

OUR NEW INDUSTRIES -

CAPABLE OF FINANCING THE LAND PURCHASE

THREE BUSINESS ALREADY ARE SELLING NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

I) EXPORT PRODUCTS

“BEJUCOS” (MEDICINAL ROOTS) and HERBAL TINCTURES
“ORGANIC” SILK
NATURAL DYES
NYAME – TRUE YAM

II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

FOODSTUFFS
SILK SHAMPOO
OYSTERS

III) WORKFORCE:

RESIDENTS CAN BUY THEIR HOUSE LOTS AND GARDEN PLOTS BESIDES, WITH LABOUR

IV) DONATIONS

OF MONEY AND EXPERTISE
FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

We are asking a date of March 22, 2002, to personally present this proposal to the Director and board of DEFINPRO, the branch of the Banco Central, the government bank, that controls this land and has it up for sale.

By then we expect to prepare a “pro-forma” business plan, with a budget for operations, details of marketing and lots of charts.

SUMMARY of potential earnings

in dollars US

EXPORT PRODUCTS:

MEDICINAL TINCTURES \$20,000,000 annually

Estimate of 10 years to reach this level.

Product development and marketing have already begun.

SILK, ORGANIC, "PEACE" SILK: cocoons, secondary products and contract sale of mulberry leaves

\$2,000,000 annually

Estimate 7 years to reach this level.

We already have cocoons being produced and marketed.

With the investment of Japanese or Italian silk yarn spinners the value of the silk we could produce could be ten times this estimate.

NATURAL DYES – MADDER \$100,000 annually

First production comes after three years.

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level.

We have first plants growing, enough to seed a good production.

All we need to begin is permission to use the land.

Note: with marketing for medicinal use, value increases greatly.

NATURAL DYES – LOGWOOD

value equal to \$250,000 annually

20 year rotation.

The trees we plant now will be worth \$5,000,000 in 20 years

Marketing of Logwood has already begun, using ecologically harvested trees purchased from private farms in the nearby hills.

NYAME – TRUE YAM \$2,000,000 annually

Estimate of 7 years to reach this level

LOCAL SALES:

OYSTERS

Local market, potential is large. No estimate at this time.

We could begin immediately, using land unsuitable for other purposes, with permission of the bank.

An initial investment of about \$10,000 is being sought.

FOOD FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION \$50,000 annually

We can begin this immediately, with permission to use the land.

ECOTOURS \$200,000 annually

We can begin this immediately.

We can begin earning a return before the end of this year, 2002.

With permission from the bank for five “bohios” (traditional houses), and a permission to use currently unused land, initial cost would be \$10,000.

Without permission, initial cost would be 30,000 (rights to houses and land use are regulated by the bank. Without permission we would have to be bought from those who currently hold these rights.)

CAPITAL EQUIVALENT OF LABOUR \$36,000,000 (in total)

The value of the labour that will be “donated” by residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos in exchange for secure rights to their house lots, and garden plots in addition.

Estimate is based on current land values in the area.

THESE FIGURES, while estimates, SHOW THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE:

\$24,555,000 US each year

And since our estimates use only about a tenth of the farmland, there is plenty of room for expansion, of production and of other products.

THREE BUSINESSES ALREADY SELL NEW PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN BOCA NUEVA – LOS COCOS

aurorasilk.com is selling the organically produced “Peace” silk that we have been producing in Boca Nueva since spring of 2001. Current sales are of raw cocoons, degummed cocoons, and shampoo conditioner with sericin (silk gum, “hydrolized” silk protein). Therapeutic wrist warmers have been developed and marketing has begun for a whole line of therapeutic warmers.

Aurora Silk has been in business for 32 years, selling silk internationally since 1969. Besides silk yarn in 120 Naturally dyed colours, Aurora Silk also sells all the Natural Dyes of commerce, and has been selling Logwood from the Boca Nueva area since 1999. Sales are by contract, mail order and over the Internet. Logwood is also used to dye over 30 of the 120 standard Naturally dyed Aurora Silk colours.

Cheryl Kolander, founder and operator of Aurora Silk is a world class expert on silk and Natural dyes. She is a professional Master Natural Dyer of 32 years experience, and is probably the senior Natural Dyer in the world today. She has written several books including the definitive “A SILKWORKER’S NOTEBOOK”, (1979, 1985, 2001), now in its third edition.

