

IMPACT REPORT

2022 - 2023



EL TERRENO

Cultural Exchange Centre



ABOUT US

El Terreno is a business and charity that utilises approaches in cultural exchange & social innovation to help create vibrant, prosperous and sustainable communities. We want local people to thrive & for visitors to leave inspired to find solutions to the challenges of our time.



www.elterrenoecuador.com



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@elterrenoguaranda



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El Terreno, Recinto Atandahua, Guanujo
Guaranda, Ecuador 020101

The last 12 months has been a turning point for us, as we clarify and formalise our programmes both for volunteers and the community.

We're immensely grateful for the support of donors, volunteers, interns and of course the community for their ongoing support and collaboration!



Joshua Holmes
Founder, El Terreno



HOW WE WORK

We deliver activities in...

Volunteering
Internships
Agriculture
Education
Tourism
Public Health
Water
Jobs & Income



That impacts the following areas...

Culture
Health
Organisation
Infrastructure
Ecology
Economy
Education
Equality



To help us reach our vision of...

Vibrant, prosperous and sustainable communities, where local people thrive & visitors leave inspired to find solutions to the challenges of our time.

AREAS OF IMPACT

CULTURE



Challenge

Globalisation and poverty lead to high rates of migration to urban areas in Ecuador & illegally to the USA, which causes an erosion of culture and language.

Mission

Celebrate and preserve traditions through intercultural events and activities with visiting interns, volunteers and tourists.

Goal

For local people to feel pride in their culture, so that they can exchange their worldviews with visitors and create more vibrant and prosperous communities.

<5%

indigenous youth

Speak Kichwa



HEALTH

Goal

For local people not to be held back from life's opportunities due to poor health, with access to clean water, health services and nutritious food.

Challenge

Little or no education or prevention on key health areas such as sex education, water & hygiene and a nutritious diet. The local health centre is under-resourced and under-staffed to effectively meet the needs of the rural population.

48%

Child Malnutrition

Mission

Provide support in both the health centre and public health initiatives with medical interns, as well as bespoke projects related to sex education, healthy eating and the consumption of clean water.

ORGANISATION

Goal

Collaborative & self-reliant communities that are implementing their vision of a sustainable and prosperous future for future generations.

Challenge

Corruption is a major issue in both local and national government, and local organisation is frequently fragmented by self-interest and racial divides



Mission

To support stronger community cohesion by providing inhabitants and leaders with the information, tools and resources to empower themselves.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal

For all local people to have access to affordable, basic services & housing as a foundation for continued comfort and development.



Challenge

With government corruption, frequent water shortages and inadequate housing, many people struggle with basic comforts, holding back their prospects

Mission

Helping to improve the community-owned water systems and investing in housing infrastructure for individuals and visitors, who can provide a much-needed income for families.

ECOLOGY

Goal

Thriving ecosystems where humans and animals live in harmony, the water is clean, biodiversity is restored and harvests are bountiful.

Challenge

In just 30 years, the pursuit of economic growth has resulted in vast deforestation and an over-reliance on agricultural chemicals. If this trajectory continues, there will be little farmable land remaining.

Mission

Reforestation of native trees, protection of water-sources and educational programmes comprise our efforts to regenerate native ecosystems



95%
Native Forest Destroyed

ECONOMY

Goal

Prosperous communities with jobs and opportunities for all, so that migration becomes a choice not a necessity and there are alternative means to achieve prosperity without ecological destruction.

Challenge

There are almost zero local jobs available for people to apply for and most people live on low-margin farming practices that often keep them in a cycle of poverty. This results in a high rate of migration, creating a brain-drain of those who could potentially stimulate the economy.

Mission

Generate economic development so there are opportunities for local people, as well as workshops to make more profitable farming possible.

40%

Rural Poverty

EDUCATION



Goal

Where children, teenagers, young people and adults all have access to quality education and training to further their career prospects & quality of life.

Challenge

Due to a lack of resources and mixed-age classes, rural education standards are low. Furthermore, due to the pressure to work and teenage pregnancies, many don't reach high school, even less go to consider university.

Mission

Support and reinforce the education in rural schools with engaging programmes, while developing complementary activities outside of school, such as our English classes.



EQUALITY

Goal

Where different groups - young/old, indigenous/mestizo, women/men - receive access to equal opportunities and are included within community decision making.

Challenge

Long-standing behaviours that abuse, exclude and disempower minority groups in communities.



Mission

Work with traditionally excluded groups to inform them about their choices and help integrate them more into society.

