



ecoclubs

INTERNATIONAL



Guide for ECOCIUBS of the United States of America



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

**Ecoclubs International.
Guide for Ecoclubs of the United States of America**



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE **Americas**

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Foreword

This guide has been prepared for members at all levels of the National Organization of Ecoclubs (NOE) of the United States of America (hereinafter called Ecoclubs of the United States), and constitutes the tool for the NOE's organization and daily operation. It is also a source of information for all those interested in joining or forming an Ecoclub—either as members, facilitators, promoters, or strategic partners—in an effort to promote the participation and inclusion of girls, boys, and young people in matters affecting the environment and the problems this can pose for world communities.

We are pleased to present this Guide for Ecoclubs of the United States as part of our ongoing support for the education and development of girls, boys, and youth throughout the country. Ecoclubs promote a high level of civic and social commitment and embrace cultural diversity. They give girls, boys, and youth the opportunity to acquire needed skills while they have fun working together in teams to achieve common goals. Ecoclubs also give girls, boys, and young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

It is our sincere desire that numerous parents, educators, girls, boys, and young people become interested in forming Ecoclubs in their communities throughout the United States. We hope facilitators and sponsors will join this movement to encourage and help youth organize themselves and plan activities to enhance the environment in the communities where they live, study, and play.

This publication would not have been possible without the contribution of the following people, who participated actively and shared their experiences, knowledge, and information from the organizations in their respective countries: Mr. Rufino Gil Zaya, International Promoter, and Mrs. Myriam Chávez, International President, International Network of Ecoclubs; Mrs. Sylvia Sillas, former National Promoter of Ecoclubs of the United States; Prof. Salvador Ortiz, former National Promoter of Ecoclubs of Mexico.

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Chapter 1

Ecoclubs

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1.1. What are the Ecoclubs?

Ecoclubs are civil society organizations led and directed by girls, boys, and young people to promote an improved quality of life and contribute to the well-being of the community. They plan activities jointly with other social institutions.

Through a process of youth leadership and teamwork, awareness is raised about the need to get involved in solving the community's problems.

1.2. Mission and vision

1.2.1. Mission

The mission of the Ecoclubs is "to improve the quality of life of people" through a process of consciousness raising, education, development, and continuous learning. The Ecoclubs make use of many tools to carry out their mission, such as educational theatrical performances, presentations at schools, distribution of leaflets, strategic partnerships, and community projects, among others.

How the mission is accomplished is not relevant; what matters is raising awareness in the community and disseminating the fundamental idea of Ecoclubs, to encourage girls, boys, young people, and adults to take responsibility for their environment and thus successfully promote the participation of the entire community.

1.2.2. Vision

The Ecoclubs are spaces to develop the leadership capacity of girls, boys and young people, with emphasis on training and organization, so that they can get involved in their communities and help to solve local problems through planned actions.

1.3. Objectives

The objectives of the Ecoclubs are:

- Preserve the environment;
- Involve the entire community;
- Improve quality of life and introduce healthy lifestyles; and
- Help girls, boys and young leaders to develop.

1.4. Values

Unity in diversity: All are welcome, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, age, skin color, religion, political persuasion, or educational level, as long as the same goal is sought: the good of the community. Ecoclubs is an organization that opens its doors to everyone.

Democracy and participation: The members of each Ecoclub elect their own leaders by majority vote and decide which community problems they want to work on.

Responsibility and social commitment: The Ecoclubs recognize that situations of injustice vis-à-vis man and the environment are multiplying and growing in all countries. Out of love and respect for their fellow man, members of the Ecoclubs become involved in activities that others are conducting to address social and environmental problems, and in so doing, take care of themselves.

1.5. What do the Ecoclubs do?

In the Ecoclubs, girls, boys, and young people get organized to analyze social and environmental problems that affect their communities and their environment, with a view to finding sustainable solutions. In so doing, they learn about teamwork, develop their leadership skills, form lasting friendships, and learn about the activities of Ecoclubs in other countries.

The Ecoclubs carry out many activities that help strengthen both the organization and its members, such as:

- Community-building gatherings such as camps, get-togethers, and recreational activities;
- Meetings of the organization such as board meetings and local, state and national assemblies in which the democratically elected delegates determine the course of the organization;
- Activities that support the education of the members, such as courses, workshops, competitions, and forums, among other things;
- Actions to solve local problems (environmental or social) identified by the Ecoclub itself; and
- Common and joint activities with Ecoclubs of the United States, those along the United States-Mexico border, and with the International Network of Ecoclubs (INE).

1.6. Success of the Ecoclubs

The key to the success of the Ecoclubs is the commitment of their members, who participate actively in the organization's work. The basic objective is to participate in the improvement of the community and the environment. The leadership role played by girls, boys, and young people shows their commitment to the community and motivates others to join the projects underway.



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1.7. How are the Ecoclubs organized in the United States?

The development of Ecoclubs on the border between the United States and Mexico has been decisive for the creation of Ecoclubs in the United States. Ecoclub El Chamizal, in El Paso, Texas, was the first Ecoclub in the United States. This allowed the country to join the INE and the idea spread to other cities and states, which opened the doors to cooperation among girls, boys and young people throughout the country with members of similar organizations in other countries in the Americas. It also expanded the culture and orientation towards community development. Due to its increasing membership, different ages, and variety of projects, Ecoclub El Chamizal was divided into three—Chamizal Project, Project Vida, and Help Earth—though these

three remained in close contact. Ecoclubs have become popular in the United States and spread to other cities and regions of the country, in addition to the U.S.-Mexico border.

This has in turn helped revitalize the INE and given it new momentum..

1.8. How are the Ecoclubs financed?

The cost of running an Ecoclub is low, so it is not hard to mobilize the human and material resources needed to sustain one. All of the members and facilitators are volunteers, as are those running the training programs. The costs an Ecoclub incurs are primarily from its activities, be they educational, recreational, or community organizing. Its funding comes from self-sustaining activities and sponsoring institutions—banks, businesses, nongovernmental organizations—and people in the community who share the philosophy of the Ecoclubs.





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Chapter 2

Establishment of an Ecoclub

Chapter 2. Establishment of an Ecoclub



2.1. Establishment

An Ecoclub can be established with a minimum of 10 girls, boys, or young people between 5 and 25 years of age, preferably residing in the same area or community. Members do not need to have belonged to another group previously, but they do need to demonstrate interest in joining the Ecoclub and want to work with the community. They should also be exemplary in their area and attend school. Furthermore, they should not belong to gangs, smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs. Each Ecoclub should have at least one facilitator recognized by Ecoclubs of the United States.

Interested girls, boys, and youth should fill out a free registration form (Annex 1) that must be signed by their parents or legal guardian.

2.2. Membership profile

Ecoclubs look for members from among girls, boys, and young people interested in working to improve their community. How each member contributes does not matter; what matters is that one have a gift for altruism and be able to work hard to improve the quality of life for him or herself, his or her peers, and the community.

2.3. Board of Directors

Ecoclubs are organized around a shared notion: a need to be involved in solving the community's problems. The Board of Directors is the highest representative body of the Ecoclubs and it is comprised of:

- A president;
- A vice president;
- A secretary;
- A treasurer; and
- A spokesperson.

Every member of an Ecoclub is eligible to vote and be elected. The members of the Board of Directors are elected for a one-year term and may be reelected.

The responsibilities of the president of an Ecoclub are:

1. Lead the Ecoclub toward the achievement of its goals and implementation of the Annual Operating Plan;
2. Chair the meetings of the Ecoclub and the Board of Directors effectively;
3. Develop the agenda of each meeting with the support of the facilitator;
4. Share responsibilities and leadership duties with the Board of Directors, and assign tasks to all members through the committees established to carry out the Ecoclub's projects;
5. Organize, guide, and supervise the work of the Board of Directors of the Ecoclub and its committees;
6. Serve as representative of the Ecoclub in the community and vis-à-vis Ecoclubs of the United States;
7. Disseminate information on the objectives and programs of the Ecoclub and Ecoclubs of the United States;
8. Resolve conflicts within the Ecoclub;
9. Represent the Ecoclub at events and gatherings at the local, national, and international level;
10. Maintain regular communication with Ecoclubs of the United States, the National Advisory Council, and other Ecoclub institutions.

The responsibilities of the vice president of an Ecoclub are:

1. Collaborate with the president to help promote Ecoclub values;
2. Stay apprised of all the activities of the Ecoclub;

Chapter 2. Establishment of an Ecoclub

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3. Assume the responsibilities of the president when the incumbent is absent or unable to do so;
4. Perform other duties as assigned by the president.

The responsibilities of the secretary of an Ecoclub are:

1. Keep all of the Ecoclub's records: members, meeting minutes, activities, and annual plans;
2. Ensure that the meetings of the Ecoclub are orderly and productive;
3. Take notes at all the Ecoclub's meetings; the notes should contain the names of the members and other participants attending, the points discussed, and any decisions made by the members at the meeting;
4. Keep attendance records at all meetings of the Board of Directors of the Ecoclub
5. Serve as an active member of that Board.