She has given classes and workshops for 25 years and done consulting internationally. Next scheduled class is a two day workshop on Logwood at the Jardin Botanica Nacional in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in March 2002. The Botanical Garden will be devoting the entire month to promoting this tree, which is naturalized and common on the island.

mamadoc.org is a federally registered 501(c)3 non profit organization. Founded in 1987 and incorporated soon after, the focus is Natural Health.

In Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, we have been working with underserved children since 1998. We have brought donated school supplies and art materials, as well as the long pants and shoes they need to attend the available half-day elementary school.

As a trained classical homeopath, Cheryl Kolander has brought homeopathics and botanicals which are distributed appropriately and free of charge to all, along with simple consulting. The change over these three years, especially in the mental health of the community, has been astounding and immensely rewarding.

We have built a library and stocked it with donated books. There were no books in the community before. The nearest library is thirty miles away and does not

lend books. Now there are beautiful, exciting and mind opening books available to borrow. They inspire the children to do well in school. And some of the illiterate adults are also now to learning to read.

We are building a clinic and office in Boca Nueva, to continue to improve the health of the community. The office will be accessible for the Foundation to use. The computer it will house will also be used to complete the forthcoming book: "THE TRADITIONAL LIFE OF QUESQUEYA / LA VIDA TRADICIONAL DE QUESQUEYA". This is a picture book of the life at Los Cocos, and the major medicinal discoveries we have made, as well as an ethnographic documentation of the Indigenous family Pérez-Brito of Los Cocos – Boca Nueva.

"MAMA D.O.C." INC is interested in developing all types of new therapeutic, natural products. The therapeutic warmers of Peace silk are one example, as well as the pure silk shampoo conditioner. The use of Natural dyes on a consumer/commercial scale would greatly help the health of the entire planet. (As chemical dyes are a major pollution.) Products that prove themselves can immediately transfer over to for-profit enterprises.

The Logwood processing, initiated by "MAMA D.O.C.", has become a for-profit operation after two years. The Peace silk project has just moved into for-profit status. Both have been taken over by Aurora Silk.

The exploration of local, indigenous medicinal herbs has been a top priority. Documenting native uses, and encouraging continued use locally, was a start. Now we are ready to promote some of these amazing plants to the world market. The following business has been founded to take over marketing of some of the products developed for the herbal supplement market.

atlasstrength.com is a new business, selling tinctures of the Bejucos, or medicinal roots, of the Dominican Republic.

These tinctures are being marketed as tonics, and to help bodybuilders create lean muscle mass without the need to use synthetic steroids.

These tinctures are being made with Dominican rum: Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is local rum; the sugarcane fields surround Boca Nueva. These fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized, so this rum is de-facto organic. It is also some of the finest tasting rum on the planet.

Sales are over the Internet.

I) BEJUCOS and MEDICINAL TINCTURES

There is a world treasure trove of medicinal roots native to this area. Some are endemic to this island, and are known only to natives. Others are well known from other islands of the Caribbean or from Central or South America.

There is a great deal of interest internationally in new botanicals with potentially valuable medicinal properties.

Many of these roots are locally well known and personally proven true aphrodisiacs.(1) The market for true aphrodisiacs is potentially huge.

The most important of our finds are:

gingers, especially the local bitter ginger

bejuco de Costillo

bejuco de Indio

bejuco de Chin

bejuco caro

timacle

marabeli

pega palo

caudillo de tres pies

rabo de soro

copei

sages of all types

basils of all types

limoncillo

yerba buena

osua

cinnamon

canelila

In addition we are able to plant and produce tropical and subtropical herbs for well developed markets in the United States and Europe. The following have been noted, through our market research, to be in short supply, with a well developed demand:

neem

kava

(1) "ENDOCRINE ENHANCERS, the True Aphrodisiacs of Quesqueya", Cheryl Kolander, 2000. (copy attached)

MEDICINAL TINCTURES

The market for natural medicines has grown phenomenally in the last fifteen years. In the United States, it generates multi-billion dollars of business.

The medicinal roots produced on the island of Hispanola are considered superior in the botanical literature.

We can sell crude roots, dried. And we can grow other plants that are in demand by natural pharmacies.

The greatest value can be realized from these medicinal plants if we make and market our own tinctures. The tinctures being marketed by atlasstrength.com are made with Dominican rum, Carta Dorada by Brugal. This is made at a local factory, from molasses produced by local sugarcane. The fields are neither sprayed nor artificially fertilized. We are having the rum analyzed for purity. This rum has received many international prizes for its quality. It is considered one of the finest rums on the planet. Its flavor is excellent and its cost is low.

