



**PARTNERSHIPS
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

RECOVERY OF THE CIRCUIT OF FOUR LAKES

In the Peruvian Andes

A Partnership registered on 18 March 2005 with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and featured during CSD-13 at UN Hqrs with an Information Desk on 12 April 2005

Lead Partner: Yachay Wasi is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and associated with the UN Department of Public Information. Yachay Wasi means HOUSE OF LEARNING in *Runasimi* (Quechua), the language of the Indigenous Peoples of Peru, descendants of the Inka civilization.

Partners so far are from 3 Major Groups:

Indigenous: Yachay Wasi (USA & Peru), Asociación de Pescadores del Circuito de Cuatro Lagunas (Peru)

Non Governmental Organizations: Yachay Wasi (USA & Peru), Rotary International District 9500 (Australia), Rotary Club del Cusco (Peru)

Local Authorities: Community of Acopia (Peru), Community of Pomacanchi (Peru)

This Partnership, registered on March 18, 2005, revolves around a project in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 3,600 meters (11,811 feet) surging from a pressing environmental need, which will assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of 4 Andean mountain lakes.

Besides matching CSD-13 focus this year: water, sanitation, human settlements, the Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes endeavors to protect the biodiversity of this beautiful area, to ensure thru educational meetings that this deplorable situation does not recur in the future and eventually to develop sustainable tourism by the local Indigenous communities.

RECOVERY OF THE CIRCUIT OF FOUR LAKES is an environmental project in the Provinces of Acomayo and Canas, Department of Cuzco, Peru. This project, originated by Yachay Wasi, was encouraged almost one year ago by the interest of Katina Jones, Governor of Rotary International District 9500, Australia. Even though Ms. Jones made a substantial confirmed pledge, additional funding has not been forthcoming. The four lakes are Lagunas Pampamarca and Mosoqllacta (Asnacocha) near the village of Mosoqllacta, Laguna Pomacanchi near the village of Pomacanchi, Laguna Acopia near the village of Acopia, birthplace of Quechua speaking Luis Delgado Hurtado, Yachay Wasi co-founder and president, who now resides in Cuzco, Peru. The inhabitants of these respective Indigenous villages and many other smaller Indigenous communities rely on these waters and consume the fish from these lakes. The contamination of these lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years.

A Study, funded by Yachay Wasi and led by its president, was conducted in August 2004.

Work accomplished:

Investigation of the extent of contamination of the lakes and of the impact on the environment in the area;
 Evaluation of the various geographic spaces near the lakes to determine the areas most contaminated;
 Seven Laboratory tests were performed on the waters of Lake Acopia (near banks and center of lake);
 During the field work accomplished around the four lakes, coordination was realized with local mayors.
 Conclusions of study point to the need to clean the lakes waters and banks of existing solid trash and to prevent further chemical contamination from detergents and pharmaceutical discards. Education of communities and establishment of adequate septic tanks and laundry facilities will be a substantial part of the project.
 Report of Study and Lab results are available in Spanish and English. Photos and maps also available.



YACHAY WASI

**Asociación de Pescadores
del Circuito de Cuatro Lagunas**

**Community of
Acopia**

**Community of
Pomacanchi**



Project has the goal to clean the waters and banks of these four lakes and to recover the biological diversity, flora and fauna representative of this important site; to educate and assist the communities on ways to prevent future contamination, which will include building/upgrading septic tanks and laundry facilities in some villages.

First phase of project consists of cleaning the waters and banks (over ground and underground) of Lake Pomacanchi and Lake Acopia. Education of communities around these two lakes will take place while the work is done. Acopia will be the first village where a new septic tank (current septic tank is too close to lake) and laundry facilities will be built.

