

ECOENTERPRISES FUND

FONDO ECOEMPRESAS, S.A.

Rainforest Expeditions, S.A.C.

www.perunature.com

Rainforest Expeditions (RFE) is a model ecotourism project that offers comfortable, low-impact lodging in the Peruvian Amazon. The company incorporates local sustainable development and environmental education and research into its rainforest experience, including the protection of macaw nurseries and harpy eagle nests.

RFE has a unique relationship with the Ese'ejá community of Infierno. Ese'ejá owns one of RFE's three lodges and receives 60 percent of the profits from the lodge, generating over US\$662,000 for this indigenous community since 1997. The community receives additional benefits from its partnership with RFE, including employment, training, and sale of goods for a total value of US\$1.7 million thus far..

The lodges are located in the buffer zone of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve Zone, part of a biological corridor that is one of Conservation International's hotspots. The area is home to the endangered giant river otter, as well as vulnerable species, such as the anteater, giant armadillo, black spider monkey, jaguar, pink river dolphin, yellow-headed river turtle, and anaconda. The area also features a significant diversity of plant life. Tourism has increasingly become an important economic livelihood for the local peoples, mitigating the threats from illegal logging, hunting, and slash and burn agriculture.

RFE was a winner in the World Resources Institute's New Ventures Business Plan Competition. In 2008, the company was selected as a finalist for the Tourism for Tomorrow Award. The United Nations and its partners, including The Nature Conservancy, honored the Ese'ejá community in 2002 as one of the Equator Prize finalists for outstanding achievement in sustainable development.

EcoEnterprises Fund co-financed this investment with the project principals, Conservation International, and Root Capital.

Date Invested: November 30, 2005

Current Status as of December 2008: In operation. RFE plans to expand capacity over the next year.