



Yachay Wasi 'Simin'

The Voice of Yachay Wasi

December 2012 (Vol. XVII No.1)

Retrospective of 2011 and 2012

RUNASIMI (literally "the language of the people", known as Quechua) is the Inka language still spoken by the descendants of this ancient civilization. The Inka empire was called TAWANTINSUYU (the Four Quarters) and extended from modern Colombia to Tierra del Fuego.

The Four Quarters are North East: Antisuyu, South East: Qollasuyu, South West: Kuntisuyu and North West: Chinchaysuyu.

US students plant Trees in PERU Andes...

Since 2008, Yachay Wasi has been planting High Altitude Native Trees in the beautiful Circuit of Four Lakes in the Peru Andes.

In October 2011, the director of the Peru Study-Service Team of Goshen College in Indiana, USA, and 18 students participated in the Planting effort during Peru rainy season. One of these students, Joshua, returned in November for a 6-weeks service stage in the Quechua speaking village of Acopia.

In January 2012, 16 students and the SST Director, with his family, arrived in the village of Acopia for two days of planting activities.

They were welcomed by the Mayor of Acopia and by Luis Delgado Hurtado, Yachay Wasi president. After breakfast in the home/office of Yachay Wasi, they rode to the vicinity of Lake Acopia where first day of planting took place. The second day was on the Puma Wasi mountain, near a vicuña reserve. This high area overlooks the lakes of Acopia and Pomacanchi.



Second day of Planting with Goshen students

From the UN Secretary-General report on Sustainable Mountain Development (August 2011 – Doc. A/66/294 pg. 12 parag. 37):

"Yachay Wasi, based in Peru, is an Indigenous non-governmental organization that focuses on the protection of biodiversity in the Andes and aims to make the voice of Indigenous peoples heard at the global level. In 2008, after completing the first phase of an environmental project recovery of the circuit of four lakes in the provinces of Acomayo and Canas, Yachay Wasi launched its "Million native trees campaign".

TURISMO VIVENCIAL - Turismo Sostenible LIVING TOURISM - Sustainable Tourism

Following in the tradition of answering the needs of Indigenous communities in the Andean Circuit of Four Lakes, Yachay Wasi has undertaken a project of Sustainable Tourism to empower several local Indigenous communities to be in control of their own tourism, as the Peruvian government is building new access roads to this beautiful area surrounding four mountain lakes.

These lakes are Laguna Acopia near the village of Acopia - native village of Yachay Wasi president Luis Delgado Hurtado -, Lagunas Pampamarca and Asnacocha near the village of Mosoqllaqta, Laguna Pomacanchi near the village of Pomacanchi. There are Indigenous communities living near these lakes with an estimated population of 25,518 inhabitants. The lakes are located at an altitude of 3600 meters.



Village of Acopia, with Lake Acopia in front and Lake Pomacanchi in rear.

Yachay Wasi announced its new project on Sustainable Tourism by organizing a Side event of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on 14 May 2012 at UN Hqrs. (photos on pg. 6) The panel featured a UNESCO officer and Yachay Wasi members from Cuzco. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) NY Office hosted it. Audience was welcome by a UNEP Officer.

(Cont. on pg. 4)



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Long Term Projects in Acopia, Peru:

*Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes
Million Native Trees Campaign
Sustainable Tourism - Turismo Vivencial
International students exchange
Centro Cultural Yachay Wasi, runasimi
Traditional textiles preservation & production
Raising of llamas and alpacas*

Officers:

Luis Delgado Hurtado, Co-founder, President
Marie-Danielle Samuel, Co-founder, Vice-President
Eliane Lacroix-Hopson, Co-founder
Olga Galindo, Tecnica de Tejidos (textiles), Acopia
Sandra Ramos Delgado, Education, Youth, Cuzco
Percy Nunez Vargas, Biologist, Cuzco
Alexander Gonzales Vargas, CPA, Cuzco
Yndira Aguirre Valdeyglesias, Anthropologist, Cuzco
Carla Zusunaga Palomino, Biologist, Cuzco
Nataly Mujica, Economist, Cuzco
Pablo Martinez, UNESCO Rep., Paris, France
A.Kukuli Delgado O., Student, Cuzco
Oscar Cubillas Ramirez, Artist, Cusco
Illari Delgado, Student, NY, USA

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Support the Work of Yachay Wasi (pg 7)

End of an Era for Yachay Wasi newsletter....

