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Transcription of Trail network in Chiapas: linking people, ecosystems and ideas, 1/28/2014

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BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION

[00:26 - 00:58] Kim: And GIS systems, and these and a lot of different [unintelligible] I've been telling you about. He has worked for NGOs, the government [unintelligible] in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the United States since 2002 so [unintelligible]. He's currently the coordinator of the [unintelligible]. He also happens to be one of our cohort 5 fellows. And [unintelligible] talking about the project today, which is the [unintelligible]. So please help me welcome him. [applause]

[01:05 - 05:08] Eduardo Boné: Oh, thank you so much, Kim [phonetic]. Thank you so much. Well, thanks, everybody for coming. And you're more than welcome to have lunch. You have some water ready for you. So [laughs]. Okay. So, so again, I spent the last seven months in Chiapas, and I worked in this project for, during these six months. And today I'm going to show you some of the results, and some of the challenges we have during that time. I hope you like it. We have a couple of videos. So it's going to be an animated presentation. So. So this is just a roadmap. These are the things I'm going to be talking to you, I'm going to be talking, walking you through. Pretty much I'm going to talk you about a little bit about Chiapas. That's Southeast Mexico. I'll let you know a little bit more about that. Why, why, where is the connection between Colorado and Chiapas? And then the components of the project, like some of the different things me and other people [unintelligible] in Mexico, we work in this project. And then what are the next steps to, to carry on with this, with this project? Uh, so I'm going to start with a, since some of you have to leave, I'm going to start with some of the form part of the of the presentation. We have a really nice video showing what the Chiapas is and a little bit of introduction about the context where this project is, is based. So I'm going to show you this very brief video that I hope you like. And fasten your seat belts. No. Sorry about that. Now it's working. [Music in the video shown] So the reason I chose to show you these

videos is because really, like Chiapas is like a breathless place where really the words are not enough to describe.

[05:08 - 07:13] Eduardo Boné: So I included some of the pictures, just to give you an idea how diverse and like culturally, and naturally diverse, diverse this place is. And I'll show you some of the most important facts about Chiapas. Why is it so important for, for conservation? So in terms of natural resources, as you, as you could see, like it's the second most, more bio-diverse state in the, in the country, and 40% of all the water in the whole country comes from Chiapas, and 45% of its hydroelectric power comes from there. So lots of ice in, like putting this in, this state and, but yet it's, it's the poorest state in the, in the, in the country, according to the UNDP. Of course, we'll have to define what poor means, but well, that's another, that's another topic. So that was, that was the context of, of Chiapas. I know some of you are familiar with Chiapas. I just want to leave it open a little bit for some questions you might have about the video you saw, about some particular, aspects about the context of the [unintelligible], because it's really important to kind of understand where this [unintelligible] is going on. So any questions you might have, will have different times, the, during the presentation for questions. But any particular question about Chiapas and the video? Perfect. Okay. That's why I like videos [laughs]. Okay. So why, why, where is the connection between Colorado and Chiapas? So first of all, the Warner College of Natural Resources through the center for the area's management and training. They've been working in that area for quite a long time, more than a decade working in this area, training local authorities in terms of the, the equivalent to the Park Service in the States have been training their people, their staff during a number of years with the center of particular areas.

[07:13 - 09:05] Eduardo Boné: So they've, they've created lots of partnerships down there, and these, these they, they kind of spearheaded all the process, all the connections between the Warner College of Natural Resources and different institutions in Chiapas. And [unintelligible] which could be like the equivalent to the TNC here in the States. It's probably the largest NGO in Mexico. And again the CONANP which is the equivalent to the National Park Service here in the States. The, as a, as a result of this first relationship between the Center for Protected Areas Management and Training with Chiapas, some people got together and designed this program I'm coordinating right now, and which most of you are part of this program right now, in this, in this audience today. So what this program meant to do was formalizing the relationship between Colorado and Chiapas with a two year degree where students spent half of their time in Colorado, and then the other half, they go to Chiapas and they work in their thesis. So we have, every year, every two years, we have 20 students that go there and spend nine months working with local partners in different conservation and social projects. So it's a, that's a, that's a long term relationship that we, we hope to, to keep for

a long time. And this is also a very old relationship between the city of Fort Collins and the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Chiapas. In November, the Mayor of Fort Collins visited San Cristobal, and they signed an agreement to, to foster relationships between both cities.

