as discussant. As this report went to press, the IAF learned that another panel comprising Fellows from the past three cycles was approved for the 2015 Congress scheduled in San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27-30: Negotiating the State: Citizen Demands and Marginal Activisms through Engagement with Development and Policy. Dr. Cartwright will serve as discussant.

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 2014 journal. Both treated the challenges that the globalized economy poses for women who participate in it. Jelena Radovic Fanta (2010-2011 cycle) wrote about workers in Chile's fruit industry; Rebecca Nelson (2011-2012 cycle) wrote about the relationship between Guatemalan weavers and voluntourists. Among other benefits, publication of these articles brings the Fellows' IAF-funded research to a broader audience. All entrants benefit from the reviewers' insights. A third Fellow, Eric Hirsch (2013-2014) contributed an insert based on his research to a longer article in the 2014 journal on auditing grassroots development. Independently, Laura Gutiérrez (2013-2014) and ASPRONICA, her grassroots affiliate during her Fellowship, collaborated on publication of a booklet on her fieldwork: traditional seeds as a patrimony to be preserved and community resistance to transgenics.

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 1,134 alumni of the Fellowship 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 and through participation in lectures and conferences in fora throughout the world. Media reports as well as other public recognition of individuals associated with grantee organizations, the organizations themselves and the movements they drive, give their work exposure and confirm 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. *Grassroots Development* for 2014 emphasized learning and change with an updated analysis of leadership at the grassroots; the growing momentum of Paraguay's disability rights movement; the multiple functions of the IAF's audit exercise; the evolving legal environment of organized voluntary initiatives; grassroots development in a context of chronic violence; and how the IAF's approach to foreign assistance plays out in university classrooms. Peer-reviewed articles by IAF Fellows that were published in *Grassroots Development* are detailed in this report's section on the Fellowship Program.



The IAF website logged more than 85,900 visits in 2014. 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 2014 www.iaf.gov grew to house some three dozen videos featuring the work of selected grantee partners. IAF's Twitter feed, @iafgrassroots, launched in 2013, currently has more than 370 followers.

Travel Grants

During the fiscal year, the IAF awarded travel grants to 417 individuals drawn from IAF-funded and other grassroots and nongovernmental organizations, who participated in 45 conferences and workshops that furthered the IAF's strategic goals of better living conditions and greater inclusion and otherwise supported the development process. Of these travelers, 220 represented IAF grantees in gatherings to exchange ideas and experiences and network. Highlights follow:

- **Oct. 1-Sept. 30.** The IAF and the Organization of American States supported a series of workshops on the burdens that the legal system imposes on the disabled, which was organized by **Instituto Interamericano sobre Discapacidad y Desarrollo Inclusivo** of Costa Rica. Dozens of activists attended the workshops held in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Paraguay and produced materials for a webinar.
- **Nov. 3-6:** IAF grantees in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua sent 22 representatives to **Let's Talk Roya**, a conference organized in Salinitas, El Salvador, by the Oregon-based social enterprise Sustainable Harvest to address the fungal infection that decimates coffee trees. The 300 farmers from 29 countries at the event discussed measures to prevent or manage *roya* by proper pruning, replacing older trees with healthy young plants and applying organic fertilizer. Following up in May, IAF grantee **Federación Comercializadora de Café Especial de Guatemala** (FECCEG) hosted farmers from grantees in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico for further discussion.
- **March 27-April 7.** Sponsored by the IAF, eight young Nicaraguans traveled to Brazil to play in the **Soccer Tournament for Street Kids and At-risk Youths**, which preceded the 2014 World Cup games. Additionally, grantee **Casa Alianza Nicaragua** (CAN), whose community organizers use soccer to provide structure for young people in rough neighborhoods, mobilized sufficient resource from external donors to send another 14 players, boys and girls, to the event sponsored by **Street World Cup**, which covered lodging and food for footballers from 20 countries.
- **March 31-April 5.** Former Mexican grantee **K'inál Antsetik**, a weaving cooperative, hosted 50 women activists from nine Latin American countries who learned the skills needed for effective advocacy against prejudice based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race and social class, and joined a march in support of lesbian rights in the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas.
- **April 4-6.** Two representatives of Guatemalan grantee **Sa Qa Chol Nimla K'aleb'aal** (SANK) joined grassroots activists from throughout the world at the **School of International Service of American University** for the **Chico Vive Conference**, named for the courageous Brazilian rubber-tapper/environmentalist who was murdered in 1988. SANK's mission is to encourage responsible agriculture and obtain fair prices for the products of indigenous Q'eqchi' farmers.

