

Azul Wasi – home for ‘at risk’ boys, Oropesa, Cusco, Peru. January to May 2008

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Microsoft Publisher versions of this report available with photos

Also available:

Photo archive of; Azul Wasi, Project Colibri and Cusco Jpegs

History of Project Colibri and Azul Wasi available as MS Pub, PPt or Word documents.

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Background

Aspects of socioeconomic impacts of tourism in Cusco

Over the past 10 years or so Cusco the ancient capital of the Incas has become one of the fastest growing tourists destinations for travellers worldwide. Traditionally places such as Cusco, nestled deep in the Peruvian Andes, have been the domain of hardy backpackers and the wealthier tourists, capable of sustaining the harsh conditions of altitude by applying youthful vigour or by carefully balancing their needs with 5 star services.

Now though the picture is very different. There are still the backpackers; they have increased in numbers too. The numbers of rich visitors are rising ever higher, however the big new focus is on the ‘super tourist’ or as the Cusqueños say ‘the 5 000 dollar a day tourist’. What is so different now is the mass middle market that is emerging. South America is now within the reach of the package tours from Europe, North America and Asia.

It’s not just middle income folks who are arriving in their thousands. Organised groups from UK companies such as SAGA, charities running sponsorship challenge fund raising adventures, school expeditions as well as the host of tour companies offering adventure style holidays in bulk, all are arriving in increased numbers.

This may mean that Cusco is justified in being proud of its elevated position in world tourism and of its contribution to the fastest growing industry in Peru, but the sad fact is that most of the nearly half a million people who live in the city of Cusco, find it hard to make connections between the vast amount of dollars coming into the city and any improvements in their well being. Just recently there have been many public demonstrations and strikes in Cusco as hungry Cusqueños take to the streets to have their voices heard shouting “*la hoyo, la hoyo, la hoyo es vacia*” (the pan, the pan, the pan is empty).

So there are social consequences of tourism and we like to think that these are mostly positive ones as a result of our injection of foreign currency into local economies. As is so often the case however, that income is destined for a small minority of service or product providers. It is true many people are employed in restaurants, bars, shops, tour agencies and in taxis, but these are the same people on the streets together with the people employed beyond tourism, complaining of worsening poverty. Compare the price of a two week tour of Peru to a similar cost of a tour in Europe. Why do countries such as Peru come out so cheap? For the same reason Chinese clothes are so cheap; the people making them are not paid an appropriate wage.

Cusco is becoming split between what the tourists see, a radius of half a dozen blocks from the main square, and the rest of the city and department beyond the reach of the offered ‘city tours’. It is not only the city’s poor that are hoping to benefit from the increasing tourism; folk from far off regions come to seek their fortune, lured there by the thought of joining the tourism party.

Perhaps one of the most disturbing aspects of this migration to Cusco of the region’s poor, is the ever increasing number of youngsters, who for one reason or another, find themselves in Cusco without the support of any family. The only friends and contacts they have are those made on the same streets that have become the work place and home for boys and girls. Survival is about getting enough Soles for the day’s food and avoiding the police. As the youngsters have no formal back up, they often have to rely on simply begging or worse petty crime to ensure they can eat. The rising problem of homeless working children in Cusco, as opposed to working children from stable families, is one that the police face on a daily basis.

Project Colibri

Challenging the problem, Alcides Jordan, of the National Police Family Unit in Cusco, managed to secure the use of an abandoned 'hacienda' (farm) about 40 minutes drive south of Cusco, in a village called Lucre, the programme was called 'Project Colibri'. Fifteen of the boys considered 'at risk' if left to their own devices, started their new lives at the hacienda from January 2003. Gradually the buildings were made habitable and the farm began operating as it once may have. The boys were involved in all aspects of the basic renovations and jobs to keep the home running.

