

FUNDACIÓN
RAÍZ
ECUADOR
we build dreams



RAÍZ-CAEMBA MULTIPLIES WELL-BEING AND TRANSFORMS LIVES

We invite you to learn about our mission and be part of it

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of populations affected by natural disasters or conditions of extreme poverty and vulnerability, mainly on the Coast and Amazon, through fast, creative, innovative and eco friendly solutions.

We will continue building bamboo houses and community infrastructure, in order to multiply well-being and enhance local capacities. We aspire to eradicate precarious housing; to promote sustainable livelihoods and quality intercultural education in Ecuador.

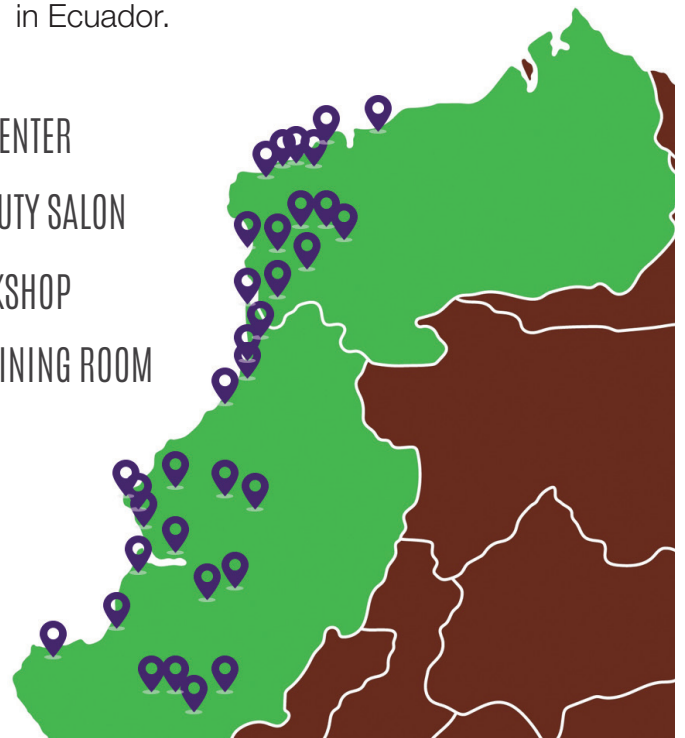
A CAEMBA house cost ranges from \$4,500-\$5,500 depending on the terrain and the installations. Starting in 2023, our goal at CAEMBA is

to build 5,000 bamboo houses in Ecuador to improve the lives of approximately 25,000 people in the next decade. This also includes the construction and replication of the Entrepreneurship Women's House model in new areas of Ecuador.

In the Amazon, we aspire to include more indigenous schools in our Beyond Lagartococha program. We also want to replicate programs such as Bioenterprises, to promote the creation of sustainable livelihoods in other areas of this region.

Join our mission to multiply well-being and reduce extreme poverty and inequality. We invite you to explore this document to learn about our work in Ecuador.

-  **556 HOUSES**
-  **379 SHELTERS**
-  **30 CLASSROOMS**
-  **10 CHILDREN'S CENTERS**
-  **11 COMMUNITY CENTERS**
-  **1 COVID CARE CENTER**
-  **1 HEALTH SUB-CENTER**
-  **1 HAIR AND BEAUTY SALON**
-  **1 SEWING WORKSHOP**
-  **1 COMMUNITY DINING ROOM**
-  **1 BAKERY**



**Data updated until October 2023*



JUDITH AND HER TRANSFORMATION WITH CAEMBA

Judith is very happy now because she lives in a beautiful bamboo house of almost 40 m². Her life improved significantly due to the work we did in the Nueva Esperanza neighborhood in Atacames and in other places on the Ecuadorian coast.

This neighborhood is a great example of our work, since its inhabitants have witnessed a radical transformation, since Fundación Raíz Ecuador and our most important project, CAEMBA, began its work in 2016, helping the most needy in Ecuador.



After Judith received her home, her life began to improve; she keeps her home very clean, decorates with flowers, takes care of her children, and is proud to show her home. Her face changed, her smile brightened, and her dream of having a new home began to come true.