Because of technical difficulties **, the last hard copy of Yachay Wasi Newsletter (Winter 2010-2011) could not be sent via USPS Bulk Mail as usual.

In August 2011, Yachay Wasi cancelled its non profit imprint permit with the US Post Office.

** Since 1994, when Bk & W issues were published 4 times a year, Yachay Wasi has paid a constantly increasing yearly fee for the tax exempt imprint permit, but it has not automatically been informed of revisions implemented by the US Post Office. In this case in Feb. 2011, our entire mailing list was not updated and checked for accuracy 95 days prior to mailing. To do so according to their guidelines incur extra expenses. I was told that they allow a 2% errors only. Consequently, Yachay Wasi had to cancel its permit.

Yachay Wasi Cusco highlights:

Yachay Wasi representatives from Cuzco, Peru traveled to NYC in May 2011 and 2012 to observe the 10th and 11th sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Luis Delgado Hurtado, President, and Sandra Ramos Delgado, Alternate Representative to the UN, were joined in 2012 by Gladis Unda Mercado from Tacna, Peru.

In April 2011, Yachay Wasi held its Third Local Conference on Sacred Sites: Biodiversity and Andean Spirituality in the Andean Community of Huilloc – Ollantaytambo, in the Department of Cuzco, Peru. (pg. 3) Because of lack of funding, the 2012 planned Conference was cancelled.

The planting of High Altitude Native Trees continues during the yearly rainy season in the Circuit of Four Lakes. The fund raising efforts to the world community has begun to attract universities which send their students to participate in the Planting sessions. In February 2012, the tally for this rainy season was 3,490 trees, toward a total of 23, 275 trees recorded on the Billion Trees Campaign website.

BED & BREAKFAST in Cuzco,....all year around.... Luis Delgado Hurtado, who volunteers for Yachay Wasi, hosts a B & B in his home in Cuzco and plans excursions for international tourists to the wonderful sites in and around Cuzco, which includes Machu Picchu.

Yachay Wasi New York City highlights:

Reclassification of Yachay Wasi status with UNESCO

New Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations were adopted by UNESCO General Conference at its 36th Session in November 2011 at its Headquarters in Paris, France.

Yachay Wasi was informed in January 2012 that UNESCO Director-General decided that the UNESCO partnership with Yachay Wasi is reclassified from Operational Relations (approved in 2007) to Consultative partnership status.

Yachay Wasi was approved in November 2012 for accreditation with UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

BRIEFING BY YACHAY WASI TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS on eve of the 2012 National Model United Nations Conference:

Marie-Danielle Samuel, VP & Main Rep. to UN, addressed 30 students from the University of Idaho and their Professor on 2 April 2012 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square.

Students had selected Peru as the country to represent during the Conference and wanted to learn from a NGO implementing projects in Peru.

Information given ranged from the various ways for a NGO to be accredited to the UN, working with UN agencies and Permanent Missions, the projects which Yachay Wasi currently is working on in Indigenous communities in Peru Andes.

EVENT at UN Hqrs: The latest project undertaken by Yachay Wasi is Sustainable Tourism in the Andes. During the 11th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Yachay Wasi organized a side event on 14 May 2012 which was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme New York Office: TURISMO VIVENCIAL EN LOS ANDES REGION DE CUSCO. Visiting members of Yachay Wasi spoke as well as an officer from UNESCO. (see pg. 1 & 6)



A Conference Organized
by Yachay Wasi

Huilloc is located at one half hour drive from the archeological village of Ollantaytambo at an altitude of 2,500 meters (8,202 ft). Conference was in *Runasimi* (Quechua) & Spanish.

