



International Volcano Monitoring Fund 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Update

We are pleased to report that in 2014, the IVM-Fund raised nearly \$3000 from our generous supporters worldwide.

2014 was an active year also for Guatemala's volcanoes, Fuego and Santiaguito. In May 2014, the growing lava dome at Santiaguito suffered a collapse on its eastern flank which generated hot clouds of ash and rock, called pyroclastic flows. These flows travelled 7 km down a jungle-clad river valley filling it with rock debris and charred tree trunks – it stopped a few hundred metres from the Santiaguito Volcano Observatory (OVSAN). This was the largest volcanic event at Santiaguito in nearly a century. Fortunately, no individuals were harmed and nearby population centres were not affected.

However, as 2014 progressed, the enormous volume of loose material deposited in the debris-filled river valley began to be carried downstream by heavy tropical rainfall. Cement-like volcanic mudflows were generated, damaging portions of the El Faro coffee plantation located nearby. A thick, slow-moving lava flow also issued out of the dome and moved downstream over-running agricultural areas and compounding the mudflow problem. Of additional concern was that OVSAN was at risk of being engulfed by mudflows. Indeed, during the 2014 rainy season, mudflows came within 18 m of OVSAN's front door. If destroyed, the one outpost for Guatemalan scientists and staff to perform volcanic surveillance at Santiaguito would be lost.

Throughout the year, we stayed in contact with our Guatemalan colleagues to learn how we could support them in this time of crisis. The plan was to re-locate OVSAN to a safer location. The IVM-Fund offered our full support in this effort. Ultimately, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided funding to rebuild OVSAN in a safer spot. Our Guatemalan colleagues requested that the financial resources of the IVM-Fund be utilized to help outfit the new observatory with equipment and other amenities after construction so that it can become a fully-functioning volcano observatory.

Summary of Fundraising in 2014

- In 2014, the IVM-Fund raised a total of US\$2,770 from 19 donors

There were no expenditures in 2014. Unspent funds in the IVM-Fund bank account at the end of 2014 amounted to US\$4,713.



Update on New Program Initiatives as of July 2015

Equipment Delivery to OVSAN

In 2014, our colleagues at the Santiaguito Volcano Observatory formally requested that we provide them with some new volcano monitoring equipment. Some items had been damaged by volcanic ash as the observers documented the ongoing activity at Santiaguito. We delivered on this request in April 2015. Specific items we sent to Guatemala included a new high-zoom digital camera and a handheld infrared radiometer. We thank Prof. Lizzette Rodriguez of the University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez for her assistance in shepherding the equipment to Guatemala.

Collaboration with BGC Engineering

Since January 2015, we have been communicating with a Vancouver-based firm named BGC Engineering who is interested in collaborating with the IVM-Fund to support volcano monitoring efforts in Guatemala. Two projects we have discussed include: 1) provide GIS mapping training for all volcano observers in Guatemala and 2) outfit the new OVSAN with running water and electricity.

Continued Support for OVSAN and OVFGO

In May 2015, the IVM-Fund committed to pay for internet connections at the Santiaguito Volcano Observatory and the Fuego Volcano Observatory for a period of 6 months. The USGS Volcano Disaster Assistance Program and Michigan Technological University recently installed webcams at both volcano observatories to provide 24 hour, continuous visual monitoring via the internet. The IVM-Fund has been asked to step in to provide temporary payment of internet service while the Guatemalans identify a permanent source of funding for this valuable new addition to their monitoring efforts.

The IVM-Fund looks forward to continuing to provide assistance to our Guatemalan volcanology colleagues in 2015.

Thank you to all our donors for your ongoing support.

Best regards,



Jeff Witter

President and CEO

International Volcano Monitoring Fund

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