

NEWSLETTER



ANGLO-ECUADORIAN
SOCIETY

AUTUMN ISSUE | SEPTEMBER 2024

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New & Noteworthy

Welcome to the AES autumn newsletter. We are delighted to welcome new members and to celebrate an exciting year of change, growth, and expansion for our organisation.

Our first event of 2024, the summer drinks at Mishky, was a resounding success. We were thrilled to welcome over 30 new members and raise £245 through raffles and donations, which will be directed towards our charitable initiatives.

We hope to see you at Galapagos Day 2024 and other events throughout the year. Thank you to all our members for your continued dedication and support.

Your input matters!

Kindly spare a moment to participate in our survey, focused on gathering insights into the types of events our members would like to attend.

**Take the
survey**



Galápagos Day 2024

Join **Galápagos Conservation Trust** at Galápagos Day 2024 for an inspiring movement to combat plastic pollution in the Galápagos and across the Pacific Ocean.

Islands, vital biodiversity hubs, are particularly vulnerable to plastic waste, which affects their ecosystems. Since launching the *Plastic Pollution Free Galápagos program* in 2018, GCT have gathered crucial data to aid cleanup efforts and influence policy. Their initiatives include educating the next generation, developing sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, training park rangers with cutting-edge technology, and advocating for stronger marine protections.

Tickets, which support conservation efforts, are available for £30 (£15 for students) and include a complimentary drink. AES members can enjoy a **£10 discount** on the ticket price with code **AES10** at checkout.

Buy tickets



Thursday, 10th October 2024



6:30 pm



1 Wimpole street, London W1G 0AE

AES Summer drinks at Mishky



We kicked off the summer with a delightful event in collaboration with Chef Jorge Pacheco at Mishky.

It was wonderful to welcome new members and reconnect with familiar faces. Guests enjoyed an array of Ecuadorian picaditos, lovingly prepared by Chef Pacheco and his talented team.

The evening featured a raffle with exciting prizes, including a bottle of Ecuadorian wine from Dos Hemisferios and two bars of artisanal chocolate from Cárdenas.

We were honoured to have to have Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Ecuador's Ambassador to the UK, and his wife Mette Pedersen, join us which added a special touch to the event. We were also pleased to welcome Honorary Vice-President Baroness Hooper. Everyone had a fantastic time, enjoying the warm atmosphere and the rich flavours of Ecuadorian cuisine.

The highlight was a sumptuous dinner at Mishky, where laughter and lively conversations filled the air. We thank everyone for making it a memorable evening!



'Living Nature' by Ulises Valarezo



AES member and artist Ulises Valarezo recently held a private viewing at Paladar to inaugurate his latest collection, "Living Nature." This innovative collection is characterised by Valarezo's unique use of a red-orange pigment extracted from the Annatto seed. This distinctive pigment not only revitalises traditional painting techniques but also serves as a powerful metaphor for his cultural heritage.

Through his art, Valarezo delves into themes such as the human condition and cultural identity. He masterfully explores these constructs by using symbolism and hybrid imagery, illustrating the synergy between nature and the human body. The use of Annatto pigment connects Valarezo to his roots, symbolising a reunion with his origin and infusing his work with deep cultural significance.

The event was a resounding success, attracting a vibrant community of friends, colleagues and art lovers who appreciated the depth and beauty of Valarezo's work. It was a memorable evening that celebrated the intersection of art, culture, and identity.

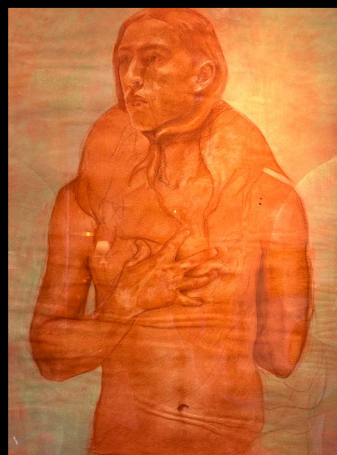
The exhibition at **Paladar** is ongoing, with new artworks regularly added. Visit to enjoy delicious Latin cuisine and explore the exhibition.