Indigo producers from IAF grantee Anil Cielo Azul exhibited at Trueque de Saberes y Productos Comunitarios in San Salvador.



COURTESY RAIS

- **April 25-26.** **Trueque de Saberes y Productos Comunitarios** brought 150 farmers and artisans representing 28 current and former Salvadoran grantees to San Salvador's Cuscatlán Park to display their products as well as processes ranging from the application of indigo to dye garments to the use of earthworms to compost waste into fertilizer. A popular exhibit featured fishers from former grantee **Asociación Acuícola Lago de Ilopango**, who had brought tanks filled with tilapia that they fried on the spot and sprinkled with lime juice for the crush of fair-goers. The fair resulted in ongoing cooperation, follow-up discussions and plans to organize more such events.



The IAF's Patrick Ahern, first row, second from the right, with farmers from IAF-funded coffee organizations at Let's Talk Roya.



Plant afflicted with roya.

MARK CAICEDO



Grassroots technicians from Guakia Ambiente in Massachusetts.

COURTESY CRWA

- **June 5-6.** Eight Haitian grassroots activists, including representatives of three IAF grantees, traveled to Boston for **The Haiti Funders' Conference** to meet with other activists, donors, officials from the Haitian government and Diaspora Haitians working toward the practice of effective philanthropy. Jenny Petrow, IAF representative for Haiti, joined a panel on donor support for grassroots efforts undertaken by women. The IAF also funded Kreyol-English interpretation.
- **July 14-19.** The director of grantee **Guakia Ambiente** and two of its grassroots technicians were among the Dominican delegation that traveled to Cambridge, Mass., to meet with the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and attend the **Leadership Learning Exchange** component of its **Twinning for River Restoration**, an initiative to recover watersheds around the world via sharing experiences and effective practices, of which the Charles River provides the most successful example. Guakia Ambiente is using its IAF grant to bring access to hydroelectricity to isolated Dominican and Haitian communities and to teach residents to install, use and maintain the system.
- **Sept. 4-6.** Representatives from K'inal Antsetik and 2014 grantee **Jamaican Pride in Action** joined more than 200 activists and supporters in Lima for the **Inaugural Meeting of LGBTI Political Leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean**, sponsored by the U.S.-based **Gay and Lesbian Victory Institute and Promsex**, a Peruvian advocacy group. The agenda featured reports on conditions in the countries represented, discussions of the pervasive discrimination and violence that target the hemisphere's LGBTI community and an exploration of how to increase its involvement in political life. IAF support for interpretation services facilitated participation by activists from the U.S., the English-speaking Caribbean and Brazil.
- **Sept. 24-27.** Sonia España of Ecuadorian grantee **Agrupación Afro-Ecuatoriana "Mujeres Progresistas"** (AAMP), Celeo Álvarez of recent Honduran grantee **Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario** (ODECO) and Jenny Petrow of the IAF joined a panel discussion informing the **44th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation** how U.S. foreign aid can reach communities of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Staff Outreach

As part of an agency-wide dissemination effort, members of the IAF staff are encouraged to share the IAF's responsive approach and their own expertise with the development and foreign affairs communities, interested scholars and researchers, and the general public. In 2014, these engagements included the following:

- Robert N. Kaplan, IAF president, lectured on the IAF's grassroots approach at the **Ford Latin America Group** on Dec. 11; on March 25, he participated in a public armchair conversation with Daniel F. Runde, chair and director of the project on Prosperity and Development of the **Center for Strategic International Studies**. Kaplan traveled to Sao Paulo to join panels at the **Second Brazilian Philanthropy Forum**, held Oct. 24, and at the **Private Wealth Brazil Forum 2014** held May 13. At the annual forum of **RedEAmérica**, held April 24 in Santiago, he was among the panelists on Enterprise and Community: Actors for Sustainable Development, exploring the challenges facing firms and communities working together for lasting change.
- Professor Bob Maguire invited Jenny Petrow and Seth Jesse, IAF representative for El Salvador, to teach sessions of his graduate course offered in the fall and summer on bottom-up development at the **Elliott School of International Affairs of the George Washington University**. Maguire, an IAF representative from 1979 to 1999, also asked Petrow to lecture to this class on Haiti at the **Foreign Service Institute** in July.
- Kevin Healy, through mid-April IAF representative for Bolivia, taught graduate courses on drug trafficking in the Americas and on Latina American indigenous social movements at **The George Washington University and Georgetown** and lectured on indigenous movements at the **Foreign Service Institute**. In May, post-retirement, he traveled to Chicago to serve as a discussant on (Re)framing Grassroots Environmental Development among Indigenous/Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America, the panel organized by several IAF Fellows for the **Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)**. Before Bolivians went to the polls on Oct. 12, 2014, public affairs programs broadcast on television and radio in New York and Buenos Aires tapped Healy for analyses of the presidential election in Bolivia as did the **Inter-American Dialogue** in a well-attended public forum. Current and former grantees and others throughout Bolivia celebrated Healy's 36-year IAF career with memorable events that included an invitation to the Independence Day luncheon in Sucre for President Evo Morales, Vice-President Álvaro García Linera and indigenous leaders.