Seeing happy human beings drives us! We work hard to eradicate precarious housing in Ecuador. We believe that with a decent home, self-esteem

Currently, Nueva Esperanza has 131 CAEMBA houses, cleaner streets that have asphalt or cobblestone; electrical energy and in general a better decoration.

Judith, a neighbor of this neighborhood, lived in a small 9m² room, with the roof in poor condition and with a lot of weeds around it; she was constantly loitering in the center of Atacames asking for food and money. Those who know her say that she had four children (one passed away).



changes and the motivation to fulfill dreams is stronger than ever.

We passionately seek to multiply well-being and transform people's lives in one single day, which is the time it takes to build a CAEMBA bamboo house. And so, there have been more than 8,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, out of a total of 556 houses, who have improved their quality of life in Ecuador.

CAEMBA: ENTREPRENEURSHIP WOMEN'S HOUSE

Apart from the 131 houses built in Nueva Esperanza, what makes this neighborhood the symbol of CAEMBA and its holistic transformation, is our Entrepreneurship Women's House. Through workshops given in partnership with other organizations, we teach trades such as tailoring, esthetics, baking, pastry, and gastronomy.

The goal is to encourage capacity building so that women who are family leaders are trained and then can find a job, or start their own business. The goal for them is to have sustainable livelihoods to support their families. In December 2020 and January 2021, 15 women graduated from a tailoring course. These women now have

the "Entrepreneurship Women's House Textile Production Association", where they produce and sell their bags, cosmetic bags, cartridge bags, t-shirts and other garments. On top of this success, 20 women also graduated from an esthetics course. Almost half of them now work in the aesthetics and beauty salon, "Beauty in Bamboo". In June 2022, 10 women graduated from a bakery and pastry course. El Hornero financed the execution of the bakery and pastry course, as well as the construction of a bakery, next to the Women's Entrepreneurship House. In total, 57 women have graduated from our vocational trades courses.





SPORTS FOR LIFE

At the beginning of the 2000s, Tonchigüe was a quiet fishing village; of humble, but happy people, living from seafood. Over the years, drug use became very common, especially among young people.

In 2022 we built a new multi purpose court. In the medium term, we are planning to build a sports center on land provided by the Municipality of Atacames and the Tonchigüe local town hall.



CAEMBA is a project of Fundación Raíz Ecuador, which also executes other high-impact projects on the Coast and in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Our work is divided into several axes:

AMAZON: TERRITORY AND CONSERVATION

Beyond Lagartococha

Since 2015, Fundación Raíz Ecuador has worked with a group of students in their junior and senior year of high school, creating a program to raise funds to support two indigenous communities of the siekopai (Secoya) people. These communities are Mañokó and Painkenape, located on the border between Ecuador and Peru. Previously, these siekopai communities did not have a school for elementary education or other basic services.



Timeline:

Between 2015 and 2016, high school students from Quito, with new generation of students each year, managed to raise enough funds so that the Mañokó community could hire a teacher and have educational materials for the children. In 2017, the program continued to raise funds to sustain a full-time teacher and the necessary educational materials for the students. On top of that, we were able to build a second school in the community of Painkenape and hire a teacher for this second school.





Each year, the generation of high school students from Quito that is in charge of the project, travels to each community and meets the Secoya people living there. They also discover the Amazon rainforest, the local culture, gastronomy and ways of living. It is an enriching experience that changes their lives.

Afterwards, between 2018 and 2020, the project continued funding the salaries of both teachers, sending the educational materials and other donations such as solar panels to deliver energy for the siekopai houses and also to power the functioning of a waterhole in Painkenape. We also have been delivering clothes and other necessary accessories. Nevertheless, due to the pandemic, the trips had to stop during 2020.

In april 2021, we came back with energy! Both the Fourth and Fifth Generations of students traveled to Painkenape and Mañokó to visit both communities and share with the Secoya people. They painted both schools; they learned about the local culture and food. They went on excursions in the Amazon jungle, where they learned



more about the local flora and fauna. They sailed and bathed in beautiful and pristine rivers and lagoons. They even had a close encounter with pink dolphins!

