

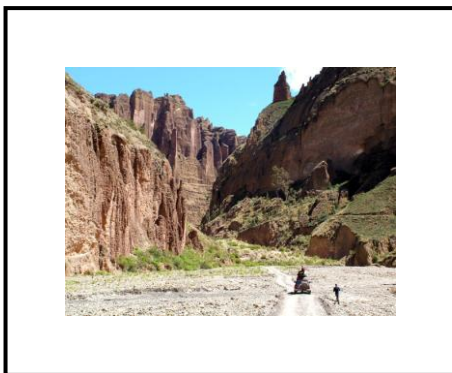
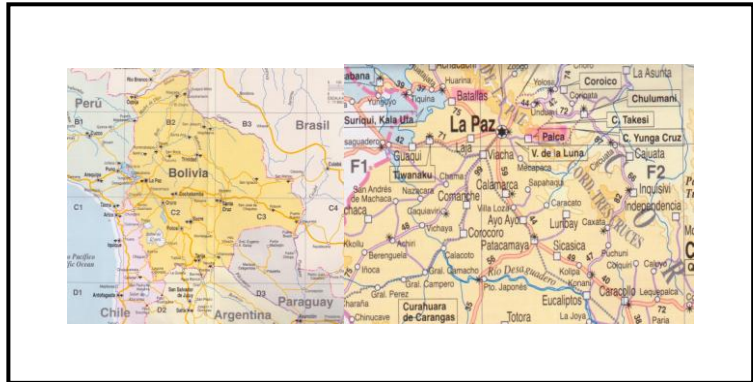
# Palca Project – Bolivia

Greetings friends and generous donors,

Tine and I thought we should update all of you as regards the Palca Project, since the summer is over and there is a bit of news to report.

For the sake of those who aren't intimately familiar with Bolivia, Palca is about 1.5 hours by car east of La Paz, the capital city, and is situated at approximately 3600 m (11,880 ft) above sea level. The countryside is mountainous and arid.

We raised approximately \$6,400 for the project from family, friends and our own contribution.



With this money we, together with volunteers in Palca, decided it was best to use the money for building a new water bridge for the irrigation system in their community. A water bridge is basically a bridge that supports a water pipe across a ravine. You might recall that what caused us to set up this whole charity initiative was that the old bridge was destroyed last winter due to torrential rains that resulted in very severe soil erosion and landslides. A new one is crucial to transferring water further down the mountainside to Palca farms. There are of course other investments that could be made in Palca but the water bridge seemed to be the highest

priority component and most appropriate to our budgetary resources, as the water supply is basis for everything else.

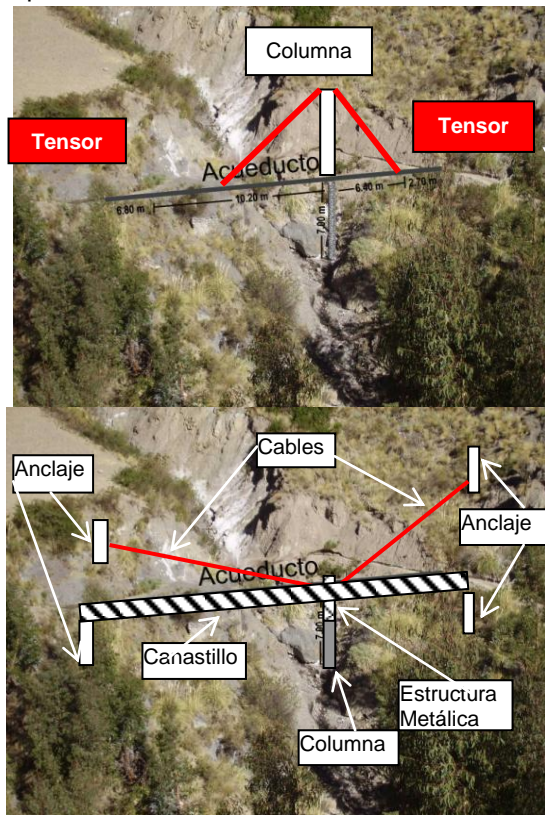
The work on the water bridge was to start in August this year but ran into delays because of the lack of a suitable volunteer to undertake the engineering design for the bridge. Thanks to Jose Guitierrez, our key man in Bolivia, we finally found an engineer at the University of San Andres, who generously offered his services for free in late August. This delay happened to be



fortuitous, however, since the community experienced another landslide in late August, which would likely have destroyed the new water bridge. Because of soil instability issues that are

likely to continue, our engineer is now designing a water bridge that will be more resilient to landslides. A couple of designs options that are being considered are illustrated below.

#### Options 1 & 2



Once a design is finalized, we will get a detailed costing for construction and mobilize community labour for construction. Currently, we have volunteers from the World Bank (Sr. Jose Gutierrez, project coordinator), the Hydrological Institute at the University of San Andres (Sr. Jose Antonio Luna Vera, engineer), a local committee president from the area (Sr. Felix Perez, local rep) and the Institute for Advanced Development Studies in La Paz (Represented by its Director, Lykke Andersen, who functions as our financial manager). We also have a commitment from the local farmers in the Palca community to provide their labour for free when construction of the water bridge begins. Our funds are therefore only being dedicated towards construction materials for the bridge and transportation costs for volunteers.

If all goes well, we are hoping to see bridge designs finalized by early November and construction to begin soon thereafter. We are also hoping to attract new donors to the area with the project, particularly the World Bank, which has just started the implementation of a new climate change adaptation project in the region. Jose is actually the Project Coordinator for that project, so we are trying to encourage some synergies between this project and our little initiative.

Once again, we thank you all for your generosity and care. The money that you have donated will make a big difference to the people of Palca. Stay tuned for more pictures and construction news!

Sincerely

John and Tine