

## THE LOGWOOD PROJECT in QUESQUEYA, the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

by Cheryl Kolander, Master Natural Dyer, Aurora Silk

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Logwood is a beautiful tree that grows naturalized in the Caribbean. Its heartwood is a valuable dye that gives bright and inexpensive purples, lovely blue grays, and the richest black. It is the one natural dye that remains in commercial use in the west, as silk used for internal suturing is still dyed black with Logwood.

The Dominican Republic is the eastern two thirds of the island of Hispaniola. The western third is Haiti. The native Taino name for the island is Haiti Bohia Quesqueya, which means "Mountain House, Most Beautiful". "Quesqueya" is still often used by Dominicans to refer to their country/island. This island was the first to be colonized, the site of the first fort, first church and first destruction of the native culture. Dominicans speak Spanish; while the past 500 years have been full of ruthless dictators, this country is now a democracy, at least in name.

While it used to be an island know for its richness, today the people struggle with ever increasing poverty. Their greatest export is people: Dominicans are now the largest minority in New York City. There is almost no work within the country, and what there is pays little, \$100 per month, or nothing, for workers are often enticed to work for a while for free, then are "let go" when it's time to pay them.

In times past food was abundant, but now the forests are cut, the fields are in monoculture sugar cane (and all the jobs go to imported Haitians, who will work for even less than the Dominicans). The fisheries are depleted by foreign trawlers. Tourism, which was big 20 years ago is now at almost nothing. With the forests cut, the climate has gotten hotter and dryer.

I entered this situation looking for Logwood. I need it for my art and my livelihood, which is naturally dyeing silk. Only with Logwood can I get the deep rich black that on silk is like the night sky with the sparkle of stars. Also, I use Logwood for it's beautiful purples. I have tried the extract, but the extract purples fade rapidly, and the black is never as rich as with the true wood. Trade in the wood had faltered, and for years I'd had to rely on a stash that was rapidly depleting.



ILLUSTRATED ABOVE: LOGWOOD TREE



With luck, hard work and a lot of faith, I succeeded in developing a reliable supply of the best quality Logwood ever. In the process I encountered a surviving group of native indigenous, a remnant extended family of a population of Indians that are supposed to be extinct. But extinct they are not quite yet, although the current government is planning to complete the extinction process any day now.

The indigenous community of Los Cocos ("The Coconut Trees") is nestled right in the sandy dunes of a beach, in the middle of the north coast of the Island. Coincidentally, this is very near the exact spot where Columbus landed and began exterminating them over 500 years ago. This particular beach is quite a ways from any road, and that has helped keep it safe. It is surrounded by sugar cane fields; no one has had any interest in it until recently. Up to ten years ago, many people lived here in the traditional manner. Now there is left only a handful.

Houses are traditional wood pole frame, with palm thatch roof. The walls may be planks of bark of the royal palm, which is very hard and lasts 100 years, or the temporary "Yagua" – large petioles or the leaf sheaths of the same palm. The poles are all hand cleaned with machetes, not sawn nor planed. Some "chosas", as they call their homes, have cement floors, others are on the sand. There is no electricity. Until last year there was no running water (see below). For sanitation there is a community maintained outhouse.

The community is all blood or marriage relatives of the Pérez-Brito family. In its entirety, this is a huge family, comprising nearly two thirds of the nearby village of Boca Nueva, population about 4,000. As well as other members of the family who have moved out to all parts of this island nation. Through comparisons with pictures of recognized native Carib people from the one and only reservation the in Caribbean on the island of Dominica, it is clear by physiognomy that this is a family of natives. From their family structure, mores, habits and ways of living, it is clear they are not Latino. The traditional diet, based on the hunting and gathering of native foods supplemented by a bit of rudimentary agriculture is basically the same as it has been for thousands of years. From their knowledge of the uses of all the local plants it is clear theirs is an unbroken tradition of medical knowledge. The documenting of this medical knowledge, the properties of the many plants indigenous to this island, is the most important and crucial of all aspects of this project.

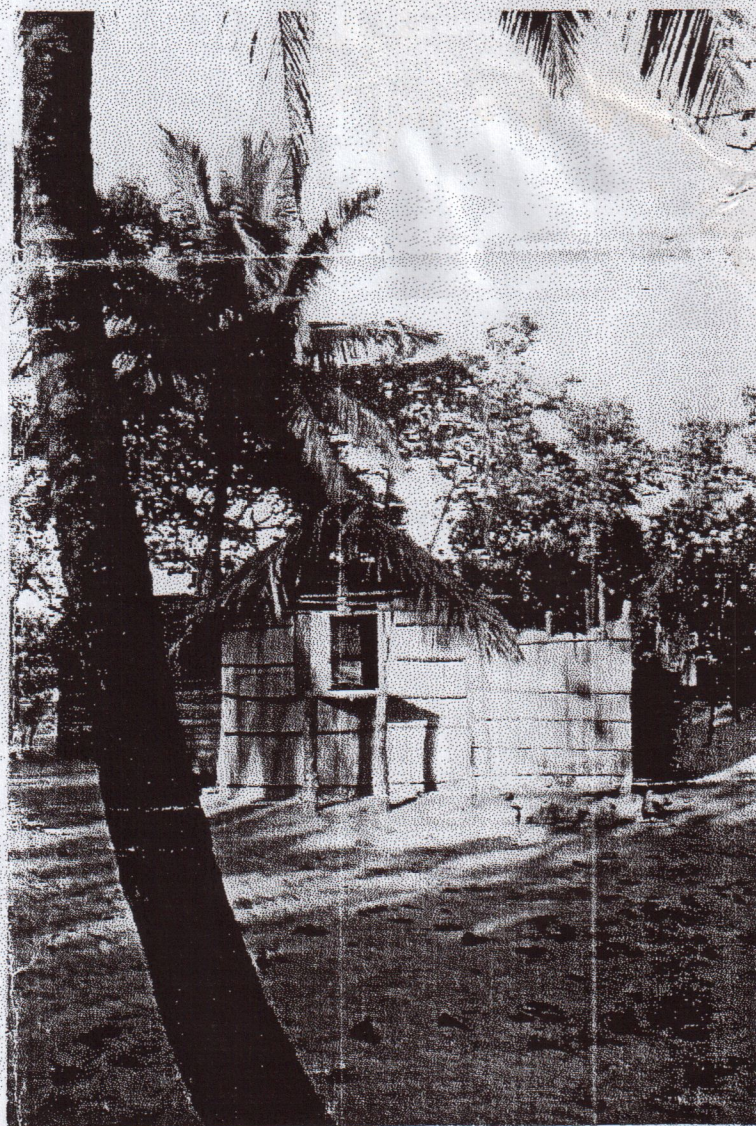


ILLUSTRATION: Traditional Native Architecture, Los Cocos. Kitchen, bath and cottage beyond.

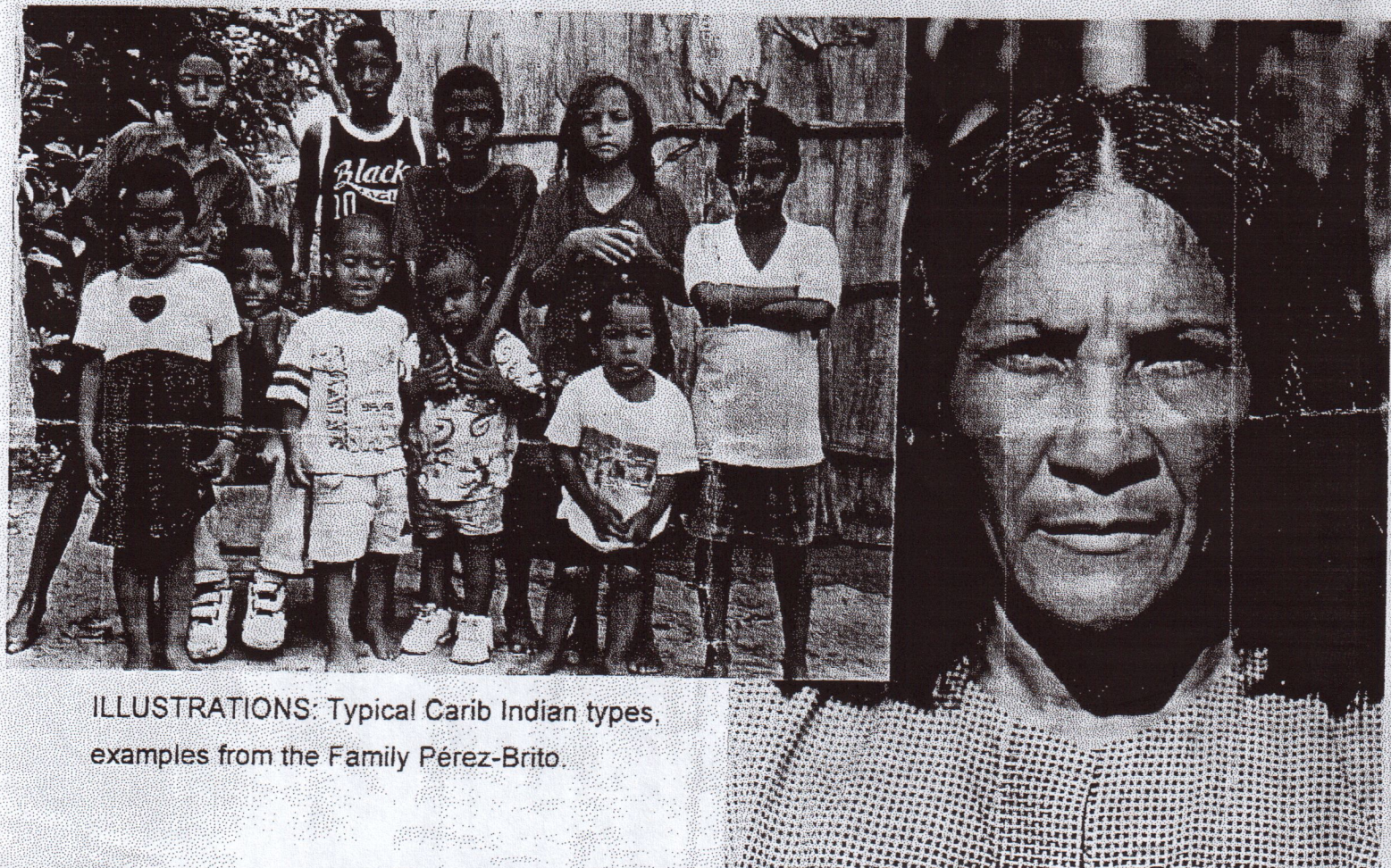


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We pay a fair price for the Logwood trees we harvest. For each tree harvested we have replanted four and plan to replant 10s. All help is paid generously. All profit is shared through investment in the infrastructure of the community. Logwood has paid for a new foot bridge and a raised path, so the walk to the village, where most of the family now lives, and any exit to the outside world, is pleasant and comfortable, instead of wet and dangerous. Logwood has paid for a small lending library of children's books, in a village where the school has no books, nor do any of the homes. A clinic house has just been completed for dispensing basics like antibiotic cream for impetigo, antifungal instructions against ringworm, and first aid homeopathics, in addition to promoting continued use of the local plants.

The big community event sponsored by the Logwood Project was bringing water to the community. Imagine 80 pound women carrying 6 or 8 gallon jugs of water daily, over a mile. There was a shallow well in the sand, but the briny water could be used only for bathing and washing. Everyone contributed their labor, and in the mega effort of one day, pipe was lain and buried, bringing pure mountain water from the trans- city water main about 3 miles away.

Everything seemed rosy until I followed up rumors and learned that the land of the native community, and of the village of 4,000 people nearby, is about to be sold by the government. These bureaucrats think it will bring lots of money from a foreign investor who might develop the beach for yet another unneeded tourist resort. It's actually a bad investment, since the beach has high waves, hidden rocks and strong currents. But they may find someone ignorant of these realities. The tragedy is that they will bulldoze probably the last remaining native community on the island and all the natural area that the community has been conserving. As well, the government bank plans to displace all 4,000 citizens of the village, creating even more poverty for their own people.



ILLUSTRATIONS: Typical Carib Indian types, examples from the Family Pérez-Brito.