[09:05 - 09:53] Eduardo Boné: So, there's a lot of potential for this agreement to just continue all the relationships between the two cities. So it's, it's a, it's a direct link between Colorado and Chiapas. And, and I will be, I will, I'll be representing this, this agreement in the following months. We will have different sessions to, to, to talk more about the link between both cities. So just FYI, I'll have another presentation tomorrow at five, at six in the public library talking about Chiapas. So this is open to the public, and the objective of these presentations is for people to learn more about this new relationship. So well this, this is why Colorado and Chiapas are connected. So any questions?

[09:54 - 09:55] Speaker 1: And you're having a video for this one? [unintelligible] [laughs].

[09:58 - 11:04] Eduardo Boné: Okay. Sure. That is a good question. That is a good question is not, is more of MOU, is like a memorandum of understanding where both cities like are devoting not financial resources right now, but human resources. There is a willing between citizens of both cities to make a financial exchange, sending people from here to there and the other way around. Also having this presentation like cultural presentations and also in the future, trying to foster like some kind of products exchange. Coffee from Chiapas to here, sending people for tourism opportunities there. At birth, monitoring and working with the Rocky Mountain Observatory, they've been working a lot in Chiapas. So really, this relationship is not something new. It's something that has been going on for the last 15 years. And the major focus is going there to sign up the agreement, just like, kind of make it more official. But things have already like, happening during these, these years.

[11:04 - 11:12] Eduardo Boné: So it's, that's the great thing about this agreement. It's not something new, it's just, it's a way to formalize it. Yes. Ryan [phonetic].

[11:17 - 11:17] Ryan: [unintelligible].

[11:17 - 12:57] Eduardo Boné: That is a really good idea, that's a really good question too. So some, some citizens from, from Fort Collins that have been working a lot in Latin America, they started this process. They started visiting people in, in, in Mexico and Chiapas and other states, and they started conversations like, what were like the common traits between both worlds. And they just started having conversations on how to, to visualize these relationships. So it was really, that's what is really nice about this agreement. It's more like a personal contact between different groups of people that started to to increase and more people getting involved. So really it was a working relationship that

started to, to, to increase. And now we have this, more institution to institution relationship. So I'm going to walk you through the components of the project. So the first one and probably the most important is the partnerships. As you can see, I'm showing there three countries. So that's the States, Mexico and Panama. So right there it's me and, and Adrian [phonetic]. The two of us, we decide that this is a really nice picture because we thought about this project together, hiking in the mountains. So this picture means a lot to the project and to me, because we've thought about this project is. I'll let you know a little bit more about what this project is about. And really what we want to, to create is a trail network that connects Mexico to Panama so that you can actually walk from Mexico to Panama using different trails systems.

[12:57 - 14:41] Eduardo Boné: So Adrian, right now he's in Panama. He has a very similar project than the one, the one I'm going to present. He is the pioneer like, he, he inspired me and we work together. So really the partnership this project wouldn't be, couldn't be possible without these partnerships. In the States, well, thanks to the Center for Collaborative Conservation, I got to devote a lot of time and resources. Like, I devoted a lot of time, as you will see in this project. And it was really the inspiration of, of the CCC really, it's really. When people believe in you, you know, it's amazing what that can. You know, it's really supporting and really, really nice. So, and CSU, I, as part of my job, I have to be there and support the students. So it was really nice because as part of my job, I was doing at the same time this project. And as you can see, the city of Fort Collins now with the, with this new agreement, it's also a very important partner in the project. And in Mexico, well, we have a lot of people that are really interested in this project, trails. What's really nice about this project is when you start talking about payment for ecosystem services, all the things people start to get bored. But when you talk about trails, everybody gets excited. So it's really, it's really nice. I'm not saying payment for ecosystem services are boring, but the trails are more exciting [laughs]. So we have on board like, we have, the main partners we have is these guys: Pro Natura and Comite De Cuenca. This is like a watershed committee, which actually a friend of mine and a former CLTL student, is leading right now.