Following the welcome by Aquilino Sinchi, President of Huilloc community, a brief outline of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was given by Luis Delgado Hurtado, Yachay Wasi president.

During the next three days, topics & speakers included: "Andean Spirituality in the context of Climate Change", presentation by Alberto Delgado Araoz, Director of Instituto Machu Picchu; "Biodiversity", expose by Percy Nunez Vargas, Biologist and "Sacred Sites", audio-visual lecture by Fernando Elorietta Salazar, Insituto TAMP S. R. L.

Conference also included a Drawing contest and cultural activities involving youth and Huilloc School children. Various materials, such as colorful folders & certificates of attendance, were given to all participants.

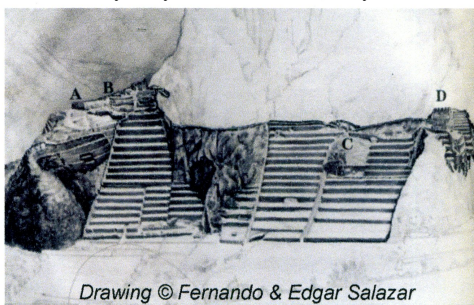


Percy Nunez Vargas, Biologist

Ollantaytambo is the only town in Peru remaining as the Inkas laid it with its street plan in the trapezoid shape, favorite of Inka architecture. Ollantay men, young and old, wear characteristic white hats and orange/red ponchos. They traditionally carry the gear of tourists on the Inka Trail.

Fernando Salazar, and his brother Edgar, have studied the ancient patterns on the mountain sides. They have written many published books which demonstrate the astronomical skill and wisdom of the Inka civilization.

The two pictures below show how terraces in Ollantaytambo are aligned in such a way that they form shapes of animals, such as the llama in this case. Their books depict other archeological sites such as the Condor in Machu Picchu and the reflection of the Milky Way in the Sacred Valley.



Drawing © Fernando & Edgar Salazar



Sacred Sites: Biodiversity and Andean Spirituality *Focus: Climate Change*

25 thru 29 April 2011

Quechua speaking community of Huilloc
District of Ollantaytambo, Province of Urubamba
Department of Cuzco, Peru



Luis Delgado Hurtado, President of Yachay Wasi



Alberto Delgado Araoz, President, Inst. Machu Picchu

Yachay Wasi gives special thanks for the long time support of Mr. Delgado Araoz who passed away on 14 February 2012

Fernando Elorietta Salazar, Inst. TAMPO



TURISMO VIVENCIAL

This project by Yachay Wasi is one more in a series of activities taking place in this Circuit of Four Lakes area. As Luis Delgado Hurtado, Quechua speaking President of Yachay Wasi, keeps a family home in his native village of Acopia, he is able to obtain Prior and Informed consent for projects undertaken by Yachay Wasi and he supervises their implementation.

From 2004 thru 2008, a Water and Sanitation project, including environmental training, was implemented. Entitled "Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes", it was registered in 2005 as a Partnership for Sustainable Development with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Yachay Wasi was the lead partner.

From 2008 thru current, a campaign of planting high altitude native trees around these lakes started. Saplings planted yearly during Peru rainy season are mostly paid for by donations from public around the world. Yachay Wasi is a planting partner of UNEP Billion trees campaign.

An important phase of Yachay Wasi work is the sharing of information. It organizes local conferences in various Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Andes to inform on the work of the United Nations on behalf of Indigenous peoples. Recently Huilloc-Ollantaytambo (2011); Raqchi (2010); Acopia (2009).

In October 2011, Yachay Wasi included Sustainable Tourism, as coined and defined in 1999 by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, in its comments sent to Rio + 20 Compilation Document. Yachay Wasi also participated in the several 2012 negotiations at UN Hqrs on the Zero Draft of Outcome Document. In Feb. 2012, it emailed to various Latin America Ambassadors the need to include Sustainable Tourism. G77 added it in March 2012.

