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ICF Hosts an Educational Scholarship Forum in Mexico



From left to right: Mary Ellis, Donna Viglione, Jeanne Cordova, Judy Peterson and Ted Ross discuss challenges related to scholarship programs

In February, ICF hosted 20 representatives from 11 Mexican nonprofits for the first annual ICF education forum “**Strengthening Scholarship Programs in Mexico**” in La Paz, BCS, Mexico. The participating organizations, which included Fundacion Ayuda los Niños de La Paz; Liga MAC; Optimist Club-Cabo San Lucas; Mulege Scholarship; Comunidad, Vision, y Desarrollo (COVYDE); Palapa Society; Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad; Becas Vallarta; East Cape Guild and Project Amigo, work to provide academic opportunities for underprivileged children and improve existing educational systems in Mexico. Combined, the nonprofits offer more than 1,350 scholarships to students in all grades across Mexico, including the communities of Puerto Vallarta, Colima, Cabo San Lucas, Tijuana, La Paz, San Jose del Cabo, and Todos Santos.

The ICF Education Forum objectives were:

- To understand other nonprofit organizations’ scholarship activities;
- To discuss practical suggestions and ideas for improving scholarship programs and institutional support;
- To develop a peer group network for shared communication in the future.

ICF’s community-based needs assessment for Baja California Sur recommended that local nonprofits expand their networks and build

learning partnerships with groups from other parts of Mexico and internationally. This workshop allowed educational nonprofits to begin this process, as well as share lessons, challenges and accomplishments. The results of the forum were:

- Groups realized the need to start or expand their endowments funds;
- Administrative burden is high and most organizations need to employ bookkeepers and assistants;
- Greater attention needs to be directed toward students dropping out of scholarship programs;
- Long-term planning and succession strategies.

The forum was made possible thanks to the support of ICF donors through the International Education Fund.

For more information about educational programs that ICF supports, or to donate, please contact Amy Carstensen at amyc@icfdn.org or (858) 677-2914.

photo credit: ICF



SUPPORT AN EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TODAY!



Photo Caption: Liga M.A.C. Youth Choir
Credit: Liga M.A.C.

Interested in supporting educational scholarship programs in Mexico?

ICF offers several ways you can help:

- **Contribute to an ICF Friends of Funds:**
ICF is proud to highlight these four Baja California peninsula based education nonprofit organizations that are making a real difference to increase the access of education for their communities. We hope you will review their needs and consider these groups in your future grantmaking priorities.
 - **Fundacion para Ayuda los Niños de La Paz Fund,**
 - **Liga MAC Fund,**
 - **The Palapa Society of Todos Santos Fund,**
 - **Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad Fund,**
- **Open a “Friends of Fund” for a Mexican nonprofit working on education (\$5,000 fund minimum).**
- **Start an endowment fund for a Mexican NGO offering scholarship programs in Mexico (\$50,000 fund minimum), [learn more!](#)**

\$300 keeps a student enrolled in junior high school for year

\$450 keeps a student enrolled in high school for a year

\$1,500 keeps a student enrolled in university for a year



Movimiento Azteca Campaign Joins Forces to Save the Whales!



Visitors enjoying the sight of a gray whale at Laguna San Ignacio

On March 15th, 2007 the Laguna San Ignacio Conservation Alliance, made up of ten organizations from Mexico and the U.S., (Ejido Luis Echeverria Alvarez, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Fundación Azteca, Fundación Azteca America, FUNDEA, ICF, Laguna Aric, NRDC and Wildcoast) held the first-ever daylong binational event, "Movimiento Azteca." The campaign culminated a month-long fundraising drive that was broadcasted simultaneously by TV Azteca in Mexico and Azteca America in the United States. The objective was to save the gray whale breeding grounds in San Ignacio Lagoon, located in Baja California Sur, Mexico--a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a biosphere reserve that supports an annual population of 250-300 whales that travel thousands of miles to give birth to their young.

