

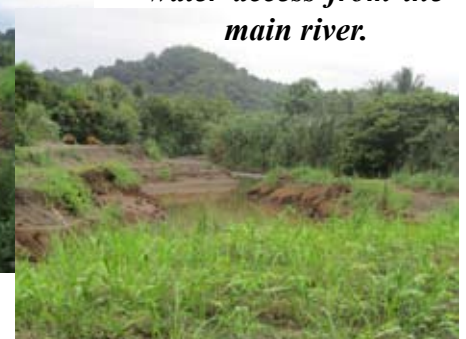


## COMMUNAL-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

### COMMUNITY OF PUERTO PIÑA

March-April 2011 Newsletter

We are happy to report that the *Community Water Access Project* has been completed, thus allowing pangas and small water craft a protective harbor. We continue our ongoing efforts with river maintenance which is a priority due to the approaching rainy season.



*The entrance into the water access from the main river.*

*The Cleanup and River Maintenance Project* involves excavating to reroute the river to its original course which includes strengthening the river banks.



Local Piñas labor was hired as one of our main goals is to also provide income to the village and include their participation, along with improving their living conditions.



Both projects include excavating, transport and removal of fallen trees upstream that have affected the natural flow of the river. This debris is cut and will be utilized in the river crossing project. The excess wood has been provided to the village all of which contributes to our efforts against deforestation.

*Inspecting the new course of the river.*

**Rock collection  
and transport**



**Gabions (wire  
mesh cages)  
construction**



**Gabions in Piñas River**



**Excavating the river mud**



**Reinforcing the river beds**



Community leaders met to discuss the Aqueduct Project. The Community Representative, Mr. José Rojas also met in Panama City with Dr. Marcos Ostrander, President of the CONAMAR Foundation along with the engineer, Mr. Raúl Olmos to discuss details of the technical proposal.



Meetings were also coordinated with the community in Puerto Piña. With the approval of the community, we will proceed with the execution of the Aqueduct Project.



*Project coordinator, Lorena Sampson and Raúl Olmos meet with Puerto Piña residents.*



*A drilling test for the water wells was performed and overseen by Ing. Olmos.*

The next stage in the execution of the Piñas Bay Program will require maintaining a stock of construction materials that will be transported from Panama City to store this material safely.



Heavy equipment is a vital element of the Program, so, providing the adequate maintenance is critical. The constant use of heavy equipment along with the difficult terrain and conditions has required many heavy equipment parts to be searched for, purchased, shipped and replaced.





Next phases of the **Piñas Bay Program** will include: constructing school bathrooms, the challenge of building the river crossing to prevent future flooding, the new aqueduct project for the fresh filtered water for the community, while continuing the river clean-up and maintenance.

The long awaited list of materials required for the school project has been received but the final approval of the plans is still pending. In Panama City a lot of work has also been on going, shopping for the lowest prices of the required materials and transport to Piñas. We need to continue to push, before the heavy rains begin in Darien.