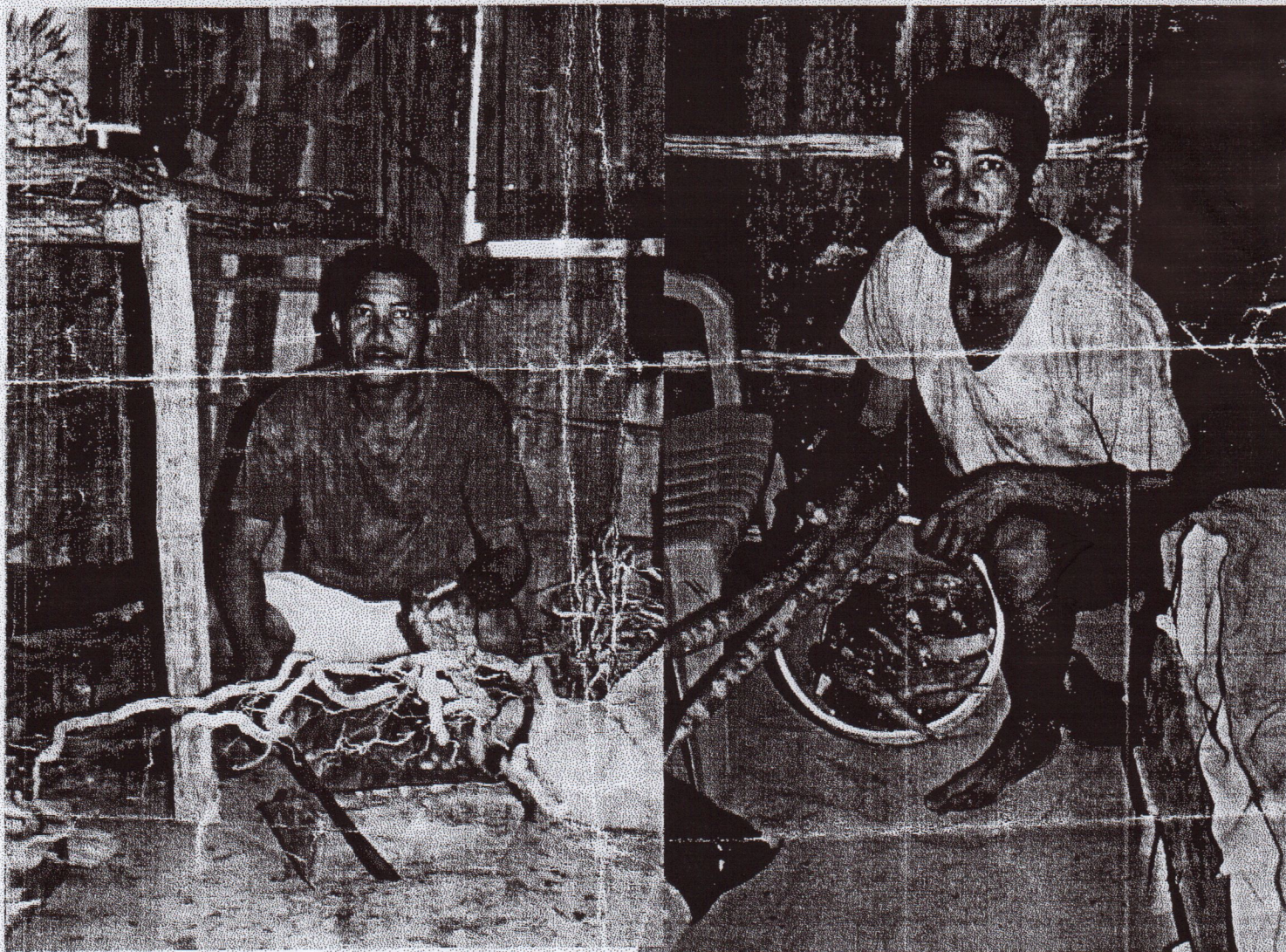


As a co-op of the people now living there, we have prepared a proposal to purchase the village, the native community, the natural area, and the surrounding farmland. The proposal is to use the farmland to grow specialty crops like ORGANIC, "PEACE" SILK, native medicinal roots, and natural dyes, than to sell these products on the world market, that is, in the United States, Europe and Japan. We have presented the proposal to the government bank, who controls the sale of this land. The proposal would pay off the land in 20 years, with payments to begin in 5. The bank's answer is: present us with money first.

We are currently looking for "ANGELS", practical investors, parties interested in the future of ORGANIC SILK, and potential partners.

[www.mamadoc.org](http://www.mamadoc.org) has the text of the proposal. [www.aurorasilk.com](http://www.aurorasilk.com) has a list of the products which are already being produced.

CONTACT: Cheryl Kolander / Nicolas Pérez-Brito, 5806 N Vancouver Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97217 USA. 503-286-4149. for a copy of the business plan.



ILLUS: Left: the amazing Timacle root, an important indigenous medicine, exists only on this island. Right: the wonderful "YUCA DULCE" or sweet manioc. This is a type of food root, of which many varieties are cultivated. It is different from that usually grown on the mainland, for it does not contain the dangerous cyanide found in most manioc. It is eaten simply boiled, and many dishes are based on the grated root. Roots harvested/cultivated/displayed by Nicolas Pérez-Brito. Photos by Cheryl Kolander.



# THE FAMILY PÉREZ – BRITO, REMNANT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF QUESQUEYA

## THIS IS THEIR ANCESTRAL LAND

Supposedly extinct; yet they are not.

Somehow, this family has maintained a traditional indigenous lifestyle under 500 years of colonial pressure.

Columbus and his men are supposed to have exterminated all the indigenous from this island. It even says so at the anthropology museum in the Capital. But a few recent textbooks declare the truth: *almost extinct*.

After the conquest, pockets of indigenous culture remained. Groups of families survived in remote areas. The north coast, the site of the first original settlements of Columbus, became a backwoods. It was abandoned to whoever still lived there, after the capital of colonial power was moved to the south coast. Of course there is admixture.

"Somos Indios" "We are Indians", they affirm. They look like Indians (1); they live like Indians (2); their houses are completely traditional; they identify themselves as Indians. They know they have lived here "since forever".

2,000 of this large and close family live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. This one extended family is more than half the population that now lives there. A synopsis of their personal history:

*There used to be a village at the mouth of the River Camu. Here was born Great-grandmother Dolores Brito, now 94. Her family is huge. She had four brothers and four sisters. She personally bore 21 children, including triplets, and twins both identical and fraternal. The number of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren is now more than 200. They live in close proximity as a huge family in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. Including relatives descended from sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles, the extended family numbers over 2,000.*

*About 50 years ago her village at the mouth of the River Camu was destroyed. The sea ate the land. This precipitous erosion occurred after the government permitted mining of the river sand near its mouth. The river sand feeds the beaches. Without it, the beaches were washed away, then the land. Even the cemetery; and who knows how old it was. The family gathered what bones they could, and reburied them further inland.*



*The refugees, poor and illiterate, ignored by the powers that be, resettled about one mile west, behind the dunes of the beach of Los Cocos. They built their traditional "Bohios", cottages constructed of local, rough hewn wood poles, covered with palm thatch roofs and sheathed in petiols of the royal palm, or with planks of its especially hard and enduring bark.*

*Here they continued to live in their traditional style. Gathering nuts and fruits, fishing the ever diminishing(3) catch of the sea, hunting birds, digging for crabs and growing the native food roots, plantains, coconuts and bananas. And here they yet live. And wish to continue.*

*Narciso Pérez, Great-grandfather, also Native, was born at Los Cocos, just a bit east of the community of today. This was the land of his family. Oral knowledge of their names goes back 150 years. They have no stories or traditions or knowledge of ever having come from some other location. They believe they have lived here "since forever".*

The Pérez-Brito family wishes to establish rights under the modern world to its ancestral lands. The family does not want to see the last natural area in this costal region destroyed. It does not want to lose its roots and its community in this, its traditional location. It is willing and able to work and to work hard to establish this right. They do not expect to be given their land, they want to buy it.

It is a miracle for the world that this group of Natives has survived, in just exactly the location where 500 years ago the destruction of all the native peoples of this hemisphere began.

It will require many more miracles to reestablish the right, in the modern world, for this remnant native culture to continue to exist, and to grow.

LET US BUY OUR LAND BACK, is what they ask.

HELP US BUY OUR LAND BACK, is what they need.

THEN WE CAN CONTINUE TO SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR UNIQUE MEDICINES, AND OUR SUPPORTIVE TRADITIONAL FAMILY WAYS, WITH THE WORLD.

(1) For phenotypic comparison, see "Contemporary Carib types from Dominica", Reproduced from sketches by Hester Merwin, in "The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica", by W.H. Hodge and Douglas Taylor, *Webbia*, vol. XII, n.2, 1957.

(2) The close extended family structure; non-Latino values; native words mixed in the Dominican dialect of Spanish; traditional herbal medicine; hunter-gatherer with rudimentary agriculture; minimal clothing; intimate relation with the natural world in which they live; minimal involvement with the modern world. Many maintain non-"Christian" names of presumed native origin.

(3) Factory fishing boats, probably foreign, depleted the fish stocks about 20 years ago and they have not recovered.



# THE NATURAL AREA OF LOS COCOS, and WHY IT MUST BE PROTECTED

## THE BEACH

### SEA URCHINS

In the entire Caribbean and adjacent Atlantic, the sea urchins, *Diadema antillarum*, once abundant, are now nearly extinct. (5) Coral reefs, once vibrant and abundant, are also dead and dying. This type of sea urchin eats seaweed that grows on coral. Without the sea urchins to graze down the seaweed, new coral cannot find room to grow. (5)

In the water of the Los Cocos beach there are several expanses of rock that house abundant populations of *Diadema antillarum*. Somehow they escaped the great die off. They are reproducing abundantly, and could be harvested to recolonize other Caribbean areas.

Two Universities and three Marine Biology organizations in the United States have programs to conserve and recolonize these urchins. (5) Here we have a population ideal to harvest for these relocation programs.

If the beach is sold for typical tourist development, the developers will have to exterminate these sea urchins. They are venomous, and live abundantly in the rocks quite close to the beach. Any tourist walking in the water could easily be stung.

After the urchins are killed, the remaining live coral will also die, smothered by seaweed.

(5) "Wanted: Reef Cleaners", by Janet Raloff. Science News, vol. 160, August 25, 2001, pages 120 – 122.



## ENDANGERED SEA TURTLE – EL CAREY

The beach of Los Cocos was a main reproducing beach for the sea turtle they call the Carey. This is the Hawksbill turtle, *Caretta caretta*, considered endangered worldwide. In times past many Carey came to this beach to lay their eggs.

This year, 2001, for the first time in ten years, one Carey returned to the beach during the nesting season. She did not leave her eggs, but it is a sign that it is possible for this fairly remote and still natural beach to once again become a sanctuary for Carey reproduction.

The Carey is protected by severe law in the Dominican Republic. However, people still kill them and steal their eggs. When found, the eggs are sold and eaten; the meat is eaten and the fat is rendered into oil, which is sold. In times past, this was an important resource.

Our non-profit organization "MAMA D.O.C." has explained the importance of conserving the Carey and any nests. We have contracted with the Pérez-Brito family to guard the Carey and her nest, when she returns.

General tourism would destroy the possibility of the Carey returning to reproduce here. They need a tranquil beach, or they will not leave their eggs. Even if a Carey made her nest safely, and the eggs were not disturbed, when the hatchlings emerge, since they are disoriented by artificial light, they would not move in the right direction to the sea, and would be eaten by birds or other predators while they are vulnerable on the beach. (6)

There is no other beach without tourist development in the entire North Central region. From Puerto Plata to Sosua, this is the only beach in the whole bay that remains a possible nest site. If it is lost to development, the entire bay will lose the possibility of seeing the return of this rare and endangered sea turtle.

(6) "Sea Turtles" by Lorraine A. Jay. Our Wild World Series, NorthWood Press, Minnetonka, Minnesota, 2000.



## ECO ZONES OF THE LAND THE DUNES – TREES, PLANTS and BIRDS

Very little natural area remains along the entire North Central Coast. Not a single bit of beach nor dune area is protected at this time, nor is any scheduled for protection. Not a single bit of dune ecology is protected on the entire island. Despite the work that has been done by botanists cataloging some of the ecological richness of the dune zone. (7)

Here, in the large bay from Puerto Plata to Sosua, tourist development has destroyed all the dune ecology, except for this beach at Los Cocos.

The dune ecology is anchored by great trees of Tropical Almond and Sea grape. There remain not the giants of times past, that towered 40 or 50 feet above their roots and shaded the beach even at mid-day. Yet remain many large trees, up to 30 feet, many over 100 years old. Under this canopy grow an uncounted number of species of small plants, and many vines. These are almost all medicinal in the native tradition, and insufficiently investigated.

Rare wild and native birds feed in this zone. There are unusual insects, such as an immense boldly striped black and yellow caterpillar with bright red head that has just been discovered this year. There are many species of crabs, frogs and lizards.

The dunes and the trees that stabilize them are the only protection the land has against increasing erosion. Wherever the dunes are cleared, sea erosion eats the land. Three feet a year is the rate in these areas.

For the people that live here, the dune ecology provides a significant part of their native diet. The Almonds provide protein in their delicious nuts. The Sea Grape gives its fruits, which are very high in calcium. People come from as far away as Monte Llano to collect Sea Grapes in season. Icaco is a native beach plum that grows in the under story and give both fruit and nut. And the crabs are dug for and eaten regularly.

Medicinal roots, generically called "Bejucos", are abundant in this zone. Their value is just coming to the notice of the world market. Natural medicinals are being sought and investigated worldwide. (8) Knowledge of the use of these plants resides in the Indigenous people who live at Los Cocos. A plan to cultivate and distribute the most useful and rare of these plant medicines is part of this proposal. (9)



(7) A book on the endangered ecology of the Dune zone has recently been published by the National Botanical Garden in Santo Domingo. Protection for any remaining intact Dune zones is strongly recommended.

(8) "Endocrine Enhancers: the Bejucos of Quesqueya", Cheryl Kolander, "MAMA D.O.C." Educational brochure, 2000.

(9) See Part II: The New Industries.

## WETLANDS – SALT WATER MARSHES

Inland from the Dune zone is a zone of wetlands. Much of this is salt water marsh. It may be dry for weeks, or be under three feet of water after heavy rains.

Many rare native birds frequent this zone. Crabs breed abundantly, and are food for many of these bird species.

The crabs of this area are famous. The village along the River Camu is called "Sabaneta de Cangrejos" after them. In times past, during their season of reproduction the land was blanketed by them and people came from Monte Llano and as far as Puerto Plata to feast on them. Today, while they no longer grow in such abundance, yet they contribute a major part of the protein of the native diet.

And the rare indigenous bird the Kwaco (or Guaco) subsists on a diet of nothing but crab. This bird is beginning to recover its numbers, now that there is a sanctuary of trees at the airport, across the River Camu from the Los Cocos area. But these trees grow on rock, there is no wetlands in the airport reserve, no soft muddy soil that is the habitat of the crabs. To survive, the Kwaco must hunt its food in the wetlands of Los Cocos.

If all this land is turned into cement for hotels, this rare and exceptional bird, which is surely endangered, could go extinct.