The responsibilities of the treasurer of an Ecoclub are to do the following, with the support of the facilitator:

1. Keep the accounting books in a precise, organized, complete, and up-to-date fashion;
2. Give the president of the Ecoclub and other members of the Board of Directors updated reports on the finances of the Ecoclub;
3. Always obtain a receipt for any expenses incurred;

4. Keep all the money generated by Ecoclub projects, contributions, donations, etc.;
5. Develop ideas for new projects to raise funds for the Ecoclub;
6. Report to the Board of Directors regularly on the financial status of the Ecoclub; and
7. Recruit and organize volunteers to help with fundraising projects.

The responsibilities of the spokesperson of the Ecoclub are:

1. Keep members informed about upcoming meetings, programs, projects, and special dates (such as members' birthdays);
2. Share information about the Ecoclub on social networks such as Facebook, the PAHO blog, and Ecojoven;
3. Publicize the activities of the Ecoclub and its members, including:
 - upcoming meetings of the Ecoclub
 - news about members' achievements
 - special honors awarded to members
 - information on local, national, and international meetings, as well as programs and projects
 - community and city events in which Ecoclubs participate
 - the schedule of projects, meetings, activities, and upcoming events.



Chapter 2. Establishment of an Ecoclub

2.4. Meetings

2.4.1. Structure

Each week the members of an Ecoclub meet to plan their activities, assign duties, and report on activities carried out. It is important that the meetings follow some formalities, such as:

- having an agenda detailing what is to be discussed;
- preparing the agenda for the following meeting, including topics proposed by members of the group;
- having a fixed time and day to meet, so that all members know and can participate;
- limiting the time each member is allowed to speak, so that everyone who wishes to participate can do so;
- respecting the order of people asking for the floor, which should be recorded by the secretary of the Board of Directors;
- promoting mechanisms that encourage everyone to participate, even the shyest members; and
- recording the decisions made at each meeting in the minutes.

2.4.2. Minutes

The minutes are a document in which the secretary writes down the items discussed during the meeting and the decisions made by the membership. This helps everyone (members and facilitators) to carry out the decisions and fulfill the commitments made. (See format for minutes in Annex 2).

2.5. Official recognition of Ecoclubs and their members

In order to be recognized, an Ecoclub must satisfy three requirements:

1. The Ecoclub must have existed and had members for at least six months.
2. It must file the following with Ecoclubs of the United States:
 - Registration form (Annex 3),
 - List of members, including full name and age,
 - List of members of the provisional Board of Directors,
 - Annual Operating Plan (Annex 4), and
 - List of activities conducted since its founding.
3. Finally, the Advisory Council of Ecoclubs of the United States must give its approval. Within 30 days of the filing of the application the Council will decide on admission of the Ecoclub to Ecoclubs of the United States.

Before the work period indicated in the first requirement is completed and official approval as described in the third requirement is granted, the Ecoclub is considered a candidate and not an official Ecoclub. Once it is admitted to Ecoclubs of the United States, it shall enjoy all the rights and obligations established in the bylaws of Ecoclubs of the United States (Annex 5).





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Chapter 3

Facilitators

Chapter 3. Facilitators

3.1. What is an Ecoclub facilitator?

An Ecoclub facilitator is an adult—man or woman over 25 years of age—who collaborates with girls, boys and young people so they can form an Ecoclub in accordance with the objectives proposed for environmental conservation and community improvement, together with Ecoclubs of the United States, the INE, and other partners and sponsors.

The facilitator takes on a great responsibility. A large number of girls, boys, and young people will depend on him or her to channel their dreams and altruistic desires, turning their good intentions into behavior changes for the good of their environment.

3.2. Duties of the facilitator

The duties of the facilitators are:

- Strengthen the development and personal growth of each member;
- Guide and train the members in conflict resolution to improve the dynamics of the Ecoclub;
- Support members in the organization's processes;
- Encourage members to participate democratically;
- Create an atmosphere of teamwork that generally facilitates the learning and the growth of every member of the Ecoclub and their community;
 - Guide the members of the Ecoclub as they carry out projects and improve their leadership and entrepreneurial capacity;
 - Facilitate

negotiations with local educational, health, environmental, and business authorities as well as parents and anyone else who deals directly with the Ecoclubs, so that they can carry out community, educational, informational, and recreational activities;

- Provide support for the following tasks:
 - summarize information on projects being considered by members of the Ecoclub
 - organize programs for meetings and special functions
 - draft letters of recognition or thanks to be signed by the Board of Directors
 - organize and facilitate recreational activities for members of the Ecoclub.

A major part of the facilitator's role is to intervene with girls, boys, and youth indirectly.

This differentiates it from the classic role of a teacher, who is always leading the group. In the Ecoclubs, the facilitator allows the members to act freely, giving them space to develop their leadership, entrepreneurial skills, and maturity.

3.3. Who can be a facilitator?

Any adult of high moral and ethical character interested in Ecoclub activities, who has awareness of problems in the community and the environment, and who works well with girls, boys and young people and can motivate them to take initiative, can be a facilitator. Members of Ecoclubs can become facilitators once they turn 25.

The job of the facilitator takes time and energy, since girls, boys, and young people require their full attention; but it is also very gratifying. It is important to realize that it takes a special person to be a facilitator and handle the challenges of the Ecoclub's day-to-day work. Facilitators may come from a broad array of backgrounds, such as



teachers, counselors, or parents, to name a few.

In order for a facilitator to best perform his work, he must be immersed in and committed to the work of the Ecoclub, and respect the following principles:

- Have a positive influence on the members of the Ecoclub and the community in order to bring about changes to improve their quality of life;
- Promote democracy and tolerance, so that all members can participate equally and fairly and have the opportunity to elect and be elected within the organization;
- Maintain strict principles of equality, since no one in an Ecoclub can be subject to discrimination on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, economic status, level of education, special needs, health status, or political persuasion; and
- Recognize the right that girls, boys, and youth have to generate and demand changes in the structure of their community, and support them in their efforts to develop a more just and inclusive society.

3.4. Objectives of the facilitator

The objectives of the facilitators in their work with the members of Ecoclubs are:

- Foster commitment to society and nature;
- Organize girls, boys, and young people to work for the common good;
- Foster solidarity and social commitment through concrete actions;
- Encourage tolerance, communication, and appreciation for dialogue and agreements;
- Respect plurality, participation, and a commitment to democracy;
- Inculcate appreciation for volunteer work;
- Train leaders with a sense of belonging to the organization and brotherhood with the world;
- Show interest in knowing the objectives, services, and functions of local organizations (governmental and nongovernmental);
- Encourage members to learn about the social, environmental, economic, and cultural problems of the locality, in addition to the health issues that concern them; and
- Promote teamwork and youth leadership.



3.5. The facilitator's job

The facilitator's job is based mainly on her altruism and interest in helping girls, boys, and young people in the Ecoclub become more sensitive to the problems affecting them and their community and find ways to solve them.

In an increasingly individualistic and exclusive world, it is essential to instill collective values such as solidarity, tolerance, and respect for other people and the environment. It is critical for society to focus on weaving a social fabric based on a culture of empathy, generosity, service, and solidarity.

The role of the facilitator is very important, since her involvement as an outside, objective observer gives girls, boys, and young people the best tools for implementing their programs and projects. It is important to stress that the main task of the facilitator is to support girls, boys, and youth as they implement projects, learn, and develop mechanisms to participate in their community.

Furthermore, the facilitators must maintain detailed records of the meetings and activities carried out by their respective Ecoclubs. They send monthly reports to the National Promoter of Ecoclubs of the United States to be disseminated nationally and internationally.

Another key part of the facilitator's job is to maintain relations with strategic partners and donors, with whom they must keep open channels of communication. They serve as a link between the Ecoclub and the institutions that support it.

3.6. Conflict resolution within the organization

In every group, conflicts are unavoidable and even necessary—since they can improve the group—but they can also do harm if they are not properly resolved. Various things can be done in this regard, but it is advisable to not ignore the fact that a conflict exists. The best way to resolve a conflict is by confronting it, accepting it, and resolving it immediately. It is important for the facilitator to serve as a mediator and follow these rules:

- Respect plurality by allowing each party involved to give his/her version and letting any witnesses give testimony;
- Remain neutral and not take sides until a

clear picture of the conflict emerges;