[14:41 - 16:43] Eduardo Boné: And, so he really was very important to the project. I will let you know why he's been so important. Then the CONANP, the, that's again like the, the National Park Service in Mexico. These are all academia. This is the university we partner with in Chiapas, CSU, and this is another local university that was trained by people from CSU to, to, to actually build and maintain trails. And finally, while the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, they are really interested in supporting the project in different ways, like financing, like we have we created a hiking club. So now the city is interested in funding these, these hiking club. And finally, Eco Istemas, these guys helped us film and edit some of the videos that, we won't have time to see all the videos, but some of them

you will. And well, these are the partners in Mexico. And in Panama, so, Adrian has been very successful again. He, he, he partnered with the National Park Service in Panama, Anam, and he, he got sponsors from Patagonia and Suunto. So right now, really, Caminando Panama. It's, it's well, he's doing a lot of things, it's, it's amazing. So it would be great to have Adrian here so he can tell you a little bit more about his project, but he's, he's working very fast. So that was the partnerships. And again, like, this probably wouldn't be possible without all the people. Here's another video for you. And this is about the geographic information, like probably the most robust portion of the project. So I'm gonna show you another brief video showing you all the work with this on the ground.

[16:59 - 20:53] Eduardo Boné: That's not part of the video, but that's part of it. So well again, I decided to make this video for you because, so many things to show. So the numbers you saw there, the 222 miles, actually, that's in partnership with Adrian. So that's the, the amount of trails and, and miles that we have, that we have done together. So that's not only in Mexico, that's also accounting for, for, for Panama. So this is a summary of, of the geographic information we got so far. So we try to represent all the, all the Chiapas territory. So we visited actually not 4 but 5 biosphere reserves. There's another trail here in [unintelligible] that is not showing. But, so in total we have those 57 trails that account for 222 miles. We have created so far 24 maps. And this is probably the most important thing, the 14 communities we, we created links with because our trails are, like a living organism in, in, in, in Chiapas. Really, trail might be there today, but that same trail won't be there tomorrow. So really, this is not a geographic database, is more of a social database where you can connect with guides. And the guides are the ones who know the trails. They are the guys who know how to get around. And if you don't have a guide, the chances of getting lost are pretty, pretty big [laughs]. So guides are very important. And so, in all these maps, the most important information you will find is how to actually contact those guides. So I showed you one of the, of the slides showing that Chiapas is one of the poorest state, is not one, is the poorest state in Mexico.

[20:53 - 22:44] Eduardo Boné: So ecotourism is not a panacea, but it's also, it's an alternative economic activity that can help these communities to have like an extra income. So that's why it's so important. So it's not just about the information, but also linking local and tourists to, to these communities and to these, these guides. The next one, community. So as I told you before, if we have all these network trails, but nobody is actually hiking, then why? Why, how can we use those trails? So, we created this hiking club. Amazingly, there were no hiking clubs, at least in the area where I used to live, so it was amazing. Like, from the, from the very first session, we had like, one session we had like 35 people showing up, you know, it was amazing. So and people just kept asking us. We, so we started having these sessions every 15 days, and it was a total success. The only way we would advertise, we have like a Facebook, we have 20, 59 likes so far [laughs]. I don't

know if that's a lot, I don't know. But but well, we started in September 2013. We had eight hikes so far. And what is really interesting, what, the one that's really inspiring for me is that, that, the eighth, the eighth hike was, was without like, I wasn't there. So people are still like, I, a very important part of the project is capacity building. So I personally work with some of the people that are here. But not really training them, we're more like inspiring them to just continue this, this hiking club.

[22:44 - 24:41] Eduardo Boné: And they are taking the lead right now and they are doing amazing things. So right now the club keeps going even if I'm not there. Again, the partnerships have been very, very important in this project. So in total we have 153 hikers. We have like babies, and then there was a lady of 75 years old walking ten, ten kilometers. So that was amazing. So we can say that all ages, and in total we, we, we had 55 miles with those, with those hikers and the 59 likes in Facebook. 60. Thanks. So here are some pictures of, of, of the different hikes. And it was really. It was really inspiring having people, again, this is, probably that was a more for locals than tourists. But we had all kinds of people. We had tourists, we have locals, we had all kinds of people showing up. So that was really amazing. The communication, we just had a session yesterday with other CCC fellows talking about how important communication is in these kind of projects. And so really a lot of the efforts and the project is also communication. So putting together those videos, it's two minutes, but really it took me a long time to edit those videos. So communication is a big piece of of the project. So the first thing we worked, Adrian and I, as I told you, the vision of the program of the project is actually connecting Panama in Mexico. So what we're trying to do is create a series of logos that different countries can use. So we could have like a, it can be like a, like a, like a net, you know. So if you see this symbol, then you know it's part of this larger, like something like, like the Appalachian Trail or the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