Between 2021 and 2022, Beyond Lagartococha helped to relocate Painkenape due to constant flooding because of erosion in the Napo river. "New Painkenape" resettled upwards in the Napo river, even closer to the Ecuadorian side. This operation was successfully completed due to a coordinated effort with local authorities and the inhabitants of this community.

We received some good news in march 2022, when the Ministry of Education of Peru officially appointed (hired) the two teachers of the schools of Painkenape and Mañokó. Since then, both teachers receive a stable salary paid by the Peruvian government.

Nevertheless, since before this great news from the Peruvian authorities, each year we have been funding a training program for both teachers in Iquitos, Peru. This training lasts

several weeks and helps them to improve their pedagogical skills. We will keep funding this annual training program for both teachers. Thanks to funding from the generations of Beyond Lagartococha from the British School, in July 2022 the first siekopai ceramics meeting was held in the Peruvian community of Wuajoya.

This meeting revived an important cultural tradition of this village, utilizing an intergenerational transfer approach so that this cultural manifestation is not lost. Siekopai pottery is unique and

incredibly beautiful. Their pieces can be sold and thus generate sustainable livelihoods in a space of solidarity and community economy.

We hope to keep encouraging young students from Ecuadorian and international high schools to join Beyond Lagartococha, a program from Fundación Raíz Ecuador - CAEMBA, and pursue our goal of keeping these two wonderful Secoya communities in the path of sustainability; resilience; environmental and cultural conservation; and with an intercultural education of quality.

Secoya Territory

Members of Fundación Raíz Ecuador - CAEMBA have a long-standing commitment to the Amazonian indigenous people, and especially to the siekopai people, commonly known as Secoyas. The Secoyas are an ancestral indigenous people of the Amazon and today several communities live along the border between Ecuador and Peru. In 1990, Manuel Pallares and Pablo Yépez, founding members of Raíz, began a project aimed at the reunification of the Secoya people divided between Ecuador and Peru, and the rescue of their territory.

As a result of this initiative, in June 1999, it became possible to carry out the first encounter between the Secoya families of Ecuador and Peru, who had been separated after the war of 1941, until the signing of the final peace agreement in 1998. This was a historic event not only for the Secoya people but also for the relations between the two countries. The few and sporadic encounters between separated family members that occurred previously, were carried out in secret since the border was militarized and enclosed the Secoyas until 1999.



Amazon Bioenterprises



The goal of this program is to contribute to the empowerment of siekopai women, through the production of Neapia (black pepper), ceramics and other products based on the sustainable management of their resources and ancestral knowledge. This will contribute to the development of a solidarity economy system to prevent poaching and illegal logging. Our goal is to promote the conservation of the siekopai environment and culture, through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and income.

Neapia, a flagship product of the siekopai culture, can be used as a spicy seasoning for food, giving it a smoky flavor. This black pepper in the siekopai tradition is usually eaten with yuca (cassava bread), in soups and with other traditional dishes.

We have given several trainings to women to help them sell their products in the Amazon and in other cities, such as Quito, where Raíz has helped these women with an organized distribution of their products in local stores and in restaurants where their products can be found.

We also support the processes of legalizing women's associations, obtaining sanitary permits, and infrastructure through the construction of a bamboo collection and processing center in the community of Wai'ya, in Sucumbíos, in order to implement a standardized process. production of products such as Neapia.



Siekopai Ancestral Pottery

Fundación Raíz Ecuador supports the conservation of Siekopai Ancestral Pottery, as it is a form of art and cultural expression that has been transmitted from generation to generation among the Siekopai indigenous people of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon.

This pottery is known for its organic forms and thorough details, as well as for its use in daily life and in ritual ceremonies. The clay used to create these pieces is collected from nearby rivers. It

is then modeled and decorated with traditional techniques that involve the use of plants, seeds and natural pigments.

Siekopai pottery is considered a priceless cultural treasure and a symbol of the Siekopai's connection to their land and ancestral history. We have held several workshops and meetings in some communities to promote the practice of Siekopai ancestral ceramics. This project is sponsored by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage of Ecuador.





www.raiz-caemba.org



www.raiz-usa.org



www.beyondlagartococha.com



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