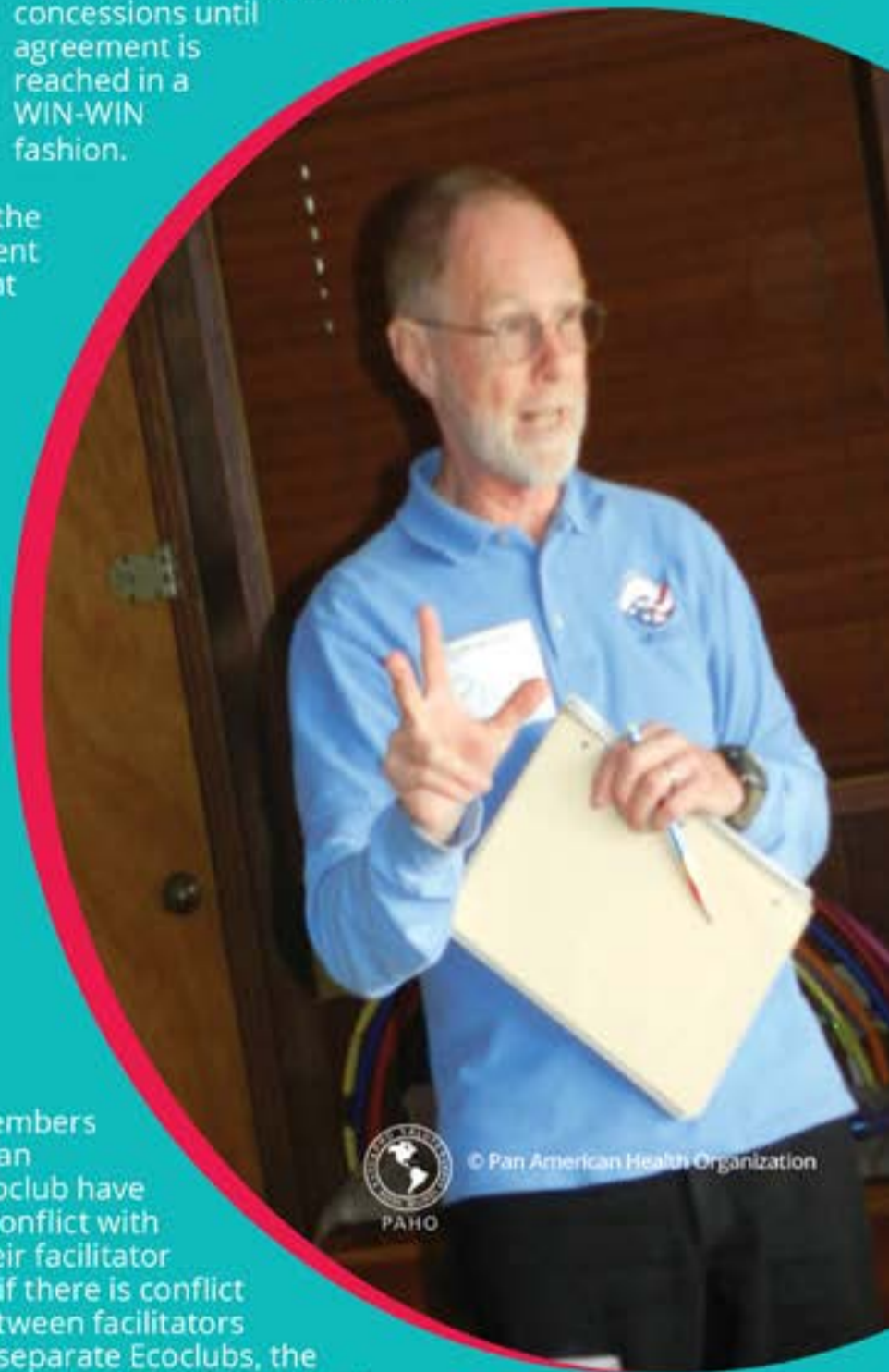
- Keep control over the situation and remain calm; and
- Try to get each side to make concessions until agreement is reached in a WIN-WIN fashion.

In the event that

members of an Ecoclub have a conflict with their facilitator or if there is conflict between facilitators of separate Ecoclubs, the mediator will be the National Promoter of Ecoclubs of the United States.

3.7. What challenges does a facilitator face?

Facilitators face multiple challenges, but their greatest responsibility is to motivate girls, boys, and young people to excel and take initiative. Other challenges are:



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- Integrating the Ecoclub into the community;
 - Maintaining continuous communication with members of the Ecoclub and their families;
 - Preventing members from dropping out;
 - Encouraging girls, boys, and young people to take initiative, grow strong, and become leaders so that they gain confidence in themselves and develop the skills and knowledge that will be key to the future of the organization;
 - Understanding mood and behavior fluctuations that are unique to adolescents and which affect the dynamics of the group;
 - Encouraging the maturation of each member so that she can take on new challenges and play new roles within the organization;
 - Maintaining a gender-based and intercultural approach in the activities of the Ecoclub and the participation of its members;
 - Preventing the Ecoclub from being used for political purposes—this is not acceptable and goes against the interests of the Ecoclub members; and
 - Striving for continuous theoretical and practical growth so that the facilitator can get better at his job every day.
3. Expulsion, only in the following cases:
 - Conviction for a crime against persons, their sexual integrity, or heritage
 - denigrating, assaulting, or endangering any member of the Ecoclub
 - violating the values and principles of the organization
 - committing any crime against the Ecoclub or Ecoclubs of the United States.

3.8. Conduct of the facilitator

The facilitator must display exemplary conduct at all times, both within the Ecoclub and in her professional and personal life. If she commits any offenses, the facilitator may be subjected to the following sanctions:

1. Warning, in cases of minor infractions and if the facilitator has no previous discipline problems;
2. Suspension, in the following cases:
 - notorious misconduct or failure to fulfill obligations
 - insulting or assaulting a member of the Ecoclub, representative of Ecoclubs of the United States, its Board of Directors or Advisory Council, or any other person or institution



Chapter 3. Facilitators



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Chapter 4

Leadership development

Chapter 4. Leadership development

4.1. What is a leader?

A leader is a person—a girl, boy, young person, or adult of either sex—capable of influencing others with her spirit, behavior, attitudes and actions, and who motivates members of a group to work together towards a common objective.

4.2. What is the profile of an Ecoclub leader?

The basic characteristic of an Ecoclub leader is a desire to change common behaviors; not to act as a mere spectator, but to become a protagonist and active member of the community working to improve the individual and collective quality of life.

Ecoclubs are leadership schools. Leaders develop through the practical work of improving the environment and society.

4.3. Responsibilities of an Ecoclub leader

The first and foremost responsibility of an Ecoclub leader is to share the values and principles of the organization. It is important for the leader to understand that his leadership is temporary, since he must facilitate and encourage the development other members of the organization. The leaders of Ecoclubs have a responsibility to show solidarity and be honest, noble, responsible, and visionary.

4.4. How can the Ecoclubs address the social and environmental needs of the community?

In order to address the social and environmental needs of a community it is important to first identify the community's issues and realize that we are all part of the problem and must therefore be part of the solution. One must bear in mind that one of the objectives of the work is to raise awareness in the community so that people can work with the competent authorities to help solve social and environmental problems.

It is essential to prepare initiatives and projects to help develop and improve the community; putting ideas into practice is the best way to solve the community's problems.

4.5. What values should be upheld in the group?

It is key for all members of the organization to share common values.

Respect and tolerance. Respect and tolerance for members' different viewpoints are essential values within Ecoclubs. Each person is entitled to her own position and the organization is greatly strengthened by accepting these differences.

Teamwork. One of the main objectives of Ecoclubs is the common good. Appreciation of the common good is a value that must be inculcated in all members of the organization through teamwork.

Honesty. It is imperative to have transparency and honesty throughout the organization among all members and in the activities they carry out. Ethics, morality, and transparency are essential for the Ecoclub.

Individual leadership. Each member of the Ecoclub should become a leader in his community, take the initiative in solving problems, and serve as an example to his peers.

Concern for the environment. Living in a community in harmony with the environment is essential for the Ecoclubs. This is a principle Ecoclub members should live by.

Healthy lifestyle. Sensibility, good nutrition, and healthy habits are the building blocks of a good life. Each Ecoclub member should adopt these practices.

Commitment. Doing good for others out of love and determination, without expecting anything in return, is an attitude that should motivate Ecoclub members to obtain new experiences and learn to transform their surroundings.





Chapter 5

Support institutions

Chapter 5. Support institutions

5.1. Pan American Health Organization

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), founded in 1902, is the oldest international public health agency in the world. Its mission is to provide technical cooperation and mobilize partnerships to improve health and the quality of life in the countries of the Americas. PAHO is the agency within the Inter-American System (Organization of American States) that specializes in health, and it serves as Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO). Together with WHO, PAHO is a member of the United Nations system.

Its mission is to spearhead strategic collaborative efforts among the Member States and other partners, in order to promote equity in health, fight disease, improve the quality of life, and prolong the lives of the people of the Americas.

PAHO envisions itself as a great catalyst ensuring that all the people in the Americas enjoy optimal health, while it contributes to the well-being of families and their communities.

Collaboration between PAHO and the INE was born of the need to recognize health as the linchpin tying together the individual, her physical space, the environment, and the general community. In this regard, it was proposed that young leaders be used to strengthen the individual capacity of girls, boys, and youth to take care of their health, and develop and empower the community to solve its environmental problems. This will have a positive effect on environmental and social determinants, and will get stakeholders from all sectors involved in activities aimed at reducing inequalities and

risks, in order to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of the population within a framework of sustainable development.

PAHO's collaboration with the Ecoclub initiative in each of the countries of the Region has been an important way to achieve the objectives set out by the INE. Interventions based on the Logical Framework for Public Health (<http://www.saludpublica101.wordpress.com/2013/02/17/marco-logico/>) have achieved positive changes, at both the individual and group level.

In the United States, this collaboration has facilitated a confluence of actions in several spheres of public health and with several local stakeholders, such as the Municipal Government of El Paso, the National Park Service, large commercial chains such as Walmart and Home Depot, the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP), Project Vida, religious sectors and school districts, among others.

Another example of what has been achieved through collaboration among the various institutions mentioned is the fact that September 30th was proclaimed "Ecoclub Day" in El Paso, Texas. This city thus became the only one to have a specific day to celebrate the positive contributions of the Ecoclubs and their members (Annex 6).

