



REPORT ABOUT THE DRAWING CONTEST OF COMET-LA: “THE FUTURE I WANT FOR MY COMMUNITY”

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JUSTIFICATION

The COMET-LA analyzes socio-ecological systems, creating a learning environment between researchers and local communities in order to satisfy the needs presented by the management of their natural resources.

While it is important to work with different stakeholders and decision makers, we believe it is also vital to involve children and young teenagers in the commitment of caring for the environment in their community. Considering children as potential influencers within the community is a key factor to achieve a responsible resource management and sustainable development in the medium and long term locally.

In order to involve children in the participation within the framework of the project there has been a children's drawing contest in each one of the communities that are part of the project. The proposal was that the children could express what future they want for their community.

OBJECTIVES

- To know the point of view of young people ranging from 7 to 16 years old about their community and the future they want for it, specially related to the care of natural resources.
- Involve young people in decision-making on environmental management

METHODOLOGY

The contest rules were developed adapting them to the needs of each country. The rules were contrasted with the coordinators of each country. Then, they received the opinion of the teachers of the participating schools.

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There were two main categories: "primary" and "secondary school"

Some posters and bookmarks of the project were made to be distributed at the participating schools. At the front of them, - common to the three countries- it is explained the COMET project and at the back, there are the specifications of each case study.



General and country posters



Bookmarks

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Although CeUICN designed these bookmarks, in Spain, they were printed in the countries of destination, in order to reduce shipping emissions and incomes of the communities. Each winner received a certificate and a gift which was a book called “Ecology: our planet in danger”, a block of drawing and crayons.



El equipo internacional del proyecto COMET-LA (Gestión Comunitaria Participativa de los Desafíos Ambientales en Latinoamérica) otorga el segundo premio del **Concurso internacional de dibujo COMET-LA: ¿Cómo te imaginas el futuro de tu comunidad?**, en la categoría de Secundaria, México, a

MÓNICA LÓPEZ HERNÁNDEZ

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María del Mar Delgado
Coordinadora del proyecto COMET-LA



Example of certificate



Book and pack of gift

The contest has been launched in Mexico and Colombia. In Argentina, due to teachers' strike has not been possible to do yet, but will be held somehow during the next months.

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Each community developed the contest according to their characteristics and customs, as explained below:

The contest in Mexico

Once the country coordinator received the rules, they were discussed with the principals of each school and with Community Authorities. As soon as everyone agreed, the country coordinator visited all schools within the municipality in which the project was explained and students were invited to participate. Five schools participated of the contest.

On each school, a teacher in charge was assigned for following up the contest and after students submitted their drawings each school chose its three semifinalists.

The jury who chose the final winners was composed of the heads of schools, community and municipal authorities, who were responsible of selecting the two winners in each category. Each winner received a letter signed by the local authorities, notifying who the winner was. These letters were delivered personally by the authorities of the community.

Finally, an exhibition of all the drawings was held in the meeting room of Comaltepec so that the entire community knew the opinion of the youngsters. The awards ceremony was held during the visit of the international team of COMET-LA in July 2013.



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Drawing exposition and awards ceremony

