

The Native Women's Association of Canada



DATES: MAY 20 TO 27, 2023

REPORT ON NWAC'S EL SALVADOR COUNTRY VISIT



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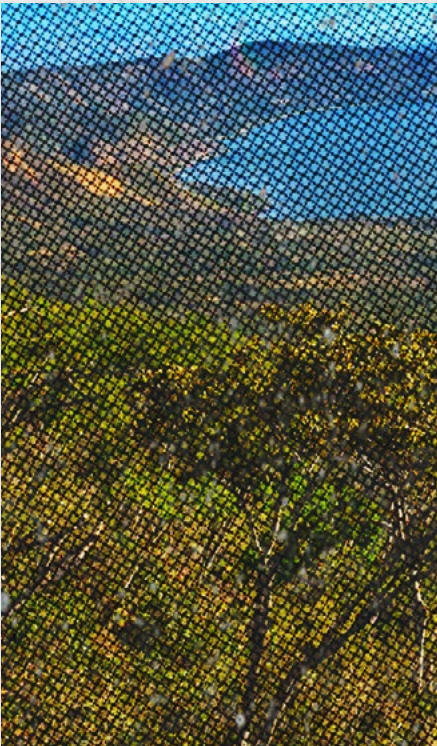
OVERVIEW



During the week of May 20 to May 27, NWAC traveled to El Salvador to meet with El Salvadorian representatives and institutions related to cooperation, the rescue of Indigenous identity, and the empowerment of women. There were opportunities to meet with government officials, entrepreneurs in the coffee industry, and artisans and craftspeople.

PARTICIPANTS:

- Ms. Lynne Groulx, CEO, Native Women Association of Canada (NWAC).
- Ms. Tania Molina, International Director, Native Women Association of Canada (NWAC).
- Mr. Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador to Canada.



OBJECTIVES:

- Generate commercial opportunities for ARTISANELLE and facilitate interchanges between entrepreneurs and small business women dedicated to handicrafts, handmade products, and coffee.
- Establish joint work mechanisms to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experiences between El Salvador and Canada, through NWAC and Salvadoran institutions.

BACKGROUND

This eight-day visit to El Salvador was a continuation of the crucial relationship building between NWAC and the eight nations that make up The Central American Integration System (Spanish: Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana, or SICA); Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

Approximately 20-percent of the total population of Central America, more than 60 different groups, make up the Indigenous Peoples represented within SICA's eight member states.

NWAC CEO, Lynne Groulx, will make similar visits to the other seven countries this year.

This trip included three key components:

1. Developing trading opportunities and economic development with the purchase of coffee and artisan crafting goods.
2. Meeting and collaborating with Indigenous People in the region for a knowledge and cultural exchange.
3. NWAC had many government meetings at the high level with the equivalent institutions of Global Affairs, Heritage and Wage.

These visits strengthen our international connections and represent a renewal of Indigenous relationships that were previously standard across the Americas.

“

There is an Inca prophecy that tells us that 'When the Eagle of the North flies with the Condor of the South, the spirit of the land she will re-awaken, and Indigenous Peoples have been envisioning—and awaiting this resurgence for a long time.

LYNNE GROULX, NWAC CEO.

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ITINERARY OVERVIEW

SUNDAY 21 MAY

- Visit Café La Casona in La Ruta de Las Flores.
- Tour Ataco village and craft stores.
- Visit Fire Tree Eco-Hotel in San Salvador.

MONDAY 22 MAY

- NWAC and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Meeting.
- Handicrafts and Fashion Design Expo.
- Meeting with Yanci Salmerón of the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), with a Resiliency lodge presentation by Lynne Groulx.
- Meeting with Lula Mena.

TUESDAY 23 MAY

- Meeting with Women in Coffee Association of El Salvador (AMCES) President Maria Elena de Botto and Carolina Padilla, Executive Director of Salvadoran Coffee Council (CSC).
- Visit to Cuyancua Farm (CACAO).
- Meeting with Indigenous communities, coordinated with MICULTURA, including Alberto Cruz, Director of Multiculturalism, MICULTURA and Gustavo Pineda, Ajq'ijab, Directorate of Multiculturalism, MICULTURA.
- San Martin Bakery Visit.
- Meeting and dinner with Mr. Daniel Ahmad, Ambassador of Canada to El Salvador.

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

- Meeting with VITRALES.
- Meeting with Adriana Mira, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Visit to Piromano Coffee Roasters.
- Meeting with El Salvador's Vice President Felix Ulloa.



THURSDAY 25 MAY

- Meeting with Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Werner Vargas.
- Signing the Letter of Understanding between NWAC and SICA (Central American Integration System).
- Visit to La Palma accompanied by Maribel Escobar, Mayor of La Palma and “el mercadito de artesanías de La Palma” or Artesanías Paty.
- Meeting with artisan women and entrepreneurs of the region.
- Fernando Llort Museum and “Semilla de Dios” Cooperative Visit.
- Dinner with Jorge Urbina, National Executive Director of Plan Trifinio El Salvador.

FRIDAY 26 MAY

- Meeting with Jorge Urbina, National Executive Director of Plan Trifinio El Salvador.
- Visit to Salvadoran artist Rusco.



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

CULTURAL TOURS

NWAC began their tour in La Ruta de Las Flores at Café La Casona, owned by Roberto Salaverria. This visit was coordinated with the Salvadoran Tourism Corporation (CORSATUR) to learn more about the country's coffee culture and the coffee chain, from production, roasting, grinding, barista, to export.