[DOWNLOAD THE CATALOGUE](#)



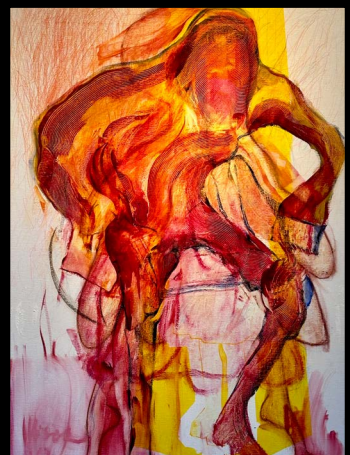
ROSTRO EN NEBLINAS



NATURALEZA VIVA



PAIREJA Y PÁJAROS



PERCEPCIÓN DE LA MEMORIA

"The annatto pigment not only contributes to the idea of identity but also embodies a profound symbolic load, thus articulating a connection between the physical and the ethereal."

PARQUE CONDOR

A conservation haven for raptors



AES committee member, David Horwell, explores a unique refuge for birds of prey in Ecuador. Nestled near the Andean city of Otavalo, Parque Condor stands as a beacon of hope for Ecuador's birds of prey. This unique wildlife refuge is dedicated to the conservation and protection of raptors, including the majestic Andean Condor. The Condor isn't just a central part of Andean mythology it's also one of the biggest flying birds on the planet.



Variable hawk | Credit: Parque Condor

A park with a purpose

Parque Condor was founded in 2002 with a noble mission: to rescue and rehabilitate injured birds of prey. Human intervention, such as habitat loss and illegal poaching, threatens these magnificent creatures. The park strives to ensure their future by educating the public and promoting conservation efforts.

It all began with a Dutch resident in Ecuador, Joep Hendriks. He was a keen falconer, but realised many of these birds were being killed by farmers or traded as pets. It became a lifetime project; he married a local and has a son André who became a vet.

The Andean Condor, Ecuador's national bird, takes centre stage. Sadly, only around one hundred and fifty of these iconic birds remain in the wild in Ecuador. Parque Condor aims to change this by dispelling misconceptions and fostering appreciation through education.

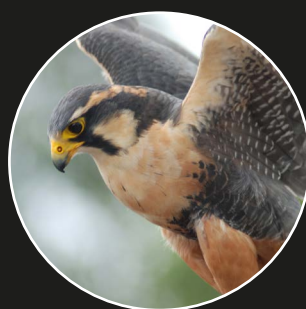
Rescued birds on display

Situated near Otavalo, one of the most well-known indigenous markets in South America. This is in Imbabura province of Ecuador, on the Pucará de Curyoma hill, at 2,800 metres above sea level. Parque Condor enjoys a stunning backdrop of Andean landscapes. Visitors can soak in the natural beauty while learning about these remarkable birds.

Parque Condor hosts a variety of raptors, including eagles, hawks, owls, and, of course, the Andean Condor. None of the birds in the park have been taken directly from the wild. They were rescued from captivity or injury. Here they find a shelter where they can remain calm or recover to be released. Witness their grace and power up-close during falconry displays.

Owls also find refuge here, adding to the park's diverse avian population. Wild condors swoop down out of curiosity, to see their rescued cousins. The park also offers a chance to see the rare harpy eagle. These beautiful creatures, which are found in the rainforest, are the world's most powerful raptor.

The Birds of Parque Condor



Aplomado falcon
(*Falco femoralis*)



Male condor
(*Vultur gryphus*)



Black hawk-eagle
(*Spizaetus tyrannus*)



Harpy eagle
(*Harpia harpyja*)



Pacific pygmy owl
(*Glaucidium peruanum*)



Harris's hawk
(*Parabuteo unicinctus*)



Falconry shows

Not mere entertainment, these shows offer insight into the birds' roles in the ecosystem. These are twice daily at 11:30 and 15:30. Visitors observe their impressive flight capabilities and learn facts and myths surrounding them. There is a small café with local dishes, a children's play area and an interpretation centre.

Replanting efforts

Habitat restoration is crucial for rehabilitation. Parque Condor actively replants native vegetation and trees, contributing to the Andean landscape.

Future plans

The park aims to expand its facilities, including a plant nursery, conference rooms, and an educational farm.

Parque Condor combines education, conservation, and awe-inspiring encounters with raptors. Sustainable tourism and generous donations allow Parque Condor to continue its vital work towards conserving the Andean Condor. Whether you're a foreign visitor or a bird enthusiast, this refuge is a must-see. Come, be part of the effort to protect Ecuador's winged wonders.