[24:41 - 26:30] Eduardo Boné: So that's, that's the goal, like that's our goal. So we hired a professional designer to help us create these logos. And we ask, we ask these designers [unintelligible] to inspire the logos in the pre-Columbian cultures. Because really I would say probably 90% of the trails we were using there are pre-Columbian trails. So if somebody knows about trails are, all the, all the locals really. We wanted to inspire people and we also wanted to highlight the importance of pre-Columbian cultures. So we added that in the, in, in the logos. So we created, huh? There's a web page you can check Caminado Chiapas. It's pretty basic so far, again, I did it myself. I have to try, I have to, I will have to hire a professional. To, to, to ,to, but we already have the domain. So what we want to do in this, with this web page is having all the maps available for people. So right now there are different kinds of maps that we have created. We have created this interface that Garmin, the GPS allows you to create. So when you map a, a trail with a GPS, you can create these adventures, which is, are these interactive trails where you can well, you

can play around with these maps and you can have a description of different pictures and different locations in the maps. So this is a very cool feature that we have included in the webpage. I don't know why it's not showing, but, too bad. Well, so these are a couple of examples of those interactive maps.

[26:30 - 28:28] Eduardo Boné: And these are other maps also that, that we created. There was a CSU intern that helped us getting the information. Kelly [phonetic], thanks to Kelly, she's not here, but she helped us mapping these trails so that that was another. I will tell you a little bit more about this, like about having internships collaborating with this project. So the maps were very important. Well, the videos, we have two other videos. We won't have time to see this, these other two videos, but we already saw two other videos from from the program. The Facebook web page, and we have a collection of pictures from all over Chiapas, and capacity building. Again, the project is a lot about building capacities, about having different partnerships. So every hike, it was not just going on a hike, we did a lot of work of interpretation. So this is Camilo [phonetic], he is the one who has, like, these two guys really, the three of us, we made this project possible. So we have here Moises [phonetic], he was trained by people from CSU. If you want to know about trails, he's the guy you want to talk with. Like he, some of the trails we walked, we hiked, he built those trails with other students. So he's, he's a trails man. And then Camilo, he's working in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. From his, he's working with water, with water management. So he's really interested in, in mapping all the trails within the watersheds he works with. And then we are, we we're talking with all their watershed managers to replicate this, the same model so that every watershed can have like their hiking club, they can have their maps.

[28:28 - 30:13] Eduardo Boné: So we worked a lot with these two guys here. So while we were, we were hiking, we also, we try to invite always like experts in amphibians, in water, in soil, so that they could talk to people during the, during the trails, during the hikes. And, and also we invited, like it was open to the public so that, something like this, like we're having today. So we had two sessions open to the public so that people could learn more about the program, about the project, and they could get involved in the program. And then out of these, of these meetings, then we identified some students that wanted to do their thesis with us and who wanted to, to be guides. And actually, here's Enrique [phonetic]. He's, he's, he's one of the guys who's taking the lead now. He's, he's running the hiking club. Here we have some, this guy here, Gonoe [phonetic], he has a conservation easement. So some of the pictures you saw, it's private land, and he decided to protect 500 hectares. So people like that is the people we want to have involved. And again, the partnerships are really important. And well, these are some pictures of the of the public sessions we had, to talk and to train people on how to. It was more about the managing of, of, not to build trails because I don't have that,

that knowledge, but about all the administration. How, how you make a social club possible? And well, these are the next steps we envisioned for the program. We don't have like, a legal organization yet. So we will create a legal NGO.