"Vivencial" or sustainable tourism enables the tourist to live with local residents forming a close relationship. This form of tourism generates experiences with ethics and values, such as tolerance, friendship, responsibility and respect for human life, culture and biodiversity. Photo below shows an ancient ceremony as it is still celebrated today.



TURISMO VIVENCIAL

The Circuit of Four Lakes in the High Andes has its own biodiversity, flora, fauna and beautiful water expanses. It brings an original attraction slightly different from other nearby mountain sites. Preserving the touristic value of this site for its Indigenous communities will be one of the outcomes of this project. The various families involved in this project will be in control of sharing their experiences with visitors in a way that they can be proud of. They will be able to negotiate any exchanges with outside businesses.

International visitors will have the option to be housed in homes of villagers and experience their daily lives, or in a small building which is to be erected.

This building will be surrounded by vegetable gardens grown in traditional ways and farming areas where "cuys" (guinea pigs) will be raised. The alimentation given to visitors will include foods typical to Peru, including multi varieties of potatoes such as Chuño and grains like quinoa. Visitors can participate in planting and harvesting, following the seasons. Also they can assist in preparation of meals, if they so desire.



As the Circuit is only 2 hours drive from Cuzco, the ancient Capital of the Inkas, excursions to archeological places, including Machu Picchu, can be organized. Travel and stay in nearby Amazon will also be available.

Years, in Peru, are filled with various festivals with music and dance, markets with crafts, weavings.... Visitors will experience all. They will also learn from the wisdom of Indigenous peoples.



JAPANESE STUDENT'S INTERNSHIP IN ACOPIA



Kaede Mitsunaga with family from Acopia and Sandra Ramos Delgado with Luis Delgado Hurtado, President of Yachay Wasi



Kaede Mitsunaga near Lake Pomacanchi

In October 2012, Student Kaede Mitsunaga from Japan, spent one month as an intern with Yachay Wasi in Cuzco and Acopia, Peru. She was completing her graduation thesis on Sustainable Tourism and Indigenous/Local communities.



RIO+20

United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012

RIO+20: PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING THE ZERO DRAFT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT

From January thru May 2012, the 9 Major Groups of Agenda 21 (Business & Industry, Children & Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGOs, Scientific & Technological Community, Women, Workers & Trade Union) could register representatives to give their comments on the Text of Rio + 20 Zero Draft of Outcome Document.

Several meetings were scheduled by the United Nations at UN Hqrs in New York City from January thru May 2012. Yachay Wasi participated in these sessions. It was fascinating to see Member States, UN Agencies and Major Groups study each word of the Document.

Yachay Wasi had four comments on the text which were outlined in the short statement delivered at a March 20 side event. *(see photo below)*.

The one successful outcome of these comments was the addition of the paragraph of Sustainable Tourism in the text, called for by the G 77 countries. Outcome Document "The Future we want" (Resolution adopted by UN General Assembly A/66/288) can be found at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

Yachay Wasi officers were registered to attend Rio + 20, but had to cancel their travel plans because of lack of finances.

Side event during Rio + 20 Zero draft Negotiation at United Nations Hqrs in New York City Key Messages of Indigenous Peoples for Rio +20 - UN Hqrs, NYC – 20 March 2012



L-R: Miguel Palacín Quispe, Coordinador General de la Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas (CAOI); Maura McCarthy, interpreter, Joji Cariño, Tebtebba; Karla General, Indian Law Resource Center; Gretchen Gordon, Indian Law Resource Centre; Marie-Danielle Samuel, Yachay Wasi; Julian Velez, interpreter, and Jadder Mendoza, Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo para los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI).

(Photo by IISD Reporting Services – ENB on the Side)

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IS NOT ECOTOURISM

Sustainable tourism, not to be confused with Ecotourism, empowers Indigenous communities to gradually take control in their territories of this rich industry, which currently benefits outside entities.

Ecotourism is business as usual with just a little more concern for nature...