Time Frame for First Phase: October 2005 thru May 2006

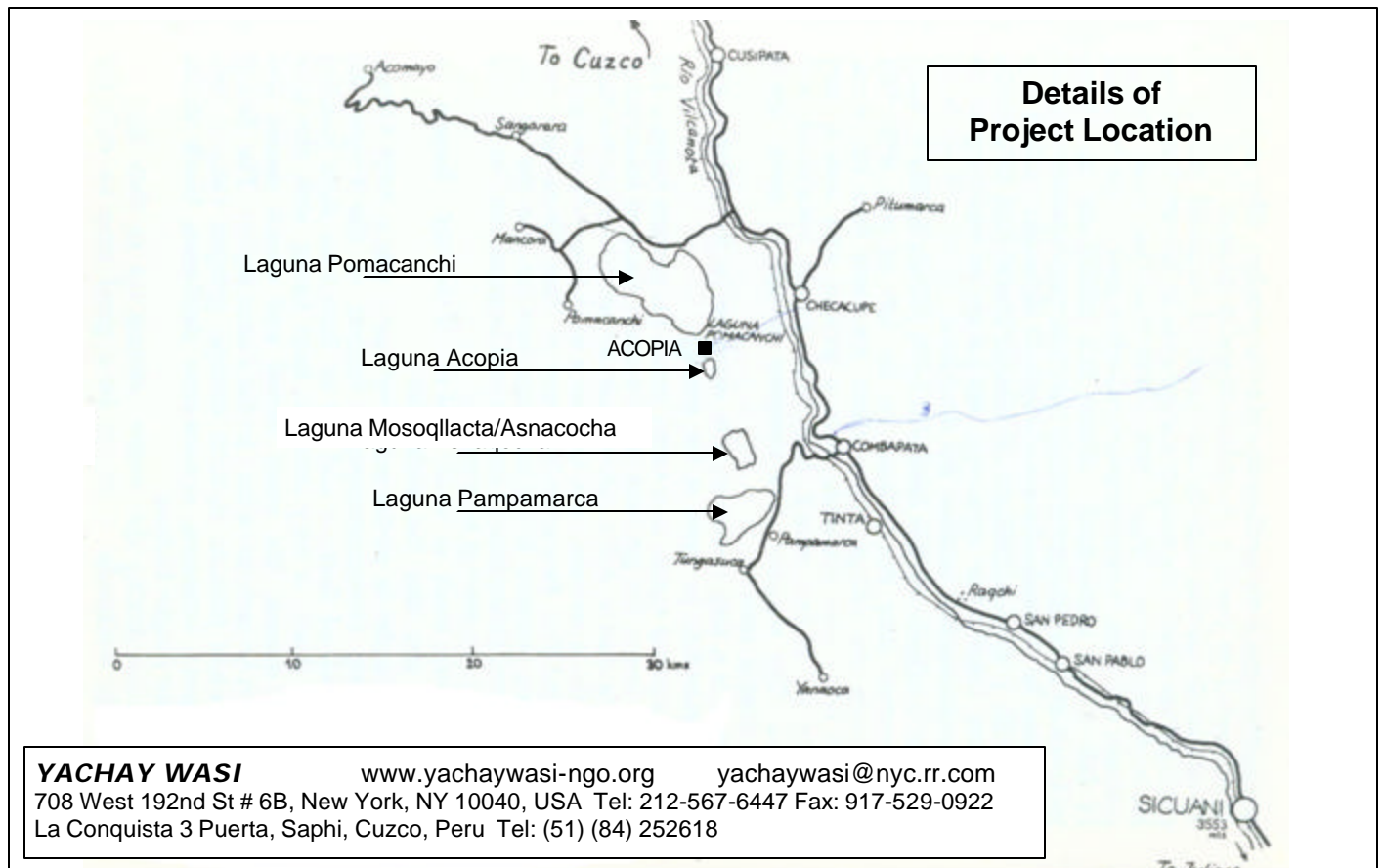
Proposal and Budget in Spanish and English are available, including photographs and maps.

Support, financial and other, is needed.

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