

Dear Friends and supporters of  
Arajuno Jungle Lodge and the Arajuno Foundation:

With the end of the rainy season at hand, it is time to finally sit down and write a summary of progress made at Arajuno Jungle Lodge. 2008 appears to be another record year for the Arajuno Foundation and Arajuno Jungle Lodge. Our community development and conservation projects continue to move forward. Despite a global cooling of the world economic climate, our visitor use at the lodge promises to break all previous records. Our capacity for aquatic species production continues to increase while the local habit of fishing with dynamite decreases. We now incorporate community service as a component of our custom tour packages. Groups visiting AJL have donated building materials, school supplies, educational materials, kitchen tools and helped to provide training in cooking for tourists and better hygiene for community members. One group of college students visiting AJL from the USA, Students of International Training (S.I.T), taught kids at a local school and then painted the school with the kids and adults participating. At AJL, these same students received training in traditional native ceramics and rainforest ecology. They come to AJL twice a year!

Last year, a group of photographers led by the world-renowned professional photographer, Doug Henderson, and coordinated by AJL, donated several hundred dollars to help one of the poorest indigenous communities in the area with many of its essential needs. This generosity as a result of their visit to the community as part of their activities at AJL. This year, the community received a complete kitchen along with training in food preparation, customer service, and hygiene.



This indigenous community also received a new roof for the school teacher and screens on the school-house windows. Now, this community is ready to receive tourists and feed them as an additional income source. Doug's photographers will return again this year offering more support!

Early in 2008, the addition of 102 more new baby aquatic turtles of two endangered species, *Podocnemis expansa* (Giant Amazon River Turtle) and *Podocnemis unifilis* (Yellow Spotted River Turtle) marked the continued expansion of the aquatic species reintroduction project. Construction of a new pond strictly for the turtles is complete, and a new nesting area at our hand-made lagoon is being built. This year we will also expand the turtle project



into other communities as a means of promoting their conservation and eventual release back into the tributaries of the upper Napo River of which the Arajuno River is a major tributary. We have recently placed an order for a couple pair of breeding age turtles. They will arrive at AJL in October from another project area deep in the Ecuadorian Amazon near the Peruvian border.

Our two newest fish ponds are now functioning. We stocked them with native Cachama fish, in early March. Harvest of these fish has already begun. The proceeds from the fish harvest support the expansion of our aquatic species production project. We also began to experiment with another native fish species called "Sabalo" (*Brycon erythropterus*) with proven success rates in other parts of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Their growth and survival rates are outstanding!



This year marked the beginning of a new economic and cultural initiative. Arajuno Jungle Lodge and the Arajuno Foundation combined forces with Peace Corps/Ecuador to execute a five-day traditional ceramics training workshop for 20 native Quichua women from six local communities. These women worked day and night, starting with no skills in making ceramics and ending with the creation of pieces of commercial quality. They continue to work in their communities teaching other women the skills they learned at Arajuno Jungle Lodge. We will soon offer for sale the ceramics made by these newly formed ceramics cooperatives.

This year the *Arajuno Foundation* awaits approval from the US government for our 501 (c)(3) tax status in order to help donors who support our community development and conservation efforts. Channeling donations via the Foundation will allow you the opportunity to gain an income tax deduction as a partial reward for your generosity. One of the first actions of the Arajuno Foundation will be the purchase of approximately 65 hectares of primary rainforest. The intent of this purchase is to help assure its protection in perpetuity. We plan to continue the expansion of the protected area with future purchases of adjacent primary and secondary rainforest.



All conservation efforts of Arajuno Jungle Lodge are now channeled through the *Arajuno Foundation*. It is important to note that the *Arajuno Foundation*, incorporated in and based out of the state of Nebraska, U.S.A., consists of an entirely volunteer board of directors who have taken on this challenge as a part of their own goodwill to contribute to sustainable solutions to our planetary problems.

We continue to progress, but we need your support. If you want to be a member of the Arajuno Foundation and a part of these very exciting times supporting the future of our civilization, conservation, and alternative economic development projects in poor indigenous communities of the Amazon region, please contact us via our website at [www.arajuno.com](http://www.arajuno.com). You can be a part of the solution to the complex problems that we face on our planet. Remember, not one single penny of your contribution goes to administrative costs, 100% goes directly to the important work we are accomplishing.

For those of you who have not yet met  
our adopted daughter....this is Mona.

Mona is our Ambassador for the Amazon  
Jungle and for all the endangered species  
hunted and killed by humans. Such was the fate  
of her mother. She is, by far, the Queen and  
Star of the show at Arajuno Jungle Lodge. She  
sends her love to all who have taken the time  
and effort to visit and play with her!



For the Future!

Tom Larson    Owner/Operator-Arajuno Jungle Lodge/Field Director- Arajuno Foundation  
John Van Gundy    President- Arajuno Foundation