Effective tinctures made from rare herbs like these sell in the United States for up to \$20 per ounce. At wholesale that gives a value of \$10 per ounce.

One kilo of roots produces 120 liquid ounces of extremely strong tincture. Subtracting the cost of bottles and rum, each kilo of these rare Bejucos can net \$1,000 when processed into tinctures.

We estimate that each tarea (1/6 acre) can produce 1,000 kilo of Bejucos each five (5) years. That is, \$1,000,000 every five years. If we plant 100 tareas, each year we can harvest 20 tareas of roots, producing 20,000 kilo, each year. Thus, after the first five years, we can expect to produce, in value:

\$20,000,000 US annually

With this business alone, we could pay for the land.

ORGANIC, “PEACE” SILK

Silk is the standard of luxury fiber for the world. It has never gone down in value.

There is no one producing certified “Organically Grown” silk. The growing market for high quality textiles with the “Certified Organically Grown” label has no source for this quality silk.

We have already begun producing the first of our cocoons. We can obtain “Organic” certification without a problem, as we never use poisons nor chemicals in our raisings.

Many people also are concerned about “ethical” practices in consumer goods production. This market is also growing rapidly. There is a willingness to pay for quality goods produced in an ethical manner. Killing of animals in the production of consumer products is no longer considered ethical.

Our silk is all “Peace” silk.(2) Our silkworms are not killed. With all other commercially produced silk, the silkworm is killed just as it is transforming into a moth. Only a tiny few are not killed, but allowed to emerge from the cocoon and lay the eggs for the next generation. This silk is processed along with other “waste”, and is not marketed separately.

All of our silkworms get to complete their natural life cycle. They all get to transform into moths, emerge, mate, lay eggs and die happy.

This is a quality of cultivated silk that does not otherwise exist. We have an exclusive product, that is in demand, and there are no other producers. Nor are there likely to be, for all the mechanization that has transformed the silk industry is geared to processing “stifled” (dead) cocoons.

Our test raisings have proven that the climate, soil and air of this region, of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos, produces excellent silk.

Our cocoons produced here are larger than the best “Peace” silk cocoons produced in the United States by hobby raisers. They contain 25% more silk. And the silkworms raised here, on the diet of rich mulberry leaves, begin to spin their cocoons in a record 23 days from hatching.

Mulberry grows at an astounding rate in this climate. Trees from seed typically reach three meters (15 feet) in one year. Growth is year round.

(2) “Peace Silk”, excerpted from “A Silkworker’s Notebook” by Cheryl Kolander, 2001.

Cocoons can be raised year round, with only a short break in August, the hottest month.

We have developed a design for raising tables that allows us to protect the growing silkworms from ants, cockroaches and other predators, without the need to use chemicals. With each table, anyone can raise 2,000 silkworms at a time. Dedication, but no special skill is needed. Silkworm raising used to be done by every family farm from Japan through China to Southern Europe. It has always been a reliable cash crop.

With 56 two year old mulberry trees we have produced 3,000 cocoons in 2001. These trees occupy less than one tarea of land. Next year, we intend to produce 10,000 cocoons with these, now three year old trees.

Planting 10 tareas of mulberry, and constructing 10 tables, in three years we can begin producing 1,000,000 cocoons annually. Planting 100 tareas could increase production enough to interest an investment in mechanical spinning equipment, to product spun silk thread for the consumer market. This is our ultimate goal.

With mechanical spinning equipment, we could farm out silk production all over the island. We are prepared to teach production methods to all who wish to learn, buy cocoons from whoever cares to produce them, and sell the processed yarn or finished goods on the world market.

This has the potential to be an income producing industry for the entire island.

SECONDARY PRODUCTS

SILK SHAMPOO

To turn cocoons into soft thread, it is necessary to “degum” the silk. We degum our cocoons with pure glycerin soap manufactured in the Dominican Republic.

The resulting solution of “sericin”, soap and pure water is a superior product for hair care. The same silk “gum”, or sericin protein that protects the soft silk fibre, soaks into hair and protects it. It strengthens the hair strand, preventing damage from breaking. It cements broken, split ends, allowing hair to grow longer.

Sericin has been investigated by the Japanese, and scientific studies show that it protects from Ultra Violet radiation. It functions as sun screen for the hair, preventing damage. It protects from damage by chlorine of swimming pools and salt of ocean water as well.

