
This paper is based on two months of ethnographic field research in the village of San Vicente, Nicoya, Guanacaste to study the current state of the community based museum called the *Ecomuseo de la Cerámica Chorotega* that opened May of 2007. This region of Guanacaste is known for the production and sale of handmade ceramics often in the form of indigenous replicas. Thus, the ecomuseum was formed with the goals of cultural and natural preservation and economic support for the artisans. The research objective of this project was to form a holistic diagnostic of the functions of the ecomuseum at this early stage. Research was carried out through interviews and observations of the various groups involved with the museum, including museum employees and volunteers from the community, community artisans, members of the National Museum of Costa Rica, and tourists. An analysis of the information gathered revealed that within these groups exists varying understandings of the ecomuseum’s purpose and future objectives, and thus varying expectations for the ecomuseum’s future. From these results conclusions were made as to recommendations for the ecomuseum to ensure its success.