

Payamino Project



Community Development Manager
Volunteer Post

An Introduction to the project & the organisation

21/09/09

The Payamino Project is a thriving community conservation and development project. Situated in the foothills of the Andes East of Quito, the indigenous community of San Jose de Payamino entered an agreement with Aalborg Zoo in 2002 to protect their forest and way of life from the increasing pressures of oil, logging and mining companies eager to exploit the Payamino's 27,000 hectares of primary lowland rainforest.

This unique agreement supports the community with education, healthcare and sustainable development projects, allows world class research and ecotourism to be undertaken in this unexplored pocket of the Amazon and ultimately protects the future of this area.

A Vision for the Payamino...

By the year 2012 the Payamino territory will be recognised as a special place in the world to be valued and protected, both locally and internationally, acknowledging that its environment is significantly important, and respecting that sustainably it supports an indigenous community who enjoy a healthy, secure, and natural way of life.

The work of the project and this post are funded by Aalborg Zoo in Denmark and coordinated by a member of zoo staff. Additional funding is raised through occasional eco-tourism visits and a well supported school sponsorship scheme run by Aalborg zoo.

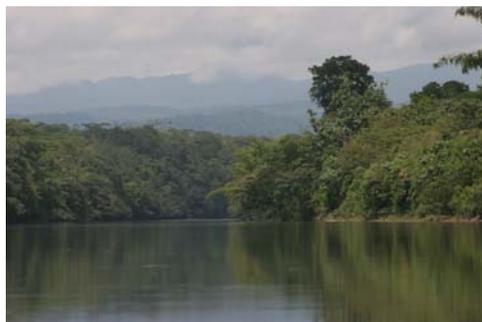
Total annual funding of the project from Aalborg Zoo is roughly (not including tourism funds and staffing) = US\$12,000

Research in Payamino – Timuri Investigation Centre

A UK based charity, set up by enthusiastic staff and students involved in field trips and expeditions to the research station in the area from the universities of Manchester and Glasgow, also fund the sustainable development of the area through their annual visits and research. It is hoped that from early 2010 they will be able to fund a research station manager's post to help coordinate their work in close collaboration with the community, Aalborg Zoo and the community development manager.

A Payamino Project advisory group comprising of the Aalborg Zoo coordinator and representatives of the UK charity meet twice a year and are in continuous email / skype dialogue in order to support the work of their staff in the area and discuss the running and development of their combined efforts in the region.

For more details about the project and the UK charity visit: www.payaminoproject.org.uk
and the work of Aalborg Zoo: www.aalborgzoo.dk



Payamino Project



Community Development Manager Volunteer Post

Job Description

The aim of this post is: to support the community of San Jose de Payamino to fulfil the aims of the "Payamino Project" (focusing on sustainability, community development and training), in close collaboration with the community coordinator and the Research station manager and in dialogue with the project funder, Aalborg Zoo, via their nominated project coordinator based in Denmark.

Key points:

- The post would be for a **minimum of one year**.
- **Starting early 2010.**
- **Up to \$7000** will be provided to cover in-country expenses including; food, accommodation in town, within-country transport, insurance, medical and communication (internet). You will be required to keep accounts and receipts of these transactions.
- You will also be required to **fund your own travel to and from Ecuador.**
- **Assistance will be given in obtaining a volunteer's visa** for Ecuador and there will be no accommodation costs within the community.
- **Visas must be obtained prior to starting** the position and before entering Ecuador.
- **Couples are encouraged to apply**, due to the exciting and challenging nature of the living and working conditions of this post. However, the expense budget will still only be up to a max of \$7000.
- **Applications:** in the form of a CV and covering letter by email to the Payamino Project Coordinators at Aalborg Zoo: Nan Swannie Sigsgaard; nan@gowild.dk, Jens Sigsgaard; jsi@aalborgzoo.dk
- **CLOSING DATE:** October 31st 2009:

Living conditions: You will be required to live full time in the community, in the park ranger house, with the Research Station Manager (RSM), under agreement with the National Park authorities and the community (although the community is discussing building a house just for volunteers in the future). Living conditions will be basic. Running water will not be available, but the Payamino river is nearby. Cooking will be on a gas stove. There is currently no form of communication from the community (other than by word of mouth), although messages can be received in the community through announcements on the local radio station. Efforts are underway to provide a form of emergency communication in the future, by radio, mobile phone or satellite phone.

Travel: You will be expected to travel into either Coca or Loreto and overnight there on average twice a month, to communicate with European partners or other project partners in or out of Ecuador. You may also be required to travel to other places in Ecuador (i.e Tena or Quito) as appropriate.

