

Guardians of the source: Agents for change

Civil society in La Paz has not realized the danger of climate change, the effects on water shortages and the impacts on their livelihoods. They remain passive at the face of water scarcity and pollution. The disappearances of glaciers and watersheds, the reliance on rain to cover basic water needs, the lack of sewage treatment plants and population growth have stressed the few water resources that the city has. Current adaptation policies will only be placed from civil society actions.

CATEGORY

[Climate Change and Environmental Protection](#)

LOCATION

[Bolivia](#)

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE OR NEED YOUR PROJECT WILL ADDRESS AND WHAT INNOVATIVE METHODS WILL YOU EMPLOY?

Describe the specific need or challenge that your team will address with this project

Civil society in La Paz has not realized the danger of climate change, the effects on water shortages and the impacts on their livelihoods. They remain passive at the face of water scarcity and pollution. The disappearances of glaciers and watersheds, the reliance on rain to cover basic water needs, the lack of sewage treatment plants and population growth have stressed the few water resources that the city has. Current adaptation policies will only be placed from civil society actions.

Briefly describe the specific solution or approach to address the need or challenge and explain why it is innovative

We will empower members of the communities along the Choqueyapu River to become guardians of the source (UmaPunku) for the city, while revalorizing ancestral water purification and conservation practices.

50 students, attending high schools will be selected, along the most polluted river in the city, and will be trained to: (1) Understand and interpret scientific knowledge; (2) Communicating scientific findings to dwellers along the river; (3) Implement water purification (biofilters) and conservation methods-at the basins; (4) Be agents of change -expand their circle of influence.

How will the project impact your community? What changes (in people, institutions, attitudes, practices) do you think you will see?

The team will engage and train 50 guardians that will create awareness on water scarcity and pollution in La Paz, promoting conservation/purification practices and sensibility on water provision future in the community

CIVIL SOCIETY: Take the first steps assuring water provision and cleaning the river using ancestral knowledge that has been proven to work. Local demand for suitable policies from the government.

INSTITUTIONS: The enactment of conservation policies that have been on hold (declaring protected areas). Support of community initiatives either to implement water purification methods and conservation strategies, industry regulations, garbage disposal, others.

ATTITUDES: To become conscious of climate change pressures over water resources.

PRACTICES: (1) Introduce **biofilters**, to be implemented by communities; (2) **water conservation practices:** Environmental education to communities along the river, trainings on building systems for rainfall harvest and efficient water use.&nb

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

WEBSITES

<http://www.generacion2042.org>

<http://www.photoblog.com/Marzepphoto/2015/03/30/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Agua-s/Agua-s/696622683755509?ref=ts>

<http://www.photoblog.com/Marzepphoto/2015/03/30/>

MEET THE TEAM

Project owner
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[Bolivia](#)
[Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program](#)

Project members
[Manage members](#)
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[Juan Mamani](#)
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[Cardona Cardona](#)
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[Elda Carballo](#)
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[Mahmoud Suliman](#)
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[Indira Guzman](#)
[Bolivia](#)
[Fulbright Faculty Development Program \(LASPAU\)](#)
[\[remove from project\]](#)

Beneficiaries: who are your target groups (or communities) and how many people will directly benefit from your project?

The targeted group will be 50 high school students from these rural communities. We will also train 3 communities (35 families) in the upper basin and 4 communities (60 f) in the lower basin of Choqueyapu River. The communities will help the guardians of the Umapunku to build biofilters and water conservation/harvest devices. The dwellers along the river (774,637 people) and the consumers of agricultural products will also benefit from eventually having a cleaner river, a safe source of irrigation.

Local partners

Current Partners	Responsibilities	Relationship
Pampalarama (ecological refuge in high basin owned by the community)	Support in engaging higher basin communities in water conservation and purification practices.	The alumni team has worked for two years in ecotourism projects with good results.
Santa Rosa's Chapel	Support in engaging lower basin communities in water conservation and purification practices.	Many years of worship and relation. We have talked to the priest (father Swabeck) and he is committed to the project.
Think Tank INESAD (Institute for Advanced Development Studies)	Technical assistance and space facilities.	Two alumni work there in relation to water and health/evaluation issues.
Environmental NGO (Asociacion Huellas)	Technical assistance, trainings on environmental conservation practices.	An alumnus is NGO's CEO.
Bolivian Catholic University "San Pablo"	Logistical support, space for meetings and trainings. Trainings on environmental conservation/purification practices.	An alumnus is head of tourism department for Eight years

Possible Partners	Responsibilities	Relationship
La Paz Municipality	Awareness campaigns. Integrated watershed management.	We have explained the project to the Environmental director. However, elections are on March.
Social/public Enterprise for Water and Sanitation (EPSAS)	Trainings on conservation practices. Awareness campaigns.	We have contacted the director of production and he is willing to schedule a meeting with the CEO.

