

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 4646 Booth Number: 87

Elevated Bamboo Houses Designed to Lift
Communities Above Flood Zones

COUNTRY: Ecuador

ORGANIZATION: International Network for Bamboo and Rattan

FUNDING REQUEST: \$200,000

OBJECTIVE: To increase the use of flood-resistant, elevated bamboo houses in the coastal regions of Ecuador, thereby providing local communities with an innovative, low-cost, sustainable, environmentally friendly infrastructure resistant to climate-related floods. This DM project will benefit at least 500 households, who will be living in improved, flood-resistant, elevated bamboo homes by the end of the project period. In addition, this DM project will link at least 1,000 farmers and 500 local builders in an existing bamboo housing supply chain, thereby providing farmers and builders with a new source of income from bamboo.

RATIONALE: Climate change has increased the number of floods and landslides in the coastal regions of Ecuador and their frequency and severity is projected to intensify in the future. At present, Ecuadorans have limited opportunities to adapt to climate-related flood and disaster risk management, thereby making them extremely vulnerable to future disasters. Investments in infrastructure are desperately needed to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to climate-related floods. This DM project will introduce an innovative technology to build flood-resistant, elevated bamboo structures aimed at reducing the vulnerability of populations living along the coast.

INNOVATION: The DM project will employ a new technology to improve the design and quality of locally built bamboo homes and create stronger, safer, flood-resistant, elevated bamboo homes and other structures. These structures will have a number of flood-resistant features, including raised elevation, increased durability, flood-resistant window fabric, and rooftop access "escape hatches" or attic windows.

CONTACT: Alvaro Santiago Cabrera Paredes

acabrera@inbar.int

www.inbar.int