The Movimiento Azteca campaign raised approximately \$350,000 for long-term protection efforts. It also resulted in the Mexican government's dedication of 120,000 acres of federal lands for conservation, with lands to be managed by CONANP, the Mexican national commission for naturally protected areas. More importantly, the campaign demonstrated how a diverse group of local communities, tourism outfitters, fishermen, nonprofit groups, and media corporations can work across borders to raise conservation awareness of this wetland and biosphere reserve in Baja California Sur.



Alliance representatives at the Movimiento Azteca-Press Conference at Los Angeles City Hall
L-R: Natalie Rayes (Azteca America), Reuben Beltran (Consul General of Mexico), Anne McEnany (ICF), and Noah Horowitz (NRDC)

ICF's efforts to protect Laguna San Ignacio began in 2004. Through the Alliance, ICF is providing financial incentives to local landowners in return for conservation of their land. The first conservation easement was signed in October 2005 to protect 120,000 acres, representing an investment of 1.5 million dollars from individuals, foundations, and businesses from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada. The local residents are using this money to invest in their communities, with projects in composting, hydroponics, animal husbandry, and forestry.

The monies raised through the Movimiento Azteca will contribute to the quality of life of local residents, and ensure that the gray whales will maintain their breeding grounds in Mexico forever.

To learn more about the Laguna San Ignacio Whale Conservation Campaign, and how you can contribute please visit

<http://graywhales.icf-xchange.org/>

photo credit: Azteca America

Condor Population Gains Strength



First condor nest found in Baja



Condor egg

In 2004, the International Community Foundation (ICF) established a Condor Fund, with a founding gift from Tom and Jane Fetter. This fund was intended to support condor conservation activities in San Pedro Martir, Baja California, Mexico.

ICF made its first grant to establish a new nonprofit, Eco-Condor, A.C. in early 2007. With legal assistance from Pronatura Noroeste, the San Diego Zoological Society decided to establish a Mexican nonprofit to qualify for Mexican grants, increase access to Mexican scientific and agency staff support, and to carry out conservation activities with the condors in San Pedro Martir.

With Eco-Condor, A.C. legally constituted and the San Diego Zoological Society providing critical technical and funding leadership, everything was in place for the condors to thrive. ICF is proud to announce several important signs that this population is gaining strength:

- the first nest was established in February 2007, and
- the first condor has crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in March 2007.

Mike Wallace, the primary researcher on this project, stated “we eventually hope to see the California condor population in Mexico venture northward and unite with those living now in Ventura County. If you see any condors, note the location, the condor's identifying tag number, what the bird is doing and e-mail it to condors@sandiegozoo.org.”

For more information on supporting the Condor Fund at ICF, please contact Amy Carstensen at 858-677-2914 or amyc@icfdn.org.

photo credit: Mike Wallace, CRES

Over \$924,000 Granted out since December 2006



High Tech High International Students in Peru

High Tech High Foundation (San Diego, CA) to provide scholarships for low income students to participate in international immersion trips to China, Mexico, India, Italy, and Peru - **\$10,000**.

San Diego Natural History Museum (fiscal sponsor for PROBEA) (San Diego, CA) to expand environmental education curriculum design and teacher training in La Paz, BCS, Mexico - **\$35,000**; and to carry out environmental education projects for school children in Tijuana, BC, Mexico - **\$45,765**.

PVO México, A.C. (Mexico City) to continue PVO's work in rural communities as well as provide scholarships for special needs children to attend school - **\$25,000**.



After School Reading Program
@ escuela Vee'se kua
in Valle Verde Tijuana, BC

Fronteras Unidas Prosalud, A.C. (Tijuana, BC, Mexico) to continue supporting the after school

reading program at the medical clinic's Teen Center, and to begin a reading program at the local elementary school "13 de Septiembre" - **\$12,867**.

