

2012 Annual Report

Message from the Executive Director

Propositivo. When I was in El Salvador this year I heard this word a lot. It sums up the philosophy of our local partner organizations – La Coordinadora del Bajo Lempa, and its technical arm, the Mangrove Association – when confronting any challenge: hunger, violence, deforestation, climate change. I love this word because it can be translated many ways: purposeful, proactive, positive.

We at EcoViva believe in being *propositivo*, and in supporting community organizations that take a proactive approach. Back in the mid-1990s, in El Salvador, this meant mostly supporting local, grassroots projects that addressed basic needs: water projects, family farming, reforestation. Over the last 17 years, these efforts have grown into a broader movement, and local organizations are now represented within the government.

Today, being *propositivo* means not just supporting local community initiatives, but taking them to the national level. And as the US government seeks to fund large-scale development for coastal areas, we are being proactive in advocating for locally-led initiatives to take priority. We know how satisfying it is to see seeds planted by local people – sprinkled with funding and technical support – blossom into positive change throughout the country.

Yael Falicov
Executive Director



EcoViva works in partnership and solidarity with low-income communities in Central America organized to achieve environmental sustainability, economic security, social justice, and peace.

Our primary focus area is the Lower Lempa region of El Salvador. In 2012, we also channeled donor-advised grants to community-led organizations in Honduras and Nicaragua, and provided business development assistance to a community organization in Panama.

Key Programs in 2012

Community Organizing

- Strategic Planning
- Technical Assistance
- Disaster Preparedness

Youth Development

- Viva Fund Youth Scholarships
- Mangrove Community Radio

Building a Green Economy

- Organic Agriculture
- Sustainable Fishing Cooperatives
- Community Empowerment Tours

Environmental Sustainability

- Sea Turtle Hatcheries
- Fisheries Management
- Mangrove Forest Restoration
- Local Enforcement of Environmental Regulations
- Ecological Sanitation
- Wood-Saving Stoves

2012 Highlights – EcoViva in El Salvador

Protecting a Critical Ecosystem - Sustainable fishing cooperatives, organic agriculture training, youth development and ecotourism continue to be key strategies to build a thriving green economy in the Bay of Jiquilisco Protected Area.



Mangrove Radio – 12 youth prepared to take over the airwaves! They received intensive developed new programming in preparation for the launch of a stronger radio signal in early 2013.

Disaster Preparedness – After record-breaking rain broke the levees on the Lempa River in 2011, our partners successfully advocated for the government to rebuild. They also intensified their disaster preparedness work, expanding their life-saving community response committee model to dozens of additional schools and communities.

Sustainable Fishing Forum– In November, EcoViva and the Mangrove Association organized a forum bringing together fisherpeople, community members, and local leaders to build awareness about the dangers of blast fishing in El Salvador.

Sugarcane Advocacy– The production of sugarcane has been linked to high rates of kidney failure in the region, and people have been both badly burned and killed when caught in the midst of a burning field. EcoViva is supporting “Movement for the Defense of Life and Natural Resources” (El Movimiento), a campaign to regulate environmentally destructive practices in the sugarcane industry.

Ecological Mangrove Restoration – Mangrove forests are critical ecosystems for reducing the risks of climate change. For that reason, we launched the first local pilot projects in Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR). We began working in El Llorón, where the mangrove forest was dying at a rapid rate. By the end of 2012, we began seeing a dramatic transformation in the area. Many mangroves came back to life and the small fish have returned to the once devastated estuaries.



Diversified & Sustainable Farming – To date, over 300 subsistence farmers in the Lower Lempa region have received training, technical assistance and small loans to diversify their farms, adding chickens, pigs, fruit and firewood trees, vegetable and legumes.

Estela in the Legislature – Estela Hernández, leader of the Mangrove Association, was elected to the Salvadoran Legislature in March of 2012.

Congressional Briefing in DC – We organized our first U.S. Congressional Briefing in May 2012 about a proposed \$270 million in U.S. development aid aimed at coastal El Salvador with participation from Estela Hernández (Salvadoran Legislature) and Walberto Gallegos (Mangrove Association).



Viva Fund – With support from donors, we provided 15 scholarships to local youth with leadership potential to help them gain skills and experience in community development. Ten youth attended Megatec, where young leaders study aquaculture, tourism, fisheries management, information technology, or ports and customs. The Viva Fund scholarships cover housing and transportation costs, as well as support services and leadership workshops. The fund also supports one student studying agronomy at the University of El Salvador, and covers transportation costs for four high school students who live in a remote community.