By going to the local schools and learning good and varied occupational skills, this helps the boys with new capacities, but equally it is purpose and opportunities that these boys need. That is these boys and the majority of the near half a million people in Cusco who are finding it increasingly difficult to fill the 'hoya'. It is for this reason that as a home and a place of preparation for life, that Azul Wasi (and formally Project Colibri) is doing so much for the boys and associated communities.

The following four years saw Lucre blossom into a fine home for the boys. After a year of schooling onsite, most of the boys started at the local primary and secondary schools. It was at this time that GlobalEd was able to become actively involved in the local schools, the doors having been opened by the successful integration of the boys into the local school communities.

Life at Lucre finally came to an end in January 2007 with the closure of the farm that we had always been expecting. We hadn't quite envisaged the outrageous injustice of the closure and the impact it would have on the boys, but then to know the story, it reads almost like a film script. Lucre had become very 'photogenic' and whereas most people who came into contact with the programme were sufficiently happy to join the family and help watch it grow, there were others who had different ideas of their own.

The final months and the years in between are well documented in the various presentations included with the accompanying CD to this report. It's been a rich history and a steep learning curve for the boys and all those involved in managing the programme. Five months after the opening of the new home in Oropesa, this report serves to illustrate the present state of affairs, our urgent needs and future aspirations. A separate report on GlobalEd's work with the local schools can also be read on the accompanying CD.

One of the most fundamental parts of our work has been the development of relationships through links, between the communities of Cusco and the UK. By learning about each other through processes of education, relationships between educational communities are strengthening and with that learning comes mutual support. Azul Wasi has been key to that development in its role as a very complete and human story.

Finally, however, stress must be made that this is not merely a story of people in far off lands. This is the reality of living in the Andes, whilst one of the more popular tourist destinations, still one of the poorest and environmentally fragile regions in the world.

Oropesa New build

Knowing that ultimately we would lose the use of the hacienda at Lucre as a home for the boys, Alcides had been on the lookout since 2004 for appropriate land and buildings that could be used as a new home. In order to purchase a new site we would have to have the cash in the bank which was a problem as we were literally being financed through the Dundee salsa community on a monthly basis.

Interest was then sought by a UK based charity in supporting the work of Alcides, and after a number of visits by representatives from the UK, a half hectare plot of un-drained land near to the town of Oropesa was obtained. Alcides was now very busy, teaching in the morning at a boys school in Cusco, working the afternoon and evening shift for the Police, whilst keeping up practically daily visits to the hacienda at Lucre. Now he had the new piece of land he could start thinking about preparing it for building a new home for the boys. The home would be separate from the police, relieving them of much needed human resources, but essentially would assume the role 'Project Colibri' at Lucre had become in the much needed care of young, vulnerable people.

It took three separate JCBs and three Shamen to clear the drainage channels and cleanse the land of evil spirits, a Shaman being brought in for the first two JBs which respectively broke; a sign of bad spirits. The third JCB completed the job and all was going well until a labourer clearing the piles of mud recently extracted from the drainage channels, came across a snake. Down tools again until our final Shaman delivered the goods by offering a gift to Pachamama (Mother Earth) and appeasing any lurking distant spirits.

It was about this same time that things were not going so well at Project Colibri in Lucre. Other, unknown to the Project, members of the police were starting to take interest in the Project Colibri. This was connected to the serious interest from an American organisation in supporting the project. In retrospect we should have seen it coming, but we don't all think in such devious ways. The result of the skulduggery in the Andes was that the hacienda home at Lucre was closed down and the boys transferred to a new home in the Urumbamba valley and a state orphanage in Cusco.

Whilst the younger boys were safe in the care of the state home, boys from the new home soon started to escape and filter back to Alcides and his team. All they could offer was help in repatriating them with family (the first priority for any boy in Alcides' care) and the hope that one day soon a new home would be built at Oropesa. The challenges was on to get the basics in place and open a new home for these boys and those that pop up on the Cusco circuit. A building to house up to 10 boys would be built; it would be called "Azul Wasi" or 'Blue House' after the UK charity who bought the land.