Our pure sericin silk shampoo conditioner has proved to add body to thin, blonde hair. It softens and makes more manageable thick, dark and kinky hair.

This type of sericin is added to many commercial shampoo conditioners, and a big deal is made for it, but in these products, it is only a tiny part. Our product is pure, from Organically raised “Peace” silk, and thus is unique and superior.

We have the option of selling the solution to manufacturers already marketing blends. Or we can bottle, label and market our own pure product.

It is currently our plan to market our own brand locally, in the Dominican Republic. And we are contacting American firms already using sericin in their products, to contract sales with them for the American market.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF SILK AND SERICIN FROM 100 TAREAS OF
MULBERRY TREES

\$1,000,000 annually

MULBERRY LEAVES

The Silk Institute of Japan is looking worldwide for farms to raise mulberry leaves. The esteemed Mr. Yutaka Kitamaru has visited Aurora Silk in the United States, to ask for assistance in this project of theirs.

They wish to harvest mulberry leaves mechanically, to dry and process them into packaged feed for silkworms. This would allow silkworms to be raised year round in locations that are not blessed with the year round growing season of the island of Hispanola.

In Japan, many people would like to raise silkworms, but do not have the land for the mulberry trees. In the United States many schools wish to raise silkworms as a science teaching tool, but are prevented because the season to raise them, on fresh mulberry, is in the summer when the schools are closed.

ESTIMATE VALUE OF MULBERRY LEAVES RAISED ON CONTRACT WITH
THE JAPANESE

\$1,000,000 annually

NATURAL DYES

MADDER

Madder is a root crop. The roots contain the most permanent red dye known.

This dye is also a medicine of great importance, since it can dissolve kidney stones.⁽³⁾

Currently quality supplies of this root are limited. That which is available for dye use is of inferior quality. As a dye it gives orange, but not a good red. As medicine it is useless as the growing conditions are unknown and its taste is unpalatable. Thus it cannot be used internally.

Organically raised madder has a delicious and sweet taste, and can be taken as tea, tincture or powdered, in capsules or pills. Madder tincture is currently being made from small harvests out of Morocco. The inferior dye quality is raised in India. Prior to ten years ago, excellent madder was raised in the Kandahar valley of Afghanistan; with the war destruction, mines in all the fields, it is unlikely production there will resume for decades.

We are currently raising several plants. Three years are required to produce good roots. At the end of three years, each plant is expected to produce 10 pounds of roots, dried. With the roots we have we can produce starts for at least 100 plants next year, and double the number of plants each year, while still harvesting enough to begin to market.

\$5 a pound is the current price for the inferior dye root. We estimate a production of 2,000 pounds per tarea every three years. With 30 tareas planted this would give an annual harvest of 20,000 pounds.

The market for the root is expected to increase as its medicinal value become more widely known. Madder root tincture is currently being marketed by only one of the several main tincture producers in the United States. (4) As more studies are published proving its efficacy, this market will grow.

We will be asking the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, to conduct such a study.

MADDER ROOT 30 TAREAS \$100,000 annually

(3) THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NATURAL MEDICINE

(4) HERBPHARM, Williams, Oregon

LOGWOOD – PALO DE CAMPECHE

The heartwood of this naturalized, weed tree is the source of a beautiful and inexpensive purple dye, and of the finest black. This dye is used commercially to dye black suturing silk for internal operations. Production of the first Naturally Dyed commercial silk fabric will begin with this dye in 2002.

We have been ethically harvesting and preparing dyewood from Dominican Logwood for three years. The market is growing, and with the introduction of Commercially dyed Logwood colors in 2002, the market could boom.

While an abundant weed tree now, a major world demand could deplete the island in the 20 years it takes to regrow. We have already started replanting efforts. We will expand the effort, to take advantage of the land available in this offer. The plan is to plant Logwood as a living fence – hedgerow between the privatized small garden-farms that will be offered to those households participating in the Foundation Farm.(5) Thus it takes up no specific space of its own.

Logwood trees will also be used as nurse trees for the many types of medicinal vines, the Bejucos and Nyames we intend to grow. (6)

It is estimated that each tree, in 20 years produces 100 pounds of heartwood. After processing, heartwood shavings are worth \$5 a pound, f.o.b. That is what we are paying now. Each tree thus produces \$500. With 10,000 trees planted in the divisions of the gardens, the final value in 20 years will be:

\$5,000,000 in 20 years

Pro-rated, that is equivalent to

\$250,000 annually

(5) see The Foundation Farm, section IV, following.