## **MANGROVES**

The Canal of Boca Nueva, called Cano de Cana, or canal of sugar cane, passes between the village of Boca Nueva and the natural area of Los Cocos. Its entire length here is lined with mangrove. This mangrove wooded area is quite deep in some stretches.

All four types of mangrove grow here: Red; Black (Mangle Yagua); White; and Button (Botoncillo).

The mangroves provide shelter for a large array of species of native birds including Gorreon, Gallereta, Guaco (Kwaco), Sama Raguyon, Martinete and Tortula, as well as the non-native Garza, or cattle egret. Many kinds of frogs love here, including Macopinpin, Maco Toro and Rana. Many species of crabs, including Sumba and Dicotea. And lizards and insects in abundance.

There is also a rare indigenous mammal, the Urón. It looks like a white haired water rat, with a furry tail.

**IT IS PROHIBITED BY DOMINICAN LAW TO CUT MANGROVE TREES OR TO DESTROY MANGROVE WOODS.**

(However, this did not stop developers at the Playa Dorada resort complex just a few miles west of Boca Nueva from cutting and destroying Mangroves, both to build the resort 20 years ago, and to expand the golf course, this within the last three years.)

## **ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY HELP WITH THE PRESERVATION OF THE LOS COCOS NATURAL AREA**

**WE ARE ASKING THE CENTRAL BANK TO GIVE US THE DATE OF MARCH 22, 2002, TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL IN PERSON, AT THEIR OFFICES IN SANTO DOMINGO.**

At that time we will present a list of the organizations we have contacted, who have offered to help.



## **PROBLEMS WITH THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING THIS AREA FOR GENERAL TOURISM**

### **DANGEROUS BEACH**

#### **HUGE WAVES**

It is not possible to swim at this beach.

There are big waves. All the time.

Most of the time the waves are so big even a good swimmer could not swim here. Certainly not tourists.

Tourists like lovely tranquil waters, like at the Playa Dorada beach. There are no waves at all there. Tourists like to lie calmly in the water, to play beach ball, to lie on air rafts, to engage kites and boats and personal crafts, none of which could possibly happen at this beach.

There is not a single stretch without waves. And usually there are four tiers of waves, with six or eight tiers not uncommon. Breakers extend out at least a quarter mile; it is not possible to swim out past them to tranquil water.

The only thing tourists can do at this beach is to drown.

#### **FIERCE CURRENT**

Even when the waves calm enough to invite a strong swimmer, there are fierce currents. These dangerous currents can carry any would-be swimmer out to sea and sure death.

#### **ROCKS**

There are rocks hidden in the ocean at all parts of this beach.(10)

Waves tumbling tourists on the rocks would crack heads. This beach is nothing but an insurance liability to any resort development.

One notes that right next to Playa Dorado (the resort a mile to the west of Boca Nueva) there is a stretch of lovely deep sand beach, with quite gentle waves. But no one swims there; no tourist development has sprung up there. Why?



because there are hidden rocks in the water. If that beach, so inviting and so accessible is unused, because of rocks, then surely it's clear that the Los Cocos beach will be avoided by all, because its waves and hidden rocks are really dangerous.

(10) The standard map of this area was prepared in 1927 and marked as revised in 1984. It shows "sand" in the water for much of the Los Cocos beach. It is in error. It is possible some of the error is due to erosion subsequent to its publication.

### **SEA URCHINS**

Venomous sea urchins infest almost all the rocks on this stretch of beach (see: Natural Area – Sea Urchins).

With one touch of a spine, one is in immense pain for days. The venom is strong enough to paralyze an arm or a leg. It can kill a child or old person.

No developer, aware of this danger, would risk it. The liability insurance to cover this kind of a risk would be very high.

### **JELLYFISH**

As if all this weren't enough, any time the sea is relatively calm, jellyfish approach.

A jellyfish sting can paralyze a leg or arm. If stung on the mouth, one will die. Even bit parts of a jellyfish brushing against a person will sting.

### **GARBAGE**

Added to the natural problems are the man made ones.

This beach is filthy. There is garbage everywhere.

Every time it rains, mountains of garbage are washed up on the beach. This garbage comes from Monte Llano and Sabaneta de Cangrejos, via the River Camu and the Canal of Cane. It consists of mostly plastic, including millions of bit of broken up styrofoam. There is also glass bottles and broken glass, old clothing, shoes, nylon fishing line, and the scariest of all: used syringes.

With one look at a used syringe sticking up out of the sand, the tourists will all leave the beach and demand their money back!



## **CONTAMINATION**

There may be as many as a thousand outhouses discharging their effluent into the River Camu and the Canal of Cane. The people of Monte Llano and Sabaneta de Cangrejos throw their garbage and waste into the depressions of mostly dry stream beds. Then, when it rains, all that garbage and filth is washed into the rivers and then into the sea.

It is then a health hazard to enter the water. It becomes both dirty and toxic.

They say that a treatment plant will eventually be constructed at Monte Llano. Even after that, the problem for the beach will be unsolved, because there are many outhouses downstream from the proposed site of treatment.

## **NO BEACH**

The beach, that is, the sandy beach that attracts tourists, is very narrow at Los Cocos. There is no place for plastic lounge chairs. There may be 10 to 15 feet of sand at low tide, but almost nothing at high tide. In many places there is dune erosion and no beach at all.

## **SUMMARY – PROBLEMS WITH THE BEACH**

The ocean here is cold, dangerous from waves and rocks, and often contaminated.

Tourists want a gentle sea, not garbage and big waves.

When Playa Dorada with its perfect beach can't attract enough tourism to be profitable,(11) how could anyone think about building another resort, virtually next door, on a beach that is nothing but an insurance liability?

(11) In November 2001, mid day, beautiful day, beginning of the tourist season, there were less than 200 people on the Playa Dorado beach, which stretches for about a half mile and can accommodate thousands. The resort complex itself appeared to have an occupancy rate of perhaps 5%.

## **LAST BEACH FOR DOMINICANS – RITUAL OF HOLY WEEK TO BE LOST**

This is the last beach left that Dominicans can use.

Isn't this their country? Shouldn't they retain the rights to at least one beach?



All the rest of the beaches on the North Central coast have been sold to foreigners for tourist development. Dominicans are barred from using them.

The Constitution says that the Dominican land shall not be given over to foreign sovereignty. (12) But that is exactly what has happened to all the beaches in this region. This is the last beach. And, ironically, that is the reason the government bank gives for offering it for sale. It expects to make a lot of money, because it is the last beach.

But what will be lost is more than just an important natural area and the last beach for Dominicans to use.

Every spring, at Holy week, that is, the week before Easter, this beach is the site of an important, socially crucial, Dominican ritual. It is the site of a great week long gathering and celebration for all the Dominicans of the North Central coast.

This ritual is pre-Columbian in origin. Families, especially young people, from all over flock to the sea. It is the time for young people to congregate and meet. Romance happens; many marriages begin. It is the equivalent of European Beltane, of Midsummer Night in the north. It is a religious ritual of pre-Columbian times that has survived to this day, because it still functions and it is still needed.

The families here are huge. As noted earlier, the Pérez – Brito family, for example, comprises over 2,000 people out of the 3,000 who live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. Cousins do not marry. The population is not mobile. People live where the family has lived “since forever”. There is no transportation, no jobs, no reason to go anywhere nor means to do so. How are eligible young people to meet?

Holy week at the beach provides this opportunity. This type of gathering is part of almost every known indigenous culture on the planet. It is an integral part of the survival of the race. It is a cultural inheritance and a still current social necessity.

We believe the Dominicans have a constitutional right to this ritual. (13)

If this beach is sold to foreigners and developed for foreigners, this important ritual and element of life for Dominicans will be lost completely.

(12) Constitución de la Republica Dominicana, Titulo I, Seccion I, Art. 3.

(13) Constitución de la Republica Dominicana, Titulo II, Seccion I, Art. 8, Num. 8.



## **OTHER PROBLEMS**

A brief outline of some of the other serious problems that stand against any regular tourist development of this parcel :

### **AIRPORT**

Large international airliners bring in tourists from Europe and the United States to the Puerto Plata airport. Their "pattern of approach" takes them right over Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. They regularly fly over at 500 to 300 feet as they descend to the runway just across the River Camu.

The sound is immense. It is not possible to talk when they fly over. It is loud enough to be very disturbing, not the tranquility that a tourist is paying for. The crash possibility adds another risk that will up the insurance for any regular type tourist development here.

### **ECOLOGICAL ZONES**

It is illegal to cut mangrove. And to disturb the Carey, the endangered sea turtle that is returning to nest at the Los Cocos beach. However with bribes all permissions are given, and no enforcement is made.

There is no protection for the wetlands, the dune ecology, nor the Indigenous people.

It may be possible, with an outside lawyer and money, to challenge permits to cut, fill, displace, etc.; but this is a country where people are known to be willing to come in at night and cut illegally, with impunity. It is the physical presence of the Los Cocos community that has helped preserve the Natural Area from much of this type of outside plundering.

### **THE IMMENSE COSTS OF RELOCALIZATION**

It is hard for Americans to imagine that a government would plan to move a community of 3,000 people for no good reason except to take money for the selling their land. Usually this type of displacement is reserved for projects such as dams, that will benefit the larger population of the country. Yet another overbuilt tourist development does not benefit the general population, as virtually all the money earned goes to the overseas owners. (See also "No earnings for Dominicans", below.)

In this case an entire long established village of 3,000 or more people is expected to be happy about being annihilated for a few more holes of a golf course.



The people in the Capital don't think much about those who live outside it. The people at the bank think all the inhabitants of Boca Nueva live in tin shacks and will be happy and grateful to move to a nice big town and live in cement shacks.

If we establish nothing else with this proposal, it will be to draw notice to the true facts, which are that most of the houses of Boca Nueva are well built, well finished, completely modern houses of many rooms. Exteriors are beautifully finished with porches, curved bays, shuttered windows, etc.

Each of this type house costs \$10,000 in materials alone to build. With 500 houses of this quality, the materials bill alone will be \$5,000,000

In addition, residents are adamant that the law requires replacement of all fruit trees. There are approximately 10,000 fruit and nut trees in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, all owned and used for family sustenance. It would be a physical impossibility to replace even a tiny fraction of these. Nor does the government expect to, because their cement shacks come with no yard, no trees, no garden space to grow food for the family. Nothing.

Nothing but bills, that is. For in Boca Nueva - Los Cocos there is no charge for electricity nor water. According to residents, this is by agreement with a soda pop bottler up river who uses some of the water, generates electricity, and pays for the privilege by sharing excess. Electricity is not available all the time, but when it is, it's free. Where they would be forced to move, both electricity and water cost. It's still intermittent, but would no longer be free.

This presents a problem for residents (see below, Social Costs of Relocalization).

For the government to adequately compensate the dislocated according to law, the following costs would apply:

Land 500 areas minimum @ 9,000 per tarea	= 4,500,000
Houses, material only 500 @ 10,000	= 5,000,000
Labour @ 5,000	= 2,500,000
Houses, lesser quality 500 @ 5,000	= 2,500,000
Labour @ 3,000	= 1,500,000
Trees 10,000 @ 100 each	= 1,000,000
Moving expenses 1,000 households	
truck rental & drivers @ 100 each	= 100,000

**TOTAL HARD COST TO THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE THIS COMMUNITY:**

**17,000,000**



**SOCIAL COSTS OF RELOCALIZATION**

The destruction of a long established community. The destruction of the extended family system of proximal living. It is a system that supports it young people to develop responsibility for the group. When this system is destroyed the result is high rates of juvenile delinquency.

Also, this village has drawn to it many people of poor capacity to exist in the modern world. Their intelligence is very low, their abilities are limited. In Boca Nueva – Los Cocos they are accepted as part of the community and looked after. They could not function without this and would end up on the streets of any town they might be moved to. They would then become destitute, and a visible **burden to the state.**

**CONTAMINATION OF THE CANAL WHICH RUNS THROUGH THIS LAND**

This is a serious health hazard. Mosquitoes breed by the billions every season after the sugar mill dumps its cleaning acid in the river.

**THERE ARE NO TOURISTS!**

Tourism to this area had been decreasing even before the events of Sept 11. Now it is almost nonexistent. Who would spend the immense amount of money to buy the land and develop it, when there are no tourists for the resorts that already exist nearby, and in better locations?

**NO GAIN FOR THE DOMINICANS**

Tourism does not benefit the locals. Even for those who are employed in the industry. The reality is many who work are rarely or never paid, or are paid wages so low no one could survive.

**EROSION**

Much of this beach is eroding fairly rapidly. Clearing of the dunes for tourism would result is the land being eaten by the sea in a surprisingly few years.



# **OUR NEW INDUSTRIES -**

## **CAPABLE OF FINANCING THE LAND PURCHASE**

THREE BUSINESS ALREADY ARE SELLING NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED  
IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

I) EXPORT PRODUCTS

“BEJUCOS” (MEDICINAL ROOTS) and HERBAL TINCTURES  
“ORGANIC” SILK  
NATURAL DYES  
NYAME – TRUE YAM

II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

FOODSTUFFS  
SILK SHAMPOO  
OYSTERS

III) WORKFORCE:

RESIDENTS CAN BUY THEIR HOUSE LOTS AND GARDEN  
PLOTS BESIDES, WITH LABOUR

IV) DONATIONS

OF MONEY AND EXPERTISE  
FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

We are asking a date of March 22, 2002, to personally present this proposal to the Director and board of DEFINPRO, the branch of the Banco Central, the government bank, that controls this land and has it up for sale.

By then we expect to prepare a “pro-forma” business plan, with a budget for operations, details of marketing and lots of charts.



