



Parks, Gardens and Greenspaces in Claverito / Image: Traction

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE

The Community of Claverito is an informal slum settlement located in the urbanized Peruvian Amazon Rainforest. Claverito lacks access to basic public services such as water and sanitation, and is experiencing layered and severe health issues from degraded environmental conditions and negative public stigma towards slums. This program led by landscape architects examines how the built environment can be strategically designed to address One Health, or the health of humans, animals and the environment, simultaneously. Small scale community driven projects such as parks, gardens and social spaces are installed each year and a team of researchers is following the health of the community and environment over time.

InterACTION Labs Iquitos

Community of Claverito, Iquitos, Peru

Traction

ENGAGEMENT

Projects are constructed based upon community identified priorities and a needs assessment., are community driven and use participatory techniques in design, construction and research. The program is framed in transdisciplinary action research, engaging professionals and students across disciplines, institutions and government agencies. [Alarcón, Alarcón, Andrews 2018]

OUTCOME

An ongoing project, the team of designers, ecologists and health scientists have been tracking changes in human and ecological health in Claverito since 2016. Preliminary outcomes show promising trends in food and medicine security, biodiversity, and mental and social health, with residents perceiving the projects to have met their goals and improved quality of life. [Andrews, Alarcón et al 2019]

RESOURCES

Project partners include: Community of Claverito, non-profits (Traction; LAF; 100,000 Strong in the Americas), research centers (Centro de Investigaciones Tecnológicas, Biomédicas y Medio Ambientales; Centro de Investigaciones de Recursos Naturales; Herbarium Amazonense; Green Futures Lab; Center for Global Health Nursing; Center for One Health Research; Derouen Center for Global Oral Health), universities (University of Washington; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos; Universidad Nacional de la Amazonía Peruana), and government agencies (National Institutes of Health in Peru and U.S.; Municipality of Maynas).

LESSONS LEARNED

Interdisciplinary, community and institutional collaboration and pairing design activism with research is essential to critically and meaningfully address health, yet slum stigma and prejudice prevail.