The first build would be of a 'temporary' build, i.e. one from Bamboo, wood, plaster and tin roof (a life of approx. 20 years). This was the cheapest option or our only option as we needed to get as much built for as little as possible in the quickest time. So everything was in our favour. The design of the rooms would give flexibility and space for carers to live, visitors to stay and dorms for the boys.

Soon after that was built a second smaller building of same design was built as the carers' rooms and kitchen. Sanitation and a toilet block were built in the later part of 2007 and we finally got water from wells at the same time. Because of the site's location in the middle of agricultural land, the cost of installing all the electrical needs will be high.

Azul Wasi is ideally suited to renewable energies. Firstly the site will be run on energy conservation principles allowing demand to be managed and minimal. Secondly there are high amounts of sunshine and wind in afternoons. The site would benefit from solar panels for water heating, solar parabolic cookers, photovoltaic coverage and aero generators for our electrical needs.

We are very pleased to announce here the support of Cornish Renewable Energy specialists 'Plug into the Sun'. Any photo and/or video footage from this year that you will see on the presentations on the accompanying CD, have been taken on a camera donated to us by Plug into the Sun (that camera being charged in the field by a rather snazzy twin photovoltaic panel in a handy executive briefcase), to enable their clients to see how Cornwall and the south west will be helping improve people's lives and promote renewable energies to Andean communities.

Looking back I just wonder if with that last Shamen perhaps it was more than just bad spirits on the land that were disbanded. Although we still seek answers from those responsible for interrupting so many lives, what happened at Lucre has to be put behind us and written into the book named experience. Certainly Azul Wasi and its team of carers, friends, contacts, funders and so on, are a stronger team. Seeing how the boys are five months into being in their new home, starting out their lives again, let's hope this time we have only good spirits with us.

To date, the final buildings to have been built in 2008 have been a kitchen diner and a room for the new baking oven. These buildings have been built in the more traditional method of the region using adobe bricks, wood, plaster and thatch and tiles. The room for the oven is just being completed having been funded and built with volunteers from the UK tour company 'Madadventures'. Everyone is looking forward to having fresh bread once more, that is to say even fresher than the bread from the famous Oropesa and its bakeries.

Building will now take a back seat as priorities return to feeding everyone and securing a sustainable solution to the monthly responsibility of paying wages. A permanent home for the carers does need to be built at the far end of the site, giving them space to retire to. We should aim to have this built by the end of the year. When we are in a position to build again work will start on the '25 bed' multifunctional building, a space that will be able to accommodate school parties, residential training days for (say) teachers, accommodation for volunteers, meeting rooms, a classroom and workshops.

Azul Wasi Opening Dec 2007

So finally on December 24th 2007, Azul Wasi had all its vital buildings in place, services such as electricity and water, people to look after the boys on a 24 hour basis and all the official paperwork done and dusted with the relevant authorities. Very soon after those first two boys arrived the numbers swelled to 7, then to 9 and up to 10 (capacity). At the time of writing, April 2008, we have 9 boys in our care. Alcides' priority is repatriation with family members for the boys, the first of those original 10 boys is starting back with his family.

Azul Wasi

Oropesa

The valley within which Cusco is situated heads south to Puno, 30 minutes drive from the centre and you leave the hectic urban sprawl of Cusco and encounter villages along this most important of routes.

Saylla is famous for its delicious pork products, next Tipon is famous for its guinea pig meals, then comes Oropesa, famous for its bread and a further 10 minutes south brings you to the lakes of Haurcapay and Lucre, respectively famous for their duck.

The river runs like a sewer from Cusco, neatly being followed by the main railway and road link to Puno and the coast. It is possible to see the gradual creeping of buildings, stretching out from Cusco now and filling the gaps between the villages alongside the roadway, spotting themselves to take advantage for trade with passing traffic. Hotels, fuel stations, recycling businesses and homes are all starting to appear.