## SUMMARY of potential earnings

in dollars US

### EXPORT PRODUCTS:

#### MEDICINAL TINCTURES

\$20,000,000 annually

Estimate of 10 years to reach this level.

Product development and marketing have already begun.

#### SILK, ORGANIC, "PEACE" SILK: cocoons, secondary products and contract sale of mulberry leaves

\$2,000,000 annually

Estimate 7 years to reach this level.

We already have cocoons being produced and marketed.

With the investment of Japanese or Italian silk yarn spinners the value of the silk we could produce could be ten times this estimate.

#### NATURAL DYES – MADDER

\$100,000 annually

First production comes after three years.

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level.

We have first plants growing, enough to seed a good production.

All we need to begin is permission to use the land.

Note: with marketing for medicinal use, value increases greatly.

#### NATURAL DYES – LOGWOOD

value equal to \$250,000 annually

20 year rotation.

The trees we plant now will be worth \$5,000,000 in 20 years

Marketing of Logwood has already begun, using ecologically harvested trees purchased from private farms in the nearby hills.

#### NYAME – TRUE YAM

\$2,000,000 annually

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level



## LOCAL SALES:

## OYSTERS

Local market, potential is large. No estimate at this time.

We could begin immediately, using land unsuitable for other purposes, with permission of the bank.

An initial investment of about \$10,000 is being sought.

FOOD FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION \$50,000 annually

We can begin this immediately, with permission to use the land.

ECOTOURS \$200,000 annually

We can begin this immediately.

We can begin earning a return before the end of this year, 2002.

With permission from the bank for five "bohios" (traditional houses), and a permission to use currently unused land, initial cost would be \$10,000.

Without permission, initial cost would be 30,000 (rights to houses and land use are regulated by the bank. Without permission we would have to be bought from those who currently hold these rights.)

CAPITAL EQUIVALENT OF LABOUR \$36,000,000 (in total)

The value of the labour that will be "donated" by residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos in exchange for secure rights to their house lots, and garden plots in addition.

Estimate is based on current land values in the area.

THESE FIGURES, while estimates, SHOW THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE:

\$24,555,000 US each year

And since our estimates use only about a tenth of the farmland, there is plenty of room for expansion, of production and of other products.



## THREE BUSINESSES ALREADY SELL NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

**aurorasilk.com** is selling the organically produced “Peace” silk that we have been producing in Boca Nueva since spring of 2001. Current sales are of raw cocoons, degummed cocoons, and shampoo conditioner with sericin (silk gum, “hydrolyzed” silk protein). Therapeutic wrist warmers have been developed and marketing has begun for a whole line of therapeutic warmers.

Aurora Silk has been in business for 32 years, selling silk internationally since 1969. Besides silk yarn in 120 Naturally dyed colours, Aurora Silk also sells all the Natural Dyes of commerce, and has been selling Logwood from the Boca Nueva area since 1999. Sales are by contract, mail order and over the Internet. Logwood is also used to dye over 30 of the 120 standard Naturally dyed Aurora Silk colours.

Cheryl Kolander, founder and operator of Aurora Silk is a world class expert on silk and Natural dyes. She is a professional Master Natural Dyer of 32 years experience, and is probably the senior Natural Dyer in the world today. She has written several books including the definitive “A SILKWORKER’S NOTEBOOK”, (1979, 1985, 2001), now in its third edition.

She has given classes and workshops for 25 years and done consulting internationally. Next scheduled class is a two day workshop on Logwood at the Jardin Botanica Nacional in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in March 2002. The Botanical Garden will be devoting the entire month to promoting this tree, which is naturalized and common on the island.

**mamadoc.org** is a federally registered 501(c)3 non profit organization. Founded in 1987 and incorporated soon after, the focus is Natural Health.

In Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, we have been working with underserved children since 1998. We have brought donated school supplies and art materials, as well as the long pants and shoes they need to attend the available half-day elementary school.

As a trained classical homeopath, Cheryl Kolander has brought homeopathics and botanicals which are distributed appropriately and free of charge to all, along with simple consulting. The change over these three years, especially in the mental health of the community, has been astounding and immensely rewarding.

We have built a library and stocked it with donated books. There were no books in the community before. The nearest library is thirty miles away and does not



lend books. Now there are beautiful, exciting and mind opening books available to borrow. They inspire the children to do well in school. And some of the illiterate adults are also now to learning to read.

We are building a clinic and office in Boca Nueva, to continue to improve the health of the community. The office will be accessible for the Foundation to use. The computer it will house will also be used to complete the forthcoming book: "THE TRADITIONAL LIFE OF QUESQUEYA / LA VIDA TRADICIONAL DE QUESQUEYA". This is a picture book of the life at Los Cocos, and the major medicinal discoveries we have made, as well as an ethnographic documentation of the Indigenous family Pérez-Brito of Los Cocos – Boca Nueva.

"MAMA D.O.C." INC is interested in developing all types of new therapeutic, natural products. The therapeutic warmers of Peace silk are one example, as well as the pure silk shampoo conditioner. The use of Natural dyes on a consumer/commercial scale would greatly help the health of the entire planet. (As chemical dyes are a major pollution.) Products that prove themselves can immediately transfer over to for-profit enterprises.

The Logwood processing, initiated by "MAMA D.O.C.", has become a for-profit operation after two years. The Peace silk project has just moved into for-profit status. Both have been taken over by Aurora Silk.

The exploration of local, indigenous medicinal herbs has been a top priority. Documenting native uses, and encouraging continued use locally, was a start. Now we are ready to promote some of these amazing plants to the world market. The following business has been founded to take over marketing of some of the products developed for the herbal supplement market.

**atlasstrength.com** is a new business, selling tinctures of the Bejucos, or medicinal roots, of the Dominican Republic.

These tinctures are being marketed as tonics, and to help bodybuilders create lean muscle mass without the need to use synthetic steroids.

These tinctures are being made with Dominican rum: Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is local rum; the sugarcane fields surround Boca Nueva. These fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized, so this rum is de-facto organic. It is also some of the finest tasting rum on the planet.

Sales are over the Internet.



## I) BEJUCOS and MEDICINAL TINCTURES

There is a world treasure trove of medicinal roots native to this area. Some are endemic to this island, and are known only to natives. Others are well known from other islands of the Caribbean or from Central or South America.

There is a great deal of interest internationally in new botanicals with potentially valuable medicinal properties.

Many of these roots are locally well known and personally proven true aphrodisiacs.(1) The market for true aphrodisiacs is potentially huge.

The most important of our finds are:

gingers, especially the local bitter ginger  
bejuco de Costillo  
bejuco de Indio  
bejuco de Chin  
bejuco caro  
timacle  
marabeli  
pega palo  
caudillo de tres pies  
rabo de soro  
copei  
sages of all types  
basils of all types  
limoncillo  
yerba buena  
osua  
cinnamon  
canelila

In addition we are able to plant and produce tropical and subtropical herbs for well developed markets in the United States and Europe. The following have been noted, through our market research, to be in short supply, with a well developed demand:

neem  
kava

(1) "ENDOCRINE ENHANCERS, the True Aphrodisiacs of Quesqueya", Cheryl Kolander, 2000. (copy attached)



## MEDICINAL TINCTURES

The market for natural medicines has grown phenomenally in the last fifteen years. In the United States, it generates multi-billion dollars of business.

The medicinal roots produced on the island of Hispanola are considered superior in the botanical literature.

We can sell crude roots, dried. And we can grow other plants that are in demand by natural pharmacies.

The greatest value can be realized from these medicinal plants if we make and market our own tinctures. The tinctures being marketed by atlasstrength.com are made with Dominican rum, Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is made at a local factory, from molasses produced by local sugarcane. The fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized. We are having the rum analyzed for purity. This rum has received many international prizes for its quality. It is considered one of the finest rums on the planet. Its flavor is excellent and its cost is low.

Effective tinctures made from rare herbs like these sell in the United States for up to \$20 per ounce. At wholesale that gives a value of \$10 per ounce.

One kilo of roots produces 120 liquid ounces of extremely strong tincture. Subtracting the cost of bottles and rum, each kilo of these rare Bejucos can net \$1,000 when processed into tinctures.

We estimate that each tarea (1/6 acre) can produce 1,000 kilo of Bejucos each five (5) years. That is, \$1,000,000 every five years. If we plant 100 tareas, each year we can harvest 20 tareas of roots, producing 20,000 kilo, each year. Thus, after the first five years, we can expect to produce, in value:

**\$20,000,000 US annually**

**With this business alone, we could pay for the land.**



## ORGANIC, “PEACE” SILK

Silk is the standard of luxury fiber for the world. It has never gone down in value.

There is no one producing certified “Organically Grown” silk. The growing market for high quality textiles with the “Certified Organically Grown” label has no source for this quality silk.

We have already begun producing the first of our cocoons. We can obtain “Organic” certification without a problem, as we never use poisons nor chemicals in our raisings.

Many people also are concerned about “ethical” practices in consumer goods production. This market is also growing rapidly. There is a willingness to pay for quality goods produced in an ethical manner. Killing of animals in the production of consumer products is no longer considered ethical.

Our silk is all “Peace” silk.(2) Our silkworms are not killed. With all other commercially produced silk, the silkworm is killed just as it is transforming into a moth. Only a tiny few are not killed, but allowed to emerge from the cocoon and lay the eggs for the next generation. This silk is processed along with other “waste”, and is not marketed separately.

All of our silkworms get to complete their natural life cycle. They all get to transform into moths, emerge, mate, lay eggs and die happy.

This is a quality of cultivated silk that does not otherwise exist. We have an exclusive product, that is in demand, and there are no other producers. Nor are there likely to be, for all the mechanization that has transformed the silk industry is geared to processing “stifled” (dead) cocoons.

Our test raisings have proven that the climate, soil and air of this region, of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, produces excellent silk.

Our cocoons produced here are larger than the best “Peace” silk cocoons produced in the United States by hobby raisers. They contain 25% more silk. And the silkworms raised here, on the diet of rich mulberry leaves, begin to spin their cocoons in a record 23 days from hatching.

Mulberry grows at an astounding rate in this climate. Trees from seed typically reach three meters (15 feet) in one year. Growth is year round.

(2) “Peace Silk”, excerpted from “A Silkworker’s Notebook” by Cheryl Kolander, 2001.



Cocoons can be raised year round, with only a short break in August, the hottest month.

We have developed a design for raising tables that allows us to protect the growing silkworms from ants, cockroaches and other predators, without the need to use chemicals. With each table, anyone can raise 2,000 silkworms at a time. Dedication, but no special skill is needed. Silkworm raising used to be done by every family farm from Japan through China to Southern Europe. It has always been a reliable cash crop.

With 56 two year old mulberry trees we have produced 3,000 cocoons in 2001. These trees occupy less than one tarea of land. Next year, we intend to produce 10,000 cocoons with these, now three year old trees.

Planting 10 tareas of mulberry, and constructing 10 tables, in three years we can begin producing 1,000,000 cocoons annually. Planting 100 tareas could increase production enough to interest an investment in mechanical spinning equipment, to product spun silk thread for the consumer market. This is our ultimate goal.

With mechanical spinning equipment, we could farm out silk production all over the island. We are prepared to teach production methods to all who wish to learn, buy cocoons from whoever cares to produce them, and sell the processed yarn or finished goods on the world market.

This has the potential to be an income producing industry for the entire island.

## **SECONDARY PRODUCTS**

### **SILK SHAMPOO**

To turn cocoons into soft thread, it is necessary to “degum” the silk. We degum our cocoons with pure glycerin soap manufactured in the Dominican Republic.

The resulting solution of “sericin”, soap and pure water is a superior product for hair care. The same silk “gum”, or sericin protein that protects the soft silk fibre, soaks into hair and protects it. It strengthens the hair strand, preventing damage from breaking. It cements broken, split ends, allowing hair to grow longer.

Sericin has been investigated by the Japanese, and scientific studies show that it protects from Ultra Violet radiation. It functions as sun screen for the hair, preventing damage. It protects from damage by chlorine of swimming pools and salt of ocean water as well.



Our pure sericin silk shampoo conditioner has proved to add body to thin, blonde hair. It softens and makes more manageable thick, dark and kinky hair.

This type of sericin is added to many commercial shampoo conditioners, and a big deal is made for it, but in these products, it is only a tiny part. Our product is pure, from Organically raised "Peace" silk, and thus is unique and superior.

We have the option of selling the solution to manufacturers already marketing blends. Or we can bottle, label and market our own pure product.

It is currently our plan to market our own brand locally, in the Dominican Republic. And we are contacting American firms already using sericin in their products, to contract sales with them for the American market.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF SILK AND SERICIN FROM 100 TAREAS OF  
MULBERRY TREES

**\$1,000,000 annually**

## **MULBERRY LEAVES**

The Silk Institute of Japan is looking worldwide for farms to raise mulberry leaves. The esteemed Mr. Yutaka Kitamaru has visited Aurora Silk in the United States, to ask for assistance in this project of theirs.

They wish to harvest mulberry leaves mechanically, to dry and process them into packaged feed for silkworms. This would allow silkworms to be raised year round in locations that are not blessed with the year round growing season of the island of Hispanola.

In Japan, many people would like to raise silkworms, but do not have the land for the mulberry trees. In the United States many schools wish to raise silkworms as a science teaching tool, but are prevented because the season to raise them, on fresh mulberry, is in the summer when the schools are closed.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF MULBERRY LEAVES RAISED ON CONTRACT WITH  
THE JAPANESE

**\$1,000,000 annually**



## NATURAL DYES

### MADDER

Madder is a root crop. The roots contain the most permanent red dye known.