Arabica coffee is grown in this region with the following varieties available: Bourbon, Tekisic, Pacas, Pacamara, Catisic, Catuai Rojo. Of these, Bourbón and Pacas cover the majority of the coffee area of the country.

In the afternoon, the group continued their tour by visiting the Ataco village and craft stores. Ataco means "place of high-water springs" in Nahuat and at 1,260 meters above sea level, the village is surrounded by imposing hills full of vegetation and prominent coffee plantations.

FIRE TREE ECO-HOTEL IN SAN SALVADOR

With assistance from USAID, the United States Assistance for International Development, a program focusing on eco efficiency, owner Carolina Baiza was able to open the Fire Tree Eco-Hotel in San Salvador.

On this visit NWAC fostered new international partnerships and found innovative ways to help grow economic development opportunities for Indigenous Peoples.



MONDAY MAY 22ND

2023

NWAC AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MRREE) MEETING

NWAC representatives Lynne Groulx, CEO NWAC, and Tania Molina, NWAC Director of International Relations, were accompanied by Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador to Canada and met with government officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Antiguo Cuscatlán. In attendance were:

- Elba Escobar, Head of Cooperation Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador (MRREE).
- Eduardo Garcia, Director of Economic Relations, MRREE.
- Brenda Dominguez, Head of Gender Office, MRREE.
- Karla Irigoyen, representing Mr. Alberto Cruz, General Director of Multiculturalism, Ministry of Culture.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and the Government of El Salvador have identified areas of common interest and activities that can be developed during 2023 for the commercial promotion of handicrafts, textiles, accessories, and coffee from El Salvador. There were opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences among Indigenous Peoples, as well as initiatives that promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EL SALVADOR (MRREE)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador was created by legislative decree No. 13 given in the city of Cojutepeque on February 27, 1858, attached to three more Ministries, these being:

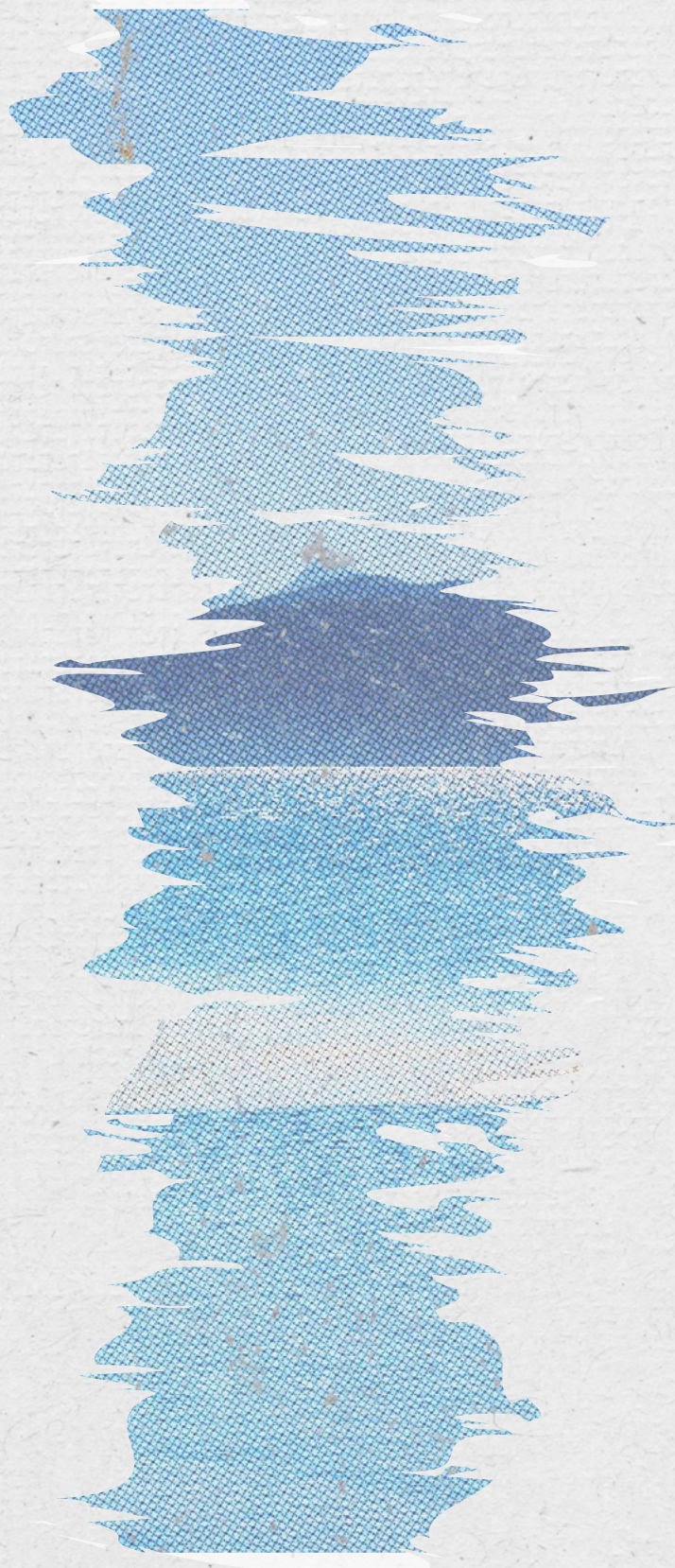
1. Governance, Justice, Public Instruction and Ecclesiastical Business.
2. Finance and War.
3. Promotion of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry and Public Works.

