**World Connect - Offline Grant Application**

**Grant Application Step 1 – Basics**

**Instructions:** Before you begin, please make sure that you have read through our Eligibility and Grant Guidelines carefully at the following link: <https://worldconnect.global/grant-application/guidelines>

**Project Title:**

Women Entrepreneurs Collective of Plaza Gutierrez

**Country: Ecuador**

**Region/Province/County/State:**

 **Parish of Plaza Gutierrez, Imbabura, Cotacachi, Imbabura**

**District/Department/Subcounty/LGA**:

*Indicate what applies best to your country context*

**Nearest Town/Ward/Sector**: Parroquia Plaza Gutierrez/Comuna Santa Rosa/Intag Valley area.

**Name of Community/Village: Comunca Santa Rosa**

*World Connect defines community as a limited geographic area, at or below the lowest administrative division, where households and individuals share local institutions and services such as schools, health facilities, water access points, markets or trade spaces, places of worship, etc., where they share traditional leaders, local representatives and/or civil servants, and where they generally share the experience of local shocks and stresses, be it economic, social, political, or environmental.*

**Please provide a description of the community as it relates to this project. Focus on characteristics such as the number of people and households, distance to the nearest market or trading centers, and primary sources of local employment/income. Please also describe the local context for access to schools and health facilities, and tell us about any marginalized or stigmatized populations locally.** (500 word limit)

The community of Santa Rosa has 38 families and approximately 100 people who are engaged in agriculture, carpentry, construction, parish management, ecotourism, livestock, handicraft production, gastronomy, beekeeping, local tourist guide, breeding of small animals and insects. The distance to the nearest town of Apuela is 12 km and to Cotacachi, our nearest town and municipality is 45 km away. Apuela has a farmer's market every Sunday and is the most active and commercial town in the Intag area. In terms of employment sources, most families work locally and within the Intag area in agriculture, construction, livestock, carpentry, forestry, service industries such as restaurants and family-run lodges, ecotourism, guiding and trekking.

Within our community there is a school up to 8th grade and then for high school the children attend school in Apuela. Apuela also has the largest health center in the area with ambulance service. The small town of Plaza Gutierrez 25 km from Santa Rosa also has a health sub-center for the community of our parish. Each parish has access to a health sub-center or visit the one in Apuela. Families who are dedicated to agriculture and subsist on it and elderly people receive a monthly economic bonus from the government.

**Language/s spoken locally: Spanish**

**Locate the community on Google Maps (as best you can) and share the GPS coordinates:**

**0.37911412045630494, -78.47115840337625**

**Grant Application Step 2 – Team**

**Instructions:** In Step 2 below, we ask for you to profile the Project Team, which will be comprised of a local Community Organization, an individual Local Leader, and an Established Field Partner. Please pay careful attention to the definitions we provide below for each member of the Project Team.

1. **Established Field Partner**

*The role of the Established Field Partner is to identify and support trusted and credible local development actors, to share skills and experiences, to organize and deliver trainings, and to be a bridge for communication and reporting between the community and World Connect. We encourage Established Field Partners to see their role as an opportunity to champion and amplify the leadership and voices of women in the community and other marginalized groups, such as persons living with disability, ethnic or religious minorities, LGBTQ+ community members, or people who are otherwise stigmatized or excluded locally. The Established Field Partner will lead alongside a Local Leader, facilitating inclusive decision-making and participation in the community.*

*The role of an Established Field Partner is expected to be voluntary and for the benefit of the project and wider community, not for her or his own financial self-interest.*

**Are you affiliated with one of World Connect’s Established Field Partners?**

☐ Young African Leaders Initiative Mandela Washington Fellows (YALI-MWF)

☐ Young African Leaders Initiative Regional Leadership Center (YALI-RLC)

☐ CorpsAfrica Volunteer (CAV)

☐ Global Health Corps (GHC)

☐ LEAP Africa (LEAP)

☐ Teach for All Network Partners (TFA)

☐ Young Leaders of the American Initiative (YLAI)

☐ Flame Tree Initiative (FTI)

☐ Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV)

☐ Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV)

☐ Segal Social Impact Incubator (SFF - SII)

☐ Other, authorized by World Connect staff

**First Name**:

**Middle Name**:

**Last Name**:

**Date of Birth**:

*\*Must match information exactly as shown on a government-issued ID*

**Gender**: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say

**Local** **Address**:

**Email**:

**Phone**:

**Highest Level of Education:**

**Please describe the Established Field Partner’s relationship to the community. In other words, how did you come to know this community specifically, and why will you be trusted to play a leading or important role on the proposed project?** (250 word limit)

**Do you lead or are you the founder of an active civil society organization, association, social enterprise, or other entity that is formalized in the country?** *Please name and describe your affiliations below, and indicate whether they are relevant to this proposed project. Include links to websites or social media.*

☐ Yes ☐ No(250 word limit)

**Please describe any other relevant experience, skills, or certifications.** (250 word limit)

**Have you ever received a cash grant or other financial award from an international organization?** *If yes, please provide the name of the organization, the grant amount, the year it was received, and contact information for us to request a reference.* ☐ Yes ☐ No (250 word limit)