Language skills: You will be able to speak and write competently in both Spanish and English. Knowledge of Kichwa and less so of Danish would also be of enormous benefit. Classes in Kichwa can be taken in Quito and Coca.

Further requirements:

- You will be a graduate in a relevant degree (minimum requirement BA/BSc): ie Sociology, Anthropology, Economic Development, Civil Engineering, Linguistics, Sustainable development etc.
- You will have previous experience working with communities, preferably indigenous communities in South America.
- You will have a personal commitment to nature conservation and sustainable development.
- You must be able to work without direct supervision and communicate effectively with EU supervisors.
- You will have held a position of responsibility previously and have experience managing people
- You will be an enthusiastic communicator, leader and organiser.
- Experience in budgeting, accounts and report writing and excellent computer skills are essential
- Ability to talk in public in Spanish is also essential.
- Teaching experience would also be an advantage.
- You will have substantial travel experience, preferably in South America.
- Hands on experience in building etc would also be an advantage.

Duties will be:

Coordination and facilitation of: Communication, record keeping, planning, budgeting, accounting and delivery of all project activities with focus on sustainability, training, education and health care.

- To coordinate and assist the Payamino Project Community Coordinator (PPCC) with all **communications** between UK/ Denmark (DK).
- To assist and train the PPCC to collate information, write and send monthly **reports and photos** of project activities to Aalborg Zoo for use on websites, reports and newsletters.
- Assist the PPCC to manage project funds, collate information and receipts, write and send Aalborg Zoo monthly **project accounts**.
- To **attend community meetings** to represent the Payamino Project. Be aware of what is happening in the community and report any significant issues to PPCUK / Aalborg Zoo.
- To assist the PPCC in providing **presentations to the community** on what the Project has done and paid for during the preceding months and what is planned for the coming months
- To assist the PPCC in getting community **approval for projects** suggested at community and project meetings, with specific reference sustainability and to setting up a new training programme.
- To take part in (and initiate if necessary) **meetings** with the PPCC and community leaders to discuss how the project is working and to plan, budget and discuss new project proposals.
- To assist the PPCC and the community to plan, budget and collate information in order to write/send **project proposals and related budgets**.
- To advise Aalborg Zoo about **possible developments** to the project and which funding proposals to prioritise, especially with respect to keeping a training and conservation focus to all project activities.
- To assist PPCC to create, plan, manage, communicate and deliver a **calendar of project activities** (eg. Community meetings, training programmes, school events and trips, building / infrastructure improvements)
- To assist the PPCC and school teachers to prepare and send Aalborg zoo annual budgets and accounts for the **educational needs** of the primary school + distance learning high school, as well as assisting them with the distribution of the materials and the photographing and report writing for the school sponsors.
- To assist PPCC and the nurse in planning and spending of the **health** budget, including facilitating patients in accessing free health care.
- Be a facilitator in updating the existing **project agreement** and project aims in consultation with the community, the project funders and in accordance with any changes in Ecuadorian Law.

Training

- In consultation with the community, your main priority will be to plan, develop, coordinate, contribute to delivery of and facilitate and encourage attendance of an integrated training programme that will support the sustainable development of the community and be the main focus of future project funding. This training programme:
 - Will consist of an integrated combination of training provided by the following sources:
 - External agencies, local experts, you (the CDM) and the RSM and visiting university researchers, field course and expedition members
 - Training areas will be chosen in consultation with the community, based on what is available and in accordance with the aims of the project. For example:
 - Health: correct use of a microscope; preventative health etc.
 - Sustainable economical development: fish farming, cacao farming, tourism – ie specific skills required when dealing with tourists, eg. planning, cooking, guiding, health and safety and waste management.
 - Personal development: self esteem building, management, leadership,
 - Ecology and sustainability: Ecology and English for jungle guides, Ecology and English in the school.
 - Computer, communication and management skills: IT, planning and report writing skills for the community leaders etc, the democratic process etc.
- To facilitate and encourage the women of the community to become more involved in project activities, training and community decision making, perhaps through the setting up of a women's' committee etc that oversees training areas specifically for women.
- Keep detailed records and photos of all training given and who participated.

Research + tourism

- Work closely with the research station manager and the PPCC and the community in planning, preparing for and delivering high quality research expeditions, field courses and tourist visits.

Collaborations and funding

- To take initiative and assist the community and Aalborg Zoo to identify, apply to and /or collaborate with other government or non governmental organisations that could offer the community further support in fulfilling the goals of the project.