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EIA-EWB Bolivia Director of Operations Report: January/February 2011

Prepared by: Dr. Ruben Mamani Paco, EIA Director of Operations, Bolivia


1. Summary.

We had the visit of David Stephenson, our Executive Director, at the end of January and beginning of February. Different meetings and trips with the staff were conducted. We also had 2 meetings with the Malnutrition Erradication Program Committee (CT-Conan) of the Bolivian Ministry of Health. Dr. German Crespo (member of the EIA Bolivian Board), who is Director of Health Planning at the Ministry of Health, requested these meetings since he considered EIA could help in some of the projects with the poorest municipalities. Dr. Richard Stephenson joined us in the 2nd meeting. We are hopeful EIA and the CT-Conan program can work together in the poorest municipalities in Bolivia, and more talks are being planned. David has a more detailed report on this subject.

Most EIA staff were on vacation from December 24th until January 10th. By Bolivian law all workers are entitled to a 3-week vacation and the week left was agreed to take during Holy week. The office was not closed completely since Froilan and Ruben were there at different times. Marcos stayed at the office, Joe had work to do in Potosi, and they plan to take vacation at a later date.

At the end of January, a new intern, Eric Tervo, arrived to our EIA La Paz office. Eric is a Mechanical Engineering major and a Spanish minor at the University of Wisconsin. He is fluent in Spanish and will be working with the Water Well Maintenance Program in the Chiquitano Forest in Santa Cruz along with our technician Tito Arana at FCBC. He has previous EWB experience in El Salvador and is a vice president of his chapter, EWB-University of Wisconsin.

The Toyota Land Cruiser truck purchase is still under way. The Bolivian Methodist church still needs to complete the papers to get an official plate. The current plate is not legal and we hope the papers should be done by the end of March. Froilan is working on this paperwork since he also works for the church office in the afternoons. We are planning to pay 60% of the cost in the following weeks. This was not done earlier because of elections of new authorities at the Methodist church at the end of last year. The Nissan Patrol truck was finally fixed by BISA car insurance. Afnan and Marcos drove it back from Cochabamba at the beginning of January. At the moment we have access to two vehicles.

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The EIA foundation legal status is almost complete. The lawyer working on this paperwork, Dr. Pablo Aldunate along with Dr. German Crespo had a last meeting with the person in charge of the La Paz government to clear the approval.

Because of heavy rains in February, different regions in Bolivia have suffered floodings. In La Paz, a major mudslide, destroyed about 400 homes. This resulted in 8,000 homeless people. The office of EIA has become a collecting point for help and is delivering clothes and food to the families affected. See Fig 1 for more information on this event and EIA staff work.



Fig 1.a. One of the camps for people affected by the mega mudslide.



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Fig 1.b. EIA staff bringing some donations to the camp site in Pampahasi.



Fig 1.c Area of mudslide along the side of the mountain downhill.

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2. Project Reports.

2.1. Inka Caturapi – Sanitation: Ecological Latrines. EWB-MS&T Project Manager: Marcos Robison.

Ing. Marcos Robison, Dr. Jim Mc Kinley, Mrs. Rebecca Mc Kinley, and Dr. Ruben Mamani visited Inka Caturapi in February, 2011. Dr. Jim Mc Kinley is an expert on ecolatrines and he got a grant from National Science Foundation (NSF) to evaluate the use of ecolatrines in Bolivia. We asked him to see the project of Inka Caturapi to provide us some insight into possible solutions to the ecolatrine program.

Dr. Mc Kinley wrote his recomendations to Dr. Richard Stephenson and Marcos is preparing a proposal to discuss on how to continue the project.




Fig. 2. Marcos Robison, Juan Arismendi (local latrine committee), Rebecca Mc Kinley and Jim Mc Kinley inspecting latrines.

2.2. Cotani – Sanitation: Ecological Latrines. EWB-OKE Project Manager: Marcos Robison

During February, Marcos traveled to Cotani to examine how latrines were working and asked the community about new areas of collaboration. This was as a request of EWB-OKE in order to do other design projects. Possible projects include irrigation and a river crossing. A report was provided to EWB-OKE. A video of the visit is at the website:

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=077B484BE843DA3D

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**2.3. Papachacra – Water: Potable Water/Irrigation. EWB-Purdue
Project Manager: Marcos Robison/Milton de la Cruz**

EWB-Purdue has contacted us the last days of February to let us know that they have a new president and had some questions about the project. Milton is still in Tarija and he will try to contact them through Marcos once he is back the 2nd week of March.

**2.4. Patapatani – Water:Irrigation. EWB-Norwich
Project Manager: Marcos Robison**

No major developments regarding this project.

**2.5. Konani – Water: Potable Water. Stephenson Family
Project Manager: Milton de la Cruz**

No major development on this project. We are waiting to see what is the situation of the water well ownership. Whether it is given to the community or it is still under the Methodist Church oversight.


**2.6. Erquis Sud (Los Eucaliptus) - Water/Electricity. EWB-MS&T/Habitat for Humanity Bolivia/German Tehcnical Cooperation, GTZ
Project Manager: Milton de la Cruz**

Milton traveled to Tarija the last weeks of February to start the work on the low-tension electrical installation and the individual family installations. Budget for these 2 phases was approved and the only change is the electric meters. They will be provided by the German Technical Cooperation, GTZ, under a program for electricity access. This was possible due to meetings EIA had in La Paz with GTZ during the visit of David Stephenson and Dr. Richard Stephenson.

