

# Valley Talk

Could you imagine living without mobile phones and the internet – with no other means of telecommunication than letter-writing? We usually take telecommunication for granted. But it would simply not exist if not someone had developed all the technologies we use.

The people from the Valle de la Lumbre ask for your help, because they too would like to stay in touch with each other. Do you have a smart idea of how they could communicate without electricity?

## *To the people of the Valle de la Lumbre*

*The Council of Elders has decided that the Valle de la Lumbre needs a fast and reliable system to communicate urgent messages between the villages.*

*Our valley is known all over the country for both its beauty and the ingenuity of its people. We therefore invite all fine minds in the valley to take part in a competition for the smartest ideas: whoever presents the best plan of how to create a Valle de la Lumbre communication system will receive the honour of having her or his name(s) carved in the gable of the house of The Council of Elders.*

*According to the wise traditions of the Valle de la Lumbre, this communication system should use no kind of electricity, neither from a generator, nor from batteries or anything like that. Furthermore, the Council of Elders has decided on the following criteria, against which all proposed solutions will be measured.*

- 1. The system should allow short messages of a maximum of about 50 words to be sent as fast as possible between the villages.*
- 2. Nobody should be disturbed by the system. No one should be annoyed by loud noises, and they should not have a bad influence on the environment or the beauty of the valley. The people of the valley do not like to see ropes or pipes or anything like that installed between the villages.*
- 3. A smart idea will not be expensive. It should not cost much to install the system. However, even more importantly, it should not cost much to operate, maintain and repair the system over many years.*

*The best system will be selected at the next meeting of The Council of Elders.*



1 One of the artists living in the Valle de la Lumbre did the drawing below. For a bird, the villages are just about 2 km apart, but the people have to pass through the bottom of the valley and need about half a day to travel from one village to the other.