Their programs include economic and cultural diplomacy, institutional strengthening and modernization, attention and reintegration of returnees, linkage with the diaspora, and labour mobility.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE (MICULTURA)

The Institutional Strategic Plan (PEI) 2019 to 2024 of the Ministry of Culture consists of an instrument oriented to institutional management that prioritizes the axes, objectives and strategies aligned with the Cuscatlán-Culture Plan and constitutes the basis for the Annual Operational Planning.

It seeks to improve cultural renewal, seeing culture as a human right and social welfare, bringing it closer to art from early childhood;





the recovery of public spaces; a policy of listening to citizens; recognition and revaluation from the communities; and the dissemination of traditions and customs from an inclusive culture.

SALVADORAN COOPERATION AGENCY (ESCO)

On June 29, 2020, through Executive Decree No. 24, President Nayib Bukele created the Agency of El Salvador for International Cooperation (ESCO) for supporting the country's development projects for the benefit of the Salvadoran population. ESCO aims to optimize the opportunities and possibilities of international cooperation for the economic and social development of El Salvador through new and efficient modalities of international linkage.

SALVADORAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (ISDEMU)

The Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women, the lead agency for the Domestic Violence Act and the National Plan to Prevent and Deal with Domestic Violence, aims to prevent and detect the social problem of violence against women, and provide protection and services to victims, through substantive actions based on current international and national laws against violence.



HANDICRAFTS AND FASHION DESIGN EXPO

NWAC representatives were able to view the exportable offers including handicrafts, textiles, and handmade fashion accessories and were able to establish a direct commercial relationship between artisans and NWAC, in particular companies run by Salvadoran women artisans/ entrepreneurs.

NWAC representatives and Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador to Canada, were joined by Eduardo García, Director of Economic Relations, MRREE, Brenda Dominguez, Head of Gender Unit, MRREE, and Julia Garay, Technical Specialist in Economic Diplomacy.

The companies and ventures who attended included:

- Cunkún
- Bluescarb
- Ties
- Papaki
- Milli Amantolli
- Vane Jimenez
- Bea Falla
- Raquel Arana
- Macá
- Glazz Jewelry
- Don Vidal



EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES IN PROCESSES OF SUPPORT OF WOMEN ISDEMU-NWAC-MICULTURA

NWAC CEO, Lynne Groulx gave a presentation about the Resiliency Lodge at the ISDEMU Service Center, in San Salvador, in an exchange between the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador, ISDEMU and NWAC, to discuss shared experiences and support programs for the promotion and development of the social, economic, cultural, and political wellbeing of women.

The Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) and the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador implement programmes that support women in processes of recovery and healing from gender-based violence, as well as their economic empowerment.

Yanci Salmerón, Executive Director of the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), Brenda Dominguez, Chief, Office of Gender Affairs a.i., MRREE, and Julia Garay, Technical Specialist in Economic Diplomacy attended, and good practices were discussed and shared.

Discussions included an exchange of experiences on issues of care for Indigenous Women and rural women victims of violence, the creation and updating of practical tools for the economic empowerment of Indigenous Women framed in respect for the worldview and ancestral traditions.