We recommend spending a few days in the region, staying at one of the historic haciendas. I always make a point of stopping there when in Ecuador. Due to the panoramic position, the weather can change, so wrap up in layers.

LOCATION

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AMENITIES



Children's
play area



Interpretation
centre



Walking
paths



Solar
calendar





Cafe



Flying
zone

FURTHER READING

-  Wildlife spotlight on the Andean condor
-  Haciendas of Ecuador

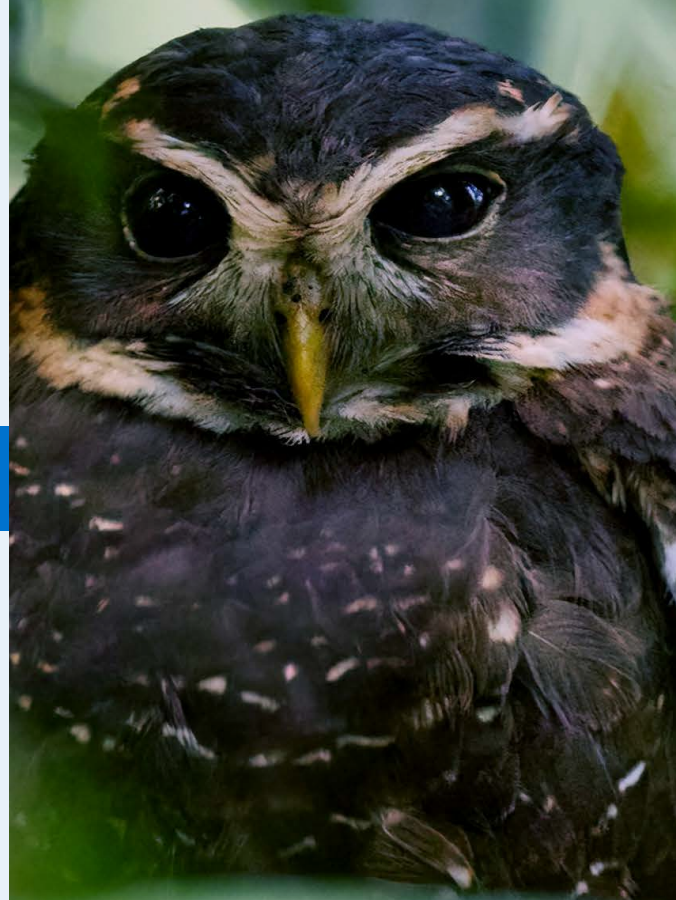
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LATIN AMERICA



The UK and the Galápagos Islands

Sustainability Attorney and AES member **Carla Fierro Llor**, explores how the UK and Ecuador can build on a shared passion for the Galápagos



Ecuador and the United Kingdom have had a longstanding relationship based in cooperation and knowledge transfer towards conservation, nature and sustainability.

The UK has a rich heritage of naturalists, scientists and explorers, while, on the other hand, Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse places in the planet with outstanding natural wealth.

The connection began in 1835 when the HMS Beagle arrived in the Galápagos Islands with a young Charles Darwin on board, who was astonished by this natural laboratory. This visit that lasted five weeks and the scientific research conducted by the Cambridge University graduate led to the seminal, “The Origins of the Species”, which was the first of many British scientific papers inspired by Ecuadorian nature.

I visited the Galápagos Islands for the first time in 2009, as an intern in the legal department of the Galápagos National Park. With the Charles Darwin Research Station next door, I could see firsthand how knowledge and technology transfer can help protect sensitive ecosystems.



Conservation is under pressure from climate change but fortunately the world recognises the value of the Galápagos Islands and how critical it is to protect them.

Many efforts have been made to protect the Islands. The Galápagos National Park was created via the Executive Decree N-17 on July the 4th 1959, becoming the first Ecuadorian Protected Area. It was declared UNESCO Natural Heritage Site in 1978 and included in the Biosfera Reserve List in 1982.