**How long have you been living and/or working in the primary project site?**

**When do you expect to no longer be living and/or working in the primary project site?**

1. **Local Leader**

*The Local Leader must be a country national who was born in, is living in, or is otherwise deeply familiar with the primary project site. The Local Leader should be someone who is trusted and credible in the partner community, because she or he will be responsible for leading the project side-by-side with, or even out front of, the Established Field Partner. The Local Leader should not be an employee of or working at the direction of the Established Field Partner. We prioritize working with women as Local Leaders, though it is not required. We also encourage the consideration of individuals from marginalized groups for the role of Local Leader, such as persons living with disability, ethnic or religious minorities, LGBTQ+ community members, or people who are otherwise stigmatized or excluded locally.*

*The role of a Local Leader is expected to be voluntary and for the benefit of the project and wider community, not for her or his own financial self-interest.*

B Local Leader

First name: Silvia

Middle name: Germania

Last name: Vetancourt Castro

Date of birth: 01 / 10/ 1981

\*Must match the information exactly as shown on a government issued ID.

Gender: ☐ Male ☐x Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say.

Local Address: Comuna Santa Rosa de la parroquia de Plaza Gutiérrez

E-mail: germa23\_silvi@yahoo.es

Telephone: 0988162018

Highest level of education: High School graduate in Técnico Agropecuaria Forestal.

**Please describe the Local Leader’s relationship to the community. In other words, how did you come to know this community specifically, and why will you be trusted to play a leading or important role on the proposed project?** (250 word limit)

The active participation in various associative spaces makes us know our territory and unite with the purpose of seeking better living conditions collectively.

The experience of having participated in several organizations and having been at the forefront as a leader has allowed me to acquire knowledge for the management and implementation of various activities proposed within the organizations in which I have been able to represent, which I must also emphasize that everything has been done on a voluntary basis only in the interest of a common benefit.

Also within all this organizational process has been able to participate in various trainings such as human rights and nature, leadership, self-esteem, popular and solidarity economy, accounting basics, among others.

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Active participation in various associative spaces has provided me with invaluable insights into our local community and strengthened my commitment to improving collective living conditions. Having had the opportunity to serve as a leader in multiple organizations, I have gained a wealth of knowledge regarding the management and implementation of diverse activities within these groups. It's important to highlight that my involvement has always been on a voluntary basis, driven solely by the desire to contribute to the common good.

Throughout this organizational journey, I've had the privilege of participating in various training programs, covering a range of topics, including human rights and nature, leadership, self-esteem, popular and solidarity economy, as well as basic accounting, among others. These educational experiences have not only enriched my understanding but have also equipped me with the skills and perspectives necessary to contribute effectively to our community's growth and development.

This background and commitment to voluntary service have prepared me to play a vital role in advancing the goals and objectives of our community-focused initiatives. It is this passion and dedication that drive me to continue working towards the betterment of our community and its residents.

**Do you lead or are you the founder of an active civil society organization, association, social enterprise, or other entity that is formalized in the country?** *Please name and describe your affiliations below, and indicate whether they are relevant to this proposed project. Include links to websites or social media.* ☐x Yes ☐ No(250 word limit)

Founder of the Intag Women's Coordinating Committee, currently president (de facto).

President of the Association "Mujer y Medio Ambiente" on three occasions, currently secretary (registered).

APTNORTE DEL ECUADOR secretary (registered)

Vice-president of the Toisan Corporation (registered).

Founder of the Flor de Mayo Foundation (registered).

Founder of the women entrepreneurs collective Plaza Gutiérrez, currently local leader (registered).

Each of these organizations, through project management, has an impact on important issues for the Intag area:

Production with ventures that promote the economy of families through the development of various derivatives of raw materials or products made with agro-ecological approach.

Environmental resistance: This refers to the resistance we are experiencing in Intag due to the entry of mining companies to extract the minerals and metals that our zone possesses beneath the soil. It has an impact on the conservation of water sources, protection of forests, agroecological production, environmental education, judicial processes, and social conflicts caused by mining companies.

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As the founder of the Intag Women's Coordinating Committee (IWCC) and currently serving as its de facto president, I've been deeply committed to advancing the well-being of our community. Through the IWCC, we have focused on promoting economic development by spearheading agro-ecological ventures, which empower local families and leverage our natural resources sustainably.

I've also had the privilege of leading the Association "Mujer y Medio Ambiente" on three occasions and currently hold the position of secretary. This long-term involvement highlights our dedication to addressing both women's issues and environmental protection, further reinforced by our commitment to agro-ecological projects.

Additionally, in my role as secretary for APTNORTE DEL ECUADOR, I've actively contributed to the organization's efforts in addressing environmental and social challenges in our northern region. This role aligns with our collective aim to preserve our region's natural resources and ecosystems.

My position as vice-president of the Toisan Corporation emphasizes our engagement in local development and sustainable practices, while the founding of the Flor de Mayo Foundation underscores my commitment to a wide array of community-oriented projects and initiatives.

Furthermore, I am one of the founders of the women entrepreneurs collective Plaza Gutiérrez and i am currently its local leader. I'm deeply involved in driving economic development and agro-ecological initiatives within our community.