In addition to its support for training in health topics, PAHO facilitates the dissemination of information by placing various tools and social network mechanisms at the disposal of the Ecoclubs. One such tool is EcoJoven, a PAHO internet portal whose objective is to tap into the power of young leaders in the Region of



Chapter 5. Support institutions



the Americas through new information and communication technologies (ICTs) (<http://www.paho.org/ecojovent/index.php/es>).

The blog of the Ecoclubs along the U.S.-Mexico border was also created, whose purpose is to announce activities carried out on both sides of the border and to facilitate the sharing of educational and cultural experiences (http://new.paho.org/blogs/ecoclub/?page_id=1128&lang=es).

This information dissemination and access to communication tools is provided along with proper training in the technical and

The evaluation methodology is applied in all phases of the intervention, which means that the different evaluation activities are opportunities to generate information, knowledge, and learning for the members of the Ecoclubs and their facilitators and partners. This facilitates timely and relevant decision-making on whether to change the original plans in order to ensure the best results.

Together with the aforementioned parties, PAHO will prepare the objectives, indicators, means of verification, and assumptions of the projects to be executed.

5.2. United States National Park Service

The National Park Service was created in 1916 to care for the more than 400 national parks in the United States with the help of volunteers and members. The Office of Public Health of the National Park Service is the entity in charge of safeguarding the health of visitors to the parks and their communities. Its work specifically focuses on four large areas: environmental health, disease detection and control, preparation and response to emergencies, and comprehensive public health protection and promotion.

Regarding this last point, the “Healthy Parks—Healthy People” strategy was adopted to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles through various activities in the parks of the United States. The strategy revolves around four priority areas: projects and innovation points, research and evaluation, communication and education, and alignment and synergy. More information on this strategy can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/public_health/hp/hphp.htm.

Another initiative called “Let’s Move Outside” seeks to improve the health of young people while affording them the opportunity experience the beauty of nature and learn about the culture and history of the region. More information on this strategy can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/letsmove.htm>.

In the context of this work, in 2011 PAHO and the National Park Service signed a memorandum of understanding to join forces in educational and recreational activities in support of the Ecoclubs operating in the United States, by fostering healthy lifestyles among the members and their families. Another objective is to disseminate this concept in parks throughout the country with joint PAHO/NPS activities (Annex 7). This



responsible use of content.

In addition to providing technical cooperation in health and the environment for Ecoclubs and the network, PAHO offers methodological tools for developing projects, programs, and processes. Evaluation is one of the essential components of comprehensive management of the Ecoclubs. Along with the design and execution of the project, this tends to optimize the results and the positive effects in the long run.

Chapter 5.

Support institutions

memorandum of understanding serves as the basis for future commitments with state parks and other institutions that conduct activities in green spaces.

In El Paso several activities have been held at the Chamizal National Memorial including not only the Ecoclubs of the city, but also the community at large. Thus, these actions are educational and recreational, and instill cultural values. They are open to girls, boys, young people, and adults.

5.3. International Network of Ecoclubs

The idea of Ecoclubs started in 1992 in Rosario, Argentina, as the response of young people in various schools to the environmental problems arising in their communities. Over time and under the auspices of PAHO/WHO, other countries of the Americas joined the Ecoclub movement. The second country was Chile, in 1997, and since then the process has continued through the creation of the first Ecoclub in the United States in October 2010.

In October of 2000 the Charter establishing the International Network of Ecoclubs (INE) was signed, with the participation of 16 young people from seven countries in Latin America. The Charter sets forth the objectives, principles, and means of operating the INE. This mechanism was created as an expression of unity in diversity, as a way of maintaining continuous contact among the young people of the Americas working for the environment and to improve their communities. In 2011, the INE signed a memorandum of understanding with PAHO for the strengthening of joint activities on behalf of girls, boys, and young people in the Americas (Annex 8).

The general objective of the INE is to coordinate the activities of the Ecoclubs at the international level, by connecting the young members of an Ecoclub or other institution with Ecoclubs throughout the world. Thus they learn and improve strategies to develop local groups and communities, share experiences, and promote cultural exchanges.

The INE is directed by the Advisory Council and Board of Directors, two bodies comprised of representatives of the Ecoclubs of the different countries.

The following countries belong to the INE:

AMERICAS		EUROPE	AFRICA
Argentina	Bolivia	Germany	Guinea
Brazil	Chile	Poland	Morocco
Costa Rica	Cuba	Portugal	Nigeria
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Spain	
El Salvador	Guatemala		
Guyana	Haiti		
Honduras	Mexico		
Nicaragua	Panama		
Paraguay	Peru		
United States	Uruguay		

The Region of the Americas is in turn divided into two subregions:

- North America, Central America, and the Caribbean
- South America.

In October 2012, the national networks of North & Central America and the Caribbean held their general meeting in the city of El Paso, Texas. On that occasion, the countries—represented by their national promoters and national presidents—reviewed and recognized all the activities carried out by the Ecoclubs of the United States since their creation in 2010. As a result, the Advisory Council and Board of Directors decided to officially recognize the National Organization of Ecoclubs of the United States and its groups (Annex 9) and incorporate them into the INE with full rights and obligations (Annex 10).



Annexes

Annex 1. Registration form

Name/Nombre: _____	Date of birth/Fecha de nacimiento: __/__/__
Age/Edad: _____	Address/Dirección: _____
City/Ciudad: _____	State/Estado: _____
Zip Code/Código postal: _____	Phone/Teléfono: _____
School/Escuela: _____	

Father's name/Nombre del padre: _____

Phone/Teléfono: _____

Mother's name/Nombre de la madre: _____

Phone/Teléfono: _____

Other guardian/Otro representante: _____

Phone/Teléfono: _____

Yes, I would like to be part of the Ecoclub/Sí, me gustaría formar parte del Ecoclub

Participant signature/Firma de participante:

Name/Nombre:
Date/Fecha:

Parents/guardian signature
Firma de padres/representante

Name/Nombre:

Date/Fecha:

Name/Nombre:

Date/Fecha:

Annex 2. Meeting minutes

23

Ecoclubs:		
Meeting/Reunión	Date/Fecha:	
Attendees/Participantes:		
Items/Puntos:		
Topic/Tema:	Presenter/ Presentador:	Time allotted/ Tiempo concedido:
Meeting minutes/Minutas de la reunión:	Needs follow-up by Responsible person /Necesidades de seguimiento y responsable:	Date/Fecha:
New issues/Nuevos temas:	Needs Follow-up by responsible person /Necesidad de seguimiento y responsable:	Date/Fecha:

Annex 3. Ecoclubs registration form

General information/Información general						
Ecoclub:		Date of creation/Fecha de creación:				
Address/Dirección:		City/Ciudad:				
State/Estado:		Zip Code/Código postal:				
Phone/Teléfono:		E-mail/Correo electrónico:				
Facilitators/Facilitadores						
Name/Nombre:		Age/Edad:			Gender/Género:	
Address/Dirección:		City/Ciudad:				
State/Estado:		Zip code/Código postal:				
Phone/Teléfono:		E-mail/Correo electrónico:				
Number of members/Número de miembros						
Men/ Hombres	Women/ Mujeres	Total	10 years or less / 10 años o menos	11-15 years/años	16-20 years/años	21-25 years/años

Annex 4. Annual operations plan

Ecoclub:

General objective/Objetivo general:

Specific objectives/Objetivos específicos:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

IMPACT/ IMPACTO	OUTCOME/META	OUTPUT/ RESULTADOS	PRODUCTS & SERVICES/ PRODUCTOS Y SERVICIOS	ACTIVITIES/ ACTIVIDADES
	Indicators/Indicadores:	1. 2. Indicator/Indicadores:	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
	Indicators/Indicadores:	1. 2. Indicator/Indicadores:	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.

Annex 5. Bylaws of the National Organization of Ecoclubs (NOE) of the United States of America

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The National Organization of Ecoclubs (NOE) of the United States of America is hereby established, which shall be called Ecoclubs of the United States.

ARTICLE 2: HEADQUARTERS

The official headquarters of Ecoclubs of the United States will be in El Paso, Texas, United States.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

Ecoclubs of the United States shall have as its purpose the training of young leaders aware of and concerned about environmental problems and the physical, mental, and social well-being of themselves and their community.

ARTICLE 4: CONSTITUTION

Ecoclubs of the United States is comprised of all the Ecoclubs in the United States that are officially recognized by the Board of Directors of Ecoclubs of the United States.

GOVERNMENT ORGAN

ARTICLE 5: STRUCTURE

Ecoclubs of the United States is organized as follows:

- General Assembly
- Board of Directors
- National Promoter
- Advisory Council

ARTICLE 6: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of Ecoclubs of the United States and its highest authority. It is comprised of all the members of Ecoclubs and their facilitators.

Normally, the general assembly will hold an annual meeting during the general camp of Ecoclubs of the United States, with a view to:

- Review the operations of Ecoclubs of the United States
- Monitor the work plans of each Ecoclub
- Plan future actions
- Bring together all the Ecoclubs
- Hold training sessions on environmental preservation and health
- Approve, modify, or nullify statutes, laws, or by-laws that govern the operation of Ecoclubs of the United States.

The general assembly may be convened by the Board of Directors for special sessions.

