



## **District/Governor's/Rotaract Grant Final Report 2021-2022**

This report must be completed and uploaded on [matchinggrants.org](https://matchinggrants.org) within 30 days after completion of the project but no later than 2 years after the date of approval of the project. For scholarships, the report is due 30 days after payment of funds.

**District Grant # (from [matchinggrants.org](https://matchinggrants.org)) P-3933**

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Rotary Club: Laramie

Project Title: Bridging Environmental Conflict

### **Project Description:**

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1. Is this a scholarship governor's grant report? Yes \_\_\_ No\_ \_ (If yes, go directly to line 16)
2. Briefly describe the project. What was done and where did the project activities take place? Explain how the beneficiaries and other community members were involved?

The project took place in Chile, spanning from the indigenous village of Caspana in the northern Atacama Desert region to Pucon in the southern Biobio River region. I participated in a number of indigenous community activities, including a wedding, and interviewed indigenous people involved in ecotourism. I also connected with policymakers, including an attorney with Chile's "Ministerio de Energia" as well as the Latin American and Caribbean Deputy Regional Representative for the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

To gain greater perspective and background knowledge on indigenous groups in Chile, I traveled through Peru and Bolivia before arriving in the Atacama Desert. Though brief, I was able to learn about Incan mythology and tradition by visiting culturally significant sites along the way to Chile. These stops were especially

important because indigenous Chileans in the north were conquered by the Incans and have a shared history with indigenous groups in Peru and Bolivia.

3. How many Rotarians participated in this project? 3
4. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

Todd Pierson connected me to a local Chilean, Karin Neira, who lives in Temuco, Chile.

Rollin Abernethy also assisted with guiding and focusing this project.

Amanda Paul maintained accounting, expenditures and receipts

5. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?  
At least 5 and as many as 200 due to the wide range of impact and interaction with indigenous communities.
6. Who are the beneficiaries and what is the expected long-term community impact of this project?

By studying and experiencing the successful ecotourism model in the Atacama Desert region, I sparked beneficial and impactful conversations with other indigenous communities in Chile. Specifically, as the Biobio River region struggles with continued protests and violence between the Mapuche people and the Chilean government and private industry, I was able to bring a more neutral and truth-seeking perspective to the issues at hand.

And, as Chile considers how to move forward after their most recent rejection of the new constitutional draft, more conversations about how to balance the interests of the Chilean government, indigenous communities, and foreign direct investment will be crucial. Connecting the innovation in the north to the tension in the south could lead to more lasting peace in Chile as a whole. I spent valuable time with stakeholders such as Ramiro Avilez in Pucon and Claudio and Teresa Melo in Santa Barbara who are working to welcome and educate tourists on indigenous tradition and perspectives. Long-term, I believe that individuals like Ramiro, Claudio, and Teresa will usher in a new season of peaceful, sustainable, and mutual beneficial ecotourism.

Just off of the Rio Pucon, Ramiro owns a plot of Mapuche ancestral land, that is protected under Chilean law. By interviewing him, I was able to gain the invaluable perspective of a young, Mapuche entrepreneur, with real and obvious claims to his ancestral lands. Interestingly, Ramiro opposed the new constitution, and favored the ability to open up his land to visitors. When we met, he was in the process of constructing a rental home in a tree and was worried about the economic impacts of the new constitution draft.

Ramiro is exactly the kind of person who could engage in fruitful and meaningful collaboration with foreign investors and the Chilean government. He has a vested interest in sustainability, and so does the government. And he could persuade foreign

investors to consider indigenous perspectives. Connecting Ramiro to Cristobal Trivinos of the Ministerio de Energia, for example, could lead to new conversations, new collaborations, new solutions, and a new modus operandi for foreign investors in Chile.

7. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was their role?

To learn more about ongoing projects with indigenous communities in Chile, I met with Eve Crowley, the regional director for the FAO in Latin America. Ms. Crowley has conducted numerous projects in the Biobio region and interacts with Mapuche communities on a semi-regular basis. She advised me on regions to focus on in the Biobio region, as some places were in a state of emergency and unsafe for visitors. Using the data compiled by the United Nations, I was able to tailor and refine my research, which allowed me to connect with local stakeholders.

Mr. Crowley also invited me to spend a weekend on her private property in the Maule region of Chile. We we discussed Chilean culture at-depth, the history and ongoing resistance of the Mapuche, and ongoing and past FAO projects in Chile. Ms. Crowley also implements sustainable farming techniques on her property, which she explained to me on an interactive tour.

8. Income:

Income Source	Amount
Laramie Rotary Club	\$3088
District 5440 Match	\$3000
<b>Total Project Income</b>	<b>\$6088</b>

9. Expenditures: Separate Files Included (number receipts starting with 1 and indicate a receipt # (s) for each expenditure) (Do not include travel expenses)

If international project convert amounts to US dollars	Receipt # (s)	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount
See: Stephani Chile Expenditures	Ordered by Expenditure		
Airfare/Travel		1414.85	1302.50
Accomodation, Food, Transportation		2500.00	2088.46
Tuition/Education		2173.00	1571.24
<b>Total project expenditures</b>		<b>\$6087.85</b>	<b>\$4962.20*</b>

\*\$1125.62 returned to Dist. 5440 Treasurer

10. Please explain any variance of more than 5% between the budgeted amount and the actual amount including the reason for the variance and why the alternative was chosen.

11. Project score (5=strongly, 4=agree, 3= neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

	Project Score	Comments
The overall project was successful	5	
The grant process worked well	5	
My interaction with partner clubs was good	N/A	
We achieved the results we expected	4	

12. Did you upload photos in your project on matchinggrants.org under the Photos tab?  
(If not, please do so)

Yes

13. What worked well on this project and why?

The ability to learn and adapt to my research as I gained more local perspectives was very useful. Especially as the election to confirm the new constitutional draft was underway, I was able to listen intently to the issues of the day and adjust accordingly. Lasting change can only come with local buy-in, and the flexibility of my project allowed me to maximize local input.

14. What did not work well and how would you suggest improving it?

In the future, I think that it would be better to have a per diem system rather than a reimbursement system. I spent a lot of time trying to keep track of receipts, and I think that time could be better spent working on the actual project at hand.

15. How was this project publicized?

This project has been publicized on social media and will be publicized either through a series of blog posts or a law journal article.

16. Scholarship Governor's grant only

a. Name of scholarship awardee \_\_\_\_\_

b. Current school \_\_\_\_\_

c. University of college they will be attending \_\_\_\_\_

d. Course of study \_\_\_\_\_

e. Starting date \_\_\_\_\_

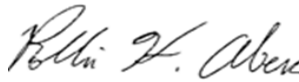
Project Inventory

Please list all items provided in this grant that are over \$500 in value and are not expendable.

<b>Item Purchased</b>	<b>Date of Purchase</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Initial Destination/ Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Not applicable				

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures are attached. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights to the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant the District, RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or in the future, through the District and the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or developed. This includes the right to modify the photographs as necessary in the District's and RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of the District, RI, and TRF.

**Please attach all receipts or an invoice and a copy of the check used to pay the invoice. Funds over \$100 not used must be returned to the district grants treasurer.**



Certifying signature of primary contact:

Date: 10/20/22

Print name: Rollin H. Abernethy

**Upload this report on [matchinggrants.org](http://matchinggrants.org) in .pdf format only**