

Project Kamarakoto

Various members of both Angel Conservation and Fundacion Etnika have made exploratory trips to Kamarata Valley over the last 12 months and conducted numerous meetings with the indigenous inhabitants.

Listed below are some of our on-going projects and achievements:

Cultural Identity Program

"Woman of the Falls" - a documentary, which is, still a work in progress. However, important interviews with the Elders have already been documented and donated to the community.

Anthropologist hired - an experienced anthropologist has been contracted by Fundacion Etnika in Venezuela (funding provided by Angel Conservation) to work with the Pemón in Kamarata Valley. This is a one-year project.

Web site under construction - to enable handcrafts etc to be made and sold to the "outside". This web site will in due course be a conduit for information both cultural and touristic.

Los Indios Kamarakotos - books in the Public Domain have been scanned and printed on a custom basis. This is an anthropological study made back in 1939 containing valuable information on the recent history of the Kamarakoto tribe of the Pemón. Angel Conservation has archived this important work and in the process of printing copies that will be distributed for use by all 12 communities.

Telemedicine and Communications

Hardware and software - Angel Conservation continues to provide hardware (laptops plus sundry communications equipment) and software that enable the communities to document items of cultural importance as well as photos/ videos pertaining to the tourism etc. A number of lightning storms have been disruptive however service has been pretty much maintained.

Training and maintenance - A computer repair program has been implemented and a member of the local community put in charge of its wellbeing. Training is being provided also.

Telemedicine - Angel Conservation supports the Telemedicine program with technology and continues to serve as a go-between and facilitator.

Digital cameras - Cameras donated to document flora and fauna.

Communications - Regular conversations with the community are held now on Messenger / Skype with the community and of course email is another means of communication. This has been a tremendous plus in bringing tourists and controlling volume to the area as well as being able to be kept abreast of local developments.

Sustainable Tourism / Ecotourism

Guide Certification Program - a basic program has been developed to supplement the Nature Interpretation Program started in 2007 and in its third phase.

Community web site - Information is being gathered in order to prepare a web site that encompasses the valley. This web site is intended to be a portal, not only for tourism but also for a cultural archival of information.

Sustainable tourism - A number of groups have visited the area with Angel Conservation as well as with their partners, Angel-Eco Tours.

Tools - Books on local flora and fauna, binoculars, digital cameras, first aid kits have all been supplied to individuals and lodges in support of tourism.

Other

Bicycles donated - one group of well wishers collected money after their trip and donated a dozen bicycles to the community of San Jose. Each day a dozen or so children have to walk 1-2 hrs to and from Kamarata to school - now their trips will be shorter and more enjoyable.

Fresh water supply - Angel Conservation is looking into providing a water supply for the children of Awaraparú. Each day during class hours the children have to travel long distances to porter drinking water from the local river. This project could well extend to at least 10 communities that do not have fresh water on site.

National Assembly - Fundacion Etnika supported the Capitana of Kamarata to make a trip to Caracas for various meetings, including a meeting at the National Assembly for the Indigenas.

Fundraising - A couple of fundraising events were held - another coming soon. Watch out for our annual raffle featuring great prizes.