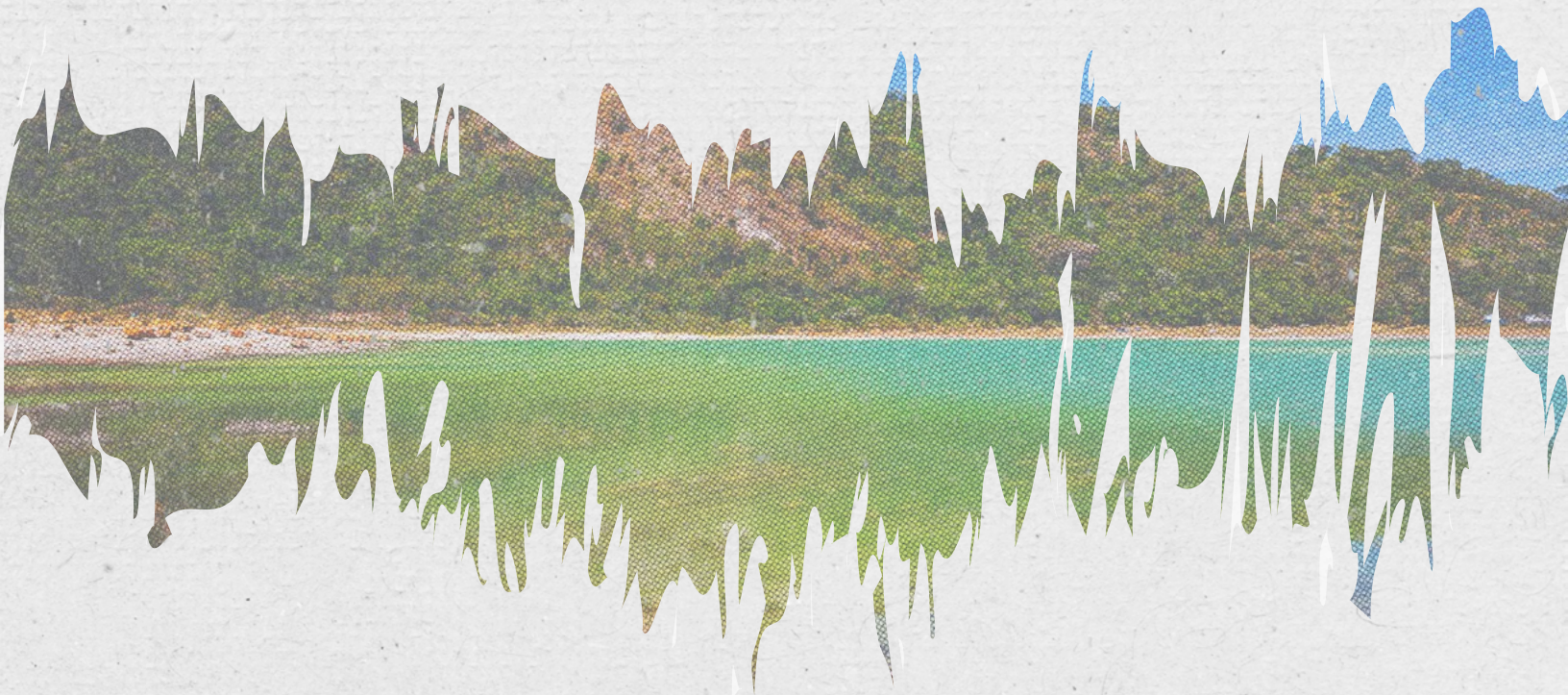


MEETING WITH LULA MENA



NWAC met with designer and artisan Lula Mena with regards to developing and establishing a commercial relationship. Joint initiatives related to the empowerment and financial independence of women in native and rural areas in both countries was also discussed. Mena seeks to empower rural women to gain financial independence by employing them. Her first project, "Seeds of Joy," began in 2011 with six women from San Salvador who made jewelry from seeds grown in their village. Today, she employs about 100 artisans who create handicrafts — jewelry and works of art — that are sold in more than 15 countries.

Elsy Quijada, the Marketing Manager of Lula Mena also attended.



TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023

MEETING WITH THE WOMEN'S COFFEE ALLIANCE OF EL SALVADOR (AMCES) AND SALVADORAN COFFEE COUNCIL (CSC)

NWAC representatives were presented with a coffee tasting from beans grown by women from The Women's Coffee Alliance of El Salvador (AMCES). This opportunity allowed NWAC to meet with potential coffee suppliers, as well as to agree on the execution of initiatives for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the coffee sector that provide growth opportunities for NWAC and AMCES.

THE WOMEN'S COFFEE ALLIANCE OF EL SALVADOR (AMCES)

The Women's Coffee Alliance of El Salvador is an association of women entrepreneurs, representatives of various sectors of the coffee industry in El Salvador, dedicated to supporting, promoting, and strengthening the skills and capacities of women involved in activities related to coffee. Joining NWAC representatives in attendance were Maria Elena de Botto, President, AMCES, Carolina Padilla, Executive Director, CSC, Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador in Canada, Brenda Dominguez, Acting Chief of Gender Unit, MRREE (Ministry of Foreign Relations and Religious Affairs) and Julia Garay, Economic Relations.



THE SALVADORAN COFFEE COUNCIL (CSC)

The Salvador Coffee Council is an independent public body responsible for coffee policy and activities related to the coffee industry. The work of the CSC includes the registration of producers, the collection of coffee statistics and the promotion in international markets.



VISIT TO CUYANCUA FARM (CACAO)

The Cuyancua Farm is one of the oldest in the country, estimated to be between 200 to 300 years old. It is in the municipality of Izalco and has promoted cocoa cultivation in the area for 15 years. NWAC representatives met Rafael Trigueros Hecht, a passionate cocoa grower, who wants to promote the cultivation of cocoa in the country and hopes to reach the 10,000 hectares that they had before the Spanish arrived, if not more.



MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, COORDINATED WITH MICULTURA

NWAC met with Salvadoran Indigenous communities from Izalco and other nearby communities and had the opportunity to exchange best practices in the aforementioned areas. The situation for Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador is historically marred by exclusion, which is a product of the violence and dispossession that characterized the conquest and subsequent colonization.

The Government of El Salvador, through the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture have implemented initiatives to support these communities, however, the experiences of other communities are considered necessary in the areas of education, language, and culture; health and identity and belonging.

Also in attendance were Brenda Dominguez, Acting Chief of Gender Unit, MRREE, Alberto Cruz, Director of Multiculturalism, MICULTURA (ministry of Culture), Julia Garay, Specialist in Economic Diplomacy, and Indigenous Women representatives from different communities in Izalco and other cities of El Salvador.



SAN MARTIN BAKERY VISIT

Lynne Groulx, CEO of NWAC visited the San Martin Bakery to learn more about their business model. The bakery, which has been open since 1974 makes French bread, sweet breads, unique cakes, cookies, and pastries. They have 51 stores in Guatemala, 10 in El Salvador and 1 in Dallas, Texas.

After decades of work and pushing the barriers of production with new technology. The bakery also showcases handicrafts with Guatemalan designs, and a market with products to eat at home.



DINNER WITH DANIEL AHMAD, AMBASSADOR OF CANADA TO EL SALVADOR.

NWAC met with Daniel Ahmad, Ambassador of Canada to El Salvador to have dinner and discuss shared interests. During the dinner, Lynne Groulx, CEO, NWAC expressed the importance of work in benefit of women and Indigenous communities, and to create business opportunities between entrepreneurs and NWAC's ARTISANELLE boutique.



WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

2023

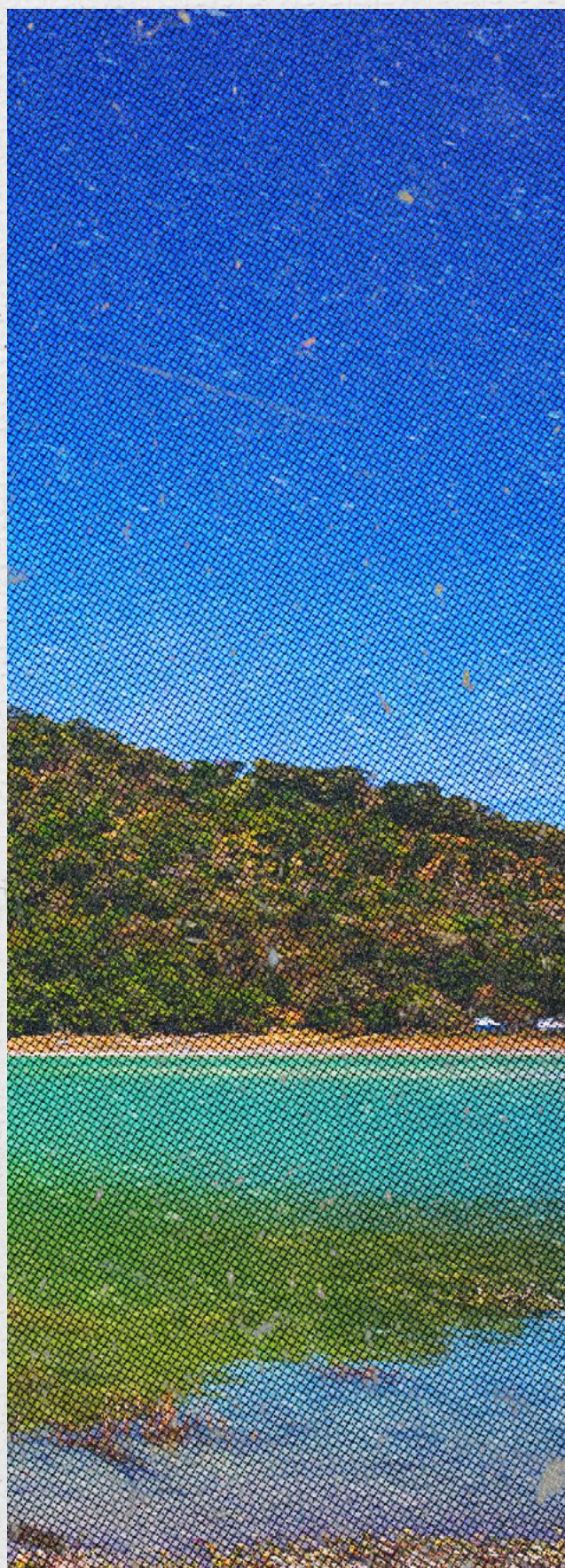
MEETING WITH VITRALES

NWAC met with the company, Vitrales, to establish a direct relationship as a potential supplier for NWAC, as well as to agree on the execution of initiatives for the exchange of knowledge and techniques of art and crafts with a focus on providing means of entrepreneurship in groups of rural or native women.

VITRALES

Vitrales is an innovative and creative company, recognized as a leader in the manufacture of glass pieces, with particular attention to their transparencies, textures, brightness, and colours. Since 2003, they have been creating works of art, functional items, decorative figures, awards, mosaics, and traditional stained-glass windows. The art pieces are 100% handmade by artisans using eco-friendly materials and processes, following the guidelines of architects and designers, and led by the stained-glass artist and El Salvador-based pioneer, Margarita Llor, Fernando Llor's sister.

NWAC visited the workshop where they make the pieces and where they give classes for children, young people, and adults.



MEETING WITH ADRIANA MIRA, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NWAC met with Adriana Mira, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss working closely to strengthen the marketing of coffee, cocoa, and handicrafts from El Salvador and to support Indigenous Women entrepreneurs.

VISIT TO PIROMANO COFFEE ROASTERS

NWAC met Mario Salinas, the founder and head roaster at Piromano Coffee, who is recognized as an innovative entrepreneur.

MEETING WITH EL SALVADOR VICE-PRESIDENT FELIX ULLOA

NWAC met with El Salvador Vice-President Felix Ulloa to discuss trade between Indigenous Peoples, expanding business opportunities and building cultural exchanges. A dinner was held in NWAC's honour.



THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023



MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM (SICA), WERNER VARGAS

Werner Vargas, SG-SICA and Lynne Groulx, NWAC CEO, discussed two of the five pillars of integration that SICA aims to focus on. These are areas they can work on together and include social and economic integration, and democratic security. In early 2014, SICA, with other partners including the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Tourism Organization and Sustainable Travel International, a non-governmental organization, launched the Americas Sustainable Destinations initiative, with the aim of strengthening public-private partnerships to protect and improve the lives of local people in selected destination areas.

SIGNING THE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA AND SICA

The agreement was signed by NWAC CEO, Lynne Groulx and Werner Isaac Vergas Torres, Secretary General and legal representative of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA).

The Central American Integration System (SICA), composed of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, is an economic-political community that aspires to integrate Central America, equipped with a regional institutional framework, with the fundamental objective of achieving the integration of Central America, making it a Region of Peace, Freedom, Democracy, and Development.



