After three years as volunteers in Cameroon and Peru, we are now going back to France. The projects that we have conducted during this volunteering period, with your continuous support, are almost completed. This return is for us and GreenBees a new start and gives us the opportunity to renew our commitments. We are starting together a thought process in order to define new directions for our small association, which wishes to continue its involvement in the promotion of cultural diversity.

Elodie et Yves Petit, GreenBees volunteers

1. « Back to France » by Elodie Petit

"These three years of volunteering and continuous involvement have changed my life and the way I interact with others. Where do I go from here? What matters is not to be able to say « I was a GreenBees volunteer », what matters is to be able to link what I lived, learned and appreciated during this great experience, with the life I am going to resume in France and the initiatives I am going to launch. Working with students in Cameroon, teachers and families in the Andes, learning, valuing and spreading their culture has opened my eyes to a different type of human relationship, something more respectful of differences, something that emphasizes on listening and is eventually a source of great fulfillment.

I have met new people and broadened my knowledge. The memory of this experience is now part of me. To preserve this treasure in me, I ought to continuously take the time to take time, to learn and relearn, to observe innovative initiatives, to bring more coherence in all aspects of my life, whether private or professional.

Working with children in schools, promoting the integration of the local cultures in the learning process, I have learned how important it is to help children discover their talents and guide them through their personal and social development. Going back to France after 3 years, I realize even more acutely how much our own education system – and the society as a whole in fact – imposes on us a quantitative approach of success and well being. Everything revolves around purchasing power, gains resulting from the access to new technologies … This approach doesn’t fit everyone, quite the contrary. As ATD Fourth World points it out so correctly, poor people can teach us a lot. We can learn from them how to be happy with very limited means. When you succeed in this approach, it means that the human relationship is taking over genuinely the desire of accumulating material goods. Of course, we need to continue acting so that poor people find dignity as well through a minimum of material comfort, but it is equally important to remain open to the values they can teach us.

In one of our blog postings, we had noted that « the hand which gives is always above the one which receives ». I have come to understand through my experience in Peru that poverty cannot be abolished unless giving and receiving hands are replaced by genuine handshakes. Contribute and make more handshakes happen, that is my challenge as I go back to France, my home, and I want to take the time to achieve it."

2. Completion of the project in Peru

Here are the main points of the our final report which will be available soon on the Internet.

The objectives defined originally have been completed with two months delay compared to planning and expenses lower by 10% compared to budget. Through out the project, the GreenBees team based in Peru has developed a closed relationship with its local partner, Grupo Quilla, as well as with other local organizations involved in certain aspects of the projects : the Peruvian commission of cooperation with UNESCO, Foro Educativo, ATD Fourth World.

The cooperation project ended in March of 2011 with two pedagogic documents prepared together by the French and Peruvian partners for the benefit of a broad audience: Peruvian education authorities, as well as all players interested in the topic of decentralization and teachers’ training: teachers, directors, deans, elected representatives. The first document explains our training philosophy with both its politico social
approach and the very pedagogic content. The second document presents our concrete experience and the results obtained in 2010 in the villages of Sicsibamba and Huayllabamba.

To preserve the perennity of the model developed with the support of GreenBees volunteers, a certain number of savings have been achieved when creating the pedagogic tools. For example, recycled cardboard has been used in lieu of plywood, black and white printing in lieu of color printing. Local subsidies have been sought whenever available. Budget reallocation have been made possible in order to invest in equipment which will enable the association to leverage the Peruvian experience in France.

Quelques chiffres sur le « Projet Pérou 2009-2010 » (non définitif) :
Here are a few numbers on the Peru Project 2009-2010 (provisional)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Items</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>28 985,4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedagogic Programs</td>
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<td>Pedagogic tools</td>
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<td>4 277,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show and Tell workshops</td>
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<td>261,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercultural exchanges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
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<td>586,5</td>
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<td>Pedagogic Resources</td>
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<td>36,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Management</td>
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<td>699,8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45 444,3</strong></td>
<td><strong>41 232,3</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Budget</th>
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<td>13 305,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Council of Picardie Region</td>
<td>22 722,2</td>
<td>20 616,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La guilde européenne du Raid</td>
<td>6 000,0</td>
<td>3 500,0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Peruvian Organizations</td>
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<td>3 810,3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45 444,3</strong></td>
<td><strong>41 232,3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. « Le poncho » has arrived

« Le Poncho. Stories, impressions and analysis on development and intercultural exchanges » (book in French, 220 pages)

Ce livre retrace notre expérience en tant que volontaires au Pérou. Nous y présentons, sous une forme d’une fiction, notre cheminement quotidien, nos découvertes, nos moments de partage, nos questionnements sur le sens de la vie, la solidarité, la transmission des savoir-faire, le progrès, auxquels nous tentons d’apporter quelques éléments de réflexion.

This book is about our volunteer experience in Peru. On a fiction mode, we talk about our daily progresses, our discoveries, our sharing experience, our thoughts on the meaning of life, solidarity, transmission of know how and progress, looking to participate positively to the reader's personal thoughts.

Please contact us if you are interested in a copy.