In each of these roles, we address critical issues affecting the Intag area. We're determined to promote economic development through agro-ecological approaches and stand in environmental resistance against mining activities. Our work extends to conserving water sources, protecting our precious forests, delivering environmental education, navigating judicial processes, and resolving social conflicts caused by mining companies. Together, we strive to safeguard our community's well-being and the environment in Intag.

**Please describe any other relevant experience, skills, or certifications.** (250 word limit)

**Throughout my life I have participated in various trainings and activities.**

**Certificate for having passed the plan of Training of Honorary Inspectors of Wildlife and Forest Control (2018).**

 **Certificate for having participated in the Training of Self-Help Groups of Women Leaders in the Prevention of Gender Violence (2022).**

**Certificate for having passed the training process "SOLIDARITY FOR NATURE: YOUTH LEADING THE POPULAR ECONOMY" (2023)**

**Recognition of the Historical Work of Defenders of Nature and Human Rights (May 6, 2023).**

**Have you ever received a cash grant or other financial award from an international organization?** *If yes, please provide the name of the organization, the grant amount, the year it was received, and contact information for us to request a reference.* ☐ Yes ☐x No (250 word limit)

1. **Community Organization**

*World Connect defines Community Organization broadly as a local committee, association, cooperative or group, formal or informal, based in or working deeply in the primary project site. We prioritize partnerships with women-led, grassroots organizations, though we work with many types of organizations with many diverse forms of leadership. What is most important is the depth of the Community Organization’s relationship to the community, and its ability to be a widely trusted voice and convener in the community for this project.*

**Name of Community Organization:** Name of Community Organization: Colectivo Mujeres Emprendedoras de Plaza Gutiérrez. Women Entrepreneurs Collective of Plaza Gutierrez

**Where specifically is the Community Organization based?**

The base of the organization is located in the community of Santa Rosa of the Plaza Gutierrez parish in the San Antonio sector.

**Community Organization’s website or website where we can learn more about your work (if available):**

The website of the community organization or the website where we can obtain more information about its work (if available?):

No website, it is available at the level of ventures in social networks such as Las TRUCHAS de Pedregal, Finca Orgánica San Antonio, Casa Los Turas, Noble Crickets.

**What year was the Community Organization founded and what is its origin story?** (250 word limit)

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It was founded in January 2022. It was started with the objective of organizing and working in ecotourism and improving the activities of our families with the innovation of new ventures that are sustainable and environmental.

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The Women Entrepreneurs Collective of Plaza Gutierrez was established in January 2022, emerged with a clear mission of fostering ecotourism and enhancing the livelihoods of local families through sustainable, innovative ventures. The organization was founded to address the pressing need for economic development and environmental conservation within the community.

**What are the Community Organization’s current programs/activities?** (250 word limit)

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As a group, the meetings are mainly for the planning of activities such as agro-ecological fairs in order to motivate more women to create new productive, environmental, educational and handicraft enterprises that guarantee a sustainable and sustainable economy for the families of the parish that are correlated with community tourism.

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Currently, the Collective is focused on planning and executing various activities. One of our key initiatives involves organizing agroecological fairs, aimed at empowering women in the community to establish new environmentally-conscious enterprises. These initiatives encompass various sectors, including education, handicrafts, and environmentally sustainable practices, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and sustainable local economy. The organization's endeavors revolve around community tourism, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable development.

**Please describe the Community Organization’s relationship to the community. In other words, how did it come to know this community specifically, and why will you be trusted to play a leading or important role on the proposed project?** (250 word limit)

////////////////////////////////////// original tex from Silvia

The commune of Santa Rosa has 38 families and approximately 100 people who are engaged in agriculture, carpentry, construction, parish management, ecotourism, livestock, handicraft production, gastronomy, beekeeping, local tourist guide, breeding of small animals and insects. The distance to the nearest town of Apuela is 12 km and to Cotacachi-Mujeres, our nearest town and municipality is 45 km away. Apuela has a farmer's market every Sunday and is the most active and commercial town in the Intag area. In terms of employment sources, most families work locally and within the Intag area in agriculture, construction, livestock, carpentry, forestry, service industries such as restaurants and family-run lodges, ecotourism, guiding and trekking.

Within our commune there is a school up to 8th grade and then for high school the children attend school in Apuela. Apuela also has the largest health center in the area with ambulance service. The small town of Plaza Gutierrez 25 km from Santa Rosa also has a health sub-center for the community of our parish. Each parish has access to a health sub-center or visit the one in Apuela. The families that are dedicated to agriculture and subsist on it and the elderly receive a monthly economic bonus from the government.

//////////////////////////////////////////// Silvia’s text

The group of enterprising women are an active part of community management, being members of the boards and commissions, we also advocate to maintain the community relationship among all. Most of us are natives of the community.

As a fundamental part of the development of the community, we women have contributed to the active participation in a process of educational training in community development, human rights, participatory budgeting, leadership, among others. That has given knowledge to lead our community and organization which allows us to be organized and therefore the natural instinct of women is the organization of activities with the budget for health, education and food the most important thing of the family also we are the guardians of seeds, forest protection, land use and water conservation ensuring a future with the same opportunities for our future generation.