[30:13 - 31:56] Eduardo Boné: So that allows us to, to, to, to do a lot of things that we cannot do right now. We still have lots of information that we have to map. We will follow up the hiking club. We will, we will still, there's lots of trails that are still out there. What we want to do now, we walked 222 miles so far. We cannot hike, be hiking all the time. [laughs] So what we want to do is, like, more getting information from other people that are actually have already this information, and get this information with our database, and just make that information available. And communication material, just like these presentations, the videos you just saw, that's part of the material we are creating. And this is a very, very interesting part that build and ameliorate the trails. So we have two people, we have two potential projects to actually start creating two new trails. One is the, use of the kids with the marimba. So this is a, this is an organization that works with kids. They, they train kids for, to to play the marimba, which is a, is the typical instrument in Chiapas, so they give concerts. So the money like that they are collecting from concerts, they're going to build a trail. And the reason is because they want to, they want to, uh, have like art and nature together. So, so we have that project going on there. That's really cool. And then we have again another like the, we have this community, this is regional community that they want to create, like a protected area. And as part of the protected area, they want to create trails.

[31:56 - 33:38] Eduardo Boné: So they already signed an agreement with Camilo, so that Camilo can lead the process to create that management plan for that indigenous community, and create these trails map. And, well, strengthen the partnerships. Again like, Adrian and I were always talking to people just like you. Like, this is part of this strengthening partnership. You want to be my partner, you can come and talk to me [laughs]. And internship. That's very important. We want to create, we want to put in place internships so that people can contribute with their studies or with their work to, to, to this project. We already have one girl. She's right now studying in Southeast Mexico, Mérida [phonetic]. So she's really interested in internship. So what we want to do now, with all the universities we have a partnership with these universities will be in a position to offer internships to these students. And finally, we work, I work with Camilo. We want to we want to send two proposals for the CCC [laughs], see which one. So one is to actually create this natural protected area. Well, not me, but it's going to be Camilo. He's, he's going to be working down there. And then we also, there's this, this canyon, which is probably the most pristine area I've ever seen in my life. And there's no records of any kind of this place. So we want to bring some information about this project. So these are the two things we have in mind. And thanks. [applause]

[33:38 - 33:38] Kim: Are there any questions [unintelligible]?

[33:38 - 33:38] Eduardo Boné: Yes, Vianna [phonetic].

[34:10 - 34:10] Vianna: [unintelligible].

[34:10 - 35:07] Eduardo Boné: That is a really good question. Like right now, my GIS skills are very limited, and the people I started working with are like, we don't really have a GIS expert, but right now the maps we have created are very basic. We are not even using ArcGIS, we're using like very, very basic software. So the next step, I'm taking a GIS online course right now [laughs]. So I'm, so what I'm trying to do is not just do it all by myself, but just knowing the potential of like creating like better maps. So that's, that's the next step in terms of GIS, like really overlapping, like including new, new, new layers in, in all this information because we have information that is very expensive. It's like information on the field, you know, like we have 222 miles mapped, which, you know, with georeferenced, like we have descriptions of the places, we have connections to the people. So if we, if we can overlap the information with other kind of like social and natural information that, that's.

[35:11 - 35:11] Vianna: [unintelligible].

[35:11 - 35:11] Eduardo Boné: There you go.

[35:32 - 35:32] Vianna: [unintelligible]

[35:32 - 35:56] Eduardo Boné: Well, thank you so much. Well, thank you so much. Yeah. Yeah. This is the kind of information that's really interesting to know. Yeah. Thank you. Thanks Vianna. Yes. Okay.

[35:56 - 35:56] Speaker 2: [unintelligible].

[35:56 - 38:05] Eduardo Boné: That's, that's the next step really. What Adrian and I, we are creating, we are connecting like, the whole structure. How to put like a national network in place. So we normally what, we have two partners that are very important and we think that's the, the, the natural, the Protected Areas Authority and the Tourism Authority. Like these are two of the institutions that we have identified, like very important. So we already made the connections in Panama and Mexico. So the idea is like to talk to the authorities in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras and, and tell them, hey, let's do this. You know, like like the structure is like, we can help you. Let's, let's do it. So that's, that's it's the idea. That's really, we haven't done that yet. We, we actually what we're trying to do is Panama is pretty well set, like the Panama project is it's,