This dye is also a medicine of great importance, since it can dissolve kidney stones.(3)

Currently quality supplies of this root are limited. That which is available for dye use is of inferior quality. As a dye it gives orange, but not a good red. As medicine it is useless as the growing conditions are unknown and its taste is unpalatable. Thus it cannot be used internally.

Organically raised madder has a delicious and sweet taste, and can be taken as tea, tincture or powdered, in capsules or pills. Madder tincture is currently being made from small harvests out of Morocco. The inferior dye quality is raised in India. Prior to ten years ago, excellent madder was raised in the Kandahar valley of Afghanistan; with the war destruction, mines in all the fields, it is unlikely production there will resume for decades.

We are currently raising several plants. Three years are required to produce good roots. At the end of three years, each plant is expected to produce 10 pounds of roots, dried. With the roots we have we can produce starts for at least 100 plants next year, and double the number of plants each year, while still harvesting enough to begin to market.

\$5 a pound is the current price for the inferior dye root. We estimate a production of 2,000 pounds per tarea every three years. With 30 tareas planted this would give an annual harvest of 20,000 pounds.

The market for the root is expected to increase as its medicinal value become more widely known. Madder root tincture is currently being marketed by only one of the several main tincture producers in the United States. (4) As more studies are published proving its efficacy, this market will grow.

We will be asking the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, to conduct such a study.

MADDER ROOT . 30 TAREAS

\$100,000 annually

(3) THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NATURAL MEDICINE

(4) HERBPHARM, Williams, Oregon



## LOGWOOD – PALO DE CAMPECHE

The heartwood of this naturalized, weed tree is the source of a beautiful and inexpensive purple dye, and of the finest black. This dye is used commercially to dye black suturing silk for internal operations. Production of the first Naturally Dyed commercial silk fabric will begin with this dye in 2002.

We have been ethically harvesting and preparing dyewood from Dominican Logwood for three years. The market is growing, and with the introduction of Commercially dyed Logwood colors in 2002, the market could boom.

While an abundant weed tree now, a major world demand could deplete the island in the 20 years it takes to regrow. We have already started replanting efforts. We will expand the effort, to take advantage of the land available in this offer. The plan is to plant Logwood as a living fence – hedgerow between the privatized small garden-farms that will be offered to those households participating in the Foundation Farm.(5) Thus it takes up no specific space of its own.

Logwood trees will also be used as nurse trees for the many types of medicinal vines, the Bejucos and Nyames we intend to grow. (6)

It is estimated that each tree, in 20 years produces 100 pounds of heartwood. After processing, heartwood shavings are worth \$5 a pound, f.o.b. That is what we are paying now. Each tree thus produces \$500. With 10,000 trees planted in the divisions of the gardens, the final value in 20 years will be:

**\$5,000,000 in 20 years**

Pro-rated, that is equivalent to

**\$250,000 annually**

(5) see The Foundation Farm, section IV, following.

(6) see Bejucos, above; Nyame, following.



## NYAME

Nyame is the true yam. Not to be confused with any variety of sweet potato. It is a root crop, with many varieties in the Dominican Republic. At least one species is indigenous to this island, while others have been brought from Africa.

It is the one salvation to those suffering from the debilitating genetic disease called Sickle cell anemia. This is a condition sadly common in the African-American population of the United States. There is no commercial source for this food in the United States at this time. (We are unaware of any source at all, but presume there may be some grown locally in the rural south.)

It is also superior food for invalids and infants. The genus *Dioscorea*, or true or "wild" yam is known to contain hormone enhancers that energize the body beyond the food value of its vitamin, mineral and protein rich starch.

Developed with national marketing, the potential market for this product is huge.

There is no competition.

While eventually it would be best to construct a small processing plant on site, we can begin by using existing Dominican processors.

Nyame grows as a vine, with its huge and prolific roots nestled at the base of a supporting tree. Our plan is to grow Nyame with each Logwood tree. (7)

**NYAME, processed, estimate**

**\$2,000,000 annually**

(7) see Logwood, above.

## OTHER PRODUCTS

There is plenty of land for the Foundation Farm.

Other products that can be grown profitably include:

PERFUMES – especially "Mesote", a local Gardenia.

THERAPEUTIC WARMERS knit from our "PEACE" silk

ART TEXTILES and FINE CLOTHING from our "PEACE" silk and local Dominican Sea Island cotton

OTHER NATURAL DYES – Indigo, Weld, Cochineal



## **II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**

### **FOOD! ALL THE LOCALLY CONSUMED PRODUCE**

#### Roots:

yuca (sweet manioc); nyame; carrots; potatoes; sweet potatoes; taro; etc.

#### Fruits:

bananas; avocado; grapefruit; pomegranates; passion fruit; papaya; oranges, both bitter and sweet; lemon; tangerine; mango; etc.

#### Legumes:

beans of all types; guandules (black eyed peas); etc.

#### Starches:

plantain; breadfruit; corn; etc.

We can sell produce in all the nearby towns and the city of Puerto Plata. As the population continues to increase, while farmland is eaten by housing, more and more people must buy their food.

Our Foundation farm will be large enough to produce a significant amount of the increase needed to feed this increasing number of people.

## **OYSTERS**

The Canal of Cane used to be an immense oyster bed. But all the oysters have been killed. The sugarcane factory cleans its equipment with hydrochloric acid and dumps it into the canal. Each year, for three to four months during the harvest, the canal is a dead zone. Only mosquitoes thrive.

We are proposing to build an artificial lagoon a distance from the canal. There we could grow oysters without fear of contamination. An investment of \$10,000 is needed for this; we could begin immediately since the site for this is currently unused.

Oysters can be sold locally and to restaurants catering to tourists.

There is no other local production of oysters, but they are in high demand at the restaurants. Oysters would also be a great addition to the protein needs of the residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos.



### **(III) ECO-TOURISM**

Tourism is a severe problem for this part of the coast. Example: this village and the land which could support it, as well as the last natural area and beach accessible to Dominicans, is up for sale by the government bank that controls it – for tourism.

The Dominicans lose everything. What does tourism give in return? Nothing. No money goes to the local people. Even those that get the few jobs generated are typically NOT PAID! (see Part I, section “Problems: No Returns for Dominicans”) There are no property taxes, so once the land is bought no more money goes into Dominican coffers. Almost all tourism to the resorts is by package “all inclusive” deals. The money is collected overseas and stays overseas. No money is generated nor spent on improving the infrastructure of modern life for Dominicans. Nothing has been generated, nor has there been any improvement for health, sanitation, transportation, or education for the Dominicans of this region. Yet they must give up all access to all their beaches, see their natural environment destroyed, have their traditional communities demolished for foreigners. They get no paying jobs, and experience the price of everything rising. Plus the indignity of strangers walking through their lands, often naked, which is a great cultural affront, and not even wearing a smile, or giving a kind look or a greeting.

This type of tourism the Dominicans do not need.

What we are proposing is a different arrangement altogether. It is a type of tourism that is increasing, as opposed to the resort type, which is over built and decreasing. A high percentage of tourists now go to travel agents asking for this type of more interactive, more natural experience. Typically, housing is in the local native style, food is local, interaction with the host culture is informal and personal, and there is a specialty interest, such as wildlife or native flora.

Since locations that offer this type of extraordinary experience are rare, there is an expectation to pay premium prices. Since those looking for this type experience tend to be aware people, they want to be sure the money they are paying actually benefits the people with whom they are privileged to interact.

**The principles we will follow for our Eco-tourism:**

- Limited**
- High price**
- Appreciation of the Natural Area**
- Appreciation of the Indigenous culture.**



**Limited:** We are proposing to construct five traditional native “Bohios”, arranged in a group. The location will be near the Los Cocos traditional community, at its outer edge. One of the bohios would be permanently occupied by a local couple and their children. Their job, for which they will receive this housing in exchange, will be to provide security, assistance and close interaction for the guests in the other four bohios. Only eight guests will enter the community at each visiting cycle. Only one visiting cycle of eight days will occur each month.

**High price:** All stuff that has to be bought in this country costs as much as anywhere else in the world, and often much more. Local food is the only exception. It is our principle that the people of the Los Cocos community that provide services to guests be paid appropriately. The rent on the bohios goes to the land fund; the portion of the eight day cost that pertains to services goes directly to the people who provide it.

**Appreciation of the Natural Area:** We especially want guests who will add to the world appreciation of the unusual plants and animals of this location.

**Appreciation of the Indigenous culture:** A sensitivity to other cultures will be rewarded by an open inclusion into the huge extended family of the Pérez-Brito.

Accommodations are in traditional “Bohio” cottages. These are constructed of a framework of wood, natural hewn for the most. The roof is palm thatch. The walls are covered with Yagua, which are like wide, thick leaves. The floor is sand. The bed is built on a platform of wood. There will be open air bathing cabanas with walls of Yagua, and a well maintained out house for the exclusive use of guests.

Services include:

- meals, cooked in typical Dominican style, of local foods. Modesta Brito of Los Cocos is a world class chef, who cooked for the best tourist restaurants before she had children.
- the companion family, for security and errands.
- a personal companion for the beach. This is very important, because the waters are treacherous. (see Problems: the beach)
- ecology guide, who knows all the local flora and fauna, especially the medicinal plants.
- music fiesta: local live acoustic merengue by “Los Muchachos” of Los Cocos.
- personalization of the visit. “Request Day” could include a shopping trip to Puerto Plata; a long but leisurely walk through cattle lands to the River Camu; a day digging and preparing medicinal roots; an art project day with the kids; learning about silk raising and preparation; a Natural dye mini workshop led by Master Natural dyer Cheryl Kolander.



The eight day cost will be \$2,000 per person, of which half goes to the land fund and half goes directly into the community of service providers.

Total revenue per year from Eco-tourism: **\$200,000 annually**

Other weeks, when the cottages are not open to tourists, they can be open for groups of students. Young people from the capital can visit and learn about their heritage and the nature of their island. Young people from other countries and cultures can visit and share with the young people here. Also, teachers and educators who have skills to teach in the community, can stay during the off weeks.

The costs of materials to construct the group of five Bohios, two bath houses, a traditional kitchen, two out houses and to bring in running water is expected to be \$16,000.

Since each week of use is expected to bring in \$8,000 to the land fund, the cost of construction would be paid for with the first two weeks of occupancy.

**This part of the proposal can begin immediately.**

**We could be earning this money by the end of 2002.**



## **IV) SECURE TITLE TO THE INHABITANTS FOR THEIR HOUSE LOTS, AND GARDEN PLOTS BESIDES**

### **SECURE TITLE = WORKERS**

The inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos have all paid for the rights to their houses. The houses are all registered with the government bank.

What they don't have is right to the land on which the houses are built.

Assumedly, the original intension of this arrangement was to preserve the land for its inhabitants. The tendency for poor people to sell their land when times are hard is well known. Collective or government ownership prevents this and can be an important tool in cultural preservation.

Sadly, the bank seems to see its current role differently. Ignoring the rights of the inhabitants, it seeks to sell all the land for money to fill the general coffers, which money will be spent to built bigger roads and bridges in the capital. The people in the capital have no interest in the welfare of the rural poor; a tradition of neglect spanning the entire 500 year history of the country. (14)

Boca Nueva has been a village for 100 years. The Los Cocos Indigenous community has lived here "since forever" (see Part I: The Family Pérez-Brito). They say there is a land use law that grants title after 10 years of residency. However, if this law is a reality it is being ignored.

Boca Nueva is a large village. It is estimated there are 1,000 houses and 3,000 people. Probably more, counting unregistered children. The population is mixed, including some Dominican families with an employed breadwinner, others where all are unemployed. Most of the people are of the Pérez-Brito family, by blood or marriage. There is also a large population of Haitians, who were brought in as ultra-cheap labour for the cane fields. They tend to stay, rather than go back to Haiti, and as illegal immigrants without work are the poorest of the poor.

More than half the houses are very well constructed, multi-room dwellings. They have modern kitchens with running water, refrigerators and gas stoves. They have modern bathrooms with running water, showers and toilets. The walls are cement block, the floors are polished cement and the roofs are painted galvanized sheet metal.



The other portion of the houses of Boca Nueva are either like this but unfinished, or they are poorly constructed temporary structures of tin over a wood frame. The bank seems to believe that all the houses of Boca Nueva are tin shacks. It is their plan to construct many small cement block cubicles on the outskirts of the nearby town, Monte Llano. Because they are so unaware of the true quality of housing that currently exists in Boca Nueva, they are sure that all the inhabitants will happily "trade up". Part of the effort of this proposal is to make sure the bank is aware that better quality housing exists here, and that the inhabitants are well aware that to move them the bank must provide equal or better than what it takes from them.

It can never replace their community.

Because of this, the Pérez-Brito family is willing to work for their right to remain in this, their community, their customary land.

Los Cocos is a jewel, a showplace of traditional natural living. The houses are traditionally constructed pre-Columbian style "Bohios". All made from renewable native materials. They are a wonder and a marvel of ecological construction. They are the physical foundation of the remnant traditional lifestyle of those of the Pérez-Brito family who wish to continue and preserve the nature based life of this remnant indigenous culture.

In the Anthropology museum in the capital there is a full size bohio on the third floor. It is not as authentic as these are, being constructed of mill sawn lumber rather than the rough, hand hewn poles actually used by natives. This community is a living museum of the country's culture. The bank should stipend people to live here and share it with the world, rather than try to destroy the community and annihilate the remains of this native culture.

To preserve this remnant culture, and the remnant natural area that surrounds it, is the purpose behind this proposal.

Simple put, the intension is to create a large farm on the land that is included in the sale package.

This farm will produce products carefully chosen to command high prices on the world market. Products will be marketed in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Some of the inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos will work on this farm. They will receive permanent rights to their house lots in exchange for their labour.



This is based on the same principles used in the “Habitat for Humanity” program that has proved so successful world wide.