(6) see Bejucos, above; Nyame, following.

NYAME

Nyame is the true yam. Not to be confused with any variety of sweet potato. It is a root crop, with many varieties in the Dominican Republic. At least one species is indigenous to this island, while others have been brought from Africa.

It is the one salvation to those suffering from the debilitating genetic disease called Sickle cell anemia. This is a condition sadly common in the African-American population of the United States. There is no commercial source for this food in the United States at this time. (We are unaware of any source at all, but presume there may be some grown locally in the rural south.)

It is also superior food for invalids and infants. The genus *Dioscorea*, or true or “wild” yam is known to contain hormone enhancers that energize the body beyond the food value of its vitamin, mineral and protein rich starch.

Developed with national marketing, the potential market for this product is huge.

There is no competition.

While eventually it would be best to construct a small processing plant on site, we can begin by using existing Dominican processors.

Nyame grows as a vine, with its huge and prolific roots nestled at the base of a supporting tree. Our plan is to grow Nyame with each Logwood tree. (7)

NYAME, processed, estimate **\$2,000,000 annually**

(7) see Logwood, above.

OTHER PRODUCTS

There is plenty of land for the Foundation Farm.

Other products that can be grown profitably include:

PERFUMES – especially “Mesote”, a local Gardenia.

THERAPEUTIC WARMERS knit from our “PEACE” silk

ART TEXTILES and FINE CLOTHING from our “PEACE” silk and local Dominican Sea Island cotton

OTHER NATURAL DYES – Indigo, Weld, Cochineal

II) PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

FOOD! ALL THE LOCALLY CONSUMED PRODUCE

Roots:

yuca (sweet manioc); nyame; carrots; potatoes; sweet potatoes; taro; etc.

Fruits:

bananas; avocado; grapefruit; pomegranates; passion fruit; papaya; oranges, both bitter and sweet; lemon; tangerine; mango; etc.

Legumes:

beans of all types; guandules (black eyed peas); etc.

Starches:

plantain; breadfruit; corn; etc.

We can sell produce in all the nearby towns and the city of Puerto Plata. As the population continues to increase, while farmland is eaten by housing, more and more people must buy their food.

Our Foundation farm will be large enough to produce a significant amount of the increase needed to feed this increasing number of people.

OYSTERS

The Canal of Cane used to be an immense oyster bed. But all the oysters have been killed. The sugarcane factory cleans its equipment with hydrochloric acid and dumps it into the canal. Each year, for three to four months during the harvest, the canal is a dead zone. Only mosquitoes thrive.

We are proposing to build an artificial lagoon a distance from the canal. There we could grow oysters without fear of contamination. An investment of \$10,000 is needed for this; we could begin immediately since the site for this is currently unused.

Oysters can be sold locally and to restaurants catering to tourists.

There is no other local production of oysters, but they are in high demand at the restaurants. Oysters would also be a great addition to the protein needs of the residents of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos.

(III) ECO-TOURISM

Tourism is a severe problem for this part of the coast. Example: this village and the land which could support it, as well as the last natural area and beach accessible to Dominicans, is up for sale by the government bank that controls it – for tourism.

The Dominicans lose everything. What does tourism give in return? Nothing. No money goes to the local people. Even those that get the few jobs generated are typically NOT PAID! (see Part I, section “Problems: No Returns for Dominicans”) There are no property taxes, so once the land is bought no more money goes into Dominican coffers. Almost all tourism to the resorts is by package “all inclusive” deals. The money is collected overseas and stays overseas. No money is generated nor spent on improving the infrastructure of modern life for Dominicans. Nothing has been generated, nor has there been any improvement for health, sanitation, transportation, or education for the Dominicans of this region. Yet they must give up all access to all their beaches, see their natural environment destroyed, have their traditional communities demolished for foreigners. They get no paying jobs, and experience the price of everything rising. Plus the indignity of strangers walking through their lands, often naked, which is a great cultural affront, and not even wearing a smile, or giving a kind look or a greeting.

This type of tourism the Dominicans do not need.

What we are proposing is a different arrangement altogether. It is a type of tourism that is increasing, as opposed to the resort type, which is over built and decreasing. A high percentage of tourists now go to travel agents asking for this type of more interactive, more natural experience. Typically, housing is in the local native style, food is local, interaction with the host culture is informal and personal, and there is a specialty interest, such as wildlife or native flora.