it's amazing. Like you want to check their web pages. They're doing a great job. So what we're trying to do is, like Mexico is like the new baby. So we want to try to use baby as the pilot, Mexico as a pilot. And then from from all the experience we get from, from, from creating the Mexico portion of the program, then we will replicate that, that program with the other countries. So, so that's, that's the plan. And another thing too, we want to create also Caminando Colorado. So again, like we don't want to create a hiking club because there are already a lot of hiking clubs here in Colorado. So but, we want to partner with, with already existing hiking institutions and organizations here in Colorado and probably aiming to have more Latin population going hiking. So probably helping them translating their material or just having like these kind of presentations in Spanish, just to encourage like other audiences to, to attend to these. So that's, that's also, it's part of the sister sister friendship, sister city project with San Cristóbal at Fort Collins, but it's also part of this project. Yes, Irene.

[38:37 - 38:37] Irene: I really appreciate how you are [unintelligible]. What are your thoughts on [unintelligible]?

[38:37 - 40:48] Eduardo Boné: Sure. I think Chiapas really, I wanted to, like, devote some time on the presentation and kind of bring some of the images and some of the context in Chiapas because, there are like 12 indigenous groups living there. The last, I don't know if you heard him, but the last person was Shalick [phonetic]. He was a friend of mine, he's, he speaks [unintelligible]. He doesn't speak, his Spanish is very poor. And he said, Caminando Chiapas in [unintelligible], that's what he said, you know. And, so Shalick, 70% of people living in Chiapas, that, you know. You have to have that sensitivity to work with them. So really Chiapas is an amazing, I don't like the word lab, but it is a lab, you know, there, there's some, I don't know if it's a good or a bad thing, but there's 220 NGOs in, in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, which is a small, it's a tiny, tiny city. So the reason why is because all these people, they go there and they fall in love with, with, with the, with the landscape. They fall in love with the people, and they want to create their own NGO. And they are, most of them are very respectful. And the way, you know [laughs], so it is, it is, it is very important. But some people think they do it cautiously, but personally, I think it's really hard when you're talking, when you're working with people that don't know your language, you know, don't know your context. So it's really, it's really, it's really hard, you know, like, I'm not saying this is not happening, but it is happening. It's a very sensitive area in Mexico. Right now it's the second safest state in Mexico, that I can tell you. It was very dangerous back in the days in 1994 because it was a guerrilla movement, and it was very dangerous to to be there, but now it's very safe. Uh, so it is an amazing place to work with, but yeah, you have to be very sensitive.

[40:49 - 41:03] Eduardo Boné: And there are good organizations, and there are others that are doing like a great job. Like it's really hard to generalize. I don't know if that answers your question. Yes, Audrey [phonetic].

[41:18 - 41:18] Audrey: [unintelligible].

[41:18 - 42:20] Eduardo Boné: Well, I'm glad you mentioned that, I forgot to mention that. Like, one of the reasons why I started this project was because none of the CLTL students in the past was interested in ecotourism. Like, we had no ecotourism projects. And, and we, we just identified one of the reasons why nobody was interested is because we didn't have, like, a solid proposal to, to, to offer. So we are trying to have this project like as a platform to, to have like, if, this is the perfect platform to work for CLTL students, you know. If you go down to Chiapas and you want to work with trails, you want to work with communities, you want to work with connectivity, this is where it's at. So really this also, this project like lays down perfectly like all the, like all, all what you need to have like the perfect thesis project for, for different students. So yeah, it would be great if we could replicate that and have something similar here. Yes, Karina [phonetic].

[42:30 - 42:30] Karina: Is the most effective [unintelligible].

[42:30 - 44:54] Eduardo Boné: Well, you know, that is a really good question. We actually had a session yesterday talking about that and we had some fresh ideas. And some of the, I was just telling to other CCC fellows yesterday that, if you, if you're going to talk to people about something, you really want to understand who these people are. And so one example, like what does this mean? The, the institution we used to work with in Mexico for, for my thesis, it was a governmental institution. But every time they would talk to the people about a specific subject, I don't know about landslides, my thesis focused in landslides, that's why I think about landslides. But instead of showing them pictures about landslides somewhere else, what this institution did was like spending two, two weeks, like taking pictures of all the landslides, like the major landslides in the area. And then they show them those pictures to, to, to the people. And then you weren't talking about something abstract, you were talking about their lives, you know. So that was a very powerful tool, you know, like really understanding and knowing the people. Like that was, that was a very simple and very, very nice approach that has worked for me in the past. And another thing too, like also, like making, like letting people know that they know, you know. Like if you are presenting something or you are showing something, like open, like give them the opportunity to show what they know, you know. And you're just like, you know, like you can come and tell us what you know. So that is really interesting, you know. That, that is, that is, that is probably the most powerful tool you can, you can use, you know. Like, so you can have them drawing a map of their community. You can have them

