

# DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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## Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

“In the time of change and challenges, everyone of us is a candle illuminating the path for newly born change coming up – still small and tender but powerful. Lighting another person’s flame, we share the light without losing ours – this is how sharing works. Your light gets stronger when it joins others”. (Grassroots Empowerment Network).

In order to effect change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



The 17 SDGs are integrated and recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.



Welcome to Issue #4 of the Dos Corrientes Journal. In this issue we review many of the projects that were completed in 2021 and illustrate how like-minded individuals can realize sustainable development goals. In addition, in this month’s Journal you will read an outline of some of the projects planned for 2022 and an interview with our nursing student Maria.

## The Dos Corrientes Vision

The Dos Corrientes vision is to create a model that can be used worldwide to alleviate poverty and transform communities. To that end, there are three major components of the model. Subsets of these components satisfy most if not all of the 17 UN SDG’s. The major components are:



## ***Agriculture***

In Ecuador, unequal income distribution is the main reason why much of the rural population is undernourished. As a result of hunger, children experience poor health, low energy levels, and reductions in mental functioning. Diet in the community of Liguiki consists mainly of fish and rice, which in turn creates health problems such as diabetes. Climate change and poor soil conditions have all but eliminated subsistence farming. So that healthy diets and proper nourishment become a part of daily life, Dos Corrientes places an emphasis on home-based and community gardens.



## ***Skill-Based Education***

Other than fishing which produces very little income and threatens the ocean's ecosystem, there is hardly any employment in the village of Liguiki; unemployment is over 90%. Family income for over 50% of the village is less than \$200 per month. At Dos Corrientes, we believe that if vocational skills were taught to villagers in an incubated platform of entrepreneurship, opportunities for economic growth would be enhanced. Through the multiplier effect of money communities will be transformed.



## ***Social Entrepreneurism***

NGO's need a consistent source of funding. Donations and grants are one source, however they are uncertain and as a result project goals may be in jeopardy. The vision of Dos Corrientes is for the NGO to create its own economic opportunity and source of funding. Industry becomes the engine that drives stable community development through employment. The founders of the NGO must determine the appropriate entrepreneurial project based on the abilities and natural resources of the community it wishes to serve. Dos Corrientes is located on the Pacific coast with a natural tourist opportunity. We have chosen to create an ecovillage of like-minded individuals to build homes and provide skill-based education and economic opportunity for the village of Liguiki. Demand for goods and services by the ecovillage residents would create additional income options for Liguiki villagers.



# 2021 Review

Dos Corrientes had a highly successful year with several outstanding results in the three main vision areas.

## Agriculture

- I. Successful backyard garden prototype test for soil rejuvenation and productive crop growth.
- II. Successful course design and implementation of the first “Backyard Garden for Production System”.
- III. Thirty-five students graduated.
- IV. Planted the first community garden with peppers, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, onions, Swiss chard, kale, broccoli, and cauliflower.
- V. Created a cooperative food distribution system with free food for the community members who participated on the farm and sold the excess to the nearby village stores.
- VI. Harvested seeds from existing crops and replanted three additional generations.
- VII. Facilitated research on organic crop production by a graduated student from a nearby university.
- VIII. Built irrigation systems throughout the agriculture area of the farm.
- IX. Built a storage and work shed.
- X. Planted 70 food trees.
- XI. Facilitated student research on food sovereignty in the village of Liguiqui.
- XII. Installed wind and solar energy.



## Skill-based Education

- I. Negotiated a cooperative agreement with the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabi (ULEAM).
- II. Initiated research with Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (ESPOL) to determine natural skills and empower women in the village of Liguiqui.
- III. Created a relationship with the University of the Fraser Valley to lend academic, administrative and student support to Dos Corrientes.
- IV. Created relationships with the United Nations Sustainable Development Support Network and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.
- V. Facilitated student research on the architectural design of an education centre and site plan.
- VI. Supported the education of a Liguiqui woman at the school of Nursing at ULEAM.



## Sustainable Entrepreneurism

- I. Initiated research on project design of a sustainable ecovillage.
- II. Held initial meetings with an urban planner and architect.
- III. Discussed project design with four engineers from ULEAM regarding alternative energy.
- IV. Met with the community of Liguiqui on two occasions to outline the ecovillage plan and education and employment opportunities.
- V. Started construction of a small guest house to test marketing and revenue opportunities.