The Charles Darwin Foundation and its Scientific Station are the biggest and oldest Conservation and Scientific Organisations in the Galápagos Islands. Charles Darwin Foundation was created in 1964 as an non-governmental organisation (NGO) by a group of scientists and conservationists under the

auspices of UNESCO and IUCN. Since 2015, the Islands have a Special Regime Law which contains the administrative regulations and provide the legal framework for the province and the Marine Reserve. The aim of this law was establish rules to govern the speedy growth of the human settlements. Yet there is still lots to be done

The main challenges that the Islands are facing are the consequences of climate change, invasive species, waste and water management, overfishing and plastic pollution. Protecting sensitive ecosystems like the Galápagos Islands is

an ongoing work that requires funding and a joint effort by many actors like the Public Institutions, NGO's, Academia/ Scientists, Private Sector, Civil society and Galápagos local community.

Conservation is under pressure from climate change but fortunately the world recognises the value of the Galápagos Islands and how critical it is to protect them. According to the Galapagos Conservation Trust, about 80% of the land birds, 30% of the plants and 97% of the reptiles found in the Galápagos are native to the island. There are outstanding NGO's and universities from around the world involved in cooperating on a variety of projects linked to science research, policymaking and initiatives to promote sustainable economic activities.

A couple of months ago I had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Juan Pablo Muñoz from the Galápagos Science Centre (GSC) - a research hub created by the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - to develop interdisciplinary research projects for the conservation and sustainability of the Islands. It was shocking to hear about how serious the plastic and microplastic pollution problem has become and how is affecting the different species in the Galápagos

According to the research conducted by GSC, species in risk because of entanglement are green sea turtles, marine iguanas, whale sharks, spine-tail mobulas, and medium-ground finches. Meanwhile the species at most risk of harm due to the ingestion of plastics are Santa

Whale sharks, among other marine-life, are at risk due to plastic pollution in the ocean.



Cruz tortoises, green sea turtles, marine iguanas, black-striped salemas, and sea lions. The oceans don't have physical borders and the evidence is that the plastic from fisheries-based and consumer products originates from China, Perú and Ecuador.

We have reached a critical point where nations must on a legally-binding instrument to govern plastic use by the end of this year. It is urgent to have a Global Plastic Treaty with strong rules for the production of single use plastics, design, waste management and extended producer responsibility. To end plastic pollution aligned policies are needed - with clear responsibilities, standards, targets, restrictions and finance mechanisms.

Another area of hope is the Plastic Pollution Free Project being implemented by The Galapagos Conservation Trust.

The main challenges that the Islands are facing are the consequences of climate change, invasive species, waste and water management, overfishing and plastic pollution.



This is a multimillion-pound project that aims to tackle pollution across the Eastern Pacific Region. Together with the Galápagos National Park, and 30 international organisations, they are working to find solutions to the plastic waste problem in the Islands.

It is a multidisciplinary endeavour that is bringing the best of science research, policymakers and community knowledge to work together towards this problem that is affecting both human and marine ecosystems. The project aims to find out where the rubbish is coming from, which species are more affected and how can awareness be created to make a significant change.

The road towards conservation and sustainability is built on cooperation and innovation. May this cooperation between Ecuador and the United Kingdom grow stronger for the benefit of both the Galápagos and the planet.





UK – Ecuador ties continue to strengthen

A double taxation agreement is the latest tangible benefit to come from the burgeoning bilateral relationship, writes AES Newsletter Editor, James McKeigue...

Ten years ago, I had the misfortune to write an investment report about Ecuador when it was at the nadir of its relations with the UK. Julian Assange was ensconced in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London and UK diplomats, who always support these types of reports, had nothing positive to say on-record about Ecuador.

As someone at the Foreign Office kindly explained to me, “The relationship with Ecuador is in the freezer.” In 2019, Assange left the embassy and since then diplomats from both countries have been working hard to restore relations. Since 2019, Ecuador has received more ministerial visits than any other Latin American country and the size of the UK Embassy in the country has more than doubled.

There have been plenty of high-profile signs of the burgeoning relationship. Guillermo Lasso’s successful participation in COP26 (held in Edinburgh) probably marked the high point of his presidency. The genuine friendship and environmental cooperation between two media-savvy government ministers, Zac Goldsmith and Gustavo Manrique demonstrated the warmer tone to the bilateral relationship.

While HM Ambassador to Ecuador, Chris Campbell became one of the best-known foreign diplomats in the country.