The valley is steep sided and has an agricultural use mainly. Small farms are situated between the main road/railway and river on the eastern side of the valley, enjoying roughly 2km of fertile land between the mountains either side. It is on this agricultural land between Tipon and Oropesa that Azul Wasi has been built.

Oropesa itself is a pleasant town of moderate size, boasting over 500 bread ovens. The town is famous for its bread with most of the town being involved in its production in one form or another. This honour as 'bread town' is recognised by the presence of a quaint statue in the main square of a woman with her bread freshly baked in one of the town's ovens.

The main square is neat and boasts some very old traditional architecture alongside some more garish interpretations from the modern age. Dominating the eastern side is the great Catholic church. Built in the 16th century by the newly arriving Spanish, the church has recently been renovated, its huge guilt alter facing west and every space of the walls and columns to this huge space are adorned with murals or frescos from the time.

Over the past 5 years I have seen a rise in the amount of commerce in Oropesa. More and more small grocery shops have opened. Bread seems to be a good little earner as more and more people have spending power. If people are not employed in bakeries they will be farm labourers or smallholders. Although a poor town in general, there are those sufficiently well healed to support a thriving private school. The town state primary and secondary are schools to the remaining 700 or so youngsters.

That however is not the true number of youngsters of school age. There appears to be a significant number (initial estimates are an approximate 10% of school age youngsters) of youngsters not at school. The school day is from 8AM sharp to 1PM with a short break at around 11AM. A handful of late arrivals have to return home, often these have travelled over an hour from the surrounding hills to arrive at eight before the gates are locked.

There is a more significant number of non attendees beyond those late from the hills; these are the youngsters working in the family bakery. It's one thing being a town famous for its bread from its 500 or so bread ovens, but somebody has to be up through the night preparing dough, and at the oven during the baking process through the morning, in other words, exactly when school is sitting.

Very early questioning has revealed that there used to be an afternoon school, but this most definitely does not exist today. What is clear from speaking to teachers at the school is that an afternoon or evening school for these youngsters is a priority. Flexible education systems that reflect the local needs are what every youngster and family should expect from their community. If GlobalEd through Azul Wasi can influence these educational needs in a positive way then we shall see what can be done.

Azul Wasi Buildings and site

The building programme to date has been described in the part above entitled '*Oropesa New build*'. Below is a brief description of each building indicating the flexibility of the rooms:

Building One	Room suitable for 10 beds Room suitable for dining room, work room, meeting room, or 8 beds Room suitable for 4 beds, office etc. Room suitable for 4 beds, office etc.
Building Two	Room suitable for 8 beds, can be partitioned into 2 smaller rooms
Building Three	Toilet and shower room and water tank
Building Four	Kitchen / diner
Building Five	Baking room
Football pitch + stadium	
Play area	
Market Gardens	

Azul Wasi Transport

Over the past 6 years or so since knowing and working with Alcides, Project Colibri (as it was) and now Azul Wasi, I have seen him go through some old vehicles, somehow managing to refurbish an ancient building and more recently build a completely new site for the boys at Oropesa. He has done this in an old GM saloon car, a 4 wheel drive from Yugoslavia and most recently in a red Beetle, complete with wide wheels and yellow flames painted down its length. I have seen these rather inappropriate modes of transport with loads of building materials, food supplies, youngsters, visiting supporters and so on, all this over unmade dirt tracks that shred tyres and can swallow wheels in the rainy season.

At present the vehicles at Azul Wasi's disposal are the red Beetle mentioned before and a small mini bus that is just big enough to squeeze all the boys in. Needless to say all of these vehicles have been and are old and in a state of constant repair. The home desperately needs reliable and appropriate transport. A decent mini bus with trailer is probably the first priority as this will serve as people and materials transport. The bus will need to be able to clear rough ground and will hopefully be closely followed with a 'Hilux' style 4 wheel drive. One of the big draws on our limited budgets have been transport costs, particularly of heavy building materials that have to be shipped in from Cusco.