Fundación de Apoyo para Niños Especiales (Tijuana, BC, Mexico) to continue supporting the participation of low income special needs children to receive therapeutic care- **\$4,000**.

Universidad Iberoamericana (Tijuana, Mexico) to continue supporting the bookmobile literacy program for public schools near the Loyola library at the Iberoamericana University - **\$10,000**.

Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C. (Tijuana, BC, Mexico) to provide new computers and technical support to public schools and community centers in Tijuana - **\$30,000**.



Community Meeting where members learn about UV Buckets designed by Niparajá

Sociedad de Historia Natural Niparajá A.C. (La Paz, BCS, Mexico) to monitor the impact of a household water disinfection device (UV buckets) invented by Niparajá that was installed in rural communities in BCS, Mexico - **\$10,000**; to facilitate their work with La Paz's environmental ordinance otherwise known as the POET - **\$43,500**; and for general support - **\$200,000**.

Conservation and Research for Endangered Species Zoological Society of San Diego (CRES) (San Diego, CA) to translate the bylaws of the newly formed Mexican nonprofit "Eco Condor" and to support the research projects for the California Condor in Baja California - **\$6,400**.

Grupo Ecologista Antares, A.C. (GEA) (Loreto, BCS, Mexico) to support the Young Explorers

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program from junior high school students through the local university - **\$12,825.**

Fundación Albatros Media (FAM) (Panama City, Panama) to create an awareness-building campaign for Bocas del Toro - **\$25,000.**

Pro Peninsula (San Diego, CA) to serve as fiscal sponsor for La Paz Coastkeeper for general operating expenses - **\$5,000.**



Gente Joven workshop
@ Fronteras Unidas Prosalud

Género Medio Ambiente y Salud I.A.P. (GEMAS) (Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico) to support training and leadership development for women in Sonora - **\$15,000.**

Ecology Project International (Missoula, MT) to support their field ecology work in La Paz, BCS, Mexico - **\$20,000.**

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) (Washington, D.C.) to support teacher training workshops in environmental education at Punta Culebra and Galeta Nature Centers in Panama - **\$21,300.**

Patronato Pro-Hospital Civil de Tijuana, A.C. (Tijuana, BC, Mexico) to cover staff time and direct expenses associated with the Patronato's ongoing fundraising and development outreach efforts - **\$4,000.**

Comunidad Visión y Desarrollo, A.C. (COVYDE) (La Paz, BCS, Mexico) for general operating support - **\$51,000.**

Nepal School Projects (Ottawa, Canada) to build three new schools in Nepal - **\$35,602.**

Vigilante de Bahía Magdalena (Puerto San Carlos, BCS, Mexico) to further develop water quality monitoring, enforcement, and outreach programs - **\$15,000.**

Pronatura Noroeste (Ensenada, BC, Mexico) to establish the Mexican nonprofit "Eco Condor" - **\$2,000;** and to cover field costs in Phase 2 of the Laguna San Ignacio Conservation Campaign - **\$63,000.**

Comunidad Maijañuí, A.C. (San Ignacio, BCS, Mexico) for staff development support: to attend an agriculture sustainability conference in Veracruz, Mexico - **\$2,151.**

Los Niños (Chula Vista, CA) to support a micro-credit program in Tijuana, BC, Mexico - **\$4,700.**

Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental (Tijuana, BC, Mexico) to conduct an analysis of legal capacity in northwest Mexico - **\$24,853.**



Microenterprise Group in Tijuana, Mexico

Optimist Club of Cabo San Lucas (Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico) to provide English classes to scholarship students through the Project Kidsmart program - **\$5,000.**

Fundación San Marcos para el desarrollo de la ciencia y cultura (UNMSM) (Lima, Perú) to help complete the construction of the School of Mining's University Library and auditorium at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos - **\$185,000.**

photo credit: High Tech High/Prosalud/Niparajá/ICF

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ICF appreciates our donors' contribution

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New Funds at ICF

[Amigos de los Niños Fund](#) to provide charitable support to Amigos de los Niños, A.C. in Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico.