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The Women Entrepreneurs Collective of Plaza Gutierrez has a strong and deep-rooted relationship with the community it serves. Many of our members are native residents and actively participate in the community's leadership and decision-making processes. They hold positions on boards and commissions, advocating for the collective well-being of the community. This embedded connection and active engagement with community affairs make us a trusted and respected force, well-positioned to play a vital role in the proposed project. Our genuine commitment to the community's progress and our status as community members give us a unique advantage in driving positive change and sustainable development within the area.

Women in our community play a vital role in community development. Through active participation in educational programs covering various subjects such as community development, human rights, participatory budgeting, and leadership, we have acquired knowledge and skills that empower us to take on leadership roles within our community and organization.

Our involvement in these educational initiatives has equipped us with the tools to effectively organize and allocate resources. Women often manage budgets for essential aspects of family life, including health, education, and food. This responsibility reflects our commitment to ensuring the well-being of our households.

Furthermore, women have emerged as stewards of critical aspects of our environment. We take on the role of preserving seeds, protecting forests, managing land use, and advocating for water conservation. This stems from our deep sense of responsibility for safeguarding our natural resources and ensuring a sustainable future for the next generations.

In essence, the knowledge and skills we've acquired through education have enabled us to lead and organize activities for the betterment of our community. We are driven by a strong sense of purpose, ensuring that the most important aspects of family life are well-managed and that our environment is protected for the benefit of future generations.

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**Is the Community Organization legally registered?** *If yes, please list the type of registration and the registration number. If no, please explain why registration is not necessary.* ☐ Yes ☐x No(250 word limit)

**Is the Community Organization comprised of or run by:** *select all that apply*

☐ **employees/staff (salaried or stipend)**

x☐ **volunteers (unpaid)**

☐ **members (fees or dues paying)**

☐ **all of the above**

☐ **none of the above**

*Please describe.* (100 word limit)

A relationship between the organization and the women's collective.}

A community leader.

**Please select the previous year’s revenues and expenditures in USD for the Community Organization.**

**Revenues:** *select only one*

x☐ **Under $5,000**

☐ **$5,000 - $50,000**

☐ **$50,000 - $250,000**

☐ **$250,000+**

**Expenditures:** *select only one*

x☐ **Under $5,000**

☐ **$5,000 - $50,000**

☐ **$50,000 - $250,000**

☐ **$250,000+**

*Please describe the Community Organization’s sources of revenue. Please describe the organization's primary expenditures.* (250 word limit)

A monthly fee

Start-up fund

In expenses, there have been audiovisuals of the enterprises for dissemination and promotion, participation in two fairs in the parish headwaters, transportation, food, tent rental, tables and chairs.

**Do women hold 50% or more of leadership positions within the Community Organization?** *Please describe the number and types of leadership positions held by women.* ☐x Yes ☐ No (250 word limit)

***??????????????????It is a variable percentage ???????????????????***

**How are the leaders of the Community Organization held accountable for their decisions and management?**  *For example, some organizations will have a Board of Directors or Trustees. Others might have regular elections for leaders. Please describe how leaders are held accountable in this Community Organization.* (250 word limit)

**////////////////////////////////////////// Silvias text**

**Within the organization, the members' participation is evaluated to see the responsibility and results in the positions entrusted to them during their daily life, who is in charge of the leadership of the organization for their management capacity and their ability to relate to others.**

**The leaders show their responsibility with results by following up on the organization and being aware of the progress of the project.**

**////////////////////////////////////////////////// rewrite**

Within the peer organization an evaluation is made of the participation of the members to see the accountability and results in the positions entrusted during their daily lives to whoever is charged with the leadership of the organization for their ability to manage and perform in relating to others.

The leaders show their responsibility with results by following up on the organization and being aware of the progress of the project.

**Has the Community Organization ever received a grant from an international organization?** *If yes, please provide the name of the organization, type of assistance received (cash or technical), the grant amount, and contact information for us to request a reference.* ☐ Yes ☐x No (250 word limit)

**Does the Community Organization have a bank account with more than one authorized signatory?** *If yes, is the account able to receive international wire transfers? If no, please describe how the organization manages its finances.* ☐ Yes ☐x No (250 word limit)

As an organization we do not have a bank account.

We put for consideration a personal bank account of a colleague of the women's collective Banco del Pichincha Savings Account

Name: Norma Bolaños

 Silvia Vetancourt

**Is the Community Organization affiliated with the government at any level?** *If yes, please describe the affiliation, with particular attention to the way the organization engages or collaborates with local or municipal government.* ☐ Yes ☐x No*(250 word limit)*

**Grant Application Step 3 - Design**

**Instructions:** *Before answering the questions below, we expect the Project Team to have done wide-ranging community outreach and engagement to ensure that the project is prioritized by, and is clearly an idea of, the community. This requires more than just speaking to traditional leaders to get their approval. We are eager to learn about the different ways that this project is, and will be, participatory and locally-owned. We strongly encourage you to center the perspectives of marginalised groups in your community outreach and engagement, including women, persons living with disability, ethnic or religious minorities, LGBTQ+ community members, or people who are otherwise stigmatized or excluded locally.*

**When will this project start (month, year) and what is its estimated duration in months?** (25 word limit)

This project will begin upon approval and receipt of funding.

