Dear EcoViva Community,

2013 was a great year for us: our local partners in El Salvador expanded their work from two to 14 municipalities, and we have seen many of their projects adopted as national policy - native corn seed production, mangrove forest restoration, school gardens, community management of protected areas and more. Internally, we consolidated a terrific team, adopted an ambitious five-year vision plan, and moved to a great new office. Our Board has become stronger and more engaged than ever before.

It was also a transition year, as it marked the last year with Yael Falicov as Executive Director. Yael stepped down from her position as Executive Director in the spring of 2014 and I came on board shortly after. I feel truly fortunate to join an organization with such a strong foundation, thanks to supporters like you.

As we look forward into the coming year, we thank those volunteers, allies, donors, and supporters who have given us their time, energy, and financial and moral support. EcoViva is a strong community, full of people committed to community-led, grassroots change in Central America. I feel honored to be a part of this community as we continue the journey together.

With gratitude,

Karolo Aparicio
Executive Director

EcoViva works in partnership and solidarity with community-led organizations in Central America organized to achieve environmental sustainability, economic security, social justice, and peace. The vision and implementation of our programs come from our local partners.

Our primary focus area is the Lower Lempa region of El Salvador. In 2013, 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 2013

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
2013 Highlights – EcoViva in El Salvador

Local Communities Impact U.S. Agency’s Development Plans — EcoViva joined our rural partners in a coalition to call for real social and environmental standards for large-scale coastal projects, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. government agency. In response to EcoViva, Senator Patrick Leahy (D–VT) voiced his support for the coastal coalition, calling for the inclusion of civil society in new development plans. After EcoViva and the Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative (ICAPO) delivered a petition with over 7,000 signatures, the MCC affirmed their commitment to protect the habitat of critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtles. These victories ensure the voices of local people are being taken into account, and provide mechanisms for accountability.

- 36 community-based emergency response committees were equipped to respond to flooding that affects over 8,000 rural households in one of the most vulnerable coastal areas in Central America.
- Staffed by 12 local youth broadcasters, Mangrove Radio (106.1 FM) established its new frequency, broadcasting programming to 200 communities in the Bay of Jiquilisco.
- Youth leaders established an environmental curriculum now utilized in 11 local public schools by hundreds of school children.

Planting School Gardens For Healthy Meals — EcoViva began a school garden initiative, in conjunction with a national program. Local partners train teachers and help with the planning, implementation, and monitoring of 10 school gardens. The Ministry of Education buys the produce and incorporates it into a healthy snack for students, building on EcoViva’s historic fruit tree program, which raised money to plant fruit trees at schools in the Lower Lempa.

- Over 200 family farmers worked with sustainable techniques to grow food for their communities, including 15 families that installed irrigation systems.
- 28 small-scale fishers pledged to give up dynamite fishing, and formed a cooperative to generate income.
- 8 empowerment tours, totaling 107 foreign visitors, experienced and participated in our local development programs.
- EcoViva headlined a national forum with the government on coastal conservation and restoration, hosting over 220 local leaders and practitioners.

Model for Mangrove Restoration Adopted Nationally — Since 2011, EcoViva has been a leader in implementing a new model of mangrove forest restoration to El Salvador called Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR), a technique pioneered by the Mangrove Action Project. In 2013, EMR was officially adopted by the Salvadoran government as a national priority. To date, a total of 110 hectares of degraded mangroves are recovering.

- Signed an agreement with the police to enforce environmental regulations, and police over 24 coastal communities.
- 47,980 endangered sea turtles were released safely into the wild from 582 nests, by local fishers.
- Developed a strategic plan for the Bay of Jiquilisco Environmental Roundtable, involving three municipal offices, national agencies, and 15 local organizations.
2013 Financial Summary
January 1 – December 31, 2013

INCOME
Foundation Grants $268,520
Individual Donations $368,853
Community Empowerment Tours $89,739
Total Income $727,112

EXPENSES
Grants and Programs in Central America $572,023
Management $80,868
Fundraising $36,897
Total Expenses $689,788

Net Income $37,324

NET ASSETS as of December 31, 2013
Cash and cash equivalents $179,929
Contributions Receivable $68,963
Prepaid Community Empowerment Tour expenses $10,653
Other Current Assets $4,134
Total Assets $263,679

Accounts Payable $30,396
Other Liabilities $126,431
Total Equity $106,852
Total Liabilities and Equity $263,679

2013 Team
Yael Falicov, Executive Director
Tricia Johnson, Communications and Outreach Manager
Corona Rivera, Office Manager
Aaron Voit, International Fellow
Nathan Weller, Programs and Policy Director

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Harold Baron, Chair Emeritus
Jillian Baker
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Rhina Ramos
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Thank You!

Community Empowerment Tours
El Salvador 2013

- American Jewish World Service
- Monterey Institute of International Studies – Team El Salvador
- Portland Medical Group
- Engineers Without Borders – Iowa City
- SEE Turtles and Portland Community College
- EcoViva Board and Friends Tour
- Sooners Without Borders – Oklahoma University

Interested in joining or organizing a Community Empowerment Tour? Email us at info@eco-viva.org

Photos (front to back): Tricia Johnson, Aaron Voit, Edgardo Ayala, Spencer Stoner, Erika Blumenfeld, Diego Vivanco, and Brad Nahill