



XIXUAU XIPARINA RESERVE NEWSLETTER JULY 2008



Dear friends of the Amazon Association, this first six months of 2008 have been really important for all the inhabitants of the Xixuau-Xiparina Nature Reserve.

The year began with the realization of the project Agua Boa, which aimed at providing all the inhabitants of the Jauaperi river with access to clean drinking water, free of harmful parasites.

Thanks to a donation from the Italian Foundation Help the children, we were able to install another four drinking water wells in all the villages. Some representatives of the foundation visited the area during the work and held clown shows for the children of the villages while the wells were being dug and installed.



Our battle to see the creation of the Lower Rio Branco-Jauaperi Extractive Reserve,

continues. Several local leaders went to Brasilia to express their continued desire for the creation of this reserve and the preservation of the area at a public hearing organized for this purpose.

The official decree still awaits the signature of President Lula and the government of Roraima continues to do everything in its power to block the creation of this reserve.



Some of you will remember that in order to coordinate and promote the creation of the Resex some time ago the local people formed an organization called Ecoex, which unites all the inhabitants of the villages that will be part of the reserve.

In February our association made an agreement with the National Centre for

Traditional Populations to reinforce and better organize the association Ecoex. To this end we organized a series of meetings among the local communities to reinforce dialogue and improve the administrative and bureaucratic structure of the association. The next assembly will be this month and we hope that it will help to push the creation of the Extractive Reserve.



Thanks to an important financial contribution from the Autonomous Region of Trento in Italy we have been able to start work on the new visitors complex in the reserve. The new structure will consist of six Indian style round huts, or Malocas, that can receive up to twenty guests. The five smaller Malocas will be divided into two double rooms, each with a private bathroom, and the larger one will serve as kitchen, canteen and meeting area. The work is under way and we expect it to be finished by the end of 2008.

News on improvement of the health service for the people of the reserve.

Thanks to funds raised through the sale of autographed photographs by well-known photographers, organized by GRIN, the National Group of Iconographic Editors in Italy, we have been able to launch our health project called Talia. Named after an 8 year old girl who died from a scorpion bite two years ago in the Xixuau, the project foresees the training of specialized nurses and malaria technicians from the river. The first two candidates have been chosen and will soon begin an 18 months training course in Manaus.

Through an agreement between the Amazon Association and the local health

authorities of Amazonas and Roraima, the nurses will receive an employment contract once they have completed their course and work on the river for a minimum period of 5 years.



In April we took Alcinei back to Sao Paulo, to the same hospital where he was operated the first time. After a week of examinations the surgeons informed him that a second operation was risky and could potentially damage an optical nerve, leaving him blind and possibly paralyzed on one side of his face. As this would also interfere with his ability to speak he decided to decline the second operation. The doctors have advised a yearly check up to control the development of his facial tumor and this gives Alcinei the right to a state invalidity pension and government support for his cures and travel expenses. He was then taken to Roraima where he completed the bureaucratic process and now receives a monthly pension.

He personally wished to thank all those who had helped him and contributed to his medical cures with the following message:

«Amigos para sempre eu serei muito grato por tudo que voces fizeram por mim, eu agradeço do fundo do meu coracao, nunca vou esquecer esse carinho que voces tem por mim, eu tambem vou ganha um salario por mes do governo eu desejo muitos ano de vida obrigado sejam muito felizes».

Translation:

«Dear Friends, I will always be grateful to you for what you have done for me. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and will never forget the affection that you have shown me. Now I will receive a pension from the government every month. I wish you all many years of life and much happiness».

Fortunately in general the health situation in the community is good, with very few cases of malaria recorded this year.



Progress has also been made in the official recognition of our community. The local authorities have formally registered our village, the first to do so in the whole Lower Rio Branco area. This official recognition gives us access to the federal government programs for aiding forest communities. Geraldo, our president, and his vice president Justino are planning a series of meeting with the local government and authorities to see what aid can be provided.

This year the river caused a major surprise by rising to a level never previously recorded. During the rainy season it flooded most of the village. However it is now returning to a normal level and dropping fast with the start of the dry season.



Lastly we would like to draw your attention to a recently published book "Amazonia, Madre d'Acqua" (2007, Passigli Ed.) by the Brazilian poet Marcia Theophilo, journalist and anthropologist candidate for the Nobel Prize.

Her poetry describes the natural beauty of the Amazon and the native culture while remembering the problems of the environment and saving this culture.

For all our friends who have not yet had the opportunity to come and visit us we would like to point out the following link http://www.panoramic-photo.com/qtvr/xixuau/VirtualTour_xi.html where you can go on a rich virtual tour of the forest and our village. The virtual tour has been realized by the courtesy of Franco Garlaschelli.

We also want to thank the photographer Emiliano Mancuso who realized the wonderful pictures of this Newsletter.

That's all for now. Once again we thank all those who have contributed in some way to the projects of the Amazon Association, and thus helped us in our mission to preserve and safeguard this incredible area of untouched rain forest.



The people of the Xixuau