Protecting the Hawksbill Sea Turtle – The 2nd Annual Hawksbill Sea Turtle festival was held in July to promote the protection of this endangered species. Over the last ten years, EcoViva has supported the incubation and release of over 1.1 million sea turtle eggs from four different species: Olive Ridley, Leatherback, Green, and Hawksbill.

Thanks to our 2012 donors

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Community Empowerment Tours El Salvador 2012

- American Jewish World Service—
Santa Barbara Hillel
- American Jewish World Service—
Rabbinical Students
- EcoViva Board and Friends Tour
- Women's Leadership Tour
- Engineers Without Borders—
Iowa City Professional Chapter
- Monterey Institute for International
Studies – Team El Salvador
- Rainbow Light Sea Turtle Adventures
- Saginaw Valley State University



2012 Financial Summary

January 1 – December 31, 2012

INCOME

Foundation Grants	\$352,784
Individual Donations	\$202,566
Community Empowerment Tours	\$72,292
Total Income	\$627,642

EXPENSES

Grants & Programs in Central America	\$529,674
Management	\$56,445
Fundraising	\$39,675
Total Expense	\$625,794

Net Income \$1,484

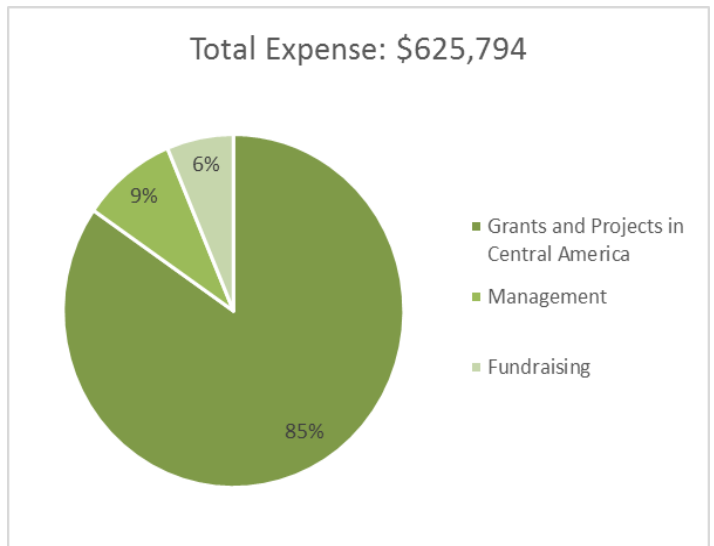
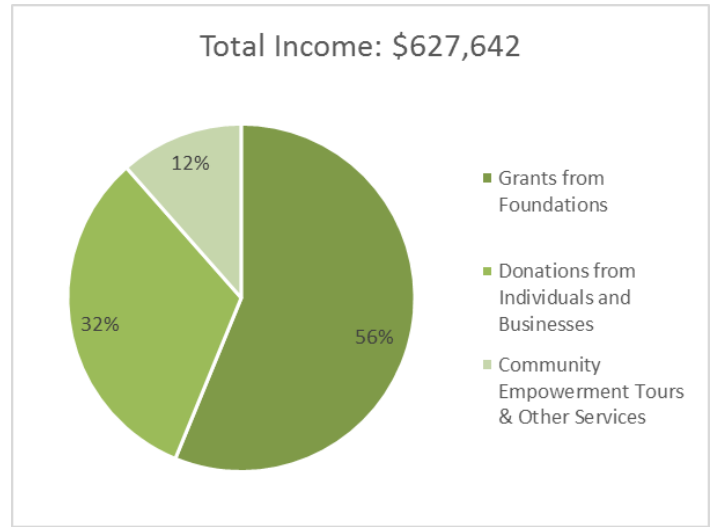
Net Assets as of December 31

Cash and cash equivalents	\$94,674
Contributions Receivable	\$45,860
Prepaid Community Empowerment	\$28,184
Tour expenses	
Other Current Assets	\$5,818
Total Assets	\$174,536

Accounts Payable	\$28,186
Other Liabilities	\$76,822

Total Equity \$69,528

Total Liabilities and Equity \$174,536



2012 Team

Yael Falicov, Executive Director
 Tricia Johnson, International Fellow
 Dionicia Lara, Office Manager
 Adriana Solís López, National Outreach Director
 Nathan Weller, Programs and Policy Director

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