Real results

But the closer ties between Ecuador and the UK aren’t just about ministerial visits and photo opportunities. The relationship is also delivering concrete benefits for both countries.

It’s telling that when the UK’s new Minister for Latin America, Baroness Chapman, made her first visit to the region, she chose Ecuador. She met Ecuador’s Foreign Minister, Gabriela Sommerfeld, in Quito where they both signed a double taxation convention.



"These conventions aim to eliminate double taxation of income or gains arising in one territory and paid to residents of another territory," explains auditing firm PwC in a recent report. "They work by dividing the tax rights each country claims by its domestic laws over the same income and gains."

The UK has the world's largest network of bilateral tax agreements. The advantage for the UK, which is typically a net exporter of capital, is that it secures standardised tax treatment for British companies around the world. The advantage for Ecuador, which must import capital to build the infrastructure and mining projects needed to boost the economy, is that this agreement will reassure UK investors and make Ecuador a more attractive investment destination.

Most Latin American countries, with the surprising exception of Peru, already have double taxation conventions with the UK, so it's a significant achievement for the administration of Daniel Noboa.

Aligned aims

The relationship between the UK and Ecuador is strong because the two countries share key objectives. One of the most important shared aims is fighting climate change. The UK is looking to establish itself as a global leader in green finance, which involves creating innovative ways for investors to loan to, or

invest in, projects that have a positive environmental impact.

Meanwhile Ecuador's high biodiversity – plus its custody of the unique Galápagos – means that a dollar of green finance invested in Ecuador will have more impact than most other countries on the planet. The UK manages over \$200 million of projects in the Ecuadorean Amazon – including \$34 million in direct funding to communities – to enable sustainable use of land and reduce deforestation.

Economic growth is another objective. Trade between the two countries grew by 10% to £239 million in 2023. And the latest figures from the Department of Business and Trade's (DBT) excellent 'Ecuador Factsheet', show that 2024 is likely to see another increase in bilateral commerce between the two countries.

"Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Ecuador was £462 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2024, an increase of 3.1% or £14 million in current prices from the four quarters to the end of Q1 2023," according to the DBT factsheet.

UK foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ecuador was estimated at \$452million in 2021. That's less than the equivalent figures for Peru (\$1.7billion) and Colombia (\$1.5billion), so there is potential

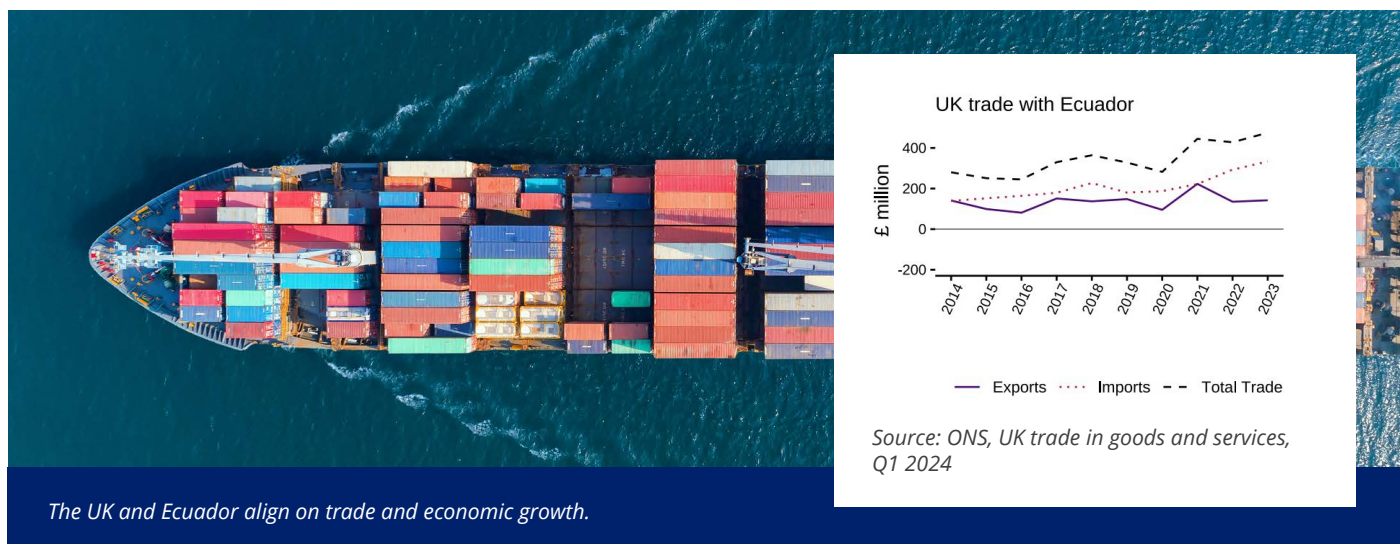
for much further UK investment in Ecuador.