The duration of the project will be 3 months that the investment will be made and 3 more months for follow-up to verify the results of the project.

**Please describe the project using the below prompts. Be specific, and please try to avoid jargon. We need to clearly understand what you intend to accomplish with a grant from World Connect.** (500 word limit)

☐ Briefly describe the project you and the community have chosen to implement

☐ What are the major activities that will take place under the proposed project?

☐ What will the majority of the grant funding be spent on?

**Materials, inputs, animal husbandry, feed, transportation.**

Attached is a budget for each project to be invested.

////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////// original from Silvia \\

Cricket Farm Project

Protect our forests and natural resources improve soil health increase biodiversity work towards food sovereignty and food security

Offer food high in protein, minerals.

 Fruit Pulp production

- Produce fruit derivatives for high quality pulp, aiming at education and consumption of a healthy and wholesome product.

Production and breeding of trout and ecological orchards.

Improve the quality of life through food products that can be expanded to other communities.

Guinea pig breeding.

Continue with the breeding of guinea pigs while taking advantage of the production of compost generated by the guinea pigs to obtain garden products and quality food.

Improve the conditions for guinea pig management.

RAISING CHICKENS FOR FATTENING AND ORCHARD.

Project aimed at tourism as an alternative to protect and conserve our forests as they are environmentally friendly projects with environmental responsibility towards the transition of an agroecological production promoting new initiatives.

CREATE A SMALL POULTRY MODEL.

Improve the economic quality.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ORCHIDIARY LODGING AND GASTRONOMY

Complement the lodging

Implement the orchid farm

LODGING FAMILY COEXISTENCE AND LOCAL GASTRONOMY

Improvement of lodging and gastronomy.

Adapt 2 bedrooms

 INTEGRAL FARM

Cultivation of vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants.

Breeding of small animals

CREATION OF AN EDIBLE FOREST

Create a space where seedlings can be produced.

Create an edible forest

Use permaculture techniques

Harvesting a star product

/////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////// Rewritten

The project we are seeking a World Connect grant for is the "Eco Farm Project," an innovative initiative that aims to address several critical objectives for our community.

1. Forest and Natural Resource Preservation: One of our primary goals is to protect our local forests and natural resources. We recognize the urgent need to preserve these vital assets for the health of our community and the planet as a whole. Through the Cricket Farm Project, we aim to minimize the environmental impact on our forests and contribute to their sustainability.

2. Soil Health Improvement: The project emphasizes the enhancement of soil health. By implementing sustainable agricultural practices, we intend to build fertile and resilient soils that can support various crops and agricultural activities.

3. Biodiversity Promotion: Biodiversity is crucial for ecosystem stability and health. Our project will actively work to increase biodiversity in our region, fostering a balanced and harmonious natural environment.

4. Food Sovereignty and Security: Ensuring that our community has reliable access to nutritious and locally-sourced food is a fundamental aspect of our project. We aim to boost food sovereignty and security by cultivating a range of food products right within our community.

5. Protein and Mineral-Rich Food: The Cricket Farm Project will offer high-protein, mineral-rich food sources to our community. This will help improve the overall nutrition and well-being of our residents.

6. Fruit Pulp Production: We also intend to produce high-quality fruit derivatives with a focus on pulp. This not only provides a source of nutrition but also serves as an educational tool for promoting healthy and wholesome food consumption.

7. Trout Farming and Ecological Orchards: By engaging in the production and breeding of trout and the cultivation of ecological orchards, we seek to enrich the quality of life in our community. These food products can be expanded to benefit neighboring communities as well.

8. Guinea Pig Breeding and Composting: Our project continues the breeding of guinea pigs, and we'll harness the compost generated by them to obtain garden products and quality food. This integrated approach not only improves guinea pig management but also ensures the efficient use of resources.

9. Chicken Farming and Vegetable Gardening: A significant aspect of our project is the raising of chickens for fattening and vegetable gardening. This project has a strong focus on tourism, serving as an alternative to protect and conserve our forests. It promotes eco-friendly practices and environmentally responsible initiatives, contributing to the transition of agro-ecological production in our region.

Small Poultry Model

Objective: To enhance economic stability and quality of life in the community.

Implementation Steps:

* Orchid Farm and Lodging: Expand the existing lodging facilities and create an orchid farm that complements the lodging experience.
* Lodging and Gastronomy Enhancement: Upgrade and adapt two bedrooms for guests to improve the lodging experience. Enhance local gastronomy offerings to attract visitors.
* Integral Farm: Establish an integral farm featuring the cultivation of vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants, along with the breeding of small animals.
* Creation of an Edible Forest: Create a dedicated space for seedling production and the development of an edible forest using permaculture techniques.
* Star Product Harvest: Implement practices for the efficient harvesting of the "star product."
* This project has a strong focus on tourism, serving as an alternative to protect and conserve our forests. It promotes eco-friendly practices and environmentally responsible initiatives, contributing to the transition of agro-ecological production in our region.
* In summary, our Women Entrepreneurs Collective of Plaza Gutierrez is a multifaceted endeavor that not only addresses key environmental and ecological concerns but also enhances food security, nutrition, and economic opportunities for our community. With your support, we aim to create a sustainable model that can be replicated in other communities, promoting a healthier and more eco-conscious way of life.