IAF veterans Charlie Reilly, Kevin Healy, Steve Vetter and Patrick Breslin.



MARK CAICEDO

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 with the IAF calling for the corporate parties to match, double or triple the IAF's contribution to their social-responsibility programs, usually by channeling resources to grassroots efforts undertaken by incipient or isolated groups. RedEAmérica's dissemination component includes media products. In March, it released *Empresas y Comunidades que Transforman América Latina* [Businesses and Communities that are Transforming Latin America] compiling case studies of the four winning entries of its first Latin American Grassroots Development Award for *transformadores*, a program co-sponsored by the IAF. For more on this publication, visit www.redeamerica.org.

In the News

- In "How Bolivian Farmers Made the World Crave Quinoa," in *Bloomberg News* of Oct. 13, 2013, **Jim Yong Kim**, president of the **World Bank**, traced the growing popularity of the grain-like crop native to the Andean region, to the early breakthroughs of **Central de Cooperativas de Campesinos Agrícolas Operación Tierra** (CECOAT), a farmer's cooperative that received critical support from the IAF and other donors. IAF funding from 1981 to 1988 allowed CECOAT to develop a vision for its business along with vital skills.
- In his op-ed "Investment in Brazil must go further than the World Cup" in the *Miami Herald* of the July 14, **Eddy Arriola**, chair of the IAF's board of directors and founder of the Miami-based Apollo Bank, described the IAF's support for grassroots development in Brazil and the partner organizations' own investment of counterpart.
- *Securing Rights, Combating Climate Change*, a report issued in July by the **World Resources Institute** (WRI) and the **Rights and Resources Initiative** (RRI), cites the work of **David Bray**, former IAF representative for Mexico and a trailblazing expert on the benefits accruing to forests and forest enterprises managed by indigenous Mexican and other traditional communities.

PATRICK BRESLIN



CECOAT quinoa farmer.

- *La Nación* and other Costa Rican dailies covered President Luis Guillermo Solís tour of coastal Caribbean communities. On the itinerary was a visit to IAF grantee **Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales del Caribe Sur (APACS)**, a grassroots organization working to safeguard the local marine ecosystem by controlling the invasive lion fish. Solís helped out by casting the first net, officially launching APACS’ IAF-funded campaign. (See page 31.)
- **Pamela Constable’s** article in the *Washington Post* of Sept. 22 chronicled the success of Salvadoran immigrants in metro Washington, D.C., among them **Elmer Arias**, who worked his way up from dishwasher to restaurateur and founded **Fundación para la Educación Social, Económica y Cultural (FUPEC)**. Now an IAF grantee, FUPEC helps U.S.-based Salvadorans pool resources to invest in better conditions in Salvadoran communities. For more, see “How the Salvadoran Diaspora Funds Options for the Future” in *Grassroots Development* 2013 online.

COURTESY FUPEC



Elmer Arias in El Salvador.

Honored

- The U.S. **Hispanic Leadership Institute** honored **Dr. Anita Perez Ferguson**, a former chair of the IAF board of directors and currently on the advisory council, with its **Henry L. Lacayo Lifetime Achievement Award** on Feb. 21 at its 32nd national conference in Chicago attended by established and aspiring leaders of the U.S. Hispanic community representing 1,000 affiliated groups.
- **Sarah T. Hines** of the 2011-2012 cycle of IAF Fellows was among the 65 Ph.D. candidates honored with **The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship**. Hines, a history student at U.C.-Berkeley, will use the ACLS fellowship to finish her dissertation, “Water Rules: Urbanization and the Transformation of Cochabamba’s Waterscape, 1879-2000,” undertaken with IAF funding
- **Lina Vanessa Tóvinson Ortega**, 25, was among six Colombians selected in July from among more than 100 nominees for the **Colombian National Prize for Young Volunteers** sponsored by the **Office of the President of Colombia and the United Nations** to recognized volunteers with initiatives to improve social and economic conditions. Tóvinson assists IAF grantee **Corporación Taller de Promoción Popular y Desarrollo Alternativo (Prodesal)** in its work with 30 municipalities in the department of Cordoba to motivate young people to participate in town meetings and to encourage local government to listen to them.