ARTICLE 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ecoclubs of the United States has a Board of Directors elected for a one-year period and comprised of members of the Ecoclubs legally recognized by Ecoclubs of the United States. Every member is eligible to vote and be elected. During an annual on-site or virtual meeting, the representatives of the Ecoclubs select the members of the Board of Directors democratically by secret ballot.

The Board of Directors is comprised of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Spokesperson
- National Promoter
- Any other adult selected by the Board

The duties of the Board of Directors are:

1. Responsibly represent all the Ecoclubs of the United States
2. Carry out actions and decisions decided on by the Ecoclubs in their action plans
3. Maintain ties and relations with the International Network of Ecoclubs (INE)
4. Maintain constant communication with the Advisory Council and other institutions to receive support and guidance for its actions
5. Advise and support each Ecoclub of the United States and its members
6. Plan, organize, and convene the General Assembly of the Ecoclub members, as well as other activities of Ecoclubs of the United States
7. Convene annual elections for its members
8. Temporarily or permanently suspend any Ecoclub or Ecoclub member who violates these bylaws
9. Others duties as determined by the Ecoclub members.

The duties of the members of the Board of Directors shall be the same as those of the members of the Board of Directors of an Ecoclub, at the respective level.

ARTICLE 8: THE NATIONAL PROMOTER

The National Promoter serves on the Board of Directors representing all the facilitators in the United States. Her/his competence and sphere of action shall be all the territory of the United States. For legal purposes, the National Promoter is domiciled in El Paso, Texas.

The National Promoter shall be elected by a simple majority. Each Ecoclub belonging to Ecoclubs of the United States has the right to elect and propose candidates.

The functions and duties of the National Promoter are to:

1. Uphold and enforce these bylaws and decisions made by Ecoclubs of the United States
2. Invite the facilitators to gatherings and meetings
3. Establish ties with other civil society organizations in the country and abroad
4. Propose agreements to facilitate fulfillment of the mission of Ecoclubs of the United States
5. Use the services of people and organizations, arrange contracts, and grant general and specific powers of attorney

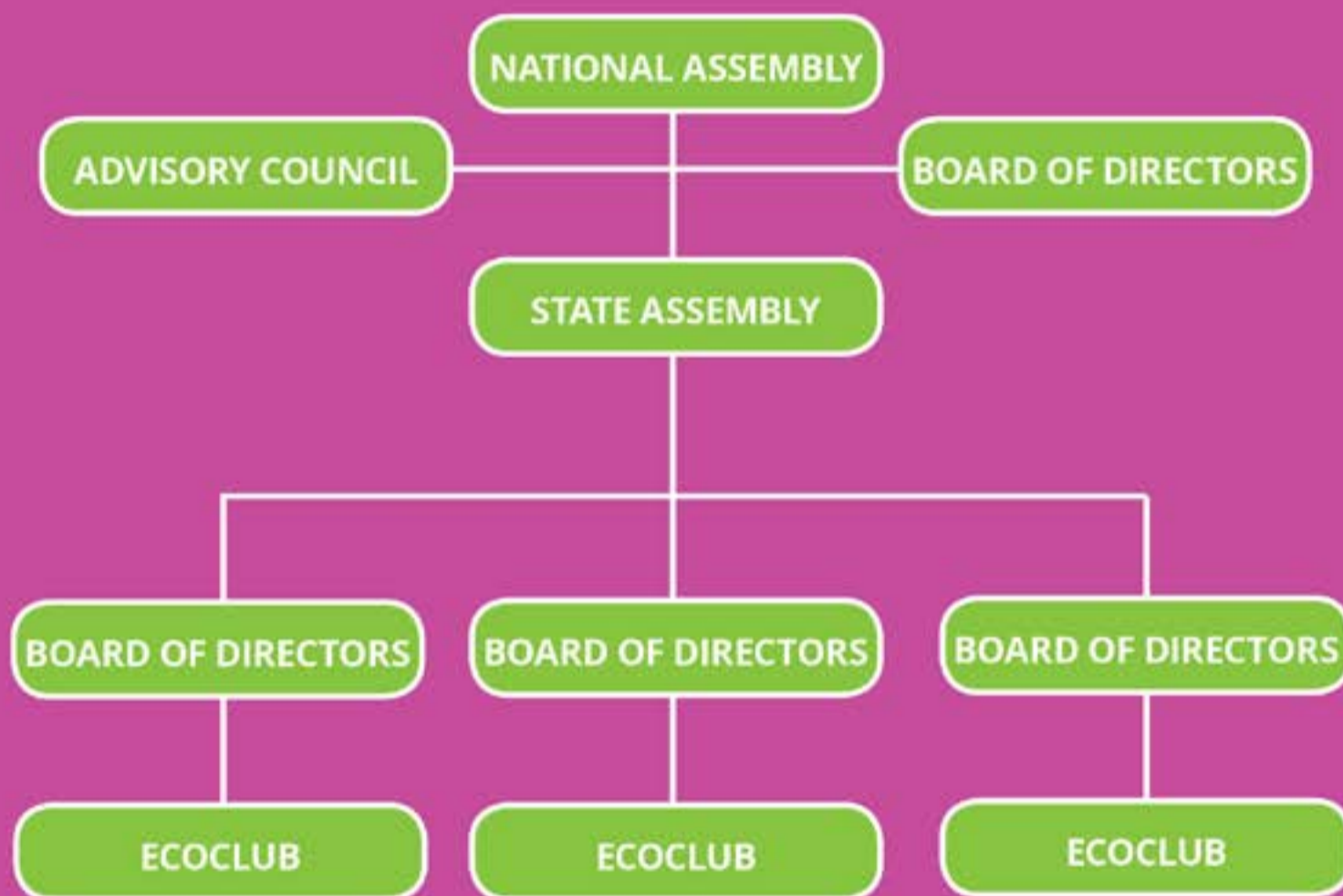
ARTICLE 9: ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is a Technical Advisory Group that supports the technical aspects of Ecoclubs of the United States activities. It is comprised of but limited to:

- a. Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- b. National Park Service
- c. Universities, school districts, public and civil society organizations

ARTICLE 10: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ECOCLUBS OF THE UNITED STATES

The following organizational chart shows the placement of each government organ described in Articles 5 to 9.

**INFRACTIONS AND SANCTIONS****ARTICLE 11: INFRACTIONS**

The term infraction refers to fraudulent or culpable acts or omissions carrying moderate or severe sanctions.

ARTICLE 12: SANCTION AGAINST AN ECOCLUB

An Ecoclub may be suspended from its right of affiliation with Ecoclubs of the United States for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. Failure to present an Annual Operating Plan
- b. Failure to report the members of the Ecoclub
- c. Failure to participate in the general Assembly more than three consecutive times
- d. Failure to submit a quarterly activity report
- f. Membership falls below the minimum number (10)
- g. Involvement in political or religious activities
- h. Failure to follow the objectives, mission, and vision of Ecoclubs of the United States
- i. Repeated violation of the legal, statutory, or regulatory standards of Ecoclubs of the United States

Once the infraction is favorably resolved, the Ecoclub will regain its full rights within Ecoclubs of the United States.

ARTICLE 13: SANCTIONS AGAINST A MEMBER

The Board of Directors may impose the following sanctions on members of the Ecoclubs:

- a. Verbal warning
- b. Written warning
- c. Temporary suspension
- d. Expulsion

ARTICLE 14: GROUNDS FOR VERBAL WARNING

- Refusal to follow the established rules and regulations
- Violating order and unity within the Ecoclubs
- Causing internal conflicts for reasons incompatible with Ecoclubs, such as religious or political debates, and actions that may destabilize the movement
- Violating the fundamental principles contained in these bylaws

ARTICLE 15: GROUNDS FOR WRITTEN WARNING

- Repetition of an infraction that led to a verbal warning

ARTICLE 16: GROUNDS FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- Any infraction that continues after a verbal or written warning
- Insults or assault against a member of an Ecoclub, a representative of Ecoclubs of the United States, its government organs, or any other person or institution