Since locations that offer this type of extraordinary experience are rare, there is an expectation to pay premium prices. Since those looking for this type experience tend to be aware people, they want to be sure the money they are paying actually benefits the people with whom they are privileged to interact.

The principles we will follow for our Eco-tourism:

- Limited**
- High price**
- Appreciation of the Natural Area**
- Appreciation of the Indigenous culture.**

Limited: We are proposing to construct five traditional native “Bohios”, arranged in a group. The location will be near the Los Cocos traditional community, at its outer edge. One of the bohios would be permanently occupied by a local couple and their children. Their job, for which they will receive this housing in exchange, will be to provide security, assistance and close interaction for the guests in the other four bohios. Only eight guests will enter the community at each visiting cycle. Only one visiting cycle of eight days will occur each month.

High price: All stuff that has to be bought in this country costs as much as anywhere else in the world, and often much more. Local food is the only exception. It is our principle that the people of the Los Cocos community that provide services to guests be paid appropriately. The rent on the bohios goes to the land fund; the portion of the eight day cost that pertains to services goes directly to the people who provide it.

Appreciation of the Natural Area: We especially want guests who will add to the world appreciation of the unusual plants and animals of this location.

Appreciation of the Indigenous culture: A sensitivity to other cultures will be rewarded by an open inclusion into the huge extended family of the Pérez-Brito.

Accommodations are in traditional “Bohio” cottages. These are constructed of a framework of wood, natural hewn for the most. The roof is palm thatch. The walls are covered with Yagua, which are like wide, thick leaves. The floor is sand. The bed is built on a platform of wood. There will be open air bathing cabanas with walls of Yagua, and a well maintained out house for the exclusive use of guests.

Services include:

- meals, cooked in typical Dominican style, of local foods. Modesta Brito of Los Cocos is a world class chef, who cooked for the best tourist restaurants before she had children.
- the companion family, for security and errands.
- a personal companion for the beach. This is very important, because the waters are treacherous. (see Problems: the beach)
- ecology guide, who knows all the local flora and fauna, especially the medicinal plants.
- music fiesta: local live acoustic merengue by “Los Muchachos” of Los Cocos.
- personalization of the visit. “Request Day” could include a shopping trip to Puerto Plata; a long but leisurely walk through cattle lands to the River Camu; a day digging and preparing medicinal roots; an art project day with the kids; learning about silk raising and preparation; a Natural dye mini workshop led by Master Natural dyer Cheryl Kolander.

The eight day cost will be \$2,000 per person, of which half goes to the land fund and half goes directly into the community of service providers.

Total revenue per year from Eco-tourism: **\$200,000 annually**

Other weeks, when the cottages are not open to tourists, they can be open for groups of students. Young people from the capital can visit and learn about their heritage and the nature of their island. Young people from other countries and cultures and visit and share with the young people here. Also, teachers and educators who have skills to teach in the community, can stay during the off weeks.

The costs of materials to construct the group of five Bohios, two bath houses, a traditional kitchen, two out houses and to bring in running water is expected to be \$16,000.

Since each week of use is expected to bring in \$8,000 to the land fund, the cost of construction would be paid for with the first two weeks of occupancy.

This part of the proposal can begin immediately.

We could be earning this money by the end of 2002.

IV) SECURE TITLE TO THE INHABITANTS FOR THEIR HOUSE LOTS, AND GARDEN PLOTS BESIDES

SECURE TITLE = WORKERS

The inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos have all paid for the rights to their houses. The houses are all registered with the government bank.

What they don't have is right to the land on which the houses are built.

Assumedly, the original intension of this arrangement was to preserve the land for its inhabitants. The tendency for poor people to sell their land when times are hard is well known. Collective or government ownership prevents this and can be an important tool in cultural preservation.

Sadly, the bank seems to see its current role differently. Ignoring the rights of the inhabitants, it seeks to sell all the land for money to fill the general coffers, which money will be spent to built bigger roads and bridges in the capital. The people in the capital have no interest in the welfare of the rural poor; a tradition of neglect spanning the entire 500 year history of the country. (14)

Boca Nueva has been a village for 100 years. The Los Cocos Indigenous community has lived here “since forever” (see Part I: The Family Pérez-Brito). They say there is a land use law that grants title after 10 years of residency. However, if this law is a reality it is being ignored.

Boca Nueva is a large village. It is estimated there are 1,000 houses and 3,000 people. Probably more, counting unregistered children. The population is mixed, including some Dominican families with an employed breadwinner, others where all are unemployed. Most of the people are of the Pérez-Brito family, by blood or marriage. There is also a large population of Haitians, who were brought in as ultra-cheap labour for the cane fields. They tend to stay, rather than go back to Haiti, and as illegal immigrants without work are the poorest of the poor.