The agreement included clauses to:

- Implement and strengthen cooperation to facilitate the exchange of experiences, good practices, and support for projects that have common goals.
- Conduct training seminars in specific areas of common interest.
- Promote internships for officials from both institutions to achieve greater mutual understanding.
- Conceptualize, manage, and jointly implement projects that contribute to the inclusion and empowerment of Indigenous women and other populations in vulnerable conditions.

The landmark Letter of Understanding focuses on Indigenous priorities championed by NWAC including women's empowerment, economic justice, opportunities for trade and economic sustainability, and conservation and balance with nature. To achieve these goals, the agreement acknowledges the need to promote and strengthen cooperative relations between Canada and the Central American Integration System (SICA).



VISIT TO LA PALMA WITH MARIBEL ESCOBAR, MAYOR OF LA PALMA

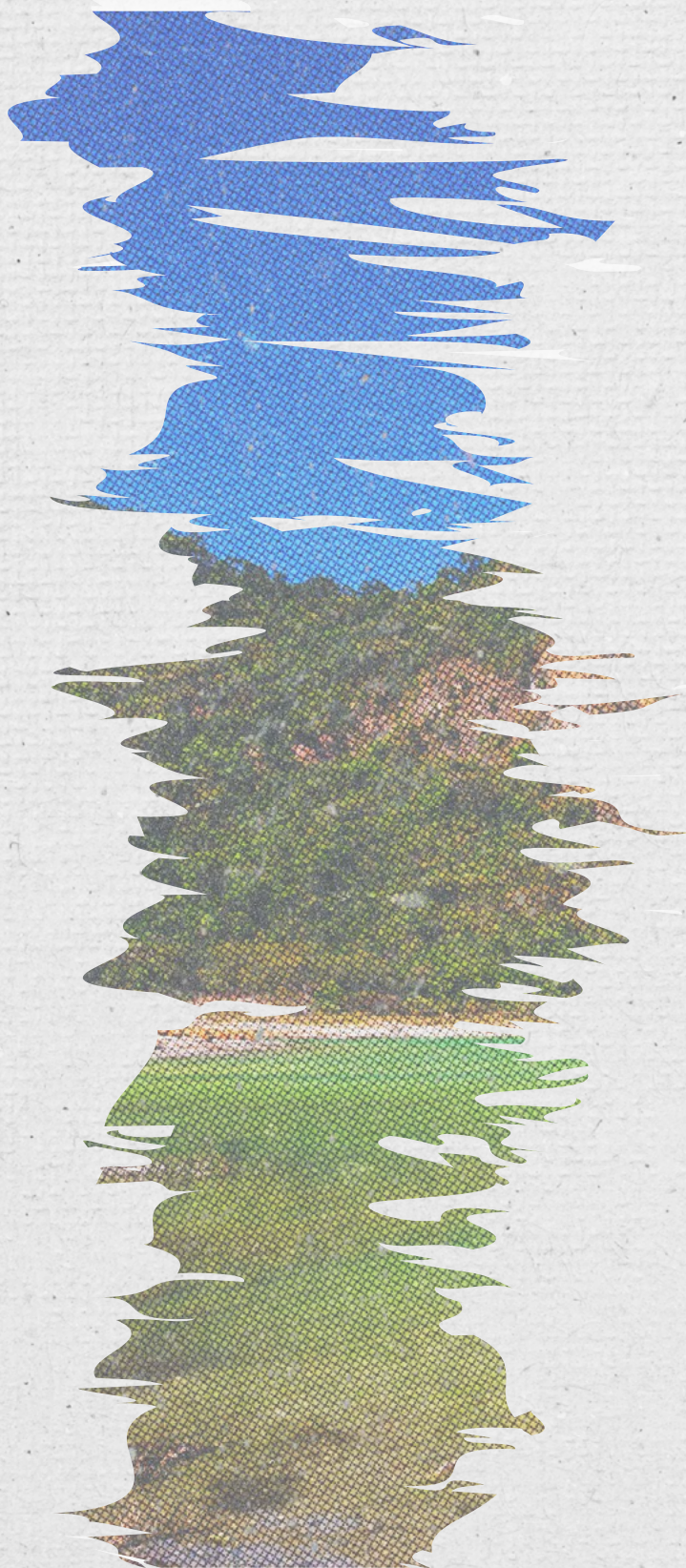
Lynne Groulx was accompanied by Maribel Escobar, Mayor of La Palma on the visit.

La Palma Chalatenango is a mountainous municipality and city located in the department of Chalatenango. The town of La Palma El Salvador is known for unique types of crafts made out of wood or Copinol Seeds. These crafts are made in numerous shops around town and sold all over the country.

MEETING WITH ARTISAN WOMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS OF LA PALMA

They also visited "el mercadito de artesanías de La Palma" or Artesanías Paty, a craft workshop to source items to sell and establish trade relationships.

NWAC met with artisans and entrepreneurs to consolidate commercial relationships with the artisans in the region; and explore possible cooperation initiatives to strengthen marketing and sales skills in artisan women.