ARTICLE 17: GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION

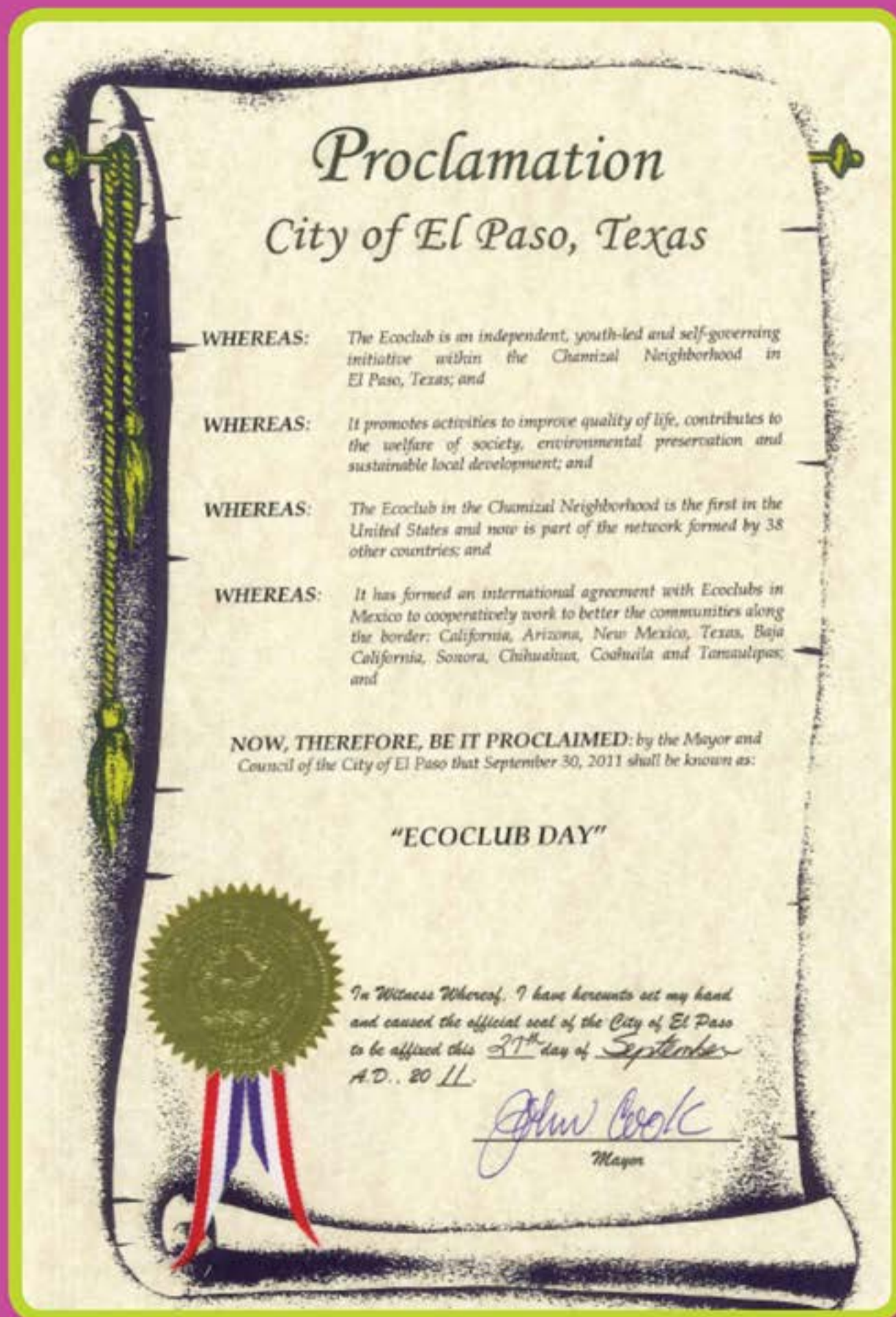
- Conviction and incarceration for a crime against people, their sexual integrity, or heritage
- Defaming, assaulting, or endangering any member of an Ecoclub
- Violating the laws of morality and proper conduct
- Disrespect and lack of consideration for one's peers, facilitators, or the government organs
- Repeated and unexplained failure to abide by these bylaws
- Repeatedly causing conflicts of any kind that threaten the stability of the Ecoclub movement

FINAL DISPOSITION

ARTICLE 18: MODIFICATION OF THESE BYLAWS

Modification of these bylaws, in total or in part, shall be possible by approval in the General Assembly, through a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Annex 6. Ecoclub Day Proclamation



Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

Memorandum of Understanding between The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service and the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization United States—Mexico Border Office

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the National Park Service (hereinafter “NPS”) United States Department of the Interior, acting through the Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial (hereinafter “CHAM”), and the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization (hereinafter “PAHO” or “PAHO/WHO”), represented by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Mirta Roses Periago.

WHEREAS, NPS/CHAM commemorates the diplomatic resolution of the longstanding Chamizal boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico. It fosters goodwill and understanding between the people of the United States and Mexico and provides a center to present activities that celebrate cultural exchange.

WHEREAS, the NPS is committed to providing educational opportunities to young people so that they can gain a better understanding and appreciation of the NPS natural and cultural resources;

WHEREAS, the NPS continues its efforts to provide opportunities for public service and minority youth development and training;

WHEREAS, through the “Let’s Move Outside”, program the NPS is fulfilling the dual goal of improving youth health, and providing the opportunity to experience the beauty of nature and to learn about the region’s history and culture;

WHEREAS, PAHO is a public international organization specializing in the field of health, with recognized competence and experience in providing technical cooperation to its Member States.

WHEREAS, the Millennium Development Goals emphasize key development areas in human rights: equality, solidarity, freedom, tolerance, and respect to nature. Environmental preservation is a fundamental socio-environmental condition for the health of a community;

WHEREAS, Education and training of a community in environment conservation is not complete without a process of leadership and empowerment of ideas and actions in youths of the US-MX border;

WHEREAS, physical inactivity, especially in children and youth, is a growing problem and will have serious health consequences (raise of chronic degenerative diseases and their appearance at more premature ages);

WHEREAS, the Ecoclub promotes leadership in children and young people and active involvement in activities related to harmonious development, education and training, and interrelationship with other children and youths of the world, setting the bases for a change of conducts and lifestyles of the communities;

WHEREAS, these two institutions wish to collectively address and work against the growing epidemic of unhealthy lifestyles, in part through the reinforcement of the Ecoclub “El Chamizal”, and more broadly through new initiatives undertaken by NPS and PAHO.

Annex 7.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

ARTICLE I—BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this MOU is to establish the standards, terms, and conditions under which the parties will cooperate for the implementation and reinforcement the Ecoclub El Chamizal (hereinafter “Ecoclub”) which is a youth-run non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in communities through environmental actions. The Ecoclubs are meant to be a tool to build leadership skills on the part of young people and to give them firsthand experience in using collective action as a means to build healthier environments.

ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY

NPS is authorized to enter into this MOU pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 1-3 and Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act of 1963, as amended (16 U.S.C.4601-10(1)).

ARTICLE III—STATEMENT OF WORK

- A. Subject to availability of funds and consistent with each parties' respective rules and regulations, both Parties will:
1. Regularly provide each other updates through written correspondence, coordination meetings, and other mechanisms, on program activities, youth development opportunities and related work pertaining to cooperative activities pursued under this MOU.
 2. Provide leadership and program oversight of the cooperative activities conducted under this MOU; review overall program requirements and cooperative arrangements under this MOU at least annually; and both parties may establish working groups, and review and approve work plans and reports.
 3. Will cooperate on joint outreach and educational activities that may involve both organizations, such as Healthy kids day activities; Children's International Health Summit and/or Festival; Connecting Kids to Parks activities; Healthy Living Initiative; and, other various collaborative programs.
 4. Jointly publicize the accomplishments of the cooperative effort in internal publications and to the public at large.
 5. Submit all materials that are intended for public distribution and that refer to the partnership or each other, to one another for advance review and approval. The Parties agree that they may develop standard language that does not require approval beyond the initial approval. Where standard language has not been developed, the parties will use best efforts to review, approve, or deny such materials within seven (7) business days of receipt. NPS agrees that failures on its part to meet the seven (7) day target may be brought to the attention of the Regional Director of NPS who will use his or her best efforts to make sure such reviews are completed in the future in the seven (7) day target.
 6. Support with technical cooperation and resources the formation and strengthening of the Ecoclub El Chamizal.
 7. Strengthen the organizational capacity of youth members and empower them to lead the process.
 8. Contribute to improving the health and quality of life of the inhabitants of El Chamizal, by protecting the environment, health education and healthy lifestyles.
 9. Treat each project or activity under this MOU individually, with more detail included in project statements, project plans and budgets developed cooperatively between PAHO and NPS and approved by key officials.
- B. Pursuant to its rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, and subject to the availability offunds, PAHO will:

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

1. Serve as primary contact between the NPS and the Ecoclub.
 2. Collaborate with NPS in the development and empowerment of the Ecoclub El Chamizal.
 3. Introduce the topic in schools and implement the Ecoclub model in other parts of the border.
 4. Promote and stimulate public purposes such as education, development of responsible citizenship, productive community involvement, healthy lifestyles and fitness, and furthering the understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources through the involvement of youth and young adults in care and enhancement of public resources.
 5. Prepare synopsis of policy about environmental changes in order to reduce environmental damages and improve public areas in El Chamizal.
- C. The NPS will:
1. Work with PAHO to encourage community engagement in shared stewardship of the NPS by the local and national community.
 2. Provide meaningful conservation assignments to youth participants in the areas of resource management, interpretation, visitor services, community outreach and education, historic preservation and recreation programs.
 3. Provide staff to participate with PAHO to achieve Ecoclub goals and build support.
 4. Develop a Junior Ranger Program specifically for the Ecoclub.
 5. Ensure all Ecoclub participants are considered Volunteers-In-Park participants.

ARTICLE IV—TERM OF MOU

This MOU will be effective for a period of five years from the date of final signature, unless it is terminated earlier by one of the parties pursuant to Article X below.

ARTICLE V—KEY OFFICIALS

- A. Key officials are essential to ensure maximum coordination and communication between the parties and the work being performed. They are:

For the NPS:

Catherine Light
Superintendent
Chamizal National Memorial
800 S San Marcial
El Paso, Texas
E-mail: Catherine_light@nps.gov
Telephone: (915) 562-7273
Facsimile: (915) 562-7240

For the PAHO:

Dr. Maria Teresa Cerqueira
Chief, PAHO Border Office Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization
5400 Suncrest Dr. Suite C-3
El Paso, TX 79912

Annex 7.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

E-mail: cerqueim@paho.org
Telephone: (915) 845-5950 ext.42512
Facsimile: (915)845-4361

- B. Communications - PAHO will address any communication regarding this MOU to the technical representative with a copy to the Contracting Officer, and to the superintendent of the area. Communications that relate solely to routine operational matters described in the current work plan may be sent only to the superintendent.

