

Proposal for the:

Yryapu Indigenous Tourism Training Centre



Prepared by:
Veronica Marson, BA (International Development)
M.A.T.E. Project
Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina

ADDRESS:

M.A.T.E. Project (Argentine Tourism and Employment Model)
c/o ITEC Iguazú
Av. Misiones y Bompland
Puerto Iguazú, Misiones 3370
Argentina
Tel: 011-54-3757-423-679
Email: iteciguazu@iguazunet.com

PROJECT TEAM:

Mr. Claudio Salvador (Indigenous Community Coordinator)
Ms. Juliana Lorenzo (Gender and Youth Coordinator)
Mr. Jorge Antonio (Local Project Director)
Ms. Stephanie Jay (Onsite Project Coordinator, Niagara College)
Ms. Veronica Marson (Community Outreach Officer, Niagara College)
Mr. Tulio Portilla (Fair Trade and Agro-Tourism Officer, Niagara College)

Affiliated Organizations and Institutions:

Niagara College
Welland, Ontario, Canada

Iguazú Institute of Technology
Puerto Iguazú

PRESTNU- Non-University Reform Program
Buenos Aires

Ministry of Education and Culture
Province of Misiones

Concessionaire of Iguazú National Park
Puerto Iguazú

National Parks Administration
Buenos Aires

Canadian International Development Agency
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

M.A.T.E Project Background:

M.A.T.E. (Argentine Tourism and Employment Model) is a 3-year project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project's main goal is to deliver short-term training modules to marginalized communities around Iguazú Falls and provide them with greater access to employment in the region's burgeoning tourism industry. Its main partners are Niagara College and the Iguazú Technological Institute. Due to its own experience with similar short-term training courses in Canada, Niagara College provides technical support to the Iguazú Technological Institute to adapt the Niagara model to the Argentine context.

M.A.T.E. efforts are divided between a gender and youth component in the poorest neighbourhoods of Puerto Iguazú along with an Mbya-Guaraní indigenous component in a community just outside town. The gender and youth training is geared towards employment in hotels and other conventional tourist establishments. The indigenous component is directed towards creating a self-sufficient indigenous tourism training centre where Mbya-Guaraní peoples from across Misiones province can come and receive training about their own culture and the tourism industry.



Fig. 1.1—Gender and Youth Training



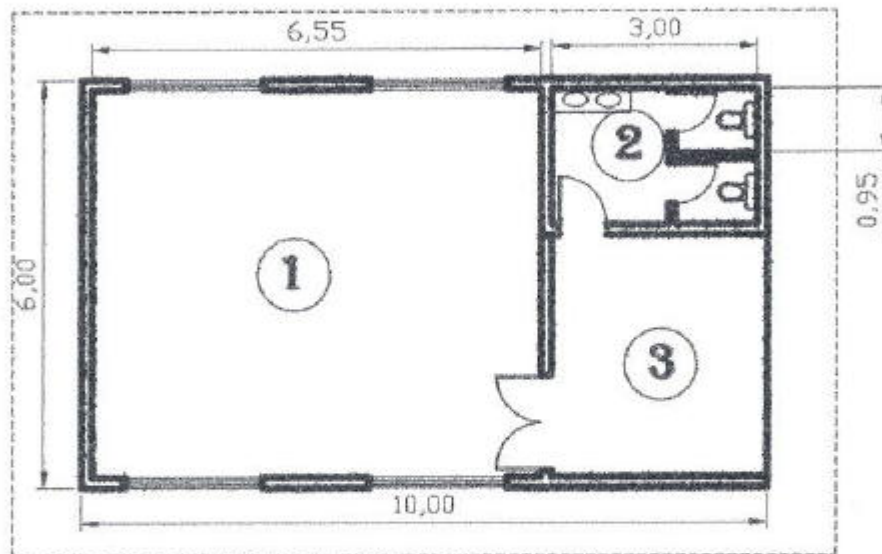
Fig. 1.2—The Yryapu Indigenous Community

Introducing the Yryapu Indigenous Tourism Training Centre

The indigenous tourism training centre is planned for Yryapu, an Mbya-Guaraní community located on a 265-hectare reserve beside the Iguazú National Park. The centre is important in that it will be the first permanent structure to be built since the community's 300 residents acquired legal title to the land from the Misiones provincial government in 2003. Without the centre, the community will have no other venue to host M.A.T.E. training courses. The only other feasible option is the existing community classroom which --apart from having enough problems already accommodating its current student population-- is badly decayed and plagued with termites and other pests.

PLANTA TECNICA

AULA YRYAPU



REFERENCIAS:

1 - CLASSROOM

2 - WC

3 - HALL

Fig. 1.3—Floor plan for the Yryapu Tourism Training Centre

Training related to the M.A.T.E. project is planned to start in April 2006. Yryapu and other Mbya-Guaraní communities have already begun determining the content for the first two-month course. Twenty-five guaraní students will participate in the pilot phase and material for the course will be available in both Guaraní and Spanish. Mbya-Guaraní elders will deliver lessons about Guaraní culture in their native tongue, while tourism

teachers will prepare their lessons in Spanish. Students selected will be over 18 years-old and will have a minimal seventh-grade education.