Candeo Fund to provide charitable support to nonprofit organizations and charitable causes along the Baja California peninsula, Sea of Cortez and Central America.

[CODET Fund](#) to support Fundación CODET para la prevención de la Ceguera, I.B.P. in Tijuana, BC, Mexico. CODET provides accessible and high quality ophthalmologic services to people with little monetary resources in order to prevent blindness.

Peru International Mining Education Fund to provide charitable support to public professional mining education in Peru. Sister Schools of San Diego International Fund to provide charitable support to projects that promote cross-cultural understanding by connecting schools around the globe.

ICF Helps Import Solar Panels to Mexico



Solar panel installation in Laguna San Ignacio

In March, ICF was part of a collaborative effort to import approximately \$30,000 worth of solar panels, ecological toilets, and wind generators for two public schools in Laguna San Ignacio, BCS, Mexico, a UNESCO World Heritage Biodiversity Site and a major whale watching destination. The in-kind donation was significant because the community in Laguna San Ignacio is remote and geographically isolated, located off the electrical grid and without clean water access or sewage hook ups. Providing clean renewable energy alternatives as well as ecologically friendly dry toilets will hopefully make a tremendous impact on the quality of life for the children that live and attend school in the lagoon.

Tony Moats, a resident of Boulder, Colorado and coordinator for the school improvement project, contacted ICF to help with the importation of the equipment. ICF partnered with [Fundación para la Protección de la Niñez](#) to carry out the duty free importation. With the assistance of Rebeca Ruiz and the Baja California Sur's government office of International Affairs, the importation was completed in record time.

In addition to the equipment donation, funding was provided by NRDC and Philanthropiece, Inc. to provide computers to convert a classroom into a computer lab, and to make overall school improvements.

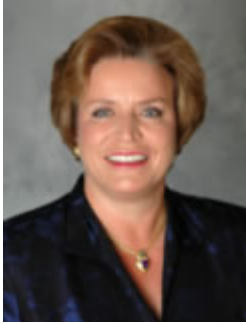
While the focus of ICF's philanthropic activities is in assisting with cross-border grantmaking, not all of our assistance is economic as highlighted by the in-kind donation of solar panels. Though the importation process through Mexican customs can be somewhat cumbersome, the rewards can be lasting. Other notable ICF in-kind donations have included the transfer of Old Globe Theater seats to Teatro Juarez in La Paz, medical supplies for Hurricane John relief victims in Mulegé, and eye glasses for over 1,000 patients in Loreto and San Ignacio. .

Photo Credit: ICF



Wind mill Installation in Laguna San Ignacio

Meet ICF's New Board Members!



Ms. Wendy Gillespie is the co-owner and founder of Frontier Trading, a successful international export trading company headquartered in Point Loma, San Diego, with an extensive distribution network in Mexico and Latin America. Prior to joining Frontier Trading in 1991, Ms. Gillespie spent over 13 years with the IBM Corporation, and has extensive management experience in both the marketing and technical support areas. Ms. Gillespie is very involved in the San Diego international community and serves on numerous boards. She has won several awards recognizing her community and executive leadership, such as the Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN), the Gold Leadership Award – Junior Achievement International, and the IBM - Latin America Achievement Award, among others.



Anthony A. "Tony" Kinninger is the founder, President & CEO of Orange Commercial Credit (OCC), and San Diego Commercial Finance (SDCF), companies that he has owned and managed for over four decades. He is also Executive Vice President of Olympic Credit Fund in Olympia, Washington. OCC, SDCF, and OCF offer professional financial management experience and factoring services to mid-size to Fortune 500 companies, across all industries, to enhance their cash flow, profits, and customer relationships. Kinninger is a graduate of Utah State University and is a resident of Newport Beach, California. He is married to Linda Kinninger, an interior designer and board member of the Loreto based environmental nonprofit, Grupo

Ecologista Antares (GEA). A committed philanthropist, Kinninger and his wife have been long-standing supporters of civic causes on both sides of the border in the areas of health and education including several environmental groups in the Loreto region of the Sea of Cortez, primarily GEA. Kinninger is an active member of the Loreto community and has been on the Mayor's Advisory Committee to the Urban Development Commission of Loreto for the past two years.