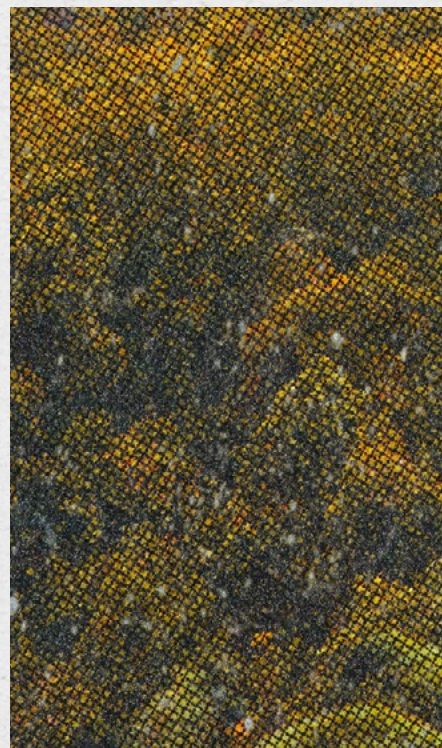
FERNANDO LLORT MUSEUM AND "SEMILLA DE DIOS" COOPERATIVE VISIT

Renowned Salvadoran painter Fernando Llort (April 7, 1949, to August 10, 2018) moved to the city of La Palma in the early '60s and started a cultural movement and artists community.

Fernando's art is strongly influenced by Mayan culture and mixes modern ideas with a special drawing style. It uses mixed techniques and materials, from painting on wood, ceramics, and glass. Fernando was also one of the founders of the first cooperative of artisans and artisans of La Palma named "la Semilla de Dios."

DINNER WITH JORGE URBINA, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLAN TRIFINIO EL SALVADOR

Jorge Urbina joined Lynne Groulx in La Palma and shared dinner. Urbina has directed Plan Trifinio El Salvador since January 2020. Alongside Vice President, Félix Ulloa, they share objectives to raise the quality of life of the population, improve health, education, access to drinking water, develop agriculture, tourism and promote the economic areas of the Trifinio region.



FRIDAY MAY 26

2023

MEETING WITH PLAN TRIFINIO

NWAC met again with Jorge Urbina, National Executive Director of Plan Trifinio El Salvador. Hans Langenbahn, from Happy Goat Coffee Co. made a presentation of Sustainable Coffee Production Projects, alongside other experts.

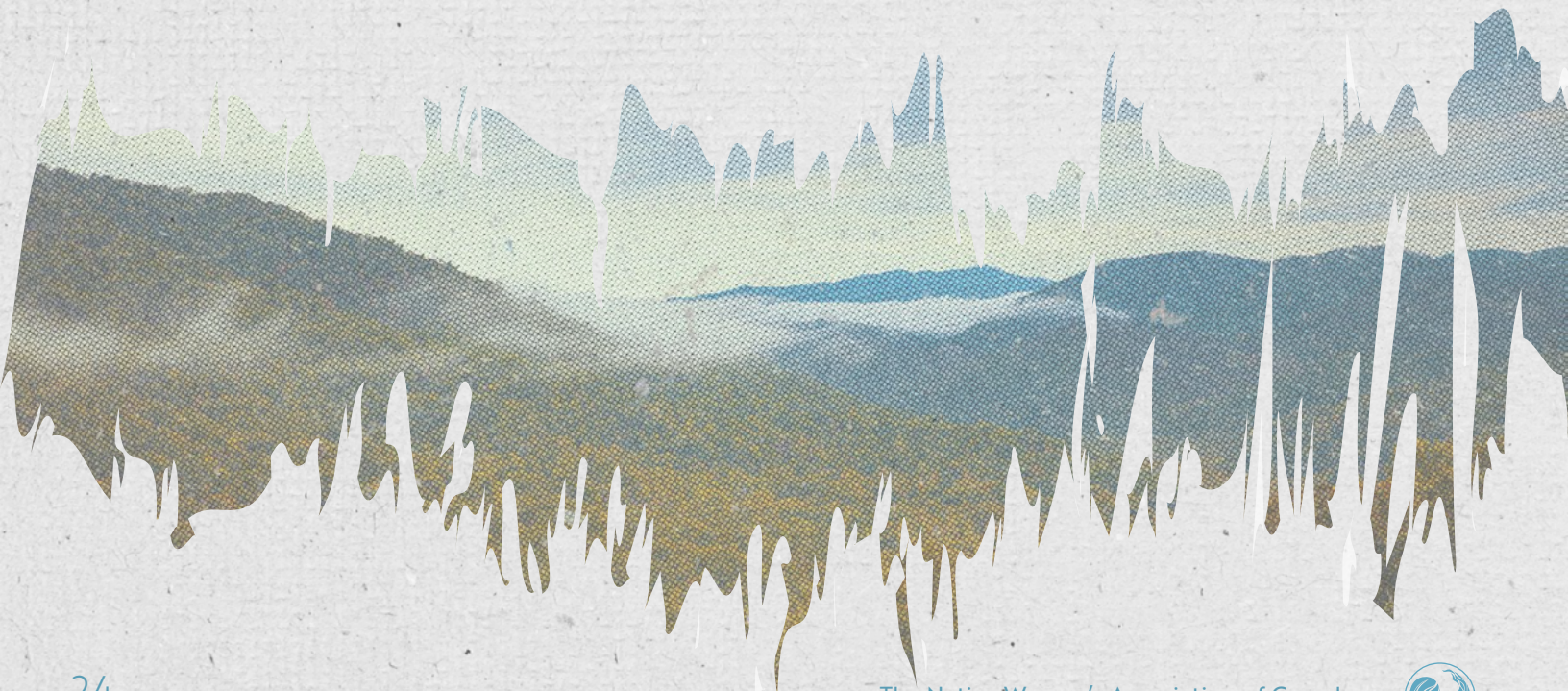
PLAN TRIFINIO

The Trifinio Plan is a regional organization that is part of the Central American Integration System (SICA) which seeks to develop a process of environmental and territorial management, to improve the living conditions of border communities.