The boys then have access to transport when it is necessary, but local buses are used by the boys and the carers or volunteers when it is appropriate. Locally the boys walk and also have access to 3 newly repaired bicycles and it would be good to think that we can have a range of 10 bikes so that each can benefit from the access this gives. Now that some of the boys have shown a keen interest in bicycle mechanics, this is an option that I feel we should follow up soon.

During the rest of 2008 we would like to explore more the possibilities of a school in the UK taking on the responsibility of helping to fund transport related issues, ie a mini bus, Hilux and a set of bikes!...any offers?

Azul Wasi Boys

Azul Wasi has at the moment a capacity for being home to up to 10 boys. At the time of writing this report there were 9 boys. The priority for Azul Wasi is that if at all possible all avenues should be explored to have the boys reunited with either their immediate family or with relatives. This is not always possible and that is why there is an uncatered for need in Peru for homes such as Azul Wasi.

The boys come mostly from the department of Cusco but can come in from other regions, many having heard of the opportunities there are on the streets of Cusco and its tourism. Some boys are known to be at Azul Wasi for the short term, for some reason or other giving the parent/s a respite from care. Boys in the care of Azul Wasi at this moment are between ages 5 and 17.

For most of the boys it could not be said that they have had a 'normal' childhood. Many it is apparent have psychological problems and certainly throughout their childhood an education does not seem to have been of much importance. These boys have to deal with all sorts of memories which don't aid their worries about their future.

Within months of being at Azul Wasi it is possible to see the bonding of the boys together as a family. It is clear from the progress of all of the boys that the security and consistency of a home is one that they can thrive in. All the boys would agree that given opportunities they can be just like anyone else.

The boys are attending the local schools in Oropesa and take part in team football matches. Many have got friends from the town. There does not appear to be any problem with their chores, all dutifully wash their clothes and keep the place tidy and orderly. Animal husbandry is keenly learnt by a team of boys and their care for their animals is equal to the care they give each other. I was keen to see and support two of the elder boys who wanted to repair all the bicycles that we have acquired and get them all roadworthy again. Now that they can see the results of their labours with Isobel in the market gardens, the boys are really starting to get into the idea of growing more and more of their own food. They do not need telling that the more they produce, the more they can eat!

Hernan
Bautista
Willmer
Odilon
Anthony
Raybar
Jose Luis
Wasington
Danny

Azul Wasi People

Asociación Azul Wasi is a small civil organisation founded by Alcides Jordan Cerdá in Cusco, Peru. Based on his experiences over the past 20 years or so as a police officer mainly working in social programmes, namely those that provide support to families and in particular his work with working youngsters and homelessness. Alcides is supported by family and friends in his work as well as having personnel employed as carers for the boys at the Azul Wasi home in Oropesa.

Adrian and Isobel are parents to four children themselves and have been living on site with the boys as their carers. Isobel cooks and helps the boys with their chores of washing and cleaning. Isobel also has been responsible for planting out and helping the boys with the market gardens. Adrian has been the main builder of buildings on site and is kept constantly busy with improvements. The boys help Adrian out as well as labourers or trades people from the local villages.

Carlos acts as a carer and multi task type person, from driver, labourer, craftsman, cook and so on. There are a lot of trips to do between Oropesa and Cusco and this usually comes down to Carlos, whether it be ferrying the boys, building materials or volunteers.

One of our most urgent problems is securing sufficient and consistent funds for us to be able to pay those people working in or for the programme. Ideally that means four people as carers so that we can reasonably distribute the responsibilities over a 24 hour period.

Azul Wasi Volunteers

Over the past 6 years we have seen a range of volunteers take part in the projects. Alcides has received volunteers from organisations both in Cusco and internationally that place volunteers, others arrive after hearing about the projects in Cusco. GlobalEd has passed on its share of volunteers from the UK. GAP year students, undergraduates, professionals on 'busman' holidays as well as secondary school students from the UK working on their social programme component of their expeditions to Peru, have all made valuable contributions to the homes both at Lucre before and now at Azul Wasi.