**When was this project determined as a priority by the community? Who was involved in determining this project as a priority by the community? What community engagement strategies were used to determine this project as a priority by the community?** (250 word limit)

///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////// Silvias original text

In the locality a group of women with initiatives that already had personal projects and to strengthen the management and promote the economy in an organized manner met in January 2022 with the aim of seeking funding to strengthen our ventures, 5 women participated Marisol Gallegos, Norma Bolaños, Silvia Vetancourt, Sandra Stats and Maria Vaca, with our experience was extended to 5 more women who share our vision.

With the organization we propose to move forward with our enterprises and also our goal of doing an organized work is also because of the mining threat that we have in our area and to demonstrate that if you can give productive agroecological alternatives to destructive projects.

//////////////////////////////////////////////////////// Rewritten:

In the local community, they are a collective of proactive women, each of whom had already initiated personal projects, came together in January 2022 with the objective of enhancing their management skills and boosting the local economy through a well-structured approach. Their primary aim was to secure funding to fortify their individual ventures. The initial group consisted of five women: Marisol Gallegos, Norma Bolaños, Silvia Vetancourt, Sandra Statz, and Maria Vaca. Their collective experience and vision led them to include five more women who shared their goals.

Through this organized initiative, they intend to advance not only their individual businesses but also their overarching objective of creating an organized framework. This framework was motivated in part by the looming threat of mining activities in their region, prompting them to demonstrate that productive agro ecological alternatives can be offered as a sustainable response to destructive projects.

**///////////////////**

**What will be the impact of this project on the community? Focus your answer more on the big picture, what will it change in the community and/or for those directly impacted by the project.** (500 word limit)

////////////////////////////////////////// Silvia

Offer nutrition, education, technical support and the provision of cricket seed.

Offer products that contribute to health and support the family and local economy.

Generate circular economy by acquiring local products from the community and generating compost for soil regeneration.

Improve the quality of life through food products and expand to other communities.

Project aimed at tourism as an alternative to protect and conserve our forests as they are environmentally friendly projects with environmental responsibility towards the transition of an agroecological production promoting new initiatives.

Sharing knowledge and promoting the creation of more projects.

Results by having an organic production, food quality is guaranteed.

Economic contribution to the family and the community.

Generate labor in the community.

Social sense for the environment improving the quality of life by offering healthy food.

Develop associative economy

Environmental education.

Promote the consumption of local products for food preparation and offer local gastronomy.

Exchange experience and knowledge during the coexistence.

Diversity of crops for education

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**Please describe a typical day in the lives of the people who will be most directly impacted by this project. Please focus on their lives now, before the project is implemented.** (250 word limit)

5am

**Describe the roles and responsibilities of each of the key actors in the project. You should write about the following:**

* *The design of the project*
* *The day-to-day implementation of the project*
* *The financial management of the project*

**Established Field Partner** (250 word limit)**:**

This is the person in charge of delivering the correct project and being part of the veedurías.

**Local Leader** (250 word limit)

Visit projects Verify progress and issue reports.

**Community Organization** (250 word limit)**:**

**It is in charge of the design of the project to promote agroecology and the protection of our environment.**

**Community Members** (250 word limit)**:**

**Support with the consumption of local products from our community and spaces.**

**How does the community, particularly women, define success for this project? Please list their three most important success indicators. Describe how each of these indicators will be measured and by whom.** (250 word limit)

//////////////////// Silvias

Creation of sources of employment

Production of healthy and wholesome food

Enjoying good health, happiness and family wellbeing

Improve the economy of the family and therefore of the community through sources of work.

Children nourished and motivated to agroecological production and environmental conservation.

Visits of experiences in agroecological production already implemented among peers and other examples.

Availability of our products in the locality.

////////////////////////////// rewrite

In this project, the community, with a particular focus on women, plays a central role in defining success. Here are the three most important success indicators and the entities responsible for their measurement:

Creation of Employment Opportunities

Indicator: The number of new job opportunities generated within the community.

Measurement Responsibility: Local employment agencies or community organizations, in collaboration with project leaders.

Production of Healthy and Wholesome Food

Indicator: The quality and quantity of nutritious, agroecological food produced.

Measurement Responsibility: Health and nutrition experts, possibly in partnership with local health authorities, who can assess the nutritional value of the food produced.

Enhanced Health, Happiness, and Family Wellbeing

Indicator: The overall health and wellbeing of community members, with a focus on families.

Measurement Responsibility: Local healthcare providers, social workers, and community surveys to assess overall happiness and wellbeing.

Additional indicators to consider measuring might include:

Improved Family and Community Economy

Indicator: Increased income and economic stability of families within the community.

Measurement Responsibility: Local economic development agencies and community financial institutions.

Nutrition and Environmental Education

Indicator: The level of knowledge and motivation in children and community members about agroecological production and environmental conservation.