In 1997, the Trinational Commission of the Trifinio Plan (CTPT) was established, with the signing of a Trinational Treaty, between the republics of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, which is led by the Vice Presidents of El Salvador and Guatemala and a Presidential Designate of Honduras, as the entity in charge of supervising the execution of the Trifinio Plan and its permanent updating.

VISIT TO SALVADORAN ARTIST RUSCO

A visit was paid to the Salvadorean artist Rusco who creates rustic artwork with a speciality for sculpture.



CONCLUSION

NWAC CEO, Lynne Groulx, and Tania Molina, International Director of NWAC, were accompanied by Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador to Canada and enjoyed a rich and vibrant 8-day visit to El Salvador.

They were able to follow the coffee route to understand the production of coffee from bean to cup and meet with cocoa farmers and coffee entrepreneurs.

They consolidated commercial relationships with artisans in the region and explored future possible cooperation initiatives to strengthen marketing and sales skills in artisans.


They were also able to tour craft markets and stores and see a wide variety of exportable handicrafts for sale. Relationships were built and NWAC returns with orders placed and products ready for sale. All parties were able to share knowledge and best practices to create more opportunities for Indigenous Women, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ (WG2STGD+) People to find social, economic, cultural, and political growth and wellbeing.

Important Meetings were held, including the signing of the Letter of Understanding between NWAC and SICA to establish joint work mechanisms between the two organizations.

This visit to El Salvador was a resounding success in achieving the objectives to:

- **Research and develop new trading opportunities and relationships.**
- **Generate commercial opportunities and economic development with the purchase of coffee and artisan crafting goods.**
- **Meet and collaborate with Indigenous People in the region for a knowledge and cultural exchange.**
- **Create a partnership between NWAC and SICA with the signing of the Letter of Understanding.**

This last objective was a ground-breaking moment. With the signing of the Letter of Understanding between NWAC and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA) both parties have helped advance international relationships that will benefit Indigenous Peoples by supporting cultural and economic exchange across the Americas.



We broke important barriers. We haven't been talking enough as Indigenous Peoples across the national boundaries established through colonization. It is extremely powerful when Indigenous Peoples unite,"

LYNNE GROULX, NWAC CEO.



The Letter of Understanding will fast-track NWAC's ability to implement the priorities set out in the agreement, which will have far reaching benefits for Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ (WG2STGD+) Peoples across the Americas.

With every subsequent visit to SIICA member countries, NWAC will begin taking concrete actions to implement the terms of the Letter of Understanding.

Along with signing the historic Letter of Understanding, the trip also achieved several other aims, including relationship building at both macro and micro levels. NWAC's team, accompanied by Ricardo Cisneros, Ambassador of El Salvador to Canada, met with various dignitaries, government officials and entrepreneurs, to discuss trade between Indigenous Peoples, expanding business opportunities and building cultural exchanges.

These collaborations included meetings with:

- Felix Ulloa, Vice President of El Salvador.
- Elba Escobar, Head of Cooperation Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.
- Eduardo Garcia, Director of Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.
- Brenda Dominguez, Head of Gender Office a.i., MRREE.
- Karla Irigoyen, representing Mr. Alberto Cruz, General Director of Multiculturalism, Ministry of Culture.
- Yanci Salmerón, Executive Director of the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU).
- Adriana Mira, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Maria Elena de Botto, President, AMCES.
- Carolina Padilla, Executive Director, CSC.
- Lula Mena, designer and artisan.
- Elsy Quijada, Marketing Manager of Lula Mena
- Maribel Escobar Mayor of La Palma.
- Jorge Urbina, National Executive Director of Plan Trifinio El Salvador.
- Daniel Ahmad, Ambassador of Canada to El Salvador.
- Alberto Cruz, Director of Multiculturalism, MICULTURA.



- Gustavo Pineda, Ajq'ijab, Directorate of Multiculturalism, MICULTURA.
- Werner Vargas, Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SICA).
- Brenda Dominguez, Acting Chief of Gender Unit.
- Julia Garay, Technical Specialist in Economic Diplomacy.
- Rafael Trigueros Hecht, Cocoa Grower.
- Mario Salinas, Coffee roaster, and Barista at Piromano Coffee Roasters.
- Rusco, Salvadoran Artist.
- Carolina Baiza, Owner of Fire Tree Eco-Hotel in San Salvador.

NWAC also developed new relationships with local Indigenous Women artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs, returning home with spectacular artwork and textiles for NWAC's Sisters in Spirit America's Collection.

The collaborative meetings and visits between NWAC and the Women in Coffee Association of El Salvador (AMCES) and the Salvadorian Coffee Council (CSC) were especially conducive to developing new business relationships as NWAC is due to release its own coffee line, with all profits going back to supporting programs for Indigenous WG2STGD+ People.

The visit included many highlights and wins that NWAC will work to recreate on trips to other SICA nations, including a key takeaway; the affirmation that Indigenous companies, entrepreneurs and suppliers are ready and willing to trade and be their own community ambassadors in economic development.



It is extremely powerful when Indigenous Peoples unite.

LYNNE GROULX, NWAC CEO.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS





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