# Project Vision for 2022

2022 will be an exciting year for Dos Corrientes as we have many projects planned for the year.

We will expand the community gardens to include a second location. Also, we will teach the second “Backyard Garden Food Production System” course. With increased food production we will create a cooperative online distribution system with the villagers of Liguiki to provide them with income for their efforts. In 2022, we will finalize research on a more efficient water delivery system.

Liguiki villagers have asked that we teach English to their children and with that in mind, we will start a course in the first quarter of the year. Skill-based education in construction, cuisine and tourism will be considered and appropriately implemented. Our current nursing student will graduate in the fall and she will be suitably recognized by Dos Corrientes in her community.

The ecovillage will be the main project in 2022 in order to provide a platform for practical skill-based education, employment and revenue. We anticipate that research on this venture will be completed in Q2 and first steps initiated in Q3 with a test phase. We are fortunate that three families from Ecuador have indicated a desire to be first residents of the ecovillage.

## Interview with Maria: Our First Skill-Based Education Student

The Dos Corrientes nursing student Maria (M) has completed just over 20% of her course and Dos Corrientes (DC) took an opportunity to speak with her and asked how it was going. Here are excerpts from the interview.

**DC. Why was nursing school a good idea for you?**

M. One of my dreams was to be a nurse and I have always dreamed of a better life, Dos Corrientes has given me one of my dreams.

**DC. What was your educational background?**

M. I finished high school.

**DC. What happened next?**

M. There wasn't work and so I helped my father.

**DC. You have a 14 year old daughter. How old were you when Nathalie was born?**

M. 21 years old.

**DC. How did you support yourself and your daughter?**

M. It was very complicated and very hard. My mother and father were helpful but they always wanted me to be responsible for my own life.

**DC. What nursing school do you go to and where is it?**

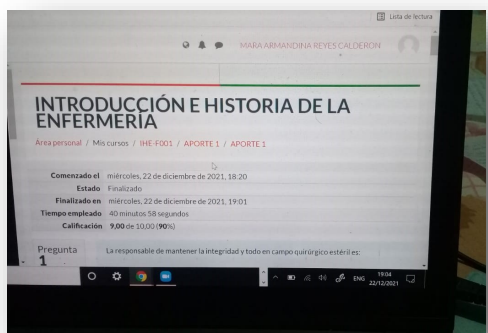
M. The school is at ULEAM in Manta and it takes me about 45 minutes by bus to get there. I take a taxi home that costs me \$12. That's \$24 a week.

**DC. Where do you get the money for the taxi?**

M. I work at the beach food cabana on Sundays. Nathalie works on Saturdays there. Between the two of us, I am able to pay for the taxi and have a bit left over.

**DC. What has your experience been like so far?**

M. It has been a very beautiful experience. I am learning lots about anatomy and what it is like to be a nurse. What I like the most are the practice sessions. I have practiced in a hospital, a home for old people and three clinics.



**DC. How many hours do you spend at school and doing homework?**

M. I have 8 hours of classes. 4 on Tuesday and 4 on Thursday. I usually spend about 12-13 hours a week on homework.

**DC. How are you progressing?**

M. I feel good about my teammates because we are there to help each other. I am doing very well on my tests. So far, my grade average is 90%.

**DC. What do you dislike about it?**

M. I don't like presenting very much. Also it is not safe when I leave the school. Last week I was robbed. He took my backpack and everything I had in it.

**DC. When will you finish the course and get a certificate?**

M. Classes end in October and then I have to do a practical session for a month. For me, the practice session is very important.

**DC. Is there anything else you might like to comment on?**

M. Yes, I would like other people in my community to learn from my experience and education. I would like to have them work with Dos Corrientes so that they may dream too.

**DC. When you graduate, what do you plan to do?**

M. Right now a lot of doctors in Manta are not working and so getting a job with a doctor will be hard. I will have a chance at a clinic or home for older people. I also think that Dos Corrientes needs a nurse. I can open up my home and see people there. Not everyone has money to pay but I'm hoping that when there is work for the community at Dos Corrientes people will have income to pay me.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Donations will be directed to Dos Corrientes through the University of the Fraser Valley and a tax receipt will be issued.**

***DONATE***