The contest in Colombia

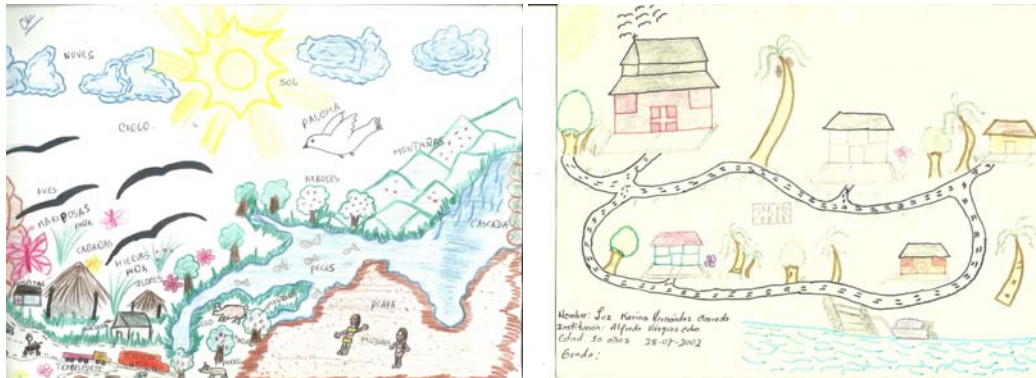
Once the coordinator of the country agreed about the rules of the contest, they were matched with the representatives of the Community Councils and the eight participating schools. Each school conducted an internal competition to select the participants for the COMET-LA contest, for which we had the collaboration of teachers from the art class. The selected students draw their paintings and made a presentation to all of their classmates. In this exhibition, we chose the 10 semifinalists (five from each community council).

The jury was composed of the Secretary of Education of the District of Buenaventura. The semifinalists received a diploma in an awards ceremony.

Finally, the jury chose the four winners, two in each category. The awards ceremony was held during the visit of the international team of COMET-LA in July 2013.

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Two of draw winners in Colombia



Winners in the awards ceremony

The contest in Argentina

At least one educational institution of each one of the localities involved in the project were invited to participate in the contest. From the district of Bahía Blanca we invited students of Ingeniero White and General Cerri. From Coronel Rosales was selected Pehuen Co and Villa de Mar. One school was selected from Monte Hermoso.

Due to the number of days that teachers were on strike in the province of Buenos Aires, plus the days of negotiation meetings between teachers and authorities, we found very difficult to start the contest at the schools.

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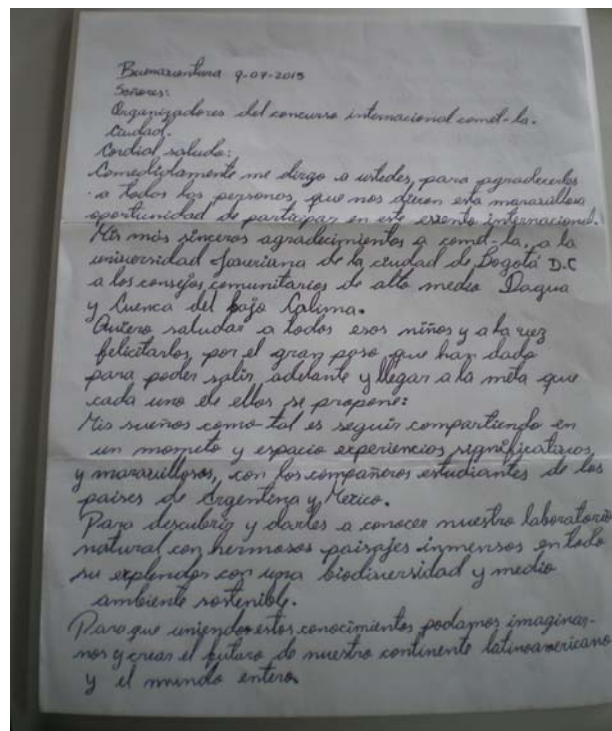


At the same time we were trying to start the contest, there were other drawing contests held in the schools, about different subjects like violence, human rights, etc. Meanwhile, some of the schools were affected by the science fair, organized by the schools, which ended right the week before winter break.

After all these problems we faced, we decided to restart the project right after the winter break, in most of the schools selected.

Mailing among students from the three countries:

In order that children can interact with participants from other countries we invited them to write letters of greetings to be delivered to other communities in the other countries. These are some of the letters the children wrote:



Letter of one of the children



RESULTS

More than 700 schools are participating in the contest.

Young people have expressed their views on how they see their own community and the future they want for their natural resources. It shows that although many expressed the need for resources, the idea of progress and globalization comes stomping.

The children expressed their satisfaction in knowing what the reality is elsewhere and know that "although we are so far away, other children elsewhere are participating in this initiative with us."