Alumni team

Alumni (role)	Responsibilities
Marcelo Arze	Lead trainings on environmental conservation practices. Team building and leadership skills.
Luis Blacutt	Lead trainings on climate change impacts. Analysis of scientific information.

[Luis Blacutt](#)
[Bolivia](#)
[USAID - Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities](#)
[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Rocio Alfaro](#)
[Bolivia](#)
[International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#)
[\[remove from project\]](#)

[Susana del Granado](#)
[Bolivia](#)
[Fulbright-OAS Ecology Program \(2001-2007\)](#)
[\[remove from project\]](#)

Carolina Cardona	Design evaluation materials, techniques to assess project's progress and achievement of goals. .
Susana del Granado	Lead trainings on communication of scientific knowledge. Team building, leadership and conflict resolution skills.
Juan Carlos Mamani	Direct the revalorization of ancestral knowledge campaign. Lead the implementation of biofilters, community engagement.
Rene Mariaca	Logistica support, University support, Training
Monica Sanabria	Direct project evaluation techniques.
Tatiana Ticona	Logistical support. Selection of high school students.

Proposed Project Dates: February 01, 2015 - February 01, 2015

HOW AND WHEN WILL YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT?

Implementing Plan and Timeline

Beginning date: October 2015

End date: October 2016

ACTIVITY	BIMONTHLY					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Calling for applications to be Umapunku guardians Facebook (TICs), invitation letters, posters.	X	X				
Build alliances with EPSAS and La Paz Municipality						
Selection of 50 students guardians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form evaluation committee - Decide on evaluation criteria - Reception of video clips - Assessment of video clips 		X				
Forming the group and training guardians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment ceremony - Ropes workshop (group trust building) - Trainings on leadership, sustainability, environmental issues, water management, and revalorization of ancestral knowledge (sukacollos) focused on water purification (biofilters). 			X	X		
Community work (ayni) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building the biofilters in upper and lower basin (as pilot studies) 				X	X	
Fieldwork visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of Sukakollos to improve water quality (biofilters) - The 50 guardians build awareness in communities on water scarcity. 					X	
Broadcast and outreach through media project results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination through brief articles, 						X

flyers, webpage, and videos							
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Communication Plan

To share project messages we will use different media depending on the audience. The entire process will be visually documented and promoted through social media.

FOR WHOM?	WHAT?	WHAT FOR?
Guardians	Social media. Posters.	Group building. Involvement.
Communities in high and lower basin	Local meetings. Flyers.	Build awareness of water pollution and scarcity.
Citizens	Social media, videos, public figures (as advocates)	Build awareness of water pollution and scarcity, health hazards.
National and municipal authorities	Meeting with communal authorities.	Lobby for water conservation and purification strategies.
Future funders	Meetings and project demonstration visits	Create a fund that will allow to continue environmental education and transition to environmentally sound economic practices.

Evaluation

IMPACT/RESULTS	INDICATOR	TOOLS/PROCESS
La Paz inhabitants realized the danger of climate change and it's relation to water shortages and the impacts. on their livelihoods.	Knowledge about climate change and its impacts in water provision for La Paz city.	Surveys Identify two groups: i) treatment (guardians and families committed) ii) control.
	Number of Purification systems and Water conservation techniques implemented	Apply two surveys, one at the beginning and one at the end of the intervention.
	Number of people contributing to the awareness of climate change	Compare both surveys to assess project impact.
	Number of institutions (nationals, municipal, communal) committed to the project	Signed agreements and/or number of meetings held.
Construction of water purification systems	Improvement in water quality	Water quality at the beginning and end of the project.
Selection of 50 students/ guardians.	Number of committed guardians	Number of guardians going to events.
Community work	Numbers of biofilters built	

	Number of trees planted	Observation
Broadcast and media project results	Followers in social media. Visits to TV channels.	Followers in social media. N. of visits.

Sustainability

Project sustainability will be a function of the appropriation of project goals and pilot study by the communities, citizens, and authorities. We believe that visually seeing positive results on water availability and purification will motivate civil society to continue with coordinated efforts. We will build alliances with private institutions and encourage the investment in water through programs of socio-environmental responsibility.

The AEIF funding will be seed capital to seek other funding sources concern with climate change, but who have been less incline on investing in social capital.

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED

\$25,000.00

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT:

[Download budget](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=1059230374094957&set=o.749892478403360&type=2&theater>