Measurement Responsibility: Local schools, educational institutions, and community workshops.

Sharing of Experiences in Agroecological Production

Indicator: The number of visits and exchanges between community members to share agroecological knowledge and experiences.

Measurement Responsibility: Project leaders, community organizers, and peer-to-peer assessments.

Availability of Project Products in the Locality

Indicator: The presence and accessibility of project-produced goods within the community.

Measurement Responsibility: Inventory and sales records maintained by the project, as well as feedback from local consumers.

These indicators collectively provide a holistic view of the project's success, encompassing economic, health, educational, and community-building aspects. Regular assessments and feedback from the responsible entities will help ensure the project remains aligned with its goals and continues to benefit the community, particularly its women.

**Grant Application Step 4 - Sustainability**

**Instructions:** *Sustainability is a critical consideration from the outset of every project. It should be planned carefully and in transparent conversation with local and community stakeholders. The below questions are meant to guide a Project Team through important considerations for the sustainability of local development efforts.*

**How does the project build upon the efforts of the local community and/or other locally-led groups, such as neighborhood associations, women’s groups, health workers, local government, etc., which are not the listed Community Organization partner on this application?** (250 word limit)

/////////////////// Silvia text

The organization's efforts contribute to the economy, health, education, labor, and knowledge.

//////////////////

Rewritten

The success of the project is deeply intertwined with the collective efforts of the local community and other grassroots organizations. These include neighborhood associations, women's groups, health workers, local government bodies, and various community-led initiatives that extend beyond the Community Based Organization partner mentioned in this application.

These local groups and associations play a pivotal role in advancing the project's multifaceted goals. They actively contribute to:

Economic Advancement: By participating in income-generating activities, such as the production of agroecological goods and other community-driven ventures. This not only boosts the financial stability of local households but also stimulates the broader economy.

Health and Wellbeing: Through collaborative efforts that enhance access to nutritious, locally produced food and promote healthy lifestyles. Health workers and community organizations ensure the well-being of community members.

Education: These groups facilitate knowledge sharing, environmental education, and vocational training. They inspire children and adults to embrace agroecological practices, fostering sustainable learning within the community.

Labor Opportunities: By creating jobs and income streams within the community, contributing to reduced unemployment and an improved standard of living.

Knowledge Sharing: These organizations actively share insights, experiences, and expertise in agroecological production and environmental conservation. This knowledge exchange helps expand the project's reach and impact.

In sum, the synergy between the Community Based Organization partner and these local entities bolsters the project's overall success. Their collective endeavors demonstrate the power of a community-driven approach, where diverse local organizations collaborate to enhance the economy, health, education, employment, and knowledge base within the community. This inclusive model enables the project to thrive and make a meaningful impact on the lives of community members.

**What are your sustainability strategies for this project? For example, five years from now, what will remain, who will be responsible for what remains, and what ongoing costs do you foresee?** (250 word limit) /////////////////////// Silvias

Our project needs maintenance, replacement of machinery and supplies, as well as advertising.

The family, neighbors will be the ones who will be left with our projects with innovation making a reinvestment for it, ensuring the longevity of the project with solidarity promoting the exchange of knowledge,

The continuous costs can be solved with new projects, reinvestment and financing.

///////////////////////// rewrite

The sustainability strategies for this project encompass maintaining its long-term viability and ensuring that the benefits persist. Here is a breakdown of what will be left in five years, who will be responsible for these assets, and how ongoing costs will be managed:

What Will Be Left in Five Years:

Infrastructure and Machinery: The core project infrastructure and machinery will remain, albeit requiring maintenance and occasional replacement to ensure their functionality.

Knowledge and Skills: The community will retain the valuable knowledge and skills acquired during the project, especially related to agroecological practices and sustainable living.

Responsibility for What Is Left:

Families and Neighbors: It will be the responsibility of the families and neighbors who have been actively involved in the project to maintain, repair, and operate the machinery and infrastructure. They will take collective ownership to ensure its longevity.

Exchange of Knowledge: The community, in collaboration with the project leaders, will continue to be responsible for sharing knowledge and expertise with one another. This includes educating new members and fostering a culture of sustainability.

Ongoing Costs:

Maintenance and Replacement: The continuous costs associated with maintenance and replacing machinery and supplies will be managed through reinvestment. The families, neighbors, and the community will pool resources to cover these expenses, ensuring the continued operation of the project.

Advertising and Promotion: Ongoing advertising and promotional costs will be addressed through financing, including grants, sponsorships, or income generated from the project's activities. This financial support will sustain project visibility and outreach efforts.

New Projects: As the community evolves, new projects may emerge, offering opportunities for income generation. These new projects can help cover ongoing costs, fostering economic sustainability.

The project's sustainability strategies revolve around the active involvement and commitment of the community members. They will ensure that the project remains resilient and continues to thrive, while reinvestment, knowledge exchange, and financial support will collectively guarantee its long-term success

**What impacts, positive or negative, do you expect your project to have on the environment? What plans have you agreed on to mitigate any potential negative impacts on the environment as you implement the project?** *Please consider whatever is most relevant to the community, such as forests, soil quality, air quality, freshwater ecosystems like rivers, springs and wetlands, wildlife, marine life, etc.* (250 word limit)

///////////////////// Silvias

This project is not intended to use toxic inputs, each one proposes environmental conservation and restoration with the reuse of organic wastes.