Often the volunteers stay in contact with Alcides and some continue to help out in the ways that they can from the UK. It is often through these volunteers that others come. At Azul Wasi the most obvious signs of the volunteers is a wonderful bread oven and its own room, the goal posts and tyre swings, the fantastic stadium we have for our pitch, murals on our walls, and so on.

Specifically helping with volunteer 'person power' the following volunteers represent those that have been involved with the development and running of the Azul Wasi site at Oropesa:

Josh, 18, UK	GAP experience, 3 months, May – July 2007	General construction
Five Dundee Uni students,	2 weeks July 2007	Painting and Murals
20 students from Taunton Schools,	4 days	Painting and murals
'Marines', UK (?)	March, 1 month March 2008	Sports and play Eqpt + installation
4 volunteers from MadExpeditions,	March – April 2008	Adobe bread room and Oven

Azul Wasi

Supporters through GlobalEd:

LatinQuarter, Dundee	Principle funders of core needs/activities + Juventus Football team strip.
Dundee University	Painting walls and murals, light construction
Glebelands Primary, Dundee	Educational needs
Macalpine Primary, Dundee	Educational materials
Lilybank Resource Centre, Forfar	Celebrations
Churston Ferrers Grammar school, Torbay.	Funding from Fair Trade Calendar
Taunton Secondary Schools	Painting walls and murals, light construction
Sharon Myers, On a Roll, USA	Holiday
Peace Child International	Financial transfers and promotion
Peruvian Sacred Travel, Cusco	Holiday services

Azul Wasi

Animals and plants

The home has a number of animals in keeping with the work that we encouraged the boys to be involved in at the old hacienda in Lucre. There is a young cow, about 8 months old, called Sara (Quechua for maize), a half a dozen sheep including lambs. We have ducks and chickens and of course a few guinea pigs being fattened up. The larger animals roam free or on tethers and get their nourishment from the surrounding field borders and hedges, as do the ducks and hens.

A modest market garden is being developed with onions, celery, lettuce, maize, carrots, radishes and beetroot as well as potatoes. Alfalfa is grown for the guinea pigs. Trees have been planted around the surrounding edges of the plot, mainly Eucalyptus and indigenous fir with some fruit trees already looking healthy. It will not be long before the boys can enjoy juicy peaches and apricots from the trees.

Azul Wasi School

The purpose of GlobalEd as an organisation is to support, develop and implement programmes of Education for Sustainable Development in schools in Peru and the UK. Working with schools across both countries has been and is an interesting process as one never knows where the initiative will come from. How we make our links with schools and organisations in both countries really depends on them. When we are asked to be involved by a school community that is when we start our work. This may have been as a result of some careful nudging but most frequently it is as a result of the school becoming aware through contact with participating schools.

How we meet those schools therefore is not necessarily down to them contacting us rather an organisation with an interest. In the case of the work in and around Lucre, our presence is solely down to the fact that the Project Colibri former home was in Lucre and the boys went to the local schools. That programme has now expanded to all the schools in that region, each one linked to a school in Torbay. Now that same process can begin with the schools in Oropesa.

We have met with the directors of both the primary and secondary schools and both in principle are keen to develop the idea of us working with them in a similar way to how we have been developing our work with other schools in Cusco. We have discussed the ideas for the need of improving English language lessons and the provision of an afternoon or night school for youngsters who find themselves working in the mornings in family bakeries or on the land.

Having only arrived at Azul Wasi at the beginning of 2008, the boys have only just started at the local nursery, primary and secondary schools. They appear to have integrated well and are enjoying their time there. All the boys are proficient in Spanish; some are bilingual, speaking Quechua too.

