



KANÈBLÖ BRIBRIPA LIGHTING PROJECT (COSTA RICA)

Families in rural villages in Costa Rica have been benefiting from solar powered LED lighting since 2004. The Light Up Costa Rica Project was initiated and is coordinated by David Wiwchar, vice-principal of Lively District Secondary School in Sudbury, Ontario and his wife, Pam. They were inspired to start the project after reading Canadian Geographic (December 2003) article on Light up the World. Upon reading the article he made the connection between the work LUTW was doing and the indigenous families he had visited in remote regions of Costa Rica.

The Light Up Costa Rica Project is being implemented in the Talamanca, Turrialba and Buenos Aires cantons (districts) of Costa Rica. These regions are home to various indigenous groups such as the Cabecar and Bribri tribes and are rich in diversity of flora, fauna, culture and topography. Talamanca, for instance, is home to national and international parks as well as various indigenous communities. Talamanca was virtually inaccessible until the late 1970s and it remains the nation's poorest canton. Infrastructure networks are poor and many people live without the most basic of public services. The Cabecar and Bribri tribes of South Costa Rica have struggled for centuries to remain culturally independent.

Rural households depend on the specific characteristics of their micro-region for their livelihood. Many in Talamanca produce cacao, banana, plantain, and a multitude of other fruits. An increasing number of producers are raising animals for consumption and sales such as pigs, hens and cattle.

LUTW has plans to expand a project in the Buenos Aires canton of Costa Rica with the local community development association, Kanèblö Bríbripa. Bribripa's focus as an organization is to improve the



Photo: Mirian Herrera Garcia, a single mother with a daughter and two sons received her home lighting system in early 2009 and greatly impacted the ability to better care for her family.

Project Summary

Timeline: August - October 2010

Objectives: to work with Kanèblö Bribripa in delivering solar powered lighting to 60 households in the indigenous territory of Salitre, Costa Rica

- Increase coverage of renewable energy in the region to reduce environmental impact of fuel based lighting
- Increase livelihood opportunities through training and specialized skill development among local community members
- Improve health through the elimination of toxins caused by burning kerosene for home lighting
- Increase disposable income in the household by replacing kerosene and candles with solar power for light
- Reduce time required to access resources for lighting for remote households

Individuals benefiting: an estimated 300 people will directly benefit from this project

Location: Salitre, Buenos Aires, Costa Rica

Implementing Partners: Kanèblö Bribripa and LUTW



socio-economic conditions of life for families living in the indigenous territory of Salitre located in the Buenos Aires canton. Bribripa’s work in the area is critical to strengthening the Bribri culture as well as ensuring that integrated forest conservation continues to be well-managed. Helping to build sustainable communities is vital to the long term health of Costa Rica’s ecosystems. Although Costa Rica has only about 0.25% of the world's landmass, it contains 5% of the world's biodiversity.



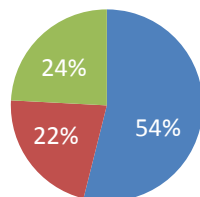
LUTW is currently raising funds to continue working with Bribripa. The plan is to provide more solar lighting equipment and training to Bribripa members that are involved in the project so that fewer families in the community have to rely on candles and kerosene for home lighting. There are approximately 60 families living in rural areas that have expressed an interest in receiving the solar lighting systems via a microfinance project approach. Please help LUTW to transform the lives of those living in the community. Funds that are repaid will enable Bribripa to continue to maintain and support the solar systems in the long term ensuring that this program is not a short term solution to the energy and lighting needs of the community.

Light Up The World is actively fundraising to bring sustainable energy to the Cabecar and Bribri tribes of Costa Rica. If you are interested in supporting the *Kanèblö Bribripa Lighting Project*, please contact us directly or visit www.lutw.org.

Project Budget

Equipment - design, installation and transportation	\$13, 872
Training, monitoring and evaluation	\$ 5, 640
Project management and support	\$6, 217
Total	*\$25, 729

* Seeking full funding (May 2010)



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- Training, monitoring and evaluation
- Project management and support