- The **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** selected IAF Haitian grantee **Mouvman Peyizan 3e Seksyon Kanperen (MP3K)** from among more than 1,200 applicants, representing 120 countries, for its **Equator Prize** recognizing grassroots organizations working to reduce poverty through conservation. MP3K works with more than 1,500 farmers to improve farm productivity and food security in Department Sud through the application of organic methods and the minisett technique, which speeds the propagation of yams. On Sept. 24 representatives from MP3K joined 34 other honorees in New York's Lincoln Center for the awards ceremony before an audience of 2,400. Each honoree received \$5,000 to invest in its work. The event was a component of the **Climate Summit** hosted by the U.N. **Secretary General**. For more on the award, visit <http://www.equatorinitiative.org>.

MP3K.



JENNY PETROW



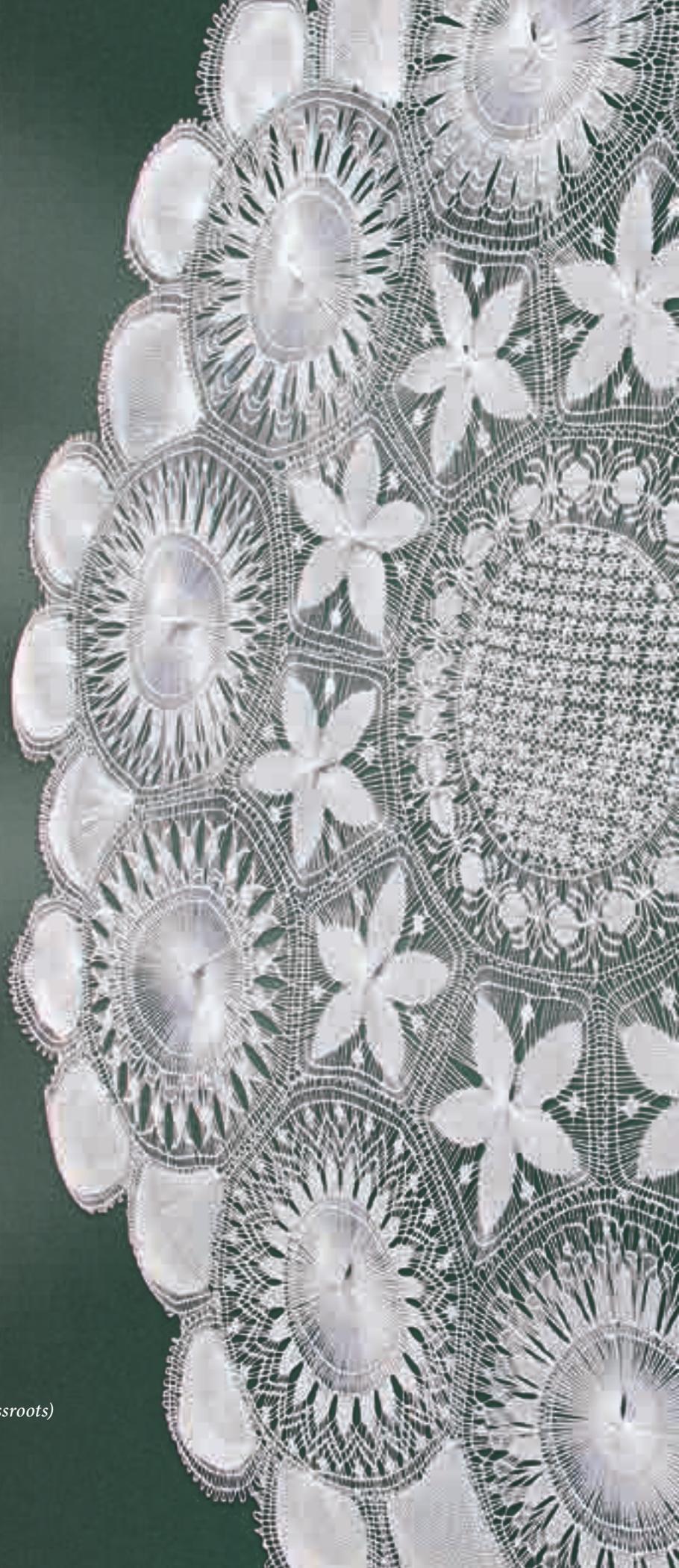
Managing Editor: Paula Durbin

Contributing Editor: Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías

Photo Editor: Mark Caicedo

Foreign Language Editions: João Bezzera, Aura Triana-Pacheco

Design and Printing: John Mitrione, United States Government Publishing Office



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