Azul Wasi Finances

What I have written briefly below is not a financial report, but information that serves to illustrate the dilemma that Azul Wasi faces. It is without doubt that there is a need for a home like Azul Wasi, indeed this service needs to be multiplied many times in each of the 24 departments of Peru. It is true too also that the contribution of those who worked so hard on Project Colibri and now on Azul Wasi is a valuable one. It is also true that the cost of running such a home is by no means massive, but it is significant and most importantly it is on a daily, monthly, annual basis. We have to be able to guarantee sustainability in order to offer the boys consistency, structure, hope; in other words their future.

Ultimately we envisage the boys and the team at Azul Wasi actively involved in small business enterprises. The boys may be able to offer such things for sale as:

- Organic horticultural and small animal products
- Bread, but more specifically cakes
- Ceramics
- Tourism Services
- Bicycle repair services
- Original Scottish tartan scarves and formal handkerchiefs
- Educational resources

All of the above are possibilities as the boys become interested and skilled in particular areas of occupation, that will serve as good experience for when one day they have to leave Azul Wasi and make it on their own. Each one of the above are in active development again now that Azul Wasi is functioning. They are small scale initiatives either aimed at a local or a UK market.

Until that time when Azul Wasi is able to generate sufficient funds for itself, there has to be a dependency on external funding and support. Over the years we have been able to achieve what we have as two very important financial points, the premises and human resources, were taken care of principally by the police as part of their Project Colibri.

Azul Wasi has had to prepare the land and build the facilities in the past 2 years; this has practically been the sole use of the funds received whilst the boys were not in our care. Since January however, on top of the building costs that are still urgent to finish the present phase of building, there are the daily costs of the boys and the wages of three people.

It is my back of the envelope estimate that for Azul Wasi to 'comfortably' meet the needs of 10 boys on a monthly basis US\$ 3 000 needs to be generated per month, initially from funding but slowly being replaced by the team's own micro enterprise successes. This in effect is three times what Azul Wasi (formally Project Colibri) has received on a monthly average over the past 6 years of funding from the Scottish connection through Sarah Broxholme and her salsa initiatives.

This therefore is the crux of this report. It is a report that informs on the transition period of build and preparation of the new Azul Wasi site at Oropesa. We are able to see also how the new boys are getting on after 5 months at home with Azul Wasi and the local communities. It is also a report however that serves to focus our attention on a concern I have always had, that is that once we are independent and 'open' then we enter into a new epoch of needing to sustain significant levels of funding 'comfortably' in order to be able to guarantee the boys a safe home and stimulating environment in which to grow up.

Azul Wasi Needs

In order to meet the basic needs of the 10 boys in the care of Azul Wasi, funds need to be sought to cover the following essentials over the year:

Salaries	4 x US\$ 250 per month = US\$	1 000
Food	@ US\$ 30 per day	900
Gas	@ US\$ 30 per month	30
Electricity	@ US\$ 30 per month	30
Transport	Running costs. Assume	200
Health	Assume	100
School	@US\$ 20 per boy (10) per month	200
Trips, celebrations, clothes, equipment etc.		400
Misc.	Assume	140
Total		US\$ 3 000 per month

Costs are based on factors such as; a community of 10 boys plus 5 carers/volunteer and fixed factors such as fuel costs

US\$ 36 000 per year to cover basic needs

A further amount of US\$ 100 000 funding is sought to cover fixed needs of the programme such as transport. Again this is not intended to be an exhaustive report on future needs, more an illustration of some of the larger capital expenses that the team foresee in order to continue developing towards achieving our aim of financial sustainability.

US\$ 20 000 required for vehicle replacements

US\$ 1 000 for 10 bicycles

US\$ 20 000 for renewable energy installations

US\$ 50 000 for next building phase (multi functional dormitories / teaching areas)

US\$ 9 000 for micro enterprise set up costs

US\$ 100 000 Total for identified large capital expenditures in near future.