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM was first discussed and defined at the 7th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999. One of the requests from multi stakeholders was that Ethics should be at the core of Sustainable Tourism.

Unfortunately, since then, the ethical aspects of Sustainable Tourism have been forgotten. Especially, the following one: "If more Indigenous ownership could be developed, the perception of tourism as a foreign-dominated sector would be reduced." (UN Document E/CN.17/1999/5/Add.2 Chapter III Parag.30).

Sustainable Tourism was omitted from the Zero Draft of the Outcome document for the Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

From January thru May 2012, intense negotiations between member states and civil society major groups took place at UN Hqrs in NYC.

The G77 countries added Sustainable Tourism to the text in March 2012.

Outcome Document "The Future we want" (Resolution adopted by UN General Assembly A/66/288) can be found at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

In Peru Andes, the current tourism practice at Machu Picchu mostly benefits a British train company. This intensive commercial tourism has destroyed the environment of the nearby town of Aguas Calientes and its surroundings.

In September 2000, a beer commercial was filmed at Machu Picchu. A crane fell on Inti Watana and chipped this ancient sundial, which had survived earthquakes thru centuries.

Indigenous local communities meeting at an Encounter organized by Yachay Wasi in June 2001 in Acopia, Quechua speaking village in the department of Cusco, Peru, faxed a letter protesting the treatment of this sacred site to the Director of UNESCO World Heritage Centre. This resulted in the funded invitation for Yachay Wasi president to attend the last WHIPCOE * workshop in Canada in November 2001.

** During the years of 2000 and 2001, Indigenous representatives worked with UNESCO World Heritage to establish a World Heritage Indigenous Peoples Council of Experts (WHIPCOE) who would advise on the care of their sacred sites listed in World Heritage.*

UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in December 2001 in Helsinki, Finland turned down WHIPCOE proposal.

Following this negative outcome, Yachay Wasi, then an executive member of the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, organized at NYU School of Law on May 15 2002 a panel discussion "Cultural Heritage and Sacred Sites: World Heritage from an Indigenous Perspective". Speakers included Indigenous representatives, UNESCO NY Office Director, UNESCO World Heritage, OHCHR and Biodiversity Convention officers.

Unfortunately for Indigenous Sacred Sites protection, a strong paragraph ** in the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which had survived more than 25 years of discussions, was removed by the Chair of the related Working Group in February 2006 and the issue was watered down in the final text of the Declaration which was adopted by UNGA on 13 September 2007.

**** "Part III - ARTICLE 13 - Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of human remains.**

States shall take effective measures, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, to ensure that indigenous sacred places, including burial sites, be preserved, respected and protected. "

TURISMO VIVENCIAL EN LOS ANDES REGION DE CUSCO Side event May 2012



Speakers in Left photo: Rochelle Roca-Hachem (UNESCO); Center photo: Jim Sniffen (UNEP); Right photo: Jocelyn Ting-Hui Hung Chien, Taiwan, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus



SUPPORT THE WORK OF **YACHAY WASI**

☐ \$ _____ Campaign of Planting Native Trees in Peru Andes (\$ 1.00 per tree)

☐ \$ _____ Other (Sustainable Tourism, General Operations)

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ECOSOC NGOs representatives barred from entering General Assembly room for Opening Ceremony of the 11th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The size of the General Assembly floor was to allow all registered observers of the Eleventh session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to see the Opening Ceremony on May 7, 2012. However, Indigenous representatives of ECOSOC NGOs holding yearly UN Ground badges were stopped by UN Security. No matter that they were wearing their colorful native dresses. Only T (temporary) badges were allowed.

In the case of Yachay Wasi, its President and Alternate Representative who were wearing traditional clothes and had paid to travel from Cuzco, Peru, were stopped along with the non-Indigenous Main Representative.

The first time visitor from Cuzco, whom Yachay Wasi had invited, had no trouble because of her Temporary badge.

