

Karoon Connection

June/2014 - #5

The Power of Plants Interview with the IIAP Medicinal Plants Specialist

In an interview for Karoon Connection, Elsa Rengifo tells us a bit more about implementing the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (Instituto de Investigación de la Amazonia Peruana- IIAP) - Karoon's new program for residents in the Block 144 area. She also shared the program's social goals.

What is IIAP's contribution for the people of the Amazon?

The IIAP is a research institute dedicated to the Amazon people. One of its research areas is the flora and fauna of the Amazon

rainforest, to better understand its existing biodiversity. Here, we also extract knowledge on medicinal plants from the Amazon people, inventory plant diversity and investigate their medicinal properties, in order to add commercial value to Amazonian nature and customs. We also care about conservation. In the Amazon, 80% of medicinal plants are extracted from natural forests, which we must preserve. This is a role shared by Karoon and IIAP: protecting natural forests so that our children and grandchildren may also enjoy them.



“ Furthermore, we are interested in keeping this knowledge alive and making people see that they should not lose it. They must pass it on to their children. ”



Elsa Reginfo

What motivated the institute to work with Karoon on the Medicinal Plants Project?

We, as an institution in the Amazon, which is so large we cannot cover the whole area, are solicited buy populations which sometimes we cannot reach. It seems to me that it is a partnership of shared interest, because we could not reach these people in Marañón and, right now, have no projects directed towards such populations. As a plant researcher I am interested in knowing how things are there, what they know, so as to try to retrieve their knowledge, to educate them on the healing value the forest has. They sometimes don't even need to go to a doctor, because their ancestors have passed down

the knowledge on which plant is good for what. It is also about educating them on the active compounds these plants have, the ones which have already been studied and we know they can use safely. Furthermore, we are interested in keeping this knowledge alive and making people see they shouldn't lose it. They must pass it on to their children. If we manage to extend the project and workshops to different communities, then we and Karoon share the same goal.

What are your expectations for the project in partnership with Karoon?

Karoon's approach is not just about extracting resources, but also to offer extensive opportunities for communities,

such as the company's support so that these people may benefit from the majesty of all this greenery. It is a good partnership. We will be able to show that everyone, within his or her abilities, can offer a positive outcome for the future. What I suggest is that that different studies be done on the forest. So that medicinal plants are useful and add value to the knowledge on the more than a thousand common species they work with. As a Peruvian, I think it's a great opportunity for both institutions to contribute to the country and to these communities, to show how they can use their environment, how they can preserve it and add value to it.

Karoon and IIAP

Project promotes health through medicinal plants

On recent trips to the communities of the Peruvian Amazon, we realized the potential of its medicinal plants.

Therefore, in 2013 we developed a campaign to donate a communal first aid kit and train regional health professionals to continue using natural medicines, but with a sustainable approach.

Now, in 2014, with the support of the Peruvian Amazon Institute of Research (Instituto de Investigación de la Amazonia Peruana- IIAP), our campaign has evolved into a project for training Amazon communities, with emphasis on medicinal plants, traditional medicine and the conservation



of the Amazon's natural resources. We have trained five health professionals to produce their own first aid kits based on medicinal plants.

This information made local communities appreciate each

resource in the Amazon flora, as well as their traditional knowledge as part of their culture and identity.



Social Commitment in Focus

Karoon presents its philosophy for social development in blocks 144 and Z-38

Communication, health, and education were the chosen themes for social projects with native communities in selected areas. Therefore, we held meetings with different state institutions in Iquitos to disseminate our Corporate Responsibility Policy, as well as

our social investment plan and current projects.

The institutions acknowledged Karoon's social projects with forest and coastal communities, in approaching each group personally and showing respect, transparency and confidence.

PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS:

- Perupetro
- Regional Directorate of Energy and Mines
- Town ombudsman
- OSINERMIN
- Ministry of Culture

Ready for Tourism

Workshop for Frigate Project Tourism Guides and Boat Operators



On February 27th and 28th, we held two sessions of the frigate bird workshop for tour guides and boat operators from Puerto Pizarro and Tumbes. During the sessions, 85 representatives from the region's water transport companies were present and discussed the Patronato facilities.

In addition, we offered educational material with the project's main results, relevant information on its activities and fun facts for tourists, intending on motivating them

to preserve the mangrove. This included good practices when pursuing their activities and to protect the frigate bird colony as an intangible resource.

Through the workshop, we work to eliminate tours that lack control and standards of conduct, as this is the only way to promote sustainable tourism and to ensure that the attraction continues. Therefore, everyone wins: Karoon as well as the community.

Community, Nature, and Tourism

Karoon invests in tourism in Puerto Pizarro through Frigate Project



We are committed to the economic growth of the communities of Puerto Pizarro. Therefore, since 2012, we have maintained the Frigate Project as a regional tourist attraction. We have reworked the mangrove entry area and have improved tourist information services in order to position Puerto Pizarro as a tourist attraction at national and international levels.