Milton is planning to be back in La Paz at the end of the first week of March.

**2.7. Obrajes - Bridge/Irrigation. EWB-Duke
Project Manager: Milton de la Cruz/Joe Alvarez**

We had a skype meeting with Ben Gagne from Duke University about the possibility of obtaining solar water pumps for their irrigation project. Initially they were going to purchase them from a Bolivian organization called Energetica. The problem is

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that Energetica can not guarantee the water volume delivery Duke needs for their project. They are looking into some other technologies and manifested interest in being part of the German eolic water pumps that are supposed to start this year.

2.8. San Lorenzo - Additional Unit to Current Clinic.

Project Manager: Milton de la Cruz

This project is on hold. EWB-UTSA has decided not to continue with this project since materials costs were increasing and it seemed a large project for a EWB chapter. Milton and Mike are looking into other interested parties.

2.9. Kumurana Mine - Construction of Waste Mine Treatment Pilot Plant. CREW-OU, EWB-OU, U. Tomas Frias, Rotary Club, JICA, EIA.

Project Manager: Joe Alvarez

Delivery of limestone for the limestone channels has continued during January and part of February. We are using heavy trucks from the Potosi Government, which are used in emergency situations. We are adjusting to their schedule. During February we had the visit of a Oklahoma Rotary Club delegation. They are sponsoring most of the purchase of the materials for the project. Joe explained to them the current progress.

2.10. Pampoyo - Irrigation. EWB-Blue Ridge.

Project Manager: Joe Alvarez

They are planning their upcoming visit for August of this year.

2.11. Cachitambo – Irrigation/Greenhouse Construction. EWB-U.of Florida.


Project Manager: Joe Alvarez

Afnan has been in contact with them and he is planning a trip to Potosi to collect information they requested.

2.13. Concepcion/Chiquitano Forest - Water Well Maintenance Program. FCBC.

Project Manager: Afnan Agramont

Tito Arana, and a new intern from EWB-U. Wisconsin, Eric Tervo have started to work on the water maintenance program. They have traveled to different communities

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and started to repair water wells. Eric is coordinating with Afnan Agramont his work in these communities.

Eric is also interested in seeing the water quality of these wells since we have observed that some of the piping is rusting due possible acidity of the water. Bacteriological tests, pH, and heavy metals tests are intended.

**2.14. Tacachia - Irrigation/Health/Footbridge. EWB - MS&T.
Project Manager: Ruben Mamani/Jacob Anderson**

The team is planning to visit Bolivia on May 14, 2011 for about 2 weeks. They are intending to do mostly erosion control. We have been in skype meetings with them so we can get prices of materials and plan an assesment trip in March.


During January, we went for a day to Tacachia and did a river velocity measurement along with Eric Tervo, David Stephenson, Afnan Agramont, Tito Arana, and Ruben Mamani. The videos were provided to the chapter. Also videos and pictures of major flooding events taken by the community were sent to EWB-MST. Jacob Anderson has been providing cost and availability information to them.



Fig 3. Eric Tervo, Afnan Agramont and David Stephenson during the river flow measurement in Tacachia.

**2.15. Suncallo – Water: Distribution System. EWB – Colorado Springs.
Project Manager: Ruben Mamani/Marcos Robison.**

EWB-Colorado Springs confirmed their trip at the beginning of June, 2011. Marcos is preparing to buy materials. We had a phone meeting with them an answer

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some questions regarding concrete construction supervision. The community leaders are planning to visit the office the second week of March.

**2.16. Zamora – Water: Mine Pollution/Irrigation. EWB – Germany, Dresden.
Project Manager: Ruben Mamani/Afnan Agramont.**


We have different skype meetings with Philipp Maier and Dominik Munz. In the meetings we presented the new authority of Zamora, Lorenzo Corimayta. EWB-Germany explained to them their plans for the upcoming year. This includes 2 phases. The first one is to use local plants to treat the acid mine drainage. For this they need to conduct some tests and Roxana Quino and EWB-UMSA will be helping them. After this they plan to build some dams along other rivers in the Zamora basin so they increase water availability. The community was asked about their plans regarding exploiting the mines. They said they are deciding this. EWB-Germany has been clear in stating the whoever is exploiting the mines is also responsible to clean the effluent.

**2.17 Quincucirca – Water: Distribution System. EWB – U. of California Davis.
Project Manager: Ruben Mamani**

Stefan Anders from Quincucirca has complained about not receiving any reports from EWB- U.C. Davis regarding the project. Initially the report was supposed to finished by November 2010. Later, they told us that they will have it by mid February, 2011. We have been in contact with Augusta Abrahamse who lives in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She said they had some problems and would have the report in the following weeks. We told this to Stefan. She also asked to contact Stefan directly, we provided her the cell phone of Stefan and viceversa. We need to clarify a donation of \$ 1000 done by Amy O’Toole, from ProSorata. We do not know if it was made to EIA or EWB-UC Davis.

2.18 New Projects

Afnan has informed us that the San Antonio de Lomerio projects has been approved by EWB National. He has been working on the 501 form along with David Stephenson.

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3. Administration.

EIA Foundation Approval.

The legal status should be approved by the end of March, 2011. Once the status is approved we will be getting our EIA tax ID number, and bank account. Froilan has been getting started to adjust the payment bills to include taxes, retirement payments, and health insurance payments. We anticipate the transition to start in April, 2011. We also have to have official contracts with EIA staff.