Dr. Mary Walshok is Associate Vice Chancellor -- Extended Studies and Public Service and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, San Diego where she oversees the University's self-funded continuing education and outreach programs with an annual budget of \$20 million. She has been associated with UCSD since 1972 and has remained active as an industrial sociologist, authoring numerous book chapters and articles on education and the world of work, as well as the book, "**Blue Collar Women**", published by Anchor/Doubleday. Her second book, "**Knowledge Without Boundaries: What America's Research Universities Can Do for the Economy, the Workplace, and the Community**", was published by Jossey-Bass in 1995. The recipient of many awards and honors, among them a Kellogg Foundation national fellowship, Dr. Walshok is a member of numerous community boards and professional associations. She received her B.A. (1964) from Pomona College and her M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1969) in Sociology from Indiana University.



**ICF Salutes
Augie Gallego
for Eleven
Years of Service
as Board
Member**

After eleven years of service, Augie Gallego recently stepped down as a member of ICF's Board of Governors to

take on a new challenge as interim-President for the Maricopa County Community College District as well as spend more time with his family and six grandchildren all of which live outside the San Diego area.

Prior to his short lived retirement, Augie served as Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. During his tenure as Chancellor, Augie concurrently served as Chairman of the American Council on Education, the country's largest advocacy group for higher education. A longtime leader in the San Diego-Baja California border region, Augie served as Chairman of the San Diego Dialogue for several years.

Augie joined ICF's board in 1996 and in 2001 served as Chairman of the Board for a two year term. He also served as the foundation's treasurer and, most recently, was instrumental in assisting the foundation in the area of strategic planning.

Through the Gallego Family Fund at ICF, Augie made strategic grants to promote literacy among school age children in Tijuana as well as to support ICF's conservation efforts in the Sea of Cortez.

Now residing in Oregon, Augie will continue to remain active with ICF as a donor and supporter. ICF is enormously grateful for all that he has done to help further the foundation's mission to expand international philanthropy across U.S. borders.



**ICF Appoints
Michelle
Graham as
General
Counsel**

ICF is pleased to announce Michelle Graham as the foundation's new general counsel. As a member of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, Ms. Graham's practice emphasizes all aspects of tax and estate planning, estate and trust administration, and tax-exempt charitable matters. Ms. Graham has considerable experience in advising both U.S. and non-U.S. clients on tax planning matters, including planning and implementing strategies to minimize global taxation. Ms. Graham has done a substantial amount of work for migrating clients, including corporate executives moving from state to state and abroad and those choosing to retire or have a second home in California. She also has been involved in sophisticated planning for family businesses, including structuring and implementing intra-family sales, buy-sell agreements and family business.



ICF Director of Sustainable Communities, Anne McEnany, moves to Michigan



Anne McEnany with Dr. Stanley Heckadon of STRI, during one of her site visits in Panamá

Anne McEnany, who served as ICF's Director of Sustainable Communities for more than four years, is saying goodbye to San Diego to begin a new life in Traverse City, Michigan. While at ICF, Anne was instrumental in expanding ICF's environmental and conservation program along the San Diego-Tijuana border, throughout the Baja California peninsula, and in Panama. Her key accomplishments include successfully managing ICF's land conservation initiative in both Bahía de Los Angeles and Laguna San Ignacio, serving as project manager for the Laureles Canyon storm water management project in collaboration with the California Coastal Conservancy, and coordinating ICF's research projects on groundwater and water management in the Greater Loreto region.

