

Lots of news to impart from Angel Conservation with their project in Kamarata Valley, Venezuela

- First part of Kamarata’s “Telemedicine and Communications Project” has been completed by supplying a number of laptops and installing a WiFi system in La Casona (Kamarata’s community centre) which allows the whole community to have access to the internet



Paul (Angel Conservation’s President) and “high school” students from Kamarata enjoying the donation from Angel Conservation

- Field test completed at Kavak for the next phase of the communications project



Kavak - Kamarata Valley

- Angel Conservation has supported Telesalud (Proyecto Maniapure) by making WiFi available to the ambulatory clinic in Kamarata, which facilitates operations of the Telemedicine Project



Dr Elbert, Morel (Telesalud) perform ECG on patient in Kamarata's ambulatory

- Two volunteers, ex Colgate University, have joined the community in Kamarata (October 2007) to further Angel Conservation's and the Kamarakotos commitment towards our Cultural Identity Projects (<http://angelconservation.org/kamarakoto.html>)
- Fund raising – we have supported a few fund raisers in Brooklyn NY and in North Eastern Italy and are in the process of launching our Membership Drive featuring discounted trips to Kamarata and Angel Falls



Lake Como (Italy) – location of third international Angel Conservation fundraiser



- Women of the Falls – Isabel Barton (board member of AC and JAHP) has produced a 12 minute promo trailer for fund raising purposes for the documentary which provides the focus for our Cultural Identity program (<http://angelconservation.org/cultural.html>)



Filmmaker Isabel Barton with Hortensia Berli in front of Auyantepuy, the mountain that houses Angel Falls, the highest waterfall on earth.

Kavak, Venezuela, November 2005

Projects Update for AC (Angel Conservation – www.angelconservation.org & JAHP (Jimmie Angel Historical Project – www.jimmieangel.org)

Author – Paul Stanley (President of Angel Conservation and Board Member JAHP)

July 2007 - I had a good visit to Kamarata Valley with my son and the group that joined later for the tour, including Benjamin from Osprey Expeditions in Caracas who acts as Angel Eco's inbound tour operator.

The community was excited to receive a number of laptops that were donated by Debora Whipple and "Bill" - I carried them on the plane and through all the security steps in the US and Caracas through to Kamarata Valley – imagine carrying a back pack full of laptops at my age!!! For the Pemón they said it was a dream come true to be able to use computers and possibly reach out to the outside world to share their culture with others. Interestingly enough days after I arrived with our offerings a big PUMA helicopter arrived with a contingent from a governmental organization to bring computers to the community no less – they were not too happy that we got there first! C'est la vie.



Angel Conservation's donation

Inventory of donation – 5 laptops, power / adaptors, 1 digital camera, 1 spare battery, blank CD's, memory stick 1GB, ethernet cables (varying lengths), 3 mice, 3 manuals in Spanish and one Turistica Book (simple Ingles), one wireless router and various school supplies. Plus one educational CD with 500 Venezuelan Birds (bird names, calls and photos).

All laptops loaded with CD burner (Nero) software, 4 with Spanish operating system / Microsoft Office Professional – 1 with English operating system and Microsoft Office.

Previously, 3 laptops given for Fanny, Hortensia and Conchita – Fanny's laptop had crashed and a new hard drive has to be installed. Benjamin has the laptop now in Caracas. We need to return this with new hard drive and all elements loaded (operating system and office) – it will be sent back with our next tour group.

Connections and weather proof “housings” were brought separately for Morel to enable him to complete weatherproofed installations in Kamarata. The remaining equipment necessary for Kamarata’s installation - Morel will supply – including heavy-duty router and antenna.

Clemente, one of Angel Conservation’s representatives in the community of Kamarata will assist Morel Orta of Telesalud in his field tests to WiFi Kavak and Kamarata.

My son Carl was at least successful in loading all of the laptops with relevant software but had some issues hooking up to the internet with the existing routers. He did however fix the connection in the ambulatory the connections were all loose and the signal was lost for a while. In the meantime Morel has returned to Kamarata and made all the measurements etc in order to bring internet to the community – it will be used to communicate with Angel-Eco and other tour operators as well as assisting Angel Conservation in its Cultural Identity program and mission of the organization.

So in a nutshell the community has the laptops and are delighted as you can see from the following photo – now they are eager for the next phase - internet. They said it was a “dream come true” for them. Kavaneyen, Uonken – I understand have “infocentres” for their community to learn the ways of the computer / internet – so now Kamarata feels really proud that it is catching up with them. They vowed to look after them and use them diligently with a cultural bias.



Showing pictures on Kamarata’s new digital camera

Interesting conversations were held with the folks involved with tourism in the community – we discussed different models of tourism and rates that should apply to people visiting that are coming in to help, like Angel Conservation / volunteer groups. Fanny especially stood up and thanked us for not forgetting them and delivering on our promises – “that’s why” she said, “the community trusts you and wants you to help deliver on all of the promises made”. Only Telesalud / Maniapure has delivered also what they promised so many others from international bodies, local and national government have made studies and given promises that have never been followed up on!



Paul with Hortensia and Clemente – Angel Conservation’s indigenous representatives

We talked about the real indigenous name of Angel Falls being Churun Vena not the name associated in other maps and other documents. The national tourist board is making new maps of the region and Conchita told me that she and the community are invited to “proof check” everything at a meeting to be held soon in Kavanayen. A big step forward....finally some recognition.

Conchita and I discussed other projects that were being lined up – one very interesting one – a lady called Carolina is evidently preparing a proposal to apply for solar panels in the community (including Kavak). This is huge – basically the only thing stopping us from moving full steam ahead with our communications network for the valley due to the high cost of panels.



Paul, Conchita and Carl (Paul’s son and IT wizard)

Otherwise a very curious project that is being looked at is bringing ATM machines to Kamarata – evidently during the schools seasons there are some 36 teachers that come in from outside and need to access real money to buy things and make trips outside. They are seriously considering this!

Well I think that is it for now – it was a very memorable visit and very rewarding – I hope that one day the board members of AC and JAHP can come to the community and see what we have achieved and indeed are still achieving there is still much work to be done, naturally funding dependant.

One little anecdote you may enjoy – I always make time to visit with the Sandoval family in Kavak – I sat with them altogether especially the young ones and we chatted. Funny one of the young girls asked if I was their grandfather because their grandmother liked me so much! Then I found out that three of the young ones now go to school in Kamarata but often arrive late for classes. So I have given Hortensia money to buy three mountain bikes for them on their next visit to Ciudad Bolivar!

Hope you enjoy my anecdotal “newsletter”

Paul