SUCCESSSES THIS YEAR

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

"I had an amazing experience with El Terreno... I learned more than I could ever have expected... I am so blessed to have had this experience and would strongly recommend to anyone else who is considering."

Naomi Ohman (USA)

Culture, Anthropology & Development Intern



Overview

We offer two programmes. We invite skilled **volunteers** help us develop the infrastructure on our property, while our **internship** programme (new this year) supports young professionals develop their career in several fields while making an impact in the community.

What we have achieved

The launch of our internship programme has enabled us to deliver greater impact for both programme participants and the local community. With their help, we have been able to deliver several projects, including:

- 2x Community Water Research Projects
- 2x Tourist Development Programmes
- 3x Medical Students in Health Centre
- 1x House Renovation Design
- 2x Anthropology Research Projects
- 1x Teenage Reproductive Health Programme
- 3x Sustainable Agriculture Research Projects

4.6

out of 5

Average Rating



Volunteers in 12 Months

65

EDUCATION & AGRICULTURE

400

Native Trees Planted

380%
growth in

Average Class Size

Overview

We provide a variety of programmes to help benefit children's education and the adult's capacity to have greater economic outcomes while improving ecosystems. After testing a variety of activities in our first year, we have now refined our focus and are seeing positive outcomes from these activities, which we look to build on and scale over time.

What we have achieved

Our **English classes** are the cornerstone of our educational work. With support from regular donors, our teacher now delivers 2 classes per week and has greatly increased attendance. Interns also regularly participate, bringing their skills to educate young people.

Whilst the majority of adults rely on agriculture for some or all of their income, most spend a large percentage of their income on chemical inputs. We have delivered **agricultural workshops** to share how to create organic fertilisers and pesticide, with an 80% implementation rate.

We have taken the success of this project to create a **school garden**, consisting of weekly classes implementing an organic garden with lessons linked into the curriculum.

"It's been a joy to have the school garden, because they have learned science, maths and we're proud to be able to feed our students well. They are also inspired by these ideas and take them home to grow in their own home."

Rocio Valencia

Headteacher, Bramadero Chico



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview

Where possible, we employ local people and purchase from local businesses to stimulate the economy. Our internship programmes focus on the development of the local community.

What we have achieved

We employ builders to help develop infrastructure, purchase from local farmers, provide an income to host families and create jobs for cooks and other employment. Internship programmes have also been supporting various development initiatives, including supporting regional tourism businesses and constructing a tourist cabin through a restoration project.

"I'd like to thank El Terreno for choosing to come to our community. It has helped to inspire us. Many visitors have come to Atandahua and they have all taken something from here to share with the world. It leaves us feeling that we can take on new challenges and have a greater vision."

Francisco Urbina

President of the Atandahua Water Committee



\$25⁰⁰⁰
invested in the

Local Economy this Year

HEALTH & WATER

Overview

Important internship programmes focussed on issues such as teenage pregnancy, medical support and water improvements.

What we have achieved

Interns have given additional support to the health centre both in primary care and rural vaccination programmes. We also piloted a teenage reproductive health programme in the school of San Juan with adolescent girls, helping them become more informed about choices that could determine their life from a very young age.

In addition, landmark water research projects have gathered essential information to galvanise communities towards better self-organisation, in the quest for clean, reliable drinking water.



"We're grateful for the support of the team and volunteers who have helped in the community health centre and school. The work that they have been doing has been very important, especially the communication with young people so that they can take responsibility of the their sexual health and teenage pregnancy."

It's important that these relationships with the health centre, school and community continue."



Felipe Rivera

Director, San Juan Health Centre

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR



Complete Construction of El Terreno

to offer further trainings and activities

Begin Tourism Activities

to further stimulate the local economy

Develop Evaluation Methodology

to better focus and demonstrate our impact

Scale Our Community Activities

to create even greater impact

Refine Our Volunteer Programmes

to ensure a world-class experience



HOW YOU CAN HELP



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Intern or Volunteer



If you want to develop your skills while making a difference towards a meaningful cause, come and take part in one of our internship or volunteering programmes.

You will receive accommodation, meals and support as you help us deliver community activities and develop our cultural centre

Donate

Help us to expand our impact in the community through a single or monthly donation

Donate Today

Find Out More



Network



Share and stay up to date with what we're doing in the heart of the Andes by signing up to our [newsletter](#) and following us on social media.

If you know of organisations, opportunities or resources that can help move us forward in our mission, we would love to hear from you

Contact Us