More than half the houses are very well constructed, multi-room dwellings. They have modern kitchens with running water, refrigerators and gas stoves. They have modern bathrooms with running water, showers and toilets. The walls are cement block, the floors are polished cement and the roofs are painted galvanized sheet metal.

The other portion of the houses of Boca Nueva are either like this but unfinished, or they are poorly constructed temporary structures of tin over a wood frame. The bank seems to believe that all the houses of Boca Nueva are tin shacks. It is their plan to construct many small cement block cubicles on the outskirts of the nearby town, Monte Llano. Because they are so unaware of the true quality of housing that currently exists in Boca Nueva, they are sure that all the inhabitants will happily “trade up”. Part of the effort of this proposal is to make sure the bank is aware that better quality housing exists here, and that the inhabitants are well aware that to move them the bank must provide equal or better than what it takes from them.

It can never replace their community.

Because of this, the Pérez-Brito family is willing to work for their right to remain in this, their community, their customary land.

Los Cocos is a jewel, a showplace of traditional natural living. The houses are traditionally constructed pre-Columbian style “Bohios”. All made from renewable native materials. They are a wonder and a marvel of ecological construction. They are the physical foundation of the remnant traditional lifestyle of those of the Pérez-Brito family who wish to continue and preserve the nature based life of this remnant indigenous culture.

In the Anthropology museum in the capital there is a full size bohio on the third floor. It is not as authentic as these are, being constructed of mill sawn lumber rather than the rough, hand hewn poles actually used by natives. This community is a living museum of the country’s culture. The bank should stipend people to live here and share it with the world, rather than try to destroy the community and annihilate the remains of this native culture.

To preserve this remnant culture, and the remnant natural area that surrounds it, is the purpose behind this proposal.

Simple put, the intension is to create a large farm on the land that is included in the sale package.

This farm will produce products carefully chosen to command high prices on the world market. Products will be marketed in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Some of the inhabitants of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos will work on this farm. They will receive permanent rights to their house lots in exchange for their labour.

This is based on the same principles used in the “Habitat for Humanity” program that has proved so successful world wide.

It is estimated there are 1,000 houses in question. Most have a surfeit of strong and eager young men with nothing to do. They know how to work, but there is no work for them. The Foundation farm will create work that is healthy and teach skills that are useful.

Most adult men are also unemployed. Or are working jobs that rarely pay.

The women also have potential skills useful to produce saleable products from the raw materials of the farm. Right now many women have what amount to micro-businesses, doing laundry, making sweets, fixing hair. They are enterprising and eager.

Of all these people, we calculate that only one person per household will need to contribute four hours a day, four days a week, fifty weeks a year for five years to pay for the average small house lot. On a world scale, that’s cheap. On a local scale, there is nothing else to do, so why not? (8)

In addition, there is enough good farm land in the sale package to plan out small garden plots for each household or person who wishes. The plan is to contract for these immediately so that anyone working the Foundation farm a half day can also start a family food garden.

While the Foundation farm work will not pay cash, there will be benefits to joining the program. All the “MAMA D.O.C.” benefits already extended, such as the free lending library of books, the free natural health services, the free donated school and art supplies, the free donated shoes and children’s clothing, all gifts of generous and kind donors in the United States, will be expanded. This mitigates the need to earn cash money now.

A revolving micro-credit association can help the women expand their home based micro-businesses. As soon as we can start the limited Eco-tourism proposed above, a fair amount of cash money will be infused into this local economy. Through the women’s micro-businesses, that money will circulate and extend out to the entire village.

(8) PETITION – ADVISORY of 11-11-2001. 24 representative households of the Family Pérez-Brito that live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos signed the first sheet of this petition stating (in Spanish): “I live in Boca Nueva – Los Cocos. I prefer to remain in this location, to which I am accustomed. If necessary, I am prepared to work or to pay for my right to continue to live here.”

The value of labour that is accessible to the Foundation farm through exchange for lot rights is considerable.

We figure that each house lot averages two tarea. Current price for land in this area is equivalent to \$9,000 US per tarea. With 2,000 tarea devoted to the village, this gives a capital equivalent of

\$18,000,000 US

GARDEN PLOTS

The same figures can be used to calculate the capital equivalent of labour that can be realized by creating privatized garden plots for each household.