ARTICLE VI—STATUS OF ECOCLUB PARTICIPANTS

All Ecoclub project participants will be signed up prior to the start of their project as volunteers in the Volunteers in Parks program. Pursuant to the legal authority provided in the Volunteers in the Parks Act, work performed under this agreement shall not be counted toward the accumulation of, or eligibility for, benefits available to Federal employees. However, for the purpose of tort claim provisions of Title 28 of the United States Code and for the purposes of Subchapter 1 of Chapter 81 of Title 5 of the United States Code relating to work injuries, volunteers shall be deemed Federal employees.

ARTICLE VII—USE OF IDENTITY LOGOS

Neither party will use others identity logos such as NPS arrowhead unless authorized by appropriate party. Do not use logos to imply endorsement of a commercial product. Logos may not be altered or combined with another logo, word mark or symbol, the use of NPS tagline is prohibited "Experience your America.Tm" Do not incorporate the Arrowhead into partner uniforms or other clothing.

ARTICLE VIII—LIABILITY

Neither party shall be liable for any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, judgments, claims, actions, suits, penalties, fines, costs and expenses of any kind and nature whatsoever arising out of the acts or omissions of the other, its employees, agents or contractors.

ARTICLE IX—REPORTS AND/OR OTHER DELIVERABLES

Upon request and to the full extent permitted by applicable law, the parties will share with each other final project and activities reports.

ARTICLE X — PROPERTY UTILIZATION

Any tools, equipment, material, or other property supplied by NPS shall remain the property of the NPS. Similarly, any tools, equipment, material, or other property supplied by PAHO shall remain the property of PAHO.

ARTICLE XI — MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

1. Modification

This MOU may be modified only by a written instrument executed by the parties. Modifications will be in writing and improved by the NPS Agreement Technical Representative and the authorized representative of PAHO.

2. Termination

1. Each party may terminate this MOU for any reason by giving advance written Notice of Termination for Convenience. Termination shall be effective 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice, or upon the termination date specific in the Notice, whichever is later.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

2. Each party may immediately terminate this MOU for a material breach of this MOU by the other party. In this event, this MOU shall terminate upon the breaching party's receipt of a written Notice of Termination for Breach. Alternatively, the non-breaching party may provide the breaching party with an opportunity to cure the breach by a date specified in a Cure Letter. If the breach is not cured to the satisfaction of the non-breaching party by the specified date, this MOU will terminate upon the breaching party's receipt of a Notice of Termination for Breach.
3. Unless expressly provided for in this MOU or related agreements, neither party shall be liable for any costs, damages, or other claims that result directly or indirectly from termination of this MOU. All other rights and claims of the parties shall be preserved.

ARTICLE XII—INSURANCE

Not applicable.

ARTICLE XIII—STANDARD CLAUSES

A. Promotions

Neither party will publicize, or otherwise circulate, promotional material (such as advertisements, sales brochures, press releases, speeches, still and motion pictures, articles, manuscripts or other publications) which states or implies endorsement of a product, service, or position of the other party. No release of information relating to this MOU may state or imply that the one party approves of the other's work product, or considers the other's work product to be superior to other products or services.

B. Public Information Release

1. Public Information

- a. PAHO shall not publicize or otherwise circulate, promotional material (such as advertisements, sales brochures, press releases, speeches, still and motion pictures, articles, manuscripts or other publications) which states or implies Governmental, Departmental, bureau, or government employee endorsement of a product, service, or position which PAHO represents. No release of information relating to this Agreement may state or imply that the Government approves of PAHO's work products, or considers PAHO's work product to be superior to other products or services.
- b. PAHO will ensure that all information submitted for publication or other public releases of information regarding this project will carry the following disclaimer:

"The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government."

- c. PAHO will obtain prior NPS approval from the regional public affairs office for any public information release that refers to the Department of the Interior, any bureau or employee (by name or title), or to this MOU. The specific text, layout, photographs, etc., of the proposed release must be submitted to the agreements technical representative, who will forward such materials to the public affairs office, along with the request for approval.

2. Publications of Results of Studies

No party will unilaterally publish a joint publication without consulting the other party. This restriction does not apply to popular publication of previously published technical matter. Publications pursuant to this MOU may be produced independently or in collaboration with others; however, in all cases proper credit will be given to the efforts of those parties contributing to the publication. In the event no agreement is reached concerning the manner of publication or interpretation of results, either

Annex 7.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the National Park Service, April 2012

party may publish data after due notice and submission of the proposed manuscripts to the other. In such instances, the party publishing the data will give due credit to the cooperation but assume full responsibility for any statements on which there is a difference of opinion.

c. Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or related to this MOU shall be deemed to constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the immunities, privileges, exemptions, or facilities enjoyed by PAHO under international law, international conventions or agreements, or the domestic legislation and laws of its Member States.

d. Audit

Any financial contribution received and administered by PAHO under this MOU shall be subject to the usual audit procedures of PAHO, and shall be conducted by the person or persons designated for this purpose by PAHO Governing Bodies, pursuant to the rules, regulations, and policies of the Organization. Copies of the audit reports shall be delivered to the NPS on request.

ARTICLE XIV—SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU on the date(s) set forth below.

FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

Name: Catherine F. Light
Title: Superintendent

FOR THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

Name: Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Title: Director
Date: April 9, 2012



Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs, August 2011

Memorandum of Understanding For Collaboration between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs (INE)

PREAMBLE:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), is an international public health agency with more than 100 years of experience in working to improve health and living standards of the countries of the Americas. It serves as the specialized organization for health of the Inter-American System and enjoys international recognition as part of the United Nations system.

The International Network of Ecoclubs (INE) is the regional movement involving youth volunteers from over 30 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia working towards the improvement of the quality of life where the movement has presence, promoting leadership, organization, democracy and specific actions around the relationship between health, the environment and sustainable development.

Recalling the hemispheric leaders' recognition of the important role of the participation of civil society in the consolidation of democracy where this participation constitutes one of the vital elements for the success of development policies.

Aware of the International Network of Ecoclubs Structure and Strategy 2010 which establishes health promotion and its relation with the environment in the community as one of its core focus, and of PAHO's commitment to equity in health and Pan Americanism in the Americas.

Mindful that National Organizations of Ecoclubs can play a complementary role to governments by focusing on the community factors that are closely related to health determinants, through their unique network of volunteers.

Recognizing PAHO's technical expertise and capacity to dialogue with Ministries of Health in the design of policies and in setting standards and norms for the development of health programs.

Aware of PAHO's acknowledgement of the ongoing need for wide contacts and collaborative work with civil society organizations, in order to improve health conditions.

Recognizing the interest of the International Network of Ecoclubs and its member's National Organizations in making the most of opportunities offered by developing close multilateral partnerships with international organizations.

Taking into account the need for closer and more systematic collaboration between PAHO and the International Network of Ecoclubs in matters concerning health, environment and sustainable development, and desirous of further enhancing such cooperation,

NOW WHEREFORE, the International Network of Ecoclubs, in cooperation with interested members of the National Organizations of Ecoclubs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and PAHO (hereinafter "the Parties") hereby join forces to work together with the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, their respective Ministries of Health and the civil society to ensure that health determinants are a priority, responding to the needs of the population, particularly the most vulnerable, and agree to a process of collaboration during five years from the signing of this document as follows:

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs, August 2011

Section I: Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This MOU serves as a framework agreement for co-operation between the International Network of Ecoclubes and PAHO to develop and implement joint initiatives to support the countries of the Americas in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development and taking action on the Social Determinants of Health through coordinated efforts of the National Organizations of Ecoclubes, and PAHO offices in the countries.

Section II: Objectives

The objectives of this MOU are:

1. Cooperate and collaborate in activities between the Parties in areas such as: water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, waste disposal, vector borne diseases, health promotion, sexual and reproductive health, unintentional injuries, gender-based violence, and mental health in emergency and post-disaster situations, capacity building, achieving the MDGs, user-led innovation, use and management of information and communication technologies (ICTs), among others
2. Coordinate jointly in global events, actions and opportunities to create an space for Ecoclubes to participate and get involved as well as provide technical support to participate in such events
3. Strengthen and support the "Organizaciones Promotoras de Ecoclubes" (OPES) so that they become an entity that promote and provide services that will generate resources as well as opportunities for consultancies, course, etc. for Ecoclubes' members that have participated in the movement and are now professionals and/or have developed technical expertise in the Parties' areas of interest
4. Collaborate and seek support from Ecoclubes to develop sustainability in the use of social media, such as web pages, during activities and actions related to the Parties areas of interest
5. Revitalize the Comité Internacional de Capacitación de Ecoclubes (CIC) so that Ecoclubes' members can be trained in disaster emergency response and preparedness, vector-borne diseases prevention and other topics of interest for both parties

Section III: General Principles of co-operation and areas of shared interest The Parties shall:

1. Act in close co-operation and consult with each other, not less than once a year, on matters of common interest based on prioritized issues and programs, including joint projects and other activities at the Inter-American, sub-regional, and national levels, in order to co-ordinate their work and to strengthen co-operation;
2. Define and develop initial areas of collaboration:
 - a. Developing partnership with international organizations in areas such as water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, waste disposal, vector borne diseases, health promotion, sexual and reproductive health, unintentional injuries, gender-based violence, and mental health in emergency and post-disaster situations; and others,
 - b. Promoting collaboration and organization of youth to enhance communitarian response to local affections related to health and the environment,
 - c. Enhancing collaboration in preparing for and responding to emergencies and disaster situations,
 - d. Strengthening the capacity of the International Network and National Organization of Ecoclubes to maximize their ability to promote health and sustainable development through national and international cooperation, knowledge management, information and communication technologies (ICTs), capacity building, basic equipment user-led innovation and institutional support, as well as contributing to achieve the MDGs by focusing on the most vulnerable populations and deprived communities.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs, August 2011

- e. Identify new areas of collaboration at the time of the annual consultations.

