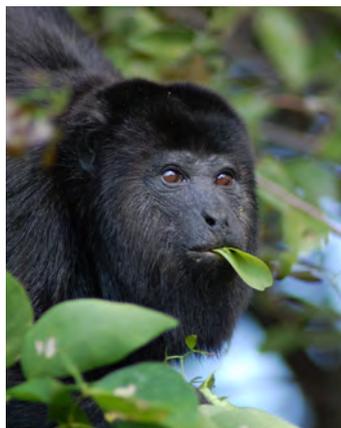


Mentoring for ESD-Leadership 2018

Project: Escuelas Ya'ax: Strengthening schools for the conservation of primates and their habitats



Project Responsible

Montserrat Franquesa Soler

Target Group

Mainly primary schools (as an end) but also as a mean to extend actions to the whole community - like a node of social connections

Duration of the project

Pilot school-ESD programme:
Jan - Dec 2018
Programme for the whole network by replicating actions and with a bigger team: Jan 2018 - Dec 2022

Implementation Status

Completed: Literature review, design of the project, application for funds (3 pending, 1 under preparation), re-contacted the schools and organised first meeting of the Ya'ax council

Addressed SDGs



OBJECTIVES

- Creating a network of sustainable schools (with primates as umbrella species of the region), based on traditional knowledge of the Mayan communities
- Defining and strengthening in a collective way the ideal "sustainable ambassador school for the conservation of primates"
- Learning to diagnose environmental problems (at school level and then community level) in order to find smart solutions to mitigate and improve the environmental conditions for primates

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- **Future scenarios:** Drawings will be used as a method for evaluation of perceptions
- **Photovoice:** Community-based participatory research method that empowers participants who usually have little voice in community decisions. Through this, we will be able to:
 - **Identify gaps and actions to tackle** (e.g. at the first community, wood artisans are experiencing a decrease of raw material, at the same time it is an environmental problem and is also the habitat of monkeys and other species)
- **Implementing actions:** Cognitively, emotionally and physically through children, teachers and important actors from the communities (e.g. create a greenhouse of local species to reforest through Mayan methods and names)
- **Discussion groups:** Monitoring the process

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

- Dialogue between the participants to reflect on issues which are not openly discussed in formal schools
- Co-designing a solution for the community by the community
- Connecting experiences from schools successful in becoming more sustainable (mentor-mentee approach)
- Bottom-up approach through dialogue on all forms of knowledge: Identifying challenges and evaluating the process guided by an internal council (Ya'ax) who will lead the decision-making

IMPACT

Who & how many people will be reached

- Directly: 500 school children, 20 school staff, 50 people through Ya'ax council and directly involved parents
- Indirectly: 1,500 people (community 1); The long-term project (12 schools) can be extrapolated to 8,000 people that can directly and indirectly benefit through the network and the capacity building in future

What will change through the project

- School will be more sustainable (physically, emotionally and cognitively) with gender equity as cross-cutting issue and considering the traditional knowledge
- Environmental problems in the communities will be mitigated



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