Again, at the current land price of \$9,000 US per tarea, 2,000 tarea will generate the labour equivalent of

\$18,000,000 US

That gives a total labour pool of a value of **\$36,000,000 US**

Our business plan assumes that after the first five preparatory years, several of the new businesses will be generating significant sales.

While most profit will have to go to paying the land cost, as soon as possible some will be allocated to begin paying workers cash for their labour.

V) DONATIONS

We are soliciting donations of both help and money.

There are many International organizations devoted to preserving rare and endangered nature. Sea urchins, sea turtles, medicine producing wooded ecologies, endangered peoples, the Kwaco (guaco), undiscovered species of invertebrates and vertebrates await help for protection.

Other organizations are interested in helping the poor and especially the poor indigenous of the world help themselves. This project is a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate what an indigenous population can do with a return of their land base and some international marketing.

There are organizations within the Dominican Republic that will be helpful. The Botanic Garden, the Catholic Church, the newly created Ministry of Ecology, the Anthropology Museum can all help with moral support and advice, documentation and the generation of popular support for the project.

Americans and Dominicans alike have universally expressed support for the ideas of this proposal, and think it is the best possible solution to the problem. The government wants money. This is a way to generate money, without displacing 3,000 people and destroying their community, the last remaining remnant Indigenous culture and the last natural area in the region.

Three years of remarkably successful preparatory work by “MAMA D.O.C.”, Aurora Silk, and the people of Boca Nueva – Los Cocos show that all the projects of this proposal can be successful.

WE ARE ASKING THE CENTRAL BANK TO GIVE US THE DATE OF MARCH 22, 2002, TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL IN PERSON, AT THEIR OFFICES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

At that time we will present a list of the organizations we have contacted, who have offered to help.

Private donors are also being approached.

A list of funding levels is attached.

ASSETS

DEVELOPED IN THE COMMUNITY OF BOCA NUEVA - LOS COCOS
BY AURORA SILK and/or "MAMA D.O.C." INC.

AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE FUNDACIÓN INDÍGENA

	VALUE \$US
LIBRARY COTTAGE	2,000
BOOKS in public library	1,000
BOOKS in private library	1,000
CLINIC and OFFICE	10,000
KITCHEN, TRADITIONAL	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1/2 TAREA SOLAR includes cost to bring in water	2,000
USE RIGHTS TO 1 TAREA SOLAR	3,000
56 MULBERRY TREES, 2 years old	1,200
MADDER PLANTS	60
FRUIT TREES grapefruits, avocados, cherry, logwood bananas, plantains, etc.	1,000
SILKRAISING TABLE	200
TO DATE 1-1-2002	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS IN THE Dominican Republic	\$25,460 US

We have just received confirmation that "MAMA D.O.C." INC has been awarded the donation of a

MASTER DRAW LOOM VALUED AT \$25,000 US

The donation is by the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA at DAVIS.

When installed in the Loom Room of the Clinic House, which we expect to happen this year, the value of assets in Boca Nueva - Los Cocos will be
OVER \$50,000 US

COMMUNITY ASSETS SPONSORED BY "MAMA D.O.C."

VALUE IN \$US

FOOTBRIDGE

Designed and built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community. This bridges the polluted Cano de Cana and provides the only direct access to the village of Boca Nueva, where the rest of the family lives. It is the only inland access into the community.

materials cost	200
value of donated labour (includes many repairs)	1,000

PATH

A raised path from the community of Los Cocos to the footbridge. This obviates the need for a half mile detour when it rains, when the pasture turns into wetlands.

Built by Nicolás Pérez-Brito with volunteer assistance from members of the Los Cocos community.

materials cost	0
value of donated labour and equipment	1,000

WATER

Previously all drinking water had to be hand carried from Boca Nueva. By slight women, toting 8 gallon jugs at a time. Carrying more than half their weight for about a mile, each and every day.

Now fresh mountain water comes into a tap located at the center of the community. This is a major improvement in everyone's life. As an amazing community project, the bringing of the water is now the subject of a merengue in the local traditional music.

Working all day, from before dawn at 6 AM, a trench was hand dug almost two miles. 1,200 lengths of pipe were buried. Breakfast was provided, and also lunch. At the end of the day the work was finished, the water tap was turned on. When the water appeared, the fiesta began!

materials cost (donated by Aurora Silk)	1,800
value of donated labour	5,000*

* There is no way to put a monetary value on the sense of community spirit engendered by this cooperative effort.