It is estimated there are 1,000 houses in question. Most have a surfeit of strong and eager young men with nothing to do. They know how to work, but there is no work for them. The Foundation farm will create work that is healthy and teach skills that are useful.

Most adult men are also unemployed. Or are working jobs that rarely pay.

The women also have potential skills useful to produce saleable products from the raw materials of the farm. Right now many women have what amount to micro-businesses, doing laundry, making sweets, fixing hair. They are enterprising and eager.

Of all these people, we calculate that only one person per household will need to contribute four hours a day, four days a week, fifty weeks a year for five years to pay for the average small house lot. On a world scale, that’s cheap. On a local scale, there is nothing else to do, so why not? (8)

In addition, there is enough good farm land in the sale package to plan out small garden plots for each household or person who wishes. The plan is to contract for these immediately so that anyone working the Foundation farm a half day can also start a family food garden.

While the Foundation farm work will not pay cash, there will be benefits to joining the program. All the “MAMA D.O.C.” benefits already extended, such as the free lending library of books, the free natural health services, the free donated school and art supplies, the free donated shoes and children’s clothing, all gifts of generous and kind donors in the United States, will be expanded. This mitigates the need to earn cash money now.

A revolving micro-credit association can help the women expand their home based micro-businesses. As soon as we can start the limited Eco-tourism proposed above, a fair amount of cash money will be infused into this local economy. Through the women’s micro-businesses, that money will circulate and extend out to the entire village.

(8) PETITION – ADVISORY of 11-11-2001. 24 representative households of the Family Pérez-Brito that live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos signed the first sheet of this petition stating (in Spanish): “I live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. I prefer to remain in this location, to which I am accustomed. If necessary, I am prepared to work or to pay for my right to continue to live here.”



The value of labour that is accessible to the Foundation farm through exchange for lot rights is considerable.

We figure that each house lot averages two tarea. Current price for land in this area is equivalent to \$9,000 US per tarea. With 2,000 tarea devoted to the village, this gives a capital equivalent of

**\$18,000,000 US**

## **GARDEN PLOTS**

The same figures can be used to calculate the capital equivalent of labour that can be realized by creating privatized garden plots for each household.

Again, at the current land price of \$9,000 US per tarea, 2,000 tarea will generate the labour equivalent of

**\$18,000,000 US**

That gives a total labour pool of a value of **\$36,000,000 US**

Our business plan assumes that after the first five preparatory years, several of the new businesses will be generating significant sales.

While most profit will have to go to paying the land cost, as soon as possible some will be allocated to begin paying workers cash for their labour.



## V) DONATIONS

We are soliciting donations of both help and money.

There are many International organizations devoted to preserving rare and endangered nature. Sea urchins, sea turtles, medicine producing wooded ecologies, endangered peoples, the Kwaco (guaco), undiscovered species of invertebrates and vertebrates await help for protection.

Other organizations are interested in helping the poor and especially the poor indigenous of the world help themselves. This project is a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate what an indigenous population can do with a return of their land base and some international marketing.

There are organizations within the Dominican Republic that will be helpful. The Botanic Garden, the Catholic Church, the newly created Ministry of Ecology, the Anthropology Museum can all help with moral support and advice, documentation and the generation of popular support for the project.

Americans and Dominicans alike have universally expressed support for the ideas of this proposal, and think it is the best possible solution to the problem. The government wants money. This is a way to generate money, without displacing 3,000 people and destroying their community, the last remaining remnant Indigenous culture and the last natural area in the region.

Three years of remarkably successful preparatory work by "MAMA D.O.C.", Aurora Silk, and the people of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos show that all the projects of this proposal can be successful.

WE ARE ASKING THE CENTRAL BANK TO GIVE US THE DATE OF MARCH 22, 2002, TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL IN PERSON, AT THEIR OFFICES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

At that time we will present a list of the organizations we have contacted, who have offered to help.

Private donors are also being approached.

A list of funding levels is attached.



## ASSETS

DEVELOPED IN THE COMMUNITY OF BOCA NUEVA - LOS COCOS  
BY AURORA SILK and/or "MAMA D.O.C." INC.

AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE FUNDACIÓN INDÍGENA

	VALUE \$US
LIBRARY COTTAGE	2,000
BOOKS in public library	1,000
BOOKS in private library	1,000
CLINIC and OFFICE	10,000
KITCHEN, TRADITIONAL	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1/2 TAREA SOLAR includes cost to bring in water	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1 TAREA SOLAR	3,000
56 MULBERRY TREES, 2 years old	1,200
MADDER PLANTS	60
FRUIT TREES grapefruits, avocados, cherry, logwood bananas, plantains, etc.	1,000
SILKRAISING TABLE	200
TO DATE 1-1-2002	-----
TOTAL ASSETS IN THE Dominican Republic	\$25,460 US

We have just received confirmation that "MAMA D.O.C." INC has been awarded the donation of a

MASTER DRAW LOOM                      VALUED AT \$25,000 US

The donation is by the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA at DAVIS.

When installed in the Loom Room of the Clinic House, which we expect to happen this year, the value of assets in Boca Nueva - Los Cocos will be  
OVER \$50,000 US



## COMMUNITY ASSETS SPONSORED BY "MAMA D.O.C."

VALUE IN \$US

### FOOTBRIDGE

Designed and built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community. This bridges the polluted Cano de Cana and provides the only direct access to the village of Boca Nueva, where the rest of the family lives. It is the only inland access into the community.

materials cost	200
value of donated labour (includes many repairs)	1,000

### PATH

A raised path from the community of Los Cocos to the footbridge. This obviates the need for a half mile detour when it rains, when the pasture turns into wetlands.

Built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community.

materials cost	0
value of donated labour and equipment	1,000

### WATER

Previously all drinking water had to be hand carried from Boca Nueva. By slight women, toting 8 gallon jugs at a time. Carrying more than half their weight for about a mile, each and every day.

Now fresh mountain water comes into a tap located at the center of the community. This is a major improvement in everyone's life. As an amazing community project, the bringing of the water is now the subject of a merengue in the local traditional music.

Working all day, from before dawn at 6 AM, a trench was hand dug almost two miles. 1,200 lengths of pipe were buried. Breakfast was provided, and also lunch. At the end of the day the work was finished, the water tap was turned on. When the water appeared, the fiesta began!

materials cost (donated by Aurora Silk)	1,800
value of donated labour	5,000*

\* There is no way to put a monetary value on the sense of community spirit engendered by this cooperative effort.



# **OUR NEW INDUSTRIES -**

## **CAPABLE OF FINANCING THE LAND PURCHASE**

THREE BUSINESS ALREADY ARE SELLING NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

I) EXPORT PRODUCTS

“BEJUCOS” (MEDICINAL ROOTS) and HERBAL TINCTURES  
“ORGANIC” SILK  
NATURAL DYES  
NYAME – TRUE YAM

II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

FOODSTUFFS  
SILK SHAMPOO  
OYSTERS

III) WORKFORCE:

RESIDENTS CAN BUY THEIR HOUSE LOTS AND GARDEN PLOTS BESIDES, WITH LABOUR

IV) DONATIONS

OF MONEY AND EXPERTISE  
FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

We are asking a date of March 22, 2002, to personally present this proposal to the Director and board of DEFINPRO, the branch of the Banco Central, the government bank, that controls this land and has it up for sale.

By then we expect to prepare a “pro-forma” business plan, with a budget for operations, details of marketing and lots of charts.



## SUMMARY of potential earnings

in dollars US

### EXPORT PRODUCTS:

MEDICINAL TINCTURES \$20,000,000 annually

Estimate of 10 years to reach this level.

Product development and marketing have already begun.

SILK, ORGANIC, "PEACE" SILK: cocoons, secondary products and contract sale of mulberry leaves

\$2,000,000 annually

Estimate 7 years to reach this level.

We already have cocoons being produced and marketed.

With the investment of Japanese or Italian silk yarn spinners the value of the silk we could produce could be ten times this estimate.

NATURAL DYES – MADDER \$100,000 annually

First production comes after three years.

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level.

We have first plants growing, enough to seed a good production.

All we need to begin is permission to use the land.

Note: with marketing for medicinal use, value increases greatly.

NATURAL DYES – LOGWOOD

value equal to \$250,000 annually

20 year rotation.

The trees we plant now will be worth \$5,000,000 in 20 years

Marketing of Logwood has already begun, using ecologically harvested trees purchased from private farms in the nearby hills.

NYAME – TRUE YAM \$2,000,000 annually

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level



## LOCAL SALES:

## OYSTERS

Local market, potential is large. No estimate at this time.

We could begin immediately, using land unsuitable for other purposes, with permission of the bank.

An initial investment of about \$10,000 is being sought.

FOOD FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION \$50,000 annually

We can begin this immediately, with permission to use the land.

ECOTOURS \$200,000 annually

We can begin this immediately.

We can begin earning a return before the end of this year, 2002.

With permission from the bank for five "bohios" (traditional houses), and a permission to use currently unused land, initial cost would be \$10,000.

Without permission, initial cost would be 30,000 (rights to houses and land use are regulated by the bank. Without permission we would have to be bought from those who currently hold these rights.)

CAPITAL EQUIVALENT OF LABOUR \$36,000,000 (in total)

The value of the labour that will be "donated" by residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos in exchange for secure rights to their house lots, and garden plots in addition.

Estimate is based on current land values in the area.

THESE FIGURES, while estimates, SHOW THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE:

\$24,555,000 US each year

And since our estimates use only about a tenth of the farmland, there is plenty of room for expansion, of production and of other products.



## THREE BUSINESSES ALREADY SELL NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

**aurorasilk.com** is selling the organically produced “Peace” silk that we have been producing in Boca Nueva since spring of 2001. Current sales are of raw cocoons, degummed cocoons, and shampoo conditioner with sericin (silk gum, “hydrolized” silk protein). Therapeutic wrist warmers have been developed and marketing has begun for a whole line of therapeutic warmers.

Aurora Silk has been in business for 32 years, selling silk internationally since 1969. Besides silk yarn in 120 Naturally dyed colours, Aurora Silk also sells all the Natural Dyes of commerce, and has been selling Logwood from the Boca Nueva area since 1999. Sales are by contract, mail order and over the Internet. Logwood is also used to dye over 30 of the 120 standard Naturally dyed Aurora Silk colours.

Cheryl Kolander, founder and operator of Aurora Silk is a world class expert on silk and Natural dyes. She is a professional Master Natural Dyer of 32 years experience, and is probably the senior Natural Dyer in the world today. She has written several books including the definitive “A SILKWORKER’S NOTEBOOK”, (1979, 1985, 2001), now in its third edition.

She has given classes and workshops for 25 years and done consulting internationally. Next scheduled class is a two day workshop on Logwood at the Jardin Botanica Nacional in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in March 2002. The Botanical Garden will be devoting the entire month to promoting this tree, which is naturalized and common on the island.

**mamadoc.org** is a federally registered 501(c)3 non profit organization. Founded in 1987 and incorporated soon after, the focus is Natural Health.

In Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, we have been working with underserved children since 1998. We have brought donated school supplies and art materials, as well as the long pants and shoes they need to attend the available half-day elementary school.

As a trained classical homeopath, Cheryl Kolander has brought homeopathics and botanicals which are distributed appropriately and free of charge to all, along with simple consulting. The change over these three years, especially in the mental health of the community, has been astounding and immensely rewarding.

We have built a library and stocked it with donated books. There were no books in the community before. The nearest library is thirty miles away and does not



lend books. Now there are beautiful, exciting and mind opening books available to borrow. They inspire the children to do well in school. And some of the illiterate adults are also now to learning to read.

We are building a clinic and office in Boca Nueva, to continue to improve the health of the community. The office will be accessible for the Foundation to use. The computer it will house will also be used to complete the forthcoming book: "THE TRADITIONAL LIFE OF QUESQUEYA / LA VIDA TRADICIONAL DE QUESQUEYA". This is a picture book of the life at Los Cocos, and the major medicinal discoveries we have made, as well as an ethnographic documentation of the Indigenous family Pérez-Brito of Los Cocos – Boca Nueva.

"MAMA D.O.C." INC is interested in developing all types of new therapeutic, natural products. The therapeutic warmers of Peace silk are one example, as well as the pure silk shampoo conditioner. The use of Natural dyes on a consumer/commercial scale would greatly help the health of the entire planet. (As chemical dyes are a major pollution.) Products that prove themselves can immediately transfer over to for-profit enterprises.

The Logwood processing, initiated by "MAMA D.O.C.", has become a for-profit operation after two years. The Peace silk project has just moved into for-profit status. Both have been taken over by Aurora Silk.

The exploration of local, indigenous medicinal herbs has been a top priority. Documenting native uses, and encouraging continued use locally, was a start. Now we are ready to promote some of these amazing plants to the world market. The following business has been founded to take over marketing of some of the products developed for the herbal supplement market.

**atlasstrength.com** is a new business, selling tinctures of the Bejucos, or medicinal roots, of the Dominican Republic.

These tinctures are being marketed as tonics, and to help bodybuilders create lean muscle mass without the need to use synthetic steroids.

These tinctures are being made with Dominican rum: Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is local rum; the sugarcane fields surround Boca Nueva. These fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized, so this rum is de-facto organic. It is also some of the finest tasting rum on the planet.

Sales are over the Internet.



## I) BEJUCOS and MEDICINAL TINCTURES

There is a world treasure trove of medicinal roots native to this area. Some are endemic to this island, and are known only to natives. Others are well known from other islands of the Caribbean or from Central or South America.

There is a great deal of interest internationally in new botanicals with potentially valuable medicinal properties.

Many of these roots are locally well known and personally proven true aphrodisiacs.(1) The market for true aphrodisiacs is potentially huge.