Section IV: Modalities of Co-operation—Operational Aspects

In the framework of this agreement, PAHO, and the International Network of Ecoclubs, in co-operation with the interested National Organizations of Ecoclubs and the PAHO country offices across the region, will undertake the following responsibilities:

1. To each appoint an overall focal point who shall co-ordinate the implementation of this MOU, monitor progress, and meet once a year to evaluate and identify new opportunities for co-operation. Special technical focal points may also be appointed to implement the specific areas of co-operation called for above;
2. To establish a working group to develop a plan by both Organizations on international interventions to be implemented by both organization during the year period;
3. To endeavor in sharing information on events and activities that may be of common interest, with all participation to such events being by invitation;
4. To share information about projects proposed to be financed by each organization and subject to the terms of this MOU and each organization's rules regulations and procedures;
5. To cooperate in the development of joint web-based information dissemination tools such as publication of appropriate material, posters and audiovisuals as may be considered necessary, to increase access to information and level of public awareness of issues concerning environmental health and sustainable development;
6. To develop and disseminate strategies, guidelines and methods on health issues of common interest;
7. To consult each other on the design and scientific evaluation of activities carried out under this MOU;
8. To jointly evaluate progress in the implementation of this MOU during year consultation meetings.

Section V: Technical cooperation and funding

1. The Parties will consult and agree on how activities to be jointly undertaken should be financed while respecting their particular resource mobilization modalities, including their own rules, regulations, and procedures;
2. The Parties in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, collaborate with governments, outside partners, including specialized institutions, universities, donors, and the international community at large, and other components of civil society in any activity that they might consider necessary;
3. The Parties may, through special arrangements, decide to act jointly in the formulation, implementation, and resource mobilization of projects that are of common interest. The special arrangements shall define the modalities for the participation of each party in such projects and shall determine the contributions to be made by each of the Parties. Each special arrangement, undertaken under this MOU shall make reference to it and shall include each party's responsibilities; duration of the special arrangement; a detailed budget stating PAHO's indirect costs; financing; payment mechanisms; reporting and evaluation.

Section VI: Intellectual Property

Research results shall, as far as possible, be published and copyrighted jointly; where this is not feasible,

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs, August 2011

the Parties agree, after consultation with each other, to permit either organization to publish any of the results on its own or in collaboration with others, giving due recognition to the contribution of the other organization. For material published under joint copyright, each party shall, subject to prior written consent of the other, have the right to adapt the published material for its work in other regions or outside the framework of this MOU. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section VII: Cooperation with Other International and National Organizations

1. The Parties may consult, separately, or jointly, with international and national organizations, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, in order to achieve the objectives of the joint initiatives, maximize the efficient use of resources or acquire additional funding. These may include both public and private organizations active in the area of social, economic, and health development. The Parties shall inform each other on their respective contacts in this regard.
2. The Parties may, in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, explore strategic alliances with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to implement appropriate strategies for related activities in the region.

Section VIII: Conflict resolution

Any differences in the interpretation or application of this MOU shall be resolved by common agreement of the Parties. In the absence of such agreement, any differences shall be referred to arbitration at the request of either Party. The Parties shall each appoint one arbitrator, and the two so appointed shall jointly appoint a third who shall be the Chairperson. The arbitrators shall decide the procedure of the arbitration and the expenses of the arbitration shall be borne by the Parties as assessed by the arbitrators. The arbitral award shall contain a statement of the reasons on which it is based and shall be accepted by the Parties as the final adjudication of the dispute.

Section IX: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or related to this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the immunities, privileges, exemptions and facilities enjoyed by either Party under international law, international conventions or agreements, or the domestic legislation and laws of their respective Member States.

Section X: Audit

Any financial contribution received and administered by PAHO under this MOU or any Special Arrangements shall be subject to the usual audit procedures of PAHO, and shall be conducted by the person or persons designated for this purpose by PAHO Governing Bodies, pursuant to the rules, regulations, and policies of the Organization. Copies of the audit reports shall be delivered to the Ecoclubs on request.

Section XI: Personnel

The personnel commissioned by each Party will remain subject to the authority of each, maintaining their employment with the Institution to which they belong. This means that no legal work relationship shall be established with the other Party, and in no case shall be the other Party be considered a substitute employer.

Section XII: Force Majeure

Neither Party shall be responsible for obligations arising out of this MOU with which it is unable to comply in whole or in part due to reasons of force majeure, including wars, natural disasters, civil or labor disturbances, or any other cause beyond the control of the Parties.

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Pan American Health Organization and the International Network of Ecoclubs, August 2011

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Section XIII: Date of entry into force, amendments, and termination

1. This MOU shall enter into force upon its signature by both parties and its ratification by the Governing Board of the International Network of Ecoclubs, but may provisionally apply upon its signature. It shall remain in force until revoked by the Parties. After an initial period of five (5) years, the Parties shall review the MOU with a view to its continuation, amendment, or termination.
2. This MOU may be amended by written agreement between the Parties. Such amendments shall specify the effective date of the modifications.
3. This MOU may be terminated by either of the Parties at any time upon giving 90 days advance notice in writing to the other party. However, such termination shall be without prejudice to any commitments made to third parties before the notice of termination was received.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, Jose Miguel Girón Aldámez and Diana Aimé Girón López, promoter and president, respectively, of the North, Central and Caribbean Region and Carlos Pérez Aldave and Nicole Guzmán Cáceres, promoter and president, respectively, of the South America Region, representing the International Network of Ecoclubs, and Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, being duly authorized, sign this Memorandum of Understanding in places and dates specified below.

For and on behalf of the International Network of Ecoclubs:

José Miguel Girón Aldámez
Promoter a.i.
North, Central, and Caribbean Region

Diana Aymé Girón López
President
North, Central, and Caribbean Region

Carlos Pérez Aldave
Promoter
South America Region

Nicole Guzmán Cáceres
President
South America Region

For and on behalf of the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization:

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Director

Date: August 18, 2011

Annex 9. Certification of the National Organization of Ecoclubs of the United States of America and its groups



Annex 10.

Letter of official recognition of Ecoclubs of United States of America

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3 January 2013

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Director
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

Dear Dr. Roses:

We wish to inform you that under the auspices of the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), between 30 October and 2 November 2012 the International Summit of Ecoclubs of North & Central America and the Caribbean was held in the city of El Paso, Texas, the United States. Its purpose was to identify ways to have a greater impact on local environmental and health problems, to learn the scope of the MOU signed between PAHO/WHO and the INE, to prepare the Regional Ecoclubs Plan, and hold the 4th International Assembly of Ecoclubs in the region.

During the meeting, the nine countries of the region participated in person, and the authorities of the South American region participated virtually, along with regional and local PAHO/WHO staff.

The 4th International Assembly of Ecoclubs of the region decided to officially recognize Ecoclubs in the United States, giving them the official statutory category of National Organization of Ecoclubs (NOE), which allows them to participate as a country network in all decisions of the movement within the region, as well as have a say in decision-making.

The next step, according to our regulations, is the holding of an Election Assembly with the participation of all the facilitators and presidents, to elect a national president and national promoter.

Finally, we wish to thank you for all the support that PAHO/WHO has given to the International Network and to reiterate our commitment to continue working for the environment and for the comprehensive, healthy development of our girls, boys and young people.

Sincerely,

Miriam Castillo Chávez
President Pro Tempore
Regional Board of Directors

Rufino Gil Zaya
Regional Promoter for North & Central America and
the Caribbean

C.c.: Dr. Jon Andrus, Assistant Director, PAHO/WHO; Dr. Maria T. Cerqueira, Chief U.S.-Mexico Border Office of PAHO/WHO; Dr. Alfonso Contreras, Regional Adviser on Healthy Spaces, PAHO/WHO.

Annex 10.

Letter of official recognition of Ecoclubs of United States of America

43

3 January 2013

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Director
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

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Sincerely,

Miriam Castillo Chávez
President Pro Tempore
Regional Board of Directors

Rufino Gil Zaya
Regional Promoter for North & Central America and
the Caribbean

C.c.: Dr. Jon Andrus, Assistant Director, PAHO/WHO; Dr. Maria T. Cerqueira, Chief U.S.-Mexico Border Office of PAHO/WHO; Dr. Alfonso Contreras, Regional Adviser on Healthy Spaces, PAHO/WHO.



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