

50
AÑOS

FUNDAEC
FUNDACIÓN PARA LA APLICACIÓN Y ENSEÑANZA DE LA CIENCIA

SEEDS OF CHANGE

DECEMBER 02, 2024 - EDITION 02



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Bitá Correa A
Director FUNDAEC

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you the second edition of our newsletter, Seeds of Change. Its purpose is to keep you informed about the latest developments in the programs and initiatives FUNDAEC is currently implementing, keeping both old and new friends connected.

In the following pages, we highlight the visit of one of our partner organizations, Wayfarer Foundation, as we inaugurated our renovated facilities in Perico Negro, Cauca, and we also share our recent participation in COP16 on Biodiversity, held in Cali, Colombia.

Additionally, we continue to celebrate the news surrounding our 50th anniversary, which we officially began commemorating on October 25—the date FUNDAEC received notice that its legal status had been approved by the Colombian government. In this newsletter we share a few of our most recent celebratory events.

These participatory celebrations have allowed diverse communities and groups to express their cultural identities and commemorate in unique ways. These varied celebrations are an expression of:

“FUNDAEC’s efforts over the last half-century—rooted in Colombia and gradually scaling across the globe—have unfolded through several distinct phases of evolution. Together, these demonstrate how an educational process

that centers the scientific and spiritual dimensions of human nature can accelerate the transformation of communities in both material and moral realms.”

Lastly, we invite you to help launch our journey for the next fifty years by investing in our various efforts and projects. A few organizations which already support us acknowledge our impact in their own words:

“SAT’s success in catalyzing an education revolution is reflected in the improved well-being of rural communities throughout Latin America. As global problems grow more complex and less bounded by geography, this transformative learning model will become increasingly relevant in mobilizing rural youth to create more sustainable communities.” – The Brookings Institution

“FUNDAEC has the capacities, resources, track record, experience, history, and vision to lead the way. That’s 40 or 50 years of experience that we simply cannot buy.” – Fernand Schaber, President, Unity Foundation

For more about our future plans and the impact we have achieved so far, please explore the testimonials in our institutional Case for Support



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We encourage you to join our community of investors as we accelerate the transition to economic, environmental, and social systems rooted in oneness, cooperation, and solidarity!



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Wayfarer Visit and Perico Negro Educational Center Inauguration (September 20–21)

On September 20–21, FUNDAEC welcomed the **Wayfarer Foundation**, an organization inspired by Bahá'í principles and dedicated to advancing humanity spiritually toward a peaceful global civilization.



During their visit, the Wayfarer delegation toured the Demonstrative Farm for Regenerative Agriculture in Perico Negro and the Ruhi Arbab Bahá'í School in Puerto Tejada, Cauca.

They engaged with the "Growing Hope" and "Native Forest" projects and participated in the pre-inauguration of FUNDAEC's Educational Center, fostering collaboration on impactful community initiatives.



Participation in COP 16

From October 21 to November 1, FUNDAEC participated in COP16, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Cali, Colombia. This international treaty, adopted during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, aims to establish agendas, commitments, and frameworks for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. This year's theme, "Peace with Nature," emphasized the urgent need to rethink humanity's relationship with the environment.

FUNDAEC showcased its programs at a booth in the Green Zone of the Pacific Biodiverse and Cultural District, where hundreds of visitors learned about its sustainable development and biodiversity conservation efforts. In the Blue Zone, the organization contributed to discussions on biodiversity, conservation, restoration, and education, presenting its Native Forest Project, developed in collaboration with the Bahá'í Community of Colombia.

This initiative, highlighted in the United for Nature report by Faiths for Biodiversity, can be found on page 14 of the report via this link:



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BOOK LAUNCH (OCTOBER 25)

As part of FUNDAEC's 50th anniversary, the book **Weaving a Fabric of Unity** was launched, exploring the organization's five-decade journey through stories, learnings, and reflections shared by those who have shaped its evolution. During a special evening, authors Haleh Arbab, Gustavo Correa, and Bradley Wilson shared their experiences and insights about the book's significance.

For details about the book, including author backgrounds, expert reviews, and purchase options, visit the Research for Development – Publications page.

<https://www.researchfordevelopment.org/publications/>



For residents in Colombia,
the book can be purchased by emailing

textos@fundaec.org

50th Anniversary Celebrations Perico Negro

On Saturday, November 23rd, the 50th anniversary celebration of FUNDAEC took place at the Perico Negro Educational Center, located in Puerto Tejada, Cauca. The event brought together representatives from various decades of FUNDAEC's work in Norte del Cauca and across Colombia.

Among the attendees were Rural Well-being Engineers (the first cohort of FUNDAEC students), graduates from multiple cohorts of the Rural Education undergraduate program, coordinators and advisors of the SAT program from institutions across Colombia, PSA groups from the region, participants in the "Growing Hope" project, as well as longtime friends and colleagues of FUNDAEC. The mayors of Puerto Tejada and Villa Rica also graced the event with their presence and shared words of inspiration, with the latter being a proud graduate of the University Center for Rural Well-Being.



The artistic segment of the celebration was enlivened by students from the Bahá'í School Simmons of Jamundí, who delivered artistic performances that enriched the event, as well as by regional musical groups and PSA participants. The celebration also featured reflections from some of FUNDAEC's founders and its current director, who highlighted the accomplishments and the profound impact of FUNDAEC's work over the past 50 years.



50th Anniversary Celebrations Tuchín, Córdoba

On November 11, over 370 participants celebrated FUNDAEC's 50th anniversary in Tuchín, Córdoba. This festive event brought together PSA groups, program graduates, families, and leaders of the indigenous reserve.

Organized alongside **FEDESSCO** (an organization born from the PSA program focused on development in Córdoba and Sucre), this celebration was especially significant as Tuchín was where the PSA program began 18 years ago!



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Visit from Ak'Tenamit and Fabretto

In October, FUNDAEC hosted visits from two partner organizations: **Fundación Fabretto** and **Asociación Ak'Tenamit**. These organizations joined the **Weaving a Fabric of Unity** book launch and reaffirmed our collective commitment to supporting education in Guatemala and more broadly across Central America. We look forward to where this journey might take us!



50th Anniversary Celebrations: Participation Numbers

In our commitment to fostering participatory celebrations, we aimed to create opportunities for as many people as possible to take part and express themselves in their own unique ways. Below is a summary of the events and participation numbers:

■ LOCATION ■ DATE ■ # PARTICIPANTS

LOCATION	DATE	# PARTICIPANTS
SAMPUÉS, SUCRE	20 JUNE	64
LOS PALMITOS, SUCRE	5 JULY	97
PERICO NEGRO, CAUCA (PSA)	18 AUGUST	89
RIOHACHA, GUAJIRA	8 SEPTEMBER	120
GUAMAL, BOLÍVAR	8 OCTOBER	130
LORICA, CÓRDOBA	14 OCTOBER	122
CALI, VALLE (BOOK LAUNCH)	25 OCTOBER	50
CALI, VALLE (FUNDAEC PERSONNEL)	25 OCTOBER	40
TUCHÍN, CÓRDOBA	1 NOVEMBER	380
SAN SEBASTIÁN, CÓRDOBA	17 NOVEMBER	170
PERICO NEGRO, CAUCA (REGIONAL)	23 NOVEMBER	400
TOTAL		1.662