Another shared objective between the two countries is security. The UK is a major market for illegal drugs, such as cocaine, which are increasingly shipped through Ecuador. The battle to control that illicit trade, is wreaking havoc on Ecuador's streets. And both the UK and Ecuador realise that you need international cooperation to solve an international problem.

Baroness Chapman visited national Police officers at an Ecuadorian anti-narcotics base to learn about the challenges they face. As part of her visit the UK donated security equipment including four vehicles.

"I'm making my first visit, as Minister, to Ecuador – a country with which we share democratic values – to offer my unequivocal backing in your fight against organised crime," said Baroness Chapman. "Which is why the UK is donating essential security equipment to brave police officers putting their lives on the line daily to protect the Ecuadorean people. Violence must never be allowed to prevail over democracy and the rule of law."

We're fortunate to be enjoying a golden age of Ecuador-UK bilateral relations and it creates a great opportunity for the AES to play its part in cementing the ties between these two countries.



The UK and Ecuador align on trade and economic growth.

Twenty years of the Condor Trust for Education

Chris Patrick, founder and managing director of the Ecuador-focused charity, shares its history and future...

2024 marks 20 years since we set up the Condor Trust for Education. Since then, our constant aim has been to support young people from low-income families in Ecuador so that, through education, they can break the cycle of poverty they were born into and lead enriched and more prosperous lives.

At the start, we didn't really know what we could achieve. I had just



spent four months volunteering in Ecuador – first in the rainforest in a remote village called Pavacachi, almost 200km from Puyo, and then in a juvenile detention centre in Quito.

Talking to Ecuadorian families and to a teacher in Quito, María del Rosario Guillén, the main need seemed to be to support secondary school and college students from low-income families, who often had to leave education to try and earn money.

This is what we set out to do. I began raising money from family and friends in the UK, and María del Rosario became the director in Quito, dealing with all aspects of work on the ground.

The young people who are already working are, unlike most of their parents, in stable and generally well-paid jobs.

One is a doctor, two are opticians, one is a physiotherapist, four are working in accounting or finance, three in computer programming, two in tourism, four in catering, two in graphic design and one is an officer in the Ecuadorian army.

We began by supporting two young people in Quito and eight in Puyo.

Today, we are supporting **35 students** in secondary and tertiary education.

Over the past twenty years, in a nutshell:

115

young people have benefitted or continue to benefit from our support



61 have completed secondary education



44 have completed secondary and tertiary education, have a professional qualification and are in work.



In a survey of our ex-students which we conducted this year, we found that the average income of the parents of our students is \$304 per month, which is well below the minimum wage of \$460. While the average income of our working students, many of whom have only recently graduated, is \$645 - more than double that of their parents.



Multiplier effect

Their work has enabled them not only to improve their own lives but also that of their families. In several cases, our students have gone on to fund the education

of younger relatives, to invest in accommodation for their families and take other actions to improve the lives of the wider community. That means our work has a powerful multiplier effect, which increases the positive impact of the donations we receive.

Their own children will not be born into poverty. As one student told us "Thinking back, I know that without the Trust I would never have got beyond secondary school, and even that only with a huge amount of effort. Now I have a degree thanks to the Trust, and even an MA, which I funded myself. I have a good job too and am dedicated to giving my own daughter the best education I can."

Help us broaden horizons

Education is of course not only about money, and from the beginning we have tried to provide opportunities for the students to broaden their horizons.

Many come to weekly music lessons and learn to play the guitar or violin or to sing. In summer, we organise events, including trips to Mitad del Mundo, Cotopaxi, the cinema or concerts.

If you would like to help us expand our work in Ecuador, please think about supporting our **20 Year Anniversary Appeal.**

Thank you from all of us in the UK and in Ecuador.

[Donate now](#)



Condor Trust

