



2011 Annual Report

EcoViva Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Message from Jeff Haas, Board Chair

In the thirteen years that I have been involved with Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America, now EcoViva, I have had the satisfaction of seeing us play an important role in the empowerment of now over 35,000 people in a hundred communities, who determine their own priorities and select their own leaders. Taking leadership from our Salvadoran partner organizations, La Coordinadora and the Mangrove Association, we continue to provide technical assistance to their efforts to protect the Bay of Jiquilisco. We have hired Nathan Weller, a highly trained water and ecology expert, to work with La Coordinadora to assure the local communities continue to provide the leadership in planning the future of the Bay. We have helped them build a dormitory and classrooms for delegations which we have sponsored. We have raised funds for their agricultural projects and early on helped them train their local leadership committees in conflict resolution.

Of our founders, Juancho Donahue died suddenly in 2005, Chenchó Alas has founded another organization to bring about peace in Central America, and Hal Baron, as Chair Emeritus, continues to provide insight and direction to our Board at EcoViva. But like our partners, new leadership and energy have emerged. Under the brilliant and energetic direction of Yael Falicov, our current Executive Director, we are still increasing our communication with and support of our Salvadoran partners as well as considering supporting new partners in Central America based on what we have learned.

I can't sum up my experience with EcoViva without mentioning that it has been the most personally satisfying and gratifying work I have done in the last 15 years. I admire our partners who have done so much for themselves and their communities with so little in the way of material things. While they participated in electing a more progressive president in El Salvador, they did not stop organizing and advocating and building their programs after the election or expect the new government or president to do it for them. We have shared some difficult and triumphal moments with La Coordinadora and I feel our partnership, respect and mutual appreciation is greater than ever.



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

Our primary focus area is the Lower Lempa region of El Salvador.

Key Programs in 2011

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

Key Accomplishments in 2011

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.



Community Response to Massive Flooding

- In October 2011, record rainfall hit the Lower Lempa region in El Salvador. The downpour caused levees on the Lempa River to burst, forcing the evacuation of 40 communities. Though the damage was severe, our local partners were prepared to respond. With the support of EcoViva, the Mangrove Association trained the Civil Protection Brigades that helped evacuate more than 5,500 residents safely, and no lives were lost. We provided emergency funding to help local families rebuild and recuperate from the disaster.

Seed Production Victory – With technical assistance from the Mangrove Association, over 450 farmers collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to produce millions of pounds of corn seed which were distributed to 325,000 families in an effort to support family farming. Previously, the Salvadoran government would purchase these seeds at above market rates from Monsanto. Now, taxpayer funds support the livelihoods of local farmers, not big agribusiness.

Ecological Mangrove Restoration

– Mangrove forests are critical ecosystems for reducing the risks of climate change. For that reason, EcoViva worked with the international Mangrove Action Project and our local partners to organize the first ever National Mangrove Forum in San Salvador in July 2011, followed by a 4-day hands-on workshop in the Bay of Jiquilisco to launch the first local pilot project in Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR). Participants included conservation scientists, community leaders, local cooperatives and officials from the Salvadoran Ministry of the Environment.



Diversified & Sustainable Farming

– Hundreds of struggling 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. Using organic fertilizers and natural pest management, they continue to improve their nutrition and the health of their families, while reducing toxic contamination in the groundwater.

Sustainable Fishing Cooperatives

– Six fishing cooperatives with over 120 members patrol designated areas of the Bay of Jiquilisco to ensure that no one uses explosives to fish. Cooperative members have received training in ecologically-sound fishing practices, and new fishing equipment with support from EcoViva.

Viva Fund

– With support from longtime donors, we created the Viva Fund to train the next generation of leaders. EcoViva has provided scholarships for youth since 2009, so when the Salvadoran Ministry of Education committed to providing free tuition to students studying vocational trades, we created the Viva Fund to support these students with supplemental scholarships. 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 agriculture at the University of El Salvador, and covers transportation costs for four high school students.

Sea Turtle Hatcheries

– Six local hatcheries along the San Juan del Gozo Peninsula have incubated and released over 1,000,000 sea turtle eggs in the last ten years. These endangered turtles are making a comeback.

Thanks to our 2011 donors

Aaron Leonard
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Adele Negro
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Elsa Chavez
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Rocio Corona
Roger Baker
Ronald & Kathy Donahue-Coia
Ronald Schilero
Rosi Bustamante
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Sally Hancox
Sandra L. & Richard H. Visse
Sant & Premlata Singh
Sara & Daniel Susmano
Sara Beck-Pancer
Sarah and Ana Vanderwicken
Sarah Flosi
Sarah D. Hill
Sarah Schwid

Sarajane Milder
Seth Rockwell
Shana Golden
Sharon & Gary Davidson
Sheila Javor
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Stacey Platt and Craig Segal
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Susan C. Reed and Ed Schwartz
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SG Foundation
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
(Tides Foundation)
Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation
Vista Hermosa Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation
Wildlife Forever Fund
Wolf Family Charitable Foundation

2011 Financial Summary

January 1 – December 31, 2011

INCOME

Foundation Grants	\$347,262
Individual Donations	\$198,984
Community Empowerment Tours	\$53,527
Interest	\$139
Released from restriction	-\$1,076
Total Income	\$598, 836

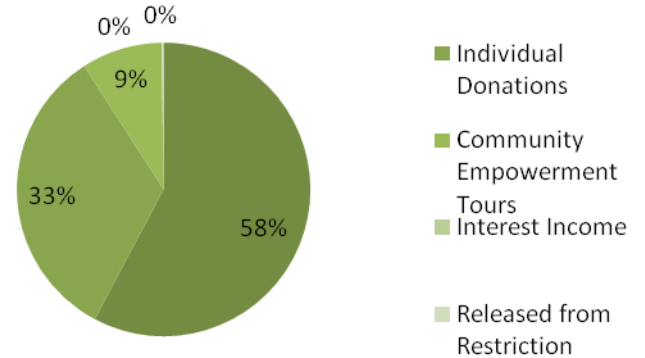
EXPENSES

Grants & Programs in Central America	\$526,083
Management	\$41,768
Fundraising	\$31,052
Total Expense	\$598, 903

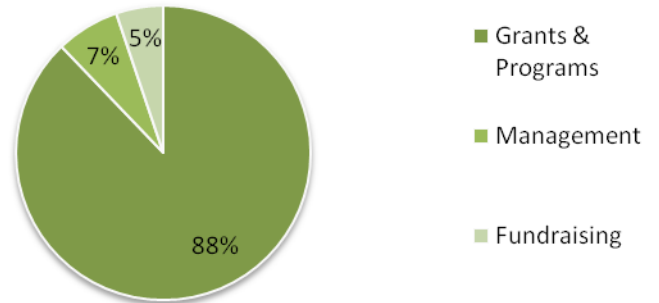
Net Income

	-\$67
Net Assets on January 1	\$67,746
Net Assets on December 31	\$67,679

2011 Income: \$598,836



2011 Expenses: \$598,903



Staff Team

Yael Falicov, Executive Director
 Nathan Weller, Program and Policy Director
 Ellen Ercolini, Operations Manager
 Carlos Martinez, Communications Manager
 Jillian Baker, Empowerment Tours U.S. Logistics Coordinator

Board of Directors

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2011 Community Empowerment Tours

EcoViva 15th Anniversary Tour
 Santa Fe Supporters Tour
 Engineers without Borders – Flood Relief
 Monterey Institute for International Studies
 Saginaw Valley State University

