



THE "YACHUYAJ WO" GARDEN PROJECT

REPORT AUGUST 2016





Winter Garden in San Ignacio community and ripe fruit from Morillo.

“Alec, I feel like Noah’s wife...” these are my wife Ivon’s words regarding the patience and hope I have put in government support that never comes. Nevertheless I haven’t thrown in the towel yet and expect that our results (that no organisation or government entity has) will convince them that we have to be supported.

My vision, when the new government came to power last December, was that we would be sitting at the table where the decisions were made. It is taking more time than I thought it would!! But I still have hope.

I expected this to happen and knew we had to keep on working on agriculture so as to show concrete fruit. The results we have now and that I will be putting them in front of the policy makers.

Results of the summer gardens that, although it takes time, is our tool to convince authorities that we know how to work with hunter gatherers.

To show results of our winter produce (that we are harvesting now), we had to start in





February. First invest in seed and seedlings. Photo left seedlings at the green house that gives service to the Pichanal area horticulture farmers. We need to learn more about this and plan to produce our own next season.

It could be argued that if we disappear this will stop and not be sustainable. Yes, that's right but one has to understand that for this to be sustainable it has to become part of the culture (as crafts are now in Misión Chaqueña). This takes time and one hopes that if the authorities understand the importance of this, medium long term plans can be set so as to give this food and income tool a chance to become independent and sustainable in the long run.

Seedlings are then distributed to families that have shown interest and enthusiasm.



Then plastic, to protect from the frost, has to be also distributed.





Never a dull moment... Stone messed up the windshield right in the centre of vision.



Here left my team of wichi teachers.

Now

August is the time of harvest and rejoicing (wichi don't laugh...):



We started with 20 projected green houses, now we have 18 that should be sufficient to show the way.



We have 2 projects stalled in government offices. Prayer needed. a) support for 20 hand dug water wells and a mechanical drill. b) support for a network of wichi trained agriculturists in over 20 communities using our strategy of garden development (access to water, family gardens, drip irrigation & good seeds).

We have given new wind to our 20 year old painting project and things look good.



Students and teachers at work. Interesting but normal that all the students are of the same family!



Wichi have a definite talent for things done by hand. They excel in handicrafts and should be supported in painting. It would be wise to have a full time teacher working with them, developing this personal expression and trade.



We have now a free outlet in a high income area of Buenos Aires and also we can share what's happening in Facebook. I have to see how we can ship by DHL to any interested client in the world. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=968630083262745&set=pcb.968632549929165&type=3&theater>



In my last report I mentioned that a far away community (Lote 9 in Formosa province bordering with Paraguay) had decided to go and live in their ancestral lands. They did not want any help from the government but yes from Christians. We decided to lend a hand and drilled a well with our wichi team from Misión Chaqueña. As we didn't know the ropes we failed. Plan B was to use the roof of the



church and build a water catchment cistern of 10.000 litres.

This cistern we have now finished



and is full of water which should help, as the families had to go 3km to the river for their water. Below our 20mt failed hand dug water hole.

I've got to mention that we have 2 wells that haven't been finished (Dragones and Las Llanas) due to a very hard clay that our hand tools can't perforate at 28 mts depth. With family and old school friends we are doing fund raising to round up the cash so as to take a mechanical drill and solve the problem. The hottest months are just round the corner and access to water is essential.

Obviously the approval of projects by government would be strategic for these wells and many more.

In one of these projects there is support for craft design and development. We still produce crafts for sale in the UK through www.siwok.org.uk This is of great importance to the wichi craftsmen who thanks to this trade can stay in their communities without having to leave where they lose their culture, education and health. If we get the project it will help our craft initiative as I will also be able to put



personnel to help. Above is my dining room table with crafts ready to pack. Buying your gifts from Siwok UK affects many families for the better.

Summary

1. We are still showing the way as to access to water, income and food generation with the wichi people. We, with no office or personnel have results while the big institutions with all their paraphernalia have none. This means that we should and are respected. Problem is that bureaucracy is slow...
2. We need your prayers so that the new government approves our 2 projects and deposits funds fast.
3. All these years of work has produced a relation of confidence and brotherhood with the wichi. It's a real privilege to be one in Christ with these spiritual people.
4. I owe you all a very special thanks for your continued support and prayers. God Bless you.

Alec Deane

alecdeane@yahoo.com

PS: Introducing Mr. Manuel David Deane