4. Exhibition with the Contay students (Picardy)

An exhibition organized with the 4th and 5th graders of Contay school in Somme will mark the completion of our project in Peru. During two years, the students of Patrice Delrue have followed our Peruvian initiative and have actively taken part in the Intimag newspaper. This latter tool has permitted establish direct intercultural contacts between the children.

The exhibition will feature pictures and testimonies from both French and Peruvian children. It will take place in Contay on May 7 and then in Corbie from May 10 through to 27 at the inter-communal library. Special activities will be proposed on May 21, for the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
5. **Drawing contest « Let’s play together »**

If you know someone with drawing skills – what about yourself? – and you want to promote cultural diversity by drawing about the topic « let’s play together », hurry up! You still have until April 30 to send us your creation by email (photo, scan...).

All details on our website [www.greenbees.fr](http://www.greenbees.fr).

6. **A new projection for the association for 2011-2014**

With the completion of the project in Peru, our focus turns back on activities in France. This is a direction that came up during the projects in the Andes: why do abroad what could also be helpful in France?

Cela implique de réfléchir sur les moyens dont dispose GreenBees et les objectifs que nous souhaitons nous fixer. L'association doit prendre en compte le fait de ne plus disposer de volontaires permanents et donc réussir à intégrer tous les bénévoles qui souhaitent s'engager avec nous.

This means that we need to think about the means of GreenBees and the exact objectives we wish to pursue. The association needs to take into account the fact that it doesn't currently have full time volunteers and that it needs to integrate everybody’s goodwill, and keep these part time volunteers busy.

The Board has been thinking about this for some time and proposes to involve all members in a discussion during the next General Assembly. We need to answer the following questions together:

- What are the resources and skills at our disposal?
- What type of initiatives can we support or launch in France?
- In which geographic area can we operate?
- How can we finance these initiatives?
- Which networks of associations can we best join?

7. **Supporting families in France – a testimony by ATD Fourth World**

Among networks we could join, ATD Fourth World is one we wish to keep in mind. It is in Peru that we have been able to concretely meet the “ATD Fourth World” movement and had the opportunity to apply their method and philosophy. This movement started in France and it would feel natural to us to support its initiatives in France with the means at our disposal. The story below is the one of a man who, with his wife and son, has been helped by ATD Fourth World to re-build himself and has now become himself a active support and a positive example to other people in despair.

Farid remembers: « Without a home, you are nothing. All day and most nights, you rush around with a bag on your back. It makes you a savage, it drives you crazy. When you talk to someone in an office, it is impossible to articulate your thoughts. It is impossible to have a coherent discussion, because your mind focuses on questions like: Where am I going to shower? Where am I going to eat? »

In the Cité de la Promotion Familiale (Family shelter), ATD Fourth World proposes affordable housing deals to families: the rent starts low and increases progressively, based on clear and mutually agreed objectives.

« Christophe (ATD Fourth World volunteer) is someone who pays attention and listens. He helped me move on, set objectives to myself. When I am home, I can prepare meals, coffee, I have a sink, a bathroom, I can leave my bags without worrying about them. It is paradise! When you have a place for yourself, you can start sorting, organize your files, although it is obviously difficult to stay focused after living without structure for so long. The team is here to let you take your time to sort you out, and to support you when you feel a stress ; they help build your self confidence.

ATD Fourth World has come up with a unique way of helping the poorest over the years, based on genuine experiences. Their priority is to build a global plan tailored to each specific situation and this plan begins by finding a place to live. Families need time to be back on their feet. They also need to be the drivers of their own recovery. Helping other families help them do just that. This is how one fights poverty: beyond giving, one should listen, encourage and trust.

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8. General Assembly is on May 21, 2011. Save the date!

Hubert, President of GreenBees, is happy to invite all members of the association to the General Assembly, which will take place on May 28, 2011 between 3pm and 6pm at 7, place Roger Salengro in Corbie, France. Members who are up to date with their annual contribution will be able to take part in the votes.

In order to enable participation of as many members as possible, we will send, in French, a complete agenda and a proxy vote bulletin 15 days prior to the General Assembly. If you wish to receive it in English, please first consider the necessary time for the translation of the document, THEN request it with a short email 😊.

9. 2011 Membership

The membership fee has been set to 10 euro for regular members and 100 euro for benefactors. Particularly in 2011, these amounts will allow us to measure the goodwill of all members at a time of redefining and getting ready for the new set of objectives for GreenBees.

Payments can be effected as follows:
- By a check to the association: 7 place Roger Salengro, 80800 Corbie, France
- By wire transfer
  Banque : Crédit Mutuel Nord Europe
  Devise : EUR
  RIB : 15629 – 02631 – 00020137601 - 71
  IBAN : FR76 1562 9026 3100 0201 3760 171
- Over the Internet: [http://www.greenbees.fr/04_Participation/Participation_FR.htm](http://www.greenbees.fr/04_Participation/Participation_FR.htm)

If you wish to become a member or simply support its action, a subscription form is available in the website: [http://www.greenbees.fr/04_Participation/Subscription/GreenBees_Registration_Form.pdf](http://www.greenbees.fr/04_Participation/Subscription/GreenBees_Registration_Form.pdf)

Thanks for your support. It’s good to have you on our side.

Bizzz... XXX

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PS: Let us know if you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter and we will remove your name from our distribution list.