Azul Wasi Income

GlobalEd's involvement over the years with Project Colibri and now Azul Wasi has been one of mutual support. The programme has developed organically as needs and capabilities have advanced by all those involved. Support for Azul Wasi and previously for Project Colibri comes in three forms; financial, materials or resources and manpower either local or foreign volunteers.

That mutual support for Azul Wasi and GlobalEd has been beneficial to both. The programme in Cusco has been one that has a very human story, one that is understood by those who hear it. That understanding often becomes a source of support to the boys. The support which often is so hard to achieve, day to day cash for the running of a home like Azul Wasi, since those first months as project Colibri in Lucre has come mostly as a result of the hard work and devotion of Sarah Broxholme and her supporters in and around Dundee in Scotland. Since that first salsa dance back in November 2002, the amount of cash to support the boys is racing close to £ 35 000 (an average of approximately US\$ 1 000 per month).

Dundee schools; Glebelands and Macalpine, have helped support the boy's school expenses over the past years and The Lilybank Centre in Forfar have helped with support for celebrations and outings. A proportion of the profits from the sale of calendars in our Torbay schools have also benefited the building of the New Azul Wasi site. These schools have learnt about the Azul Wasi (Project Colibri) programme in Peru indirectly as a result of our work. The schools are now starting to link up with the local schools in Peru and are helping them with their resource needs again through the sales of calendars about 'Life in the Andes'.

Conclusions

Azul Wasi 2008 – Our 1st year

Project Colibri served as an experience in child care that prepared the team and its supporters to be able to set up a viable new home for the boys. A new era has dawned and now we have to focus on the two-stage financing of the daily programme, initially through funding, ultimately through our own generation of funds through micro enterprise.

We must settle the boys and consider continued development of integration with the community of Oropesa, and our reporting and therefore communication techniques must be sharpened. If we can survive 2008, but I should stress here the hole we have in the budget, I am hopeful that our longer term objectives or aspirations can be met.

We have referred to Azul Wasi as a ‘story’, certainly from our experiences with UK schools; they have found the story an interesting one. This however is a story that is not yet written. It is one in which those involved get to shape the outcomes.

This is a concept that students and their teachers are starting to realise gives a real purpose to learning and justifies our time in the classroom. Aspects of curricula and management are changing in UK schools and we have a real opportunity to reflect those changes in offering the educational community in the UK (both formal and non formal) a very good ‘Case Study’ of learning about “Life in the Andes” from the perspective of some of those whose lives didn’t quite start off as planned.

Azul Wasi Plans and aspirations

We now almost have the basic buildings that we need to give the boys a decent home environment. Our priority now is those US\$ 3 000 per month required to maintain the home. This has to be secured before we start to delve too deeply into the needs beyond those that are basic.

However for our plans for the boy's occupational training and as a means of being financially sustainable, we would very much like to see the buildings expand to facilitate our aspirations for products and services to be developed.

A ceramics workshop with oven, a bicycle workshop, carpentry facilities and textiles room are all planned to be developed. There will also be dormitory style accommodation to cope with groups of up to 25 visitors, possibly UK visiting schools, local teachers using the facilities for residential workshops etc. Becoming energy independent is a possibility that should be explored further.

Our market gardens will have to expand if we are to produce a proportion of our own food. It may be necessary to buy or rent further agricultural land for this. We would like to start as soon as possible influencing the local community, particularly in the field of education. A possible initiative between Spanish language undergraduates from the UK and Oropesa Secondary school could see an improvement of English language teaching in the region.

Azul Wasi Final Thought.....Why GlobalEd?

Considering what we know about educational changes in the UK, with our awareness of educational needs in Peru, plus our developments with the schools around Lucre over the past 6 years, this is an opportunity for GlobalEd to have real influence on the lives of these boys and the educational communities to whom they belong, whilst at the same time allowing opportunities for the new changes in UK education to express themselves in a purposeful and proactive way.