By implementing these projects with alternative vision contributes to the regeneration of soils through the use of the generation of fertilizers in the breeding of small animals, the conservation of water sources through reforestation and proper use for the use for fish farming, with tourist services seeking to avoid environmental pollution.

As a negative impact is the dependence on certain food inputs, especially for animals and plants, however we are betting on a transition to agroecological production.

/////////////////////////////////////

REWRITE

The project aims to have primarily positive impacts on the environment, focusing on environmental conservation and restoration. Here are the anticipated environmental impacts and the mitigation plans in place:

Positive Environmental Impacts:

Reduced Toxic Inputs: The project is committed to avoiding the use of toxic inputs, thereby preventing chemical pollution in the environment.

Soil Regeneration: Through the generation of organic fertilizers from small animal breeding and the promotion of agroecological practices, the project contributes to the regeneration of soils, enhancing their fertility and sustainability.

Water Conservation: The conservation of water sources through reforestation and responsible use for fish farming not only safeguards freshwater ecosystems but also ensures the sustainability of water resources for the broader community.

Mitigated Pollution: With a focus on eco-friendly tourist services, the project seeks to minimize environmental pollution in the area, preserving air and water quality.

Biodiversity Protection: By embracing sustainable agricultural practices and agroecology, the project aids in protecting local biodiversity, safeguarding both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Mitigation Plans:

 Transition to Agroecological Production: To mitigate the negative impact of dependence on specific food inputs, the project is actively transitioning to agroecological production. This approach reduces reliance on external inputs and promotes sustainable, self-sufficient agricultural practices.

Reuse of Organic Wastes: The project's emphasis on reusing organic waste materials not only reduces waste but also contributes to soil health through composting and organic matter enrichment.

Eco-friendly Tourism: By providing eco-conscious tourism services, the project ensures that its activities minimize negative environmental impacts while offering educational opportunities for tourists.

Community Education: The project aims to educate and involve the broader community in sustainable practices, ensuring that knowledge and environmentally responsible behaviors are widespread.

The project's dedication to environmental conservation, soil regeneration, and sustainable practices is at the forefront of its objectives. Mitigation strategies, including an agroecological production, waste reuse, and eco-friendly approaches, are designed to minimize negative impacts and promote harmony with the environment, thus benefiting the community and its ecosystems.

**How and when will the community mobilize its contribution (cash and in-kind) for the project? How will the community contribution be documented, and how will it be celebrated in the community?** *As a reminder, every World Connect project requires at least 25% community contribution, including at least 10% community cash contribution to the total cost of the project.* (250 word limit)

25% total

10%community vides, tents, chairs, tables, monthly funds,,, Transport.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Videos  | $ 300 |
| tents | $ 50 |
| chairs | $ 20 |
| tables | $ 20 |
| monthly dues | $ 20 |
| Transportation to fairs | $ 120 |
| Transportion for meetings | $ 210 |
|  |  |

15% Work parties, daily work , space for meetings, meals. (especie)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mingas Work parties  | $ 200 |
|  day wages for Fairs | $ 200 |
| meeting place | $ 200 |
| meals | $350 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Is there anything else we should know that will help us make a decision about partnering on this proposed project?** (250 word limit)

//////////////////////// Silvias

The collective of rural women entrepreneurs wants to continue to maintain our tradition of organized work looking for economic alternatives that contribute to the decision making and autonomy of women, innovating enterprises that are in line with nature and the welfare of the community with a circular economy seeking the common benefit. Aware that we are going through climate change, we strive to carry out activities that contribute to the environment.

///////////////// rewrite

Partnering with the collective of rural women entrepreneurs in this proposed project offers a unique opportunity to support a community-driven initiative that aligns with principles of sustainability, gender empowerment, and environmental responsibility. Here are key points to consider:

Empowering Women: The project is founded on the empowerment of rural women, enhancing their economic independence and decision-making authority. This partnership will contribute to gender equity and community development.

Innovation and Sustainability: The collective is committed to innovative, nature-aligned enterprises that prioritize the well-being of the community. Their emphasis on a circular economy promotes a sustainable and regenerative approach to resource use.

Climate Change Mitigation: With climate change in mind, the project is actively engaged in activities that benefit the environment. It focuses on agroecology, organic practices, and eco-friendly tourism, making it a valuable ally in the fight against climate change.

Community Benefits: Collaboration with the collective will bring about common benefits, not only economically but also in terms of community resilience and environmental health. The project's initiatives foster local development and well-being.

Tradition and Organization: The project builds upon a tradition of organized work, ensuring the preservation of cultural values and local knowledge while adapting to changing economic and environmental realities.

In summary, partnering with this collective of rural women entrepreneurs offers the chance to support a holistic, community-based project that empowers women, promotes sustainable practices, and actively addresses the challenges posed by climate change. It's a testament to the potential for positive, lasting change when communities come together to create solutions that benefit both people and the environment.