Yachay Wasi officers barred from the GA have worked since 1991 to establish this Permanent Forum along with the Director of the then Human Rights Office as members of the first NGO Committee on the 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

One of the problems is that UN Registration has stopped over the past years from giving a secondary photo badge to ECOSOC registrants, not even a colorful sticker to alert security that they are duly registered and authorized to participate.

Adding insult to injury, the new leadership of the Secretariat for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had the bright idea to issue one secondary pass per Organization to allow one person per delegation to observe meetings in the Temporary New Building. Instead of continuing with the proven habit to limit registration to 5 members, it was open to 20 members.

Information of this Secondary pass limitation was posted a few days before Opening of the Forum. By then, far away Indigenous participants had their visas and their plane tickets ...

Non access to the GA was experienced by other Indigenous ECOSOC NGOs who were wearing their yearly passes.

These problems must be avoided for next year as Security should be able to see if a NGO Representative is registered to the Forum.

Maya Elders' visit to New York City – 21 December 2012 explained

On 24 October 2012 in early afternoon, the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues welcomed their Maya guests and NGO representatives to the Dedication of its new offices on the 29th Floor of the Secretariat Bldg at UN Headquarters in New York City. UN Offices are slowly returning to the Secretariat building after renovations.

From flyer: "The Mayan Cosmovision: Is 2012 the end of the world?"
"Thousands of years ago, Mayan astronomers foresaw in 2012 a unique alignment of the cosmos which occurs once every 64,000 years. They knew that all aspects of life are governed by the movement of the heavens. The Maya identified this new cycle as a monumental transition and an opportunity to realign priorities based on the principles of love, gratitude, care and respect for both humanity and our environment. For the Maya, ushering a new cycle is a huge celebration. The Quiche Elders are bringing their sacred instruments to deliver their message of reassurance that although chaos is present, we are stepping into a bright future, a new era of Love and Wisdom."

Three Maya Elders and an interpreter of the K'iche' Mayoral of Santo Tomas de Chichicastenango, Guatemala (Maya-Quiche Empire) shared their positive message.

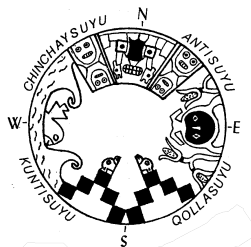
It was explained by their leader Don Tomas Calvo that the Elders were here in New York City at the United Nations to make sure that the world understood that the End of the Calendar ushered a positive Change of Cycle, not the end of the world: "When all ends, all begins".

He closed the meeting by stating that it was a wonderful opportunity to live in this time of change. All are called to share this message and work on a better future. He extended an invitation to visit their community of Chichicastenango on 21 December 2012.

This important visit was completely ignored by the media.

The Maya Elders were in NYC from October 23 thru October 31 and had public events scheduled in the city. Hurricane Sandy prevented most of these.

On 10 December 1992, during the launch of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, a 3-days huge storm started. It was at the end of the day when late Thomas Banyacya, Hopi interpreter, finally told the Hopi prophecy in the UN General Assembly room. Only a handful of member states and Indigenous representatives were left in the room....



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 Also Acopia and its Circuit of Four Lakes and
 the Sacred Valley of the Inkas: Ollantaytambo,
 Machu Picchu, Pisac, Chincheros...



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Machu Picchu

International Mountain Day

11 December 2012

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Mountains, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has undertaken a review of the **International Mountain Day** concept to raise a stronger awareness of mountains worldwide.

The Mountain Partnership is pleased to announce a revamped tri-lingual website where all this year's material and the fact sheets produced in collaboration with SDC, UNEP and regional Mountain Partnership members for RIO + 20 can be found.

As a member of the Mountain Partnership since 2009, Yachay Wasi was invited in May 2012 to submit a project proposal to FAO on sustainable mountain development. Yachay Wasi sent its project on "Sustainable Tourism in Indigenous Andean communities". Results were never communicated...

www.fao.org/forestry/internationalmountainday/en



Celebrating mountain life



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 design: Marco De Lorenzis marcodelorenzis@gmail.com