

Human-Centered Design

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Final Project Research Plan

Project Goals:

To create an online resource center - The Azuero Resource Center - for the Azuero Earth Project / Azuero Foundation that will collect and bring together stakeholders including local, scientific, regulatory and developmental information in order to preserve the earth's ecosystem, protect biodiversity and promote healthy communities through fundraising and sustainable development

Research Objectives:

By helping stakeholders in making informed decisions, take sustainable actions, and share knowledge, the Azuero Resource Center (ARC) Team will work in the collection and dissemination of information and implementation of programs related to sustainable land management in the Azuero Peninsula and throughout Panama. The research team will investigate five groups of stakeholders

- * Local Panamanian community
- * Scientific community
- * Regulatory bodies - laws, development rules, etc
- * Developers
- * Donors

We also plan to conduct secondary research of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway, a project currently in development with goals similar to those of the Azuero Foundation. Our research objective is to find a suitable model for how this has been done successfully in the past. We will study Greenway's model, focusing on the following points:

- * Path to growth
- * Managing, developing web presence
- * Information collection
- * Lessons learned

Research Methods:

Field research will be divided between New York & Panama.

Secondary research: New York.

Focus: Brooklyn Greenway.

- * Observation
- * Interviews
- * "Flow analysis" of website (Moggridge, 671)

Primary research: Panama

1) Sustainable building: Creation of a set of guidelines for building practices

- * observation, "cultural inventory" of existing materials, labor situation, design that works/doesn't work
- * case studies
- * video/audio/field journals
- * "historical analysis" (Moggridge, 671)

2) Biological Corridor:

- * structured interviews w/ scientists
- * video/audio/field journals
- * "shadowing" (Moggridge, 673)

3) Activism, law, and awareness:

- * research into environmental law and legal coded
- * structure of land purchase and reselling
- * regulations imposed upon future land owners
- * interviews with local regulators & business owners
- * "foreign correspondents" (Moggridge, 675)

Research Subjects:

1. New York: Brooklyn Greenway organization
2. Panama: the five groups of stakeholders:

- * Local Panamanian community

- * Scientific community
- * Regulatory bodies - laws, development rules, etc
- * Developers
- * Donors

Logistics:

possible hurdles include:

- balancing the wants and needs of the stakeholders in the development of the resource center.
- timeframe: will our research correspond to the class calendar?
- continuing research after Panama: what resources can we revisit to make our primary research in Panama more robust?