The hope of the residents of Yryapu is that the new training centre will nurture new conceptions of indigenous cultural tourism. The small, 60 square-metre space will be a place where dozens of guaraní students from Misiones will learn about their own customs and traditions, not only conserve them but to also create new alternatives in tourism that will benefit the socio-economic development of the Mbya-Guaraní community.



Fig. 1.4—Proposed location for the tourism training centre



Fig. 1.5—Another view of the proposed construction site

Yryapu Building Proposal

Despite their lack of resources, the Mbya-Guaraní community maintains a high level of enthusiasm about the M.A.T.E. project. The project team would like to assist Yryapu to establish a training centre, contribute to the preservation of the community's culture, and improve their overall well-being. The building's programs would be managed and maintained by the community when the M.A.T.E. project ends.

Since M.A.T.E. project funds are limited to training materials, it is imperative that the project seek external funds to build the indigenous tourism training centre. The project team has consulted with local building professionals to estimate the construction costs of the building in Yryapu.

Basic Required Building Materials:

#	Item	Measurement Unit	Quantity	Price of Materials (Argentine Pesos-ARS)
1	Ground Preparation	Single	1.00	\$0.00
2	Foundation	M3	0.85	\$280.00
3	Securing Layer	M2	12.03	\$103.75
4	Subgrade	M2	60.00	\$722.50
5	Rubblework	M2	103.00	\$1,250.00
6	Concrete	M3	1.80	\$504.00
7	Tiles and Roofing	M2	96.00	\$4,608.00
8	Plaster	M2	90.00	\$540.00
9	Flooring	M2	60.00	\$720.00
10	Electrical Installation	Sockets	16.00	\$448.00
11	Bathroom Installation	Single	1.00	\$1,400
12	Carpentry	Single	1.00	\$2,640.00
13	Finishings	M2	26.00	\$520.00
14	Paint and Varnish	M2	206.00	\$618.00
TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS				\$ 14,354.25 (ARS)

Approximate Cost of Labour:

Labour is calculated at an average of 40% percent of the training centre's total construction costs. As such, skilled labour for the centre would account for \$10,253.04 (ARS).

Skilled labour is incorporated in the construction proposal since it is not entirely clear whether there are enough experienced builders currently in Yryapu. Nevertheless, the M.A.T.E. project will also take advantage of the occasion to have members of the community participate and become trained.

Approximate Total Cost in Canadian Dollars:

With a current exchange rate of 2.47 Pesos: 1 CND:

-the total cost of materials would be **\$5, 795. 50 CND**

-the total cost of labour to build the Yryapu training centre would be:

\$4, 139.75 CND

The total estimated cost of building the indigenous tourism training centre in Yryapu would consequently be a total of **\$9, 935.25 CND**.

On behalf of all of us in Puerto Iguazú, a big thanks for your consideration in supporting this initiative. Reports and pictures will be prepared on a regular basis to share with our colleagues in Canada. Niagara College and the M.A.T.E. project team will continue seeking out additional sources of funding for these materials. Nevertheless, we would be infinitely appreciative of any contribution that could be made to support Yryapu and other Mbya-Guaraní communities in Misiones, Argentina.

¡AGUYJEVETE ROTARY CLUB WELLAND!

*Agyi ñaiarâmi ñairâ joapypa. Ñande chy, ñande ray vyarâ
peicha vyae ñairâ pya guapypy ae vyapâve*

Así como esta vez, siempre debemos estar todos juntos. Para alegría de nuestra Madre, para alegría de nuestros hijos. Así existirá paz y felicidad infinita / Just like we are here today, so we should always be together. For the joy of our Mother, for the joy of our sons. In this way there will be infinite peace and happiness

**ESCUELA BILINGÜE INTERCULTURAL
DE TURISMO MBYÁ GUARANÍ
“CLEMENCIA GONZÁLEZ - JACHUKA YVAPOTY”**

**Comunidad Mbyá Guaraní Tekoa Yryapú
Puerto Yguazú, Argentina, abril de 2006**



Agencia Canadiense
de Desarrollo Internacional

www.proyectomate.org

Greetings Welland!

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Rotary Club of Welland, Ontario, Canada

Please accept my greeting of peace and well being to each and every one of you.

With the help of your honourable Rotary Club, a new hope of having a Mbyá Guaraní Intercultural Bilingual School of Tourism has been made possible so that our young people can be educated in the knowledge of our cultural roots.

Through tourism we envision a means of growth and economic development but fundamentally we will discover through the activity a means of communicating with white society, showing the strength of our traditional values to those who visit us so that they can in turn spread throughout the world the Mbyá message of commitment to life and nature.

We await you in our community whenever you can and want to visit, as often as you can and want to.

Agyi ñaiarâmi ñairââ joapypa. Ñande chy, ñande ray vyarâ peicha vyae ñairââ pya guapypy ae vyapâve. [Just like we are here today, so we should always be together, for the joy of our Mother, for the joy of our children. In this way there will be infinite peace and happiness.]

Peace and well being,

Cacique Ernesto Chamorro
Mbyá Guaraní Yryapú Village

Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, April 2006