The most important of our finds are:

gingers, especially the local bitter ginger  
bejuco de Costillo  
bejuco de Indio  
bejuco de Chin  
bejuco caro  
timacle  
marabeli  
pega palo  
caudillo de tres pies  
rabo de soro  
copei  
sages of all types  
basils of all types  
limoncillo  
yerba buena  
osua  
cinnamon  
canelila

In addition we are able to plant and produce tropical and subtropical herbs for well developed markets in the United States and Europe. The following have been noted, through our market research, to be in short supply, with a well developed demand:

neem  
kava

(1) "ENDOCRINE ENHANCERS, the True Aphrodisiacs of Quesqueya", Cheryl Kolander, 2000.  
(copy attached)



## MEDICINAL TINCTURES

The market for natural medicines has grown phenomenally in the last fifteen years. In the United States, it generates multi-billion dollars of business.

The medicinal roots produced on the island of Hispanola are considered superior in the botanical literature.

We can sell crude roots, dried. And we can grow other plants that are in demand by natural pharmacies.

The greatest value can be realized from these medicinal plants if we make and market our own tinctures. The tinctures being marketed by atlasstrength.com are made with Dominican rum, Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is made at a local factory, from molasses produced by local sugarcane. The fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized. We are having the rum analyzed for purity. This rum has received many international prizes for its quality. It is considered one of the finest rums on the planet. Its flavor is excellent and its cost is low.

Effective tinctures made from rare herbs like these sell in the United States for up to \$20 per ounce. At wholesale that gives a value of \$10 per ounce.

One kilo of roots produces 120 liquid ounces of extremely strong tincture. Subtracting the cost of bottles and rum, each kilo of these rare Bejucos can net \$1,000 when processed into tinctures.

We estimate that each tarea (1/6 acre) can produce 1,000 kilo of Bejucos each five (5) years. That is, \$1,000,000 every five years. If we plant 100 tareas, each year we can harvest 20 tareas of roots, producing 20,000 kilo, each year. Thus, after the first five years, we can expect to produce, in value:

**\$20,000,000 US annually**

**With this business alone, we could pay for the land.**



## ORGANIC, “PEACE” SILK

Silk is the standard of luxury fiber for the world. It has never gone down in value.

There is no one producing certified “Organically Grown” silk. The growing market for high quality textiles with the “Certified Organically Grown” label has no source for this quality silk.

We have already begun producing the first of our cocoons. We can obtain “Organic” certification without a problem, as we never use poisons nor chemicals in our raisings.

Many people also are concerned about “ethical” practices in consumer goods production. This market is also growing rapidly. There is a willingness to pay for quality goods produced in an ethical manner. Killing of animals in the production of consumer products is no longer considered ethical.

Our silk is all “Peace” silk.(2) Our silkworms are not killed. With all other commercially produced silk, the silkworm is killed just as it is transforming into a moth. Only a tiny few are not killed, but allowed to emerge from the cocoon and lay the eggs for the next generation. This silk is processed along with other “waste”, and is not marketed separately.

All of our silkworms get to complete their natural life cycle. They all get to transform into moths, emerge, mate, lay eggs and die happy.

This is a quality of cultivated silk that does not otherwise exist. We have an exclusive product, that is in demand, and there are no other producers. Nor are there likely to be, for all the mechanization that has transformed the silk industry is geared to processing “stifled” (dead) cocoons.

Our test raisings have proven that the climate, soil and air of this region, of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, produces excellent silk.

Our cocoons produced here are larger than the best “Peace” silk cocoons produced in the United States by hobby raisers. They contain 25% more silk. And the silkworms raised here, on the diet of rich mulberry leaves, begin to spin their cocoons in a record 23 days from hatching.

Mulberry grows at an astounding rate in this climate. Trees from seed typically reach three meters (15 feet) in one year. Growth is year round.

(2) “Peace Silk”, excerpted from “A Silkworker’s Notebook” by Cheryl Kolander, 2001.



Cocoons can be raised year round, with only a short break in August, the hottest month.

We have developed a design for raising tables that allows us to protect the growing silkworms from ants, cockroaches and other predators, without the need to use chemicals. With each table, anyone can raise 2,000 silkworms at a time. Dedication, but no special skill is needed. Silkworm raising used to be done by every family farm from Japan through China to Southern Europe. It has always been a reliable cash crop.

With 56 two year old mulberry trees we have produced 3,000 cocoons in 2001. These trees occupy less than one tarea of land. Next year, we intend to produce 10,000 cocoons with these, now three year old trees.

Planting 10 tareas of mulberry, and constructing 10 tables, in three years we can begin producing 1,000,000 cocoons annually. Planting 100 tareas could increase production enough to interest an investment in mechanical spinning equipment, to product spun silk thread for the consumer market. This is our ultimate goal.

With mechanical spinning equipment, we could farm out silk production all over the island. We are prepared to teach production methods to all who wish to learn, buy cocoons from whoever cares to produce them, and sell the processed yarn or finished goods on the world market.

This has the potential to be an income producing industry for the entire island.

## **SECONDARY PRODUCTS**

### **SILK SHAMPOO**

To turn cocoons into soft thread, it is necessary to “degum” the silk. We degum our cocoons with pure glycerin soap manufactured in the Dominican Republic.

The resulting solution of “sericin”, soap and pure water is a superior product for hair care. The same silk “gum”, or sericin protein that protects the soft silk fibre, soaks into hair and protects it. It strengthens the hair strand, preventing damage from breaking. It cements broken, split ends, allowing hair to grow longer.

Sericin has been investigated by the Japanese, and scientific studies show that it protects from Ultra Violet radiation. It functions as sun screen for the hair, preventing damage. It protects from damage by chlorine of swimming pools and salt of ocean water as well.



Our pure sericin silk shampoo conditioner has proved to add body to thin, blonde hair. It softens and makes more manageable thick, dark and kinky hair.

This type of sericin is added to many commercial shampoo conditioners, and a big deal is made for it, but in these products, it is only a tiny part. Our product is pure, from Organically raised "Peace" silk, and thus is unique and superior.

We have the option of selling the solution to manufacturers already marketing blends. Or we can bottle, label and market our own pure product.

It is currently our plan to market our own brand locally, in the Dominican Republic. And we are contacting American firms already using sericin in their products, to contract sales with them for the American market.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF SILK AND SERICIN FROM 100 TAREAS OF  
MULBERRY TREES

**\$1,000,000 annually**

## **MULBERRY LEAVES**

The Silk Institute of Japan is looking worldwide for farms to raise mulberry leaves. The esteemed Mr. Yutaka Kitamaru has visited Aurora Silk in the United States, to ask for assistance in this project of theirs.

They wish to harvest mulberry leaves mechanically, to dry and process them into packaged feed for silkworms. This would allow silkworms to be raised year round in locations that are not blessed with the year round growing season of the island of Hispanola.

In Japan, many people would like to raise silkworms, but do not have the land for the mulberry trees. In the United States many schools wish to raise silkworms as a science teaching tool, but are prevented because the season to raise them, on fresh mulberry, is in the summer when the schools are closed.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF MULBERRY LEAVES RAISED ON CONTRACT WITH  
THE JAPANESE

**\$1,000,000 annually**



## NATURAL DYES

### MADDER

Madder is a root crop. The roots contain the most permanent red dye known.

This dye is also a medicine of great importance, since it can dissolve kidney stones.(3)

Currently quality supplies of this root are limited. That which is available for dye use is of inferior quality. As a dye it gives orange, but not a good red. As medicine it is useless as the growing conditions are unknown and its taste is unpalatable. Thus it cannot be used internally.

Organically raised madder has a delicious and sweet taste, and can be taken as tea, tincture or powdered, in capsules or pills. Madder tincture is currently being made from small harvests out of Morocco. The inferior dye quality is raised in India. Prior to ten years ago, excellent madder was raised in the Kandahar valley of Afghanistan; with the war destruction, mines in all the fields, it is unlikely production there will resume for decades.

We are currently raising several plants. Three years are required to produce good roots. At the end of three years, each plant is expected to produce 10 pounds of roots, dried. With the roots we have we can produce starts for at least 100 plants next year, and double the number of plants each year, while still harvesting enough to begin to market.

\$5 a pound is the current price for the inferior dye root. We estimate a production of 2,000 pounds per tarea every three years. With 30 tareas planted this would give an annual harvest of 20,000 pounds.

The market for the root is expected to increase as its medicinal value become more widely known. Madder root tincture is currently being marketed by only one of the several main tincture producers in the United States. (4) As more studies are published proving its efficacy, this market will grow.

We will be asking the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, to conduct such a study.

MADDER ROOT    30 TAREAS                      \$100,000 annually

(3) THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NATURAL MEDICINE

(4) HERBPHARM, Williams, Oregon



## LOGWOOD – PALO DE CAMPECHE

The heartwood of this naturalized, weed tree is the source of a beautiful and inexpensive purple dye, and of the finest black. This dye is used commercially to dye black suturing silk for internal operations. Production of the first Naturally Dyed commercial silk fabric will begin with this dye in 2002.

We have been ethically harvesting and preparing dyewood from Dominican Logwood for three years. The market is growing, and with the introduction of Commercially dyed Logwood colors in 2002, the market could boom.

While an abundant weed tree now, a major world demand could deplete the island in the 20 years it takes to regrow. We have already started replanting efforts. We will expand the effort, to take advantage of the land available in this offer. The plan is to plant Logwood as a living fence – hedgerow between the privatized small garden-farms that will be offered to those households participating in the Foundation Farm.(5) Thus it takes up no specific space of its own.

Logwood trees will also be used as nurse trees for the many types of medicinal vines, the Bejucos and Nyames we intend to grow. (6)

It is estimated that each tree, in 20 years produces 100 pounds of heartwood. After processing, heartwood shavings are worth \$5 a pound, f.o.b. That is what we are paying now. Each tree thus produces \$500. With 10,000 trees planted in the divisions of the gardens, the final value in 20 years will be:

**\$5,000,000 in 20 years**

Pro-rated, that is equivalent to

**\$250,000 annually**

(5) see The Foundation Farm, section IV, following.

(6) see Bejucos, above; Nyame, following.



## NYAME

Nyame is the true yam. Not to be confused with any variety of sweet potato. It is a root crop, with many varieties in the Dominican Republic. At least one species is indigenous to this island, while others have been brought from Africa.

It is the one salvation to those suffering from the debilitating genetic disease called Sickle cell anemia. This is a condition sadly common in the African-American population of the United States. There is no commercial source for this food in the United States at this time. (We are unaware of any source at all, but presume there may be some grown locally in the rural south.)

It is also superior food for invalids and infants. The genus *Dioscorea*, or true or "wild" yam is known to contain hormone enhancers that energize the body beyond the food value of its vitamin, mineral and protein rich starch.

Developed with national marketing, the potential market for this product is huge.

There is no competition.

While eventually it would be best to construct a small processing plant on site, we can begin by using existing Dominican processors.

Nyame grows as a vine, with its huge and prolific roots nestled at the base of a supporting tree. Our plan is to grow Nyame with each Logwood tree. (7)

**NYAME, processed, estimate**

**\$2,000,000 annually**

(7) see Logwood, above.

## OTHER PRODUCTS

There is plenty of land for the Foundation Farm.

Other products that can be grown profitably include:

PERFUMES – especially "Mesote", a local Gardenia.

THERAPEUTIC WARMERS knit from our "PEACE" silk

ART TEXTILES and FINE CLOTHING from our "PEACE" silk and local Dominican Sea Island cotton

OTHER NATURAL DYES – Indigo, Weld, Cochineal



## **II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**

### **FOOD! ALL THE LOCALLY CONSUMED PRODUCE**

#### Roots:

yuca (sweet manioc); nyame; carrots; potatoes; sweet potatoes; taro; etc.

#### Fruits:

bananas; avocado; grapefruit; pomegranates; passion fruit; papaya; oranges, both bitter and sweet; lemon; tangerine; mango; etc.

#### Legumes:

beans of all types; guandules (black eyed peas); etc.

#### Starches:

plantain; breadfruit; corn; etc.

We can sell produce in all the nearby towns and the city of Puerto Plata. As the population continues to increase, while farmland is eaten by housing, more and more people must buy their food.

Our Foundation farm will be large enough to produce a significant amount of the increase needed to feed this increasing number of people.

## **OYSTERS**

The Canal of Cane used to be an immense oyster bed. But all the oysters have been killed. The sugarcane factory cleans its equipment with hydrochloric acid and dumps it into the canal. Each year, for three to four months during the harvest, the canal is a dead zone. Only mosquitoes thrive.

We are proposing to build an artificial lagoon a distance from the canal. There we could grow oysters without fear of contamination. An investment of \$10,000 is needed for this; we could begin immediately since the site for this is currently unused.

Oysters can be sold locally and to restaurants catering to tourists.

There is no other local production of oysters, but they are in high demand at the restaurants. Oysters would also be a great addition to the protein needs of the residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos.



### **(III) ECO-TOURISM**

Tourism is a severe problem for this part of the coast. Example: this village and the land which could support it, as well as the last natural area and beach accessible to Dominicans, is up for sale by the government bank that controls it – for tourism.

The Dominicans lose everything. What does tourism give in return? Nothing. No money goes to the local people. Even those that get the few jobs generated are typically NOT PAID! (see Part I, section “Problems: No Returns for Dominicans”) There are no property taxes, so once the land is bought no more money goes into Dominican coffers. Almost all tourism to the resorts is by package “all inclusive” deals. The money is collected overseas and stays overseas. No money is generated nor spent on improving the infrastructure of modern life for Dominicans. Nothing has been generated, nor has there been any improvement for health, sanitation, transportation, or education for the Dominicans of this region. Yet they must give up all access to all their beaches, see their natural environment destroyed, have their traditional communities demolished for foreigners. They get no paying jobs, and experience the price of everything rising. Plus the indignity of strangers walking through their lands, often naked, which is a great cultural affront, and not even wearing a smile, or giving a kind look or a greeting.

