

ECOENTERPRISES FUND

FONDO ECOEMPRESAS, S.A.

Biocentinela, S.A.

www.biocentinela.com

Established in 2002, Biocentinela is one of the first companies worldwide dedicated to the production and export of organically certified saltwater shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) and has one of the only two certified organic larvae labs in Ecuador. The company is well-positioned to take advantage of the emerging market with this niche product.

Biocentinela is certified by Naturland e.V., a German-based organic agriculture organization. Naturland-certified farms must monitor and document effluent water quality and feed intake, and must maintain lower water exchange to decrease energy consumption and loss of nutrients. Biocentinela uses no chemicals or antibiotics, exceeding Naturland requirements. The company is also certified by BioSuisse, a Swiss-based organic farming organization, and Aquaculture Certification Council, a U.S. nonprofit dedicated to the certification of sustainable aquaculture projects. The Company recently obtained Fairtrade certification and Soil Association organic certification, making BioCentinela the first Fairtrade organic shrimp company in Ecuador.

The growth of the conventional shrimp industry in Ecuador in the mid-1990's resulted in the destruction of mangroves along the country's coast. Biocentinela has taken over abandoned, denuded shrimp farms and has embarked on a program of mangrove reforestation.

The Company has developed a solid customer base with international clients, such as Anchor Seafoods (England), Deutsche See (Germany), Larsen (Denmark), and Dom International (Canada).

Biocentinela has restored 87 hectares of mangrove trees. A biodiversity assessment revealed 4 species of birds and 9 species of fished have returned to these hectares after the mangroves were restored by the Company.

EcoEnterprises Fund co-financed this investment with the project principal.

For more information please visit www.naturland.com, www.bio-suisse.ch, and www.aquaculturecertification.org.

Date Invested: December 16, 2004

Current Status as of December 2008: In operation. The company has experienced solid growth during the past four years with revenues tripling over the period.