On February 28th, we delivered the

following to the local community: six panels and six other graphic elements that display information regarding location, life, feeding and reproductive habits of the frigates, so as to spread the word on their exclusive presence in this part of the continent and to preserve their habitat. We also renovated the Tourist Interpretation Center at Villa Puerto Pizarro to promote tourism and provide visitors with information about the mangroves.



The Power of Communication

Results of the Speech Therapy Project in Zorritos

Thanks to Karoon's Christmas Solidarity 2012 program, the Center for Special Basic Education—CEBE Divino Niño Jesús—, located in Zorritos, was able to implement a Speech Therapy Classroom for its students and, therefore, improve their communication skills.

Throughout 2013, more than 20 children and teenagers had the opportunity to attend sessions where they learned how to communicate better in their everyday lives and to initiate studies at inclusive, regular schools.

STUDENTS' MAIN RESULTS AFTER 1 YEAR IN THE PROGRAM:

- They have acquired more independence in communicating their needs, building vocabulary and better understanding orders and messages.
- They have incorporated the habit of oral care, improving pronunciation, concentration and expressing ideas.
- Parents have been involved frequently in their children's progress, aligned with the therapist's recommendations.
- Two of the students have gone on to inclusive schools.

We might say that instead of teaching them how to speak well, the Speech Therapy Project offers young people independence.



Tumpis Scholarships and Internships Abroad

Project develops higher education in the region



Karoon and the National University of Tumbes have signed a new agreement. This is an opportunity offered by Tumpis Scholarships Project, which includes purchase of airfare for an internship program with the National University of Tumbes.

Through this agreement, students may study for an academic semester at University of São Paulo, in Brazil.

In this way, we promote quality

higher education as a way to develop a strong base of professionals from Tumbes who seek to work in areas needed by the local community and also to promote student's personal advancement and development of the whole region.

So far, thanks to Karoon, nine low-income students from different areas along the Tumbes coast are studying at Tumbes National University.

Mutumbi Project Advances

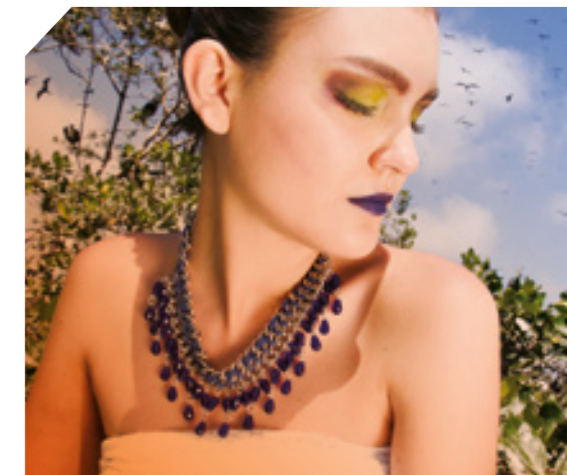
Taking risks to take over

For the past two years, Karoon has been working with the women of Tumbes to create an artisanal costume jewelry company. The result of this project is the brand Mutumbi, Women of Tumbes.

When launching the brand in Lima, Mutumbi was uniquely positioned as having handmade products created by the women of Tumbes, who work with great effort and passion.

Since the initial marketing strategy of selling products at Máncora and Zorritos hotels didn't generate as high sales response as expected, the women of Mutumbi decided to invest in the corporate client market.

Now Mutumbi is entirely led by the company's female members and is fully capable of carrying out its business and reaching the goals set at the project's beginning.



Sports Integrate Communities

Karoon supports Changing the Score program

New attitudes create new opportunities. With this in mind, Karoon takes part in the sports project **Changing the Score**.

This project is led by a group of Australian entities, which have the goal of sharing knowledge on social integration through sports



and facilitating the practice of reconciliation with deprived youth in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Changing the Score recently brought Australian football players from the Richmond Tigers and representatives from Karoon Gas Australia and RMIT University to communities in Rio de Janeiro, where they held dialogues on culture, the ability for improvement, leadership, and strong communities.

These gatherings not only used football as a tool, offering young Brazilians positive meaning for their lives, but also served to inspire participants to use this experience back at their

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES:

- Karoon Gas Australia
- Bluestone Edge
- RMIT University
- Global Reconciliation
- Richmond Tigers Australian Football League Club
- The Korin Gamadji Institute
- Brazilian Institute of Social Health Innovations- IBISS

communities in Australia.

Karoon is proud to support Changing the Score, as we firmly believe that sports helps break down social and economic barriers through a philosophy of teamwork.

Australian Film Festival in Brazil

Karoon is pleased to support for the third consecutive year the Australian Film Festival in Brazil, and is proud to promote Australian culture in South America.

Six major films were screened at the festival, which took place in the cities of Brasilia, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, between February 19th and April 13th, 2014.



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