This type of tourism the Dominicans do not need.

What we are proposing is a different arrangement altogether. It is a type of tourism that is increasing, as opposed to the resort type, which is over built and decreasing. A high percentage of tourists now go to travel agents asking for this type of more interactive, more natural experience. Typically, housing is in the local native style, food is local, interaction with the host culture is informal and personal, and there is a specialty interest, such as wildlife or native flora.

Since locations that offer this type of extraordinary experience are rare, there is an expectation to pay premium prices. Since those looking for this type experience tend to be aware people, they want to be sure the money they are paying actually benefits the people with whom they are privileged to interact.

**The principles we will follow for our Eco-tourism:**

**Limited  
High price  
Appreciation of the Natural Area  
Appreciation of the Indigenous culture.**



**Limited:** We are proposing to construct five traditional native “Bohios”, arranged in a group. The location will be near the Los Cocos traditional community, at its outer edge. One of the bohios would be permanently occupied by a local couple and their children. Their job, for which they will receive this housing in exchange, will be to provide security, assistance and close interaction for the guests in the other four bohios. Only eight guests will enter the community at each visiting cycle. Only one visiting cycle of eight days will occur each month.

**High price:** All stuff that has to be bought in this country costs as much as anywhere else in the world, and often much more. Local food is the only exception. It is our principle that the people of the Los Cocos community that provide services to guests be paid appropriately. The rent on the bohios goes to the land fund; the portion of the eight day cost that pertains to services goes directly to the people who provide it.

**Appreciation of the Natural Area:** We especially want guests who will add to the world appreciation of the unusual plants and animals of this location.

**Appreciation of the Indigenous culture:** A sensitivity to other cultures will be rewarded by an open inclusion into the huge extended family of the Pérez-Brito.

Accommodations are in traditional “Bohio” cottages. These are constructed of a framework of wood, natural hewn for the most. The roof is palm thatch. The walls are covered with Yagua, which are like wide, thick leaves. The floor is sand. The bed is built on a platform of wood. There will be open air bathing cabanas with walls of Yagua, and a well maintained out house for the exclusive use of guests.

Services include:

- meals, cooked in typical Dominican style, of local foods. Modesta Brito of Los Cocos is a world class chef, who cooked for the best tourist restaurants before she had children.
- the companion family, for security and errands.
- a personal companion for the beach. This is very important, because the waters are treacherous. (see Problems: the beach)
- ecology guide, who knows all the local flora and fauna, especially the medicinal plants.
- music fiesta: local live acoustic merengue by “Los Muchachos” of Los Cocos.
- personalization of the visit. “Request Day” could include a shopping trip to Puerto Plata; a long but leisurely walk through cattle lands to the River Camu; a day digging and preparing medicinal roots; an art project day with the kids; learning about silk raising and preparation; a Natural dye mini workshop led by Master Natural dyer Cheryl Kolander.



The eight day cost will be \$2,000 per person, of which half goes to the land fund and half goes directly into the community of service providers.

Total revenue per year from Eco-tourism: **\$200,000 annually**

Other weeks, when the cottages are not open to tourists, they can be open for groups of students. Young people from the capital can visit and learn about their heritage and the nature of their island. Young people from other countries and cultures and visit and share with the young people here. Also, teachers and educators who have skills to teach in the community, can stay during the off weeks.

The costs of materials to construct the group of five Bohios, two bath houses, a traditional kitchen, two out houses and to bring in running water is expected to be \$16,000.

Since each week of use is expected to bring in \$8,000 to the land fund, the cost of construction would be paid for with the first two weeks of occupancy.

**This part of the proposal can begin immediately.**

**We could be earning this money by the end of 2002.**



## **IV) SECURE TITLE TO THE INHABITANTS FOR THEIR HOUSE LOTS, AND GARDEN PLOTS BESIDES**

### **SECURE TITLE = WORKERS**

The inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos have all paid for the rights to their houses. The houses are all registered with the government bank.

What they don't have is right to the land on which the houses are built.

Assumedly, the original intension of this arrangement was to preserve the land for its inhabitants. The tendency for poor people to sell their land when times are hard is well known. Collective or government ownership prevents this and can be an important tool in cultural preservation.

Sadly, the bank seems to see its current role differently. Ignoring the rights of the inhabitants, it seeks to sell all the land for money to fill the general coffers, which money will be spent to built bigger roads and bridges in the capital. The people in the capital have no interest in the welfare of the rural poor; a tradition of neglect spanning the entire 500 year history of the country. (14)

Boca Nueva has been a village for 100 years. The Los Cocos Indigenous community has lived here "since forever" (see Part I: The Family Pérez-Brito). They say there is a land use law that grants title after 10 years of residency. However, if this law is a reality it is being ignored.

Boca Nueva is a large village. It is estimated there are 1,000 houses and 3,000 people. Probably more, counting unregistered children. The population is mixed, including some Dominican families with an employed breadwinner, others where all are unemployed. Most of the people are of the Pérez-Brito family, by blood or marriage. There is also a large population of Haitians, who were brought in as ultra-cheap labour for the cane fields. They tend to stay, rather than go back to Haiti, and as illegal immigrants without work are the poorest of the poor.

More than half the houses are very well constructed, multi-room dwellings. They have modern kitchens with running water, refrigerators and gas stoves. They have modern bathrooms with running water, showers and toilets. The walls are cement block, the floors are polished cement and the roofs are painted galvanized sheet metal.



The other portion of the houses of Boca Nueva are either like this but unfinished, or they are poorly constructed temporary structures of tin over a wood frame. The bank seems to believe that all the houses of Boca Nueva are tin shacks. It is their plan to construct many small cement block cubicles on the outskirts of the nearby town, Monte Llano. Because they are so unaware of the true quality of housing that currently exists in Boca Nueva, they are sure that all the inhabitants will happily “trade up”. Part of the effort of this proposal is to make sure the bank is aware that better quality housing exists here, and that the inhabitants are well aware that to move them the bank must provide equal or better than what it takes from them.

It can never replace their community.

Because of this, the Pérez-Brito family is willing to work for their right to remain in this, their community, their customary land.

Los Cocos is a jewel, a showplace of traditional natural living. The houses are traditionally constructed pre-Columbian style “Bohios”. All made from renewable native materials. They are a wonder and a marvel of ecological construction. They are the physical foundation of the remnant traditional lifestyle of those of the Pérez-Brito family who wish to continue and preserve the nature based life of this remnant indigenous culture.

In the Anthropology museum in the capital there is a full size bohio on the third floor. It is not as authentic as these are, being constructed of mill sawn lumber rather than the rough, hand hewn poles actually used by natives. This community is a living museum of the country’s culture. The bank should stipend people to live here and share it with the world, rather than try to destroy the community and annihilate the remains of this native culture.

To preserve this remnant culture, and the remnant natural area that surrounds it, is the purpose behind this proposal.

Simple put, the intension is to create a large farm on the land that is included in the sale package.

This farm will produce products carefully chosen to command high prices on the world market. Products will be marketed in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Some of the inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos will work on this farm. They will receive permanent rights to their house lots in exchange for their labour.



This is based on the same principles used in the "Habitat for Humanity" program that has proved so successful world wide.

It is estimated there are 1,000 houses in question. Most have a surfeit of strong and eager young men with nothing to do. They know how to work, but there is no work for them. The Foundation farm will create work that is healthy and teach skills that are useful.

Most adult men are also unemployed. Or are working jobs that rarely pay.

The women also have potential skills useful to produce saleable products from the raw materials of the farm. Right now many women have what amount to micro-businesses, doing laundry, making sweets, fixing hair. They are enterprising and eager.

Of all these people, we calculate that only one person per household will need to contribute four hours a day, four days a week, fifty weeks a year for five years to pay for the average small house lot. On a world scale, that's cheap. On a local scale, there is nothing else to do, so why not? (8)

In addition, there is enough good farm land in the sale package to plan out small garden plots for each household or person who wishes. The plan is to contract for these immediately so that anyone working the Foundation farm a half day can also start a family food garden.

While the Foundation farm work will not pay cash, there will be benefits to joining the program. All the "MAMA D.O.C." benefits already extended, such as the free lending library of books, the free natural health services, the free donated school and art supplies, the free donated shoes and children's clothing, all gifts of generous and kind donors in the United States, will be expanded. This mitigates the need to earn cash money now.

A revolving micro-credit association can help the women expand their home based micro-businesses. As soon as we can start the limited Eco-tourism proposed above, a fair amount of cash money will be infused into this local economy. Through the women's micro-businesses, that money will circulate and extend out to the entire village.

(8) PETITION – ADVISORY of 11-11-2001. 24 representative households of the Family Pérez-Brito that live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos signed the first sheet of this petition stating (in Spanish): "I live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. I prefer to remain in this location, to which I am accustomed. If necessary, I am prepared to work or to pay for my right to continue to live here."



The value of labour that is accessible to the Foundation farm through exchange for lot rights is considerable.

We figure that each house lot averages two tarea. Current price for land in this area is equivalent to \$9,000 US per tarea. With 2,000 tarea devoted to the village, this gives a capital equivalent of

**\$18,000,000 US**

## **GARDEN PLOTS**

The same figures can be used to calculate the capital equivalent of labour that can be realized by creating privatized garden plots for each household.

Again, at the current land price of \$9,000 US per tarea, 2,000 tarea will generate the labour equivalent of

**\$18,000,000 US**

That gives a total labour pool of a value of **\$36,000,000 US**

Our business plan assumes that after the first five preparatory years, several of the new businesses will be generating significant sales.

While most profit will have to go to paying the land cost, as soon as possible some will be allocated to begin paying workers cash for their labour.



## V) DONATIONS

We are soliciting donations of both help and money.

There are many International organizations devoted to preserving rare and endangered nature. Sea urchins, sea turtles, medicine producing wooded ecologies, endangered peoples, the Kwaco (guaco), undiscovered species of invertebrates and vertebrates await help for protection.

Other organizations are interested in helping the poor and especially the poor indigenous of the world help themselves. This project is a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate what an indigenous population can do with a return of their land base and some international marketing.

There are organizations within the Dominican Republic that will be helpful. The Botanic Garden, the Catholic Church, the newly created Ministry of Ecology, the Anthropology Museum can all help with moral support and advice, documentation and the generation of popular support for the project.

Americans and Dominicans alike have universally expressed support for the ideas of this proposal, and think it is the best possible solution to the problem. The government wants money. This is a way to generate money, without displacing 3,000 people and destroying their community, the last remaining remnant Indigenous culture and the last natural area in the region.

Three years of remarkably successful preparatory work by "MAMA D.O.C.", Aurora Silk, and the people of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos show that all the projects of this proposal can be successful.

WE ARE ASKING THE CENTRAL BANK TO GIVE US THE DATE OF MARCH 22, 2002, TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL IN PERSON, AT THEIR OFFICES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

At that time we will present a list of the organizations we have contacted, who have offered to help.

Private donors are also being approached.

A list of funding levels is attached.



## ASSETS

DEVELOPED IN THE COMMUNITY OF BOCA NUEVA - LOS COCOS BY AURORA SILK and/or "MAMA D.O.C." INC.

AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE FUNDACIÓN INDÍGENA

	VALUE \$US
LIBRARY COTTAGE	2,000
BOOKS in public library	1,000
BOOKS in private library	1,000
CLINIC and OFFICE	10,000
KITCHEN, TRADITIONAL	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1/2 TAREA SOLAR includes cost to bring in water	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1 TAREA SOLAR	3,000
56 MULBERRY TREES, 2 years old	1,200
MADDER PLANTS	60
FRUIT TREES grapefruits, avocados, cherry, logwood bananas, plantains, etc.	1,000
SILKRAISING TABLE	200
TO DATE 1-1-2002	-----
TOTAL ASSETS IN THE Dominican Republic	\$25,460 US

We have just received confirmation that "MAMA D.O.C." INC has been awarded the donation of a

MASTER DRAW LOOM                      VALUED AT \$25,000 US

The donation is by the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA at DAVIS.

When installed in the Loom Room of the Clinic House, which we expect to happen this year, the value of assets in Boca Nueva - Los Cocos will be  
OVER \$50,000 US



## COMMUNITY ASSETS SPONSORED BY "MAMA D.O.C."

VALUE IN \$US

### FOOTBRIDGE

Designed and built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community. This bridges the polluted Cano de Cana and provides the only direct access to the village of Boca Nueva, where the rest of the family lives. It is the only inland access into the community.

materials cost	200
value of donated labour (includes many repairs)	1,000

### PATH

A raised path from the community of Los Cocos to the footbridge. This obviates the need for a half mile detour when it rains, when the pasture turns into wetlands.

Built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community.

materials cost	0
value of donated labour and equipment	1,000

### WATER

Previously all drinking water had to be hand carried from Boca Nueva. By slight women, toting 8 gallon jugs at a time. Carrying more than half their weight for about a mile, each and every day.

Now fresh mountain water comes into a tap located at the center of the community. This is a major improvement in everyone's life. As an amazing community project, the bringing of the water is now the subject of a merengue in the local traditional music.

Working all day, from before dawn at 6 AM, a trench was hand dug almost two miles. 1,200 lengths of pipe were buried. Breakfast was provided, and also lunch. At the end of the day the work was finished, the water tap was turned on. When the water appeared, the fiesta began!

materials cost (donated by Aurora Silk)	1,800
value of donated labour	5,000*

\* There is no way to put a monetary value on the sense of community spirit engendered by this cooperative effort.