drawing like, like having like a calendar of what they, of what they've been doing, or they can just leave like some proof of what they know. And you just facilitate that process, you know. So you're not just, actually you're, they are the ones doing the job. You just, you just facilitate that process. So those two are very powerful things that have been effective. And that, that was really nice because now the hiking club is working.

[44:54 - 45:22] Eduardo Boné: That's, those are the things I used to do that and also have that in mind from the very beginning. You know, from when I started, the hiking club was like, okay, I'm leaving in December. What's going to happen with the with the club? So from the very beginning I started, I thought about that and started doing things that could facilitate that transition process with other people. Sure.

[45:26 - 45:26] Speaker 3: How long have you been building relationships with [unintelligible]?

[45:26 - 45:26] Eduardo Boné: For the trails?

[45:27 - 45:27] Speaker 3: Yeah.

[45:27 - 45:31] Eduardo Boné: Well, I spent there seven months, so that was seven months. Yeah.

[45:34 - 45:34] Speaker 3: Well have you [unintelligible]?

[45:34 - 46:09] Eduardo Boné: Well, well, that's right. I was there before as a grad student, so I spent seven months there, but I wasn't as interested as I was this time I was there. And then I also worked, I also worked for UNDP for another nine months. So in total, I've spent like two years in Chiapas. So, this is the probably, like the result of two years. Yeah. Yeah. That's right. That's a good question. Thanks. Yes, Kat [phonetic].

[46:22 - 46:22] Kat: The community progress [unintelligible]?

[46:22 - 49:31] Eduardo Boné: I think that is also like one of the key questions for this project. You know, like you could see like a, like a mosaic of of how the land is divided in Chiapas, you would freak out, you know, because [laughs], you know, because it's so complicated, you know. Like you have like communal territory, you have community lands, you have private lands, you have NGOs land, you have government land. And, and the [unintelligible] comes, like nobody really knows where those borders are, you know, like, you know. Like some people, what they do, they, they actually try and find out where the empty spots, you know, because like, legally, there are like empty like, like really empty pieces of land that nobody owns because, you know. And so people do that, you know.

So just to give you an idea how complicated it can, it can get. Again, that's why guides are so important for this project. Because if you're going to be walking through somebody's land, you want to know whose land you're walking through, you know. So going with a guide, the guide is like, yeah, this is my uncle, this is my brother, this is my mom, this is mine, you know, that's the government, you know. And so that's, that's really, that's really important. So really the, the complexity of land tenure in Chiapas is crazy, is crazy. Yeah, yeah. So that makes it more fun and more complicated, of course. But, we had only one, not really bad experience, actually it was a nice turnout at the end. We were, we went on one of the hikes with a club. We were with kids and, and some people came and told us, you can, you cannot, you know, you can't keep going, you know, like, because this is our land. And I'm, we just, we didn't, you know, we just turned around and, and left, you know. And then we knew there was lots of problems and, but everybody was really nice because everybody told us, like, instead of having like, a bad experience, I was like, wow, this just reminds us how interesting and complex Chiapas is, you know. [laughs] That, that was our conclusion, which, like that was the only bad experience we had. So, yeah, that's, that's, that's a common factor in that, in Chiapas. And not only in Chiapas, well other places in Mexico as well. Well, if there are no more questions. Well, thank you so much. Thank you so much for your time. [applause] So, uh. You, if anyone is interested in coming to this session tomorrow, I'm going to be talking specifically about Chiapas, and we're going to have like a monthly session. So every month we'll have this, we'll talk about different products from Chiapas, we'll talk about tourist opportunities that are in Chiapas. And normally we'll have them in the public library. I'll keep you posted. So tomorrow, it's at six at the public library from six-

END TRANSCRIPTION