A critical facet of Anne's work has been undertaking the due diligence on our various environmental grantees. During her tenure with ICF, she has helped significantly grow the foundation's environmental portfolio, with ICF now supporting more than 50 environmental groups in Mexico and Panama. Last year, ICF's environmental grantmaking totaled \$1.8 million or 51% of our total grantmaking.

A wonderful colleague, mentor and friend, Anne undoubtedly contributed much to ICF and staff, and will be greatly missed. As she steps down as Director of Sustainable Communities, she will become ICF's new Senior Advisor for

Environment and Conservation to continue to share her hard work, commitment and creativity with ICF. We are happy that she will remain part of ICF's extended family.

Anne, we wish you the best in your new life back in the Midwest and look forward to your continued collaboration with the foundation!



**Save the date:
Saturday,
October 20, 2007**

**ICF and FIC
celebrate their second annual Gala!**

***“San Diego-Baja California:
One Region Working Toward A Healthy
Border”***

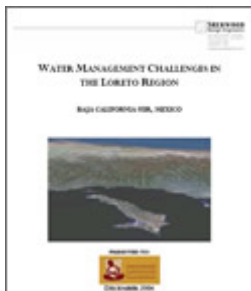
On October 20th, 2007 at the **Kona Kai Resort** on Shelter Island in San Diego, ICF is joining forces with its sister community foundation in Tijuana, Baja California, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad (FIC) to celebrate our second Gala with the theme “San Diego-Baja California: One Region Working Toward a Healthy Border”.

Our 2007 Gala will honor several outstanding nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to promoting healthy children and families in our cross-border community. It will be an opportunity to reinforce our commitment and support to nonprofits addressing our binational region's cross-border health during a delightful evening filled with international cuisine, music, and dancing.

ICF and FIC hope that you will join us for this exciting evening!

For more information, please contact Julieta Mendez at (858) 677-2913 or julieta@icfdn.org.

Assessing Water Management Challenges in the Greater Loreto Region



Loreto Water Management

In March 2007, ICF released the study “Water Management Challenges in the Greater Loreto Region,” a report developed by Sherwood Design, a leading Bay Area environmental planning firm. The study was commissioned as a follow-up to the ICF funded initiative titled: “Alternative Futures for Loreto,” undertaken by Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, University of Arizona, UABCS, CIBNOR, San Diego State University, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

One of the major findings from the Alternative Futures study was that water supplies from the local San Juan Londo aquifer would be threatened by a dramatic population increase; which is exactly what the municipal government and FONATUR, the federal tourism promotion agency, wanted to do. Following the initial “Alternative Futures” presentation, local officials noted that desalination might be an appropriate option for Loreto.

To validate the decision, ICF contracted Sherwood Design Engineers to carry out a ‘best practices in desalination’ study, which was later amended to include water conservation and infrastructure improvements. The referenced Water Management report is available in English and Spanish (see [Here](#)).

As part of the study Sherwood Engineers, Eric Zickler and Bry Sarte, traveled to Loreto and La Paz to deliver the results of their research. Sherwood Design’s basic message to Loreto is that water conservation and infrastructure improvements should take place before a desalination plant is constructed

in Loreto. This echoes the results of the “Alternative Futures” study, as well as the ongoing education and outreach efforts of local conservation organization, Grupo Ecologista Antares.

Other findings include:

- A technical regulation for desalination would be extremely helpful to CNA and the park staff to determine if private desal facilities should be approved or not.
- Recharge numbers for the aquifer are still not available – a CNA follow-up study on the San Juan Londo aquifer has not yet been released.
- By 2020, Niparaja is predicting that there will be heavy metal intrusion into the aquifer from the geothermal wells. It is the same result as saline intrusion. Because it is a volcanic area, however, it is difficult to determine if there is recharge coming from other sources far below the surface.

For more information on the water management meetings, please contact Anne McEnany at anne@icfdn.org or (858) 677-2915.