



WAWAZONIA

Reforestation, carbon capture and sustainable development among the Shuar in the Ecuadorian Amazon

1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY, CARBON-OFFSET
INDIGENOUS CLIMATE FUND IN THE AMAZON**

 SHBnature

 FUNDECOIPA



THE WAWAZONIA PROJECT



BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic in Ecuador and the Amazon has struck the Indigenous people hard. In addition to the health consequences, the fragile markets of which the Indigenous peoples are a part have collapsed due to the pandemic. The ecotourism industry, which until the pandemic played a central role in many Amazonian villages, has collapsed and the sales of traditional goods have been extremely limited.

The limited economic opportunities put the Indigenous peoples in a desperate situation in order to raise funds for health, education and basic food items. In the Ecuadorian Amazon, this has left the Shuar with little to no economic activities, and there is an imminent danger that illegal logging or hunting could become the only means of making a living.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of Project Wawazonia is to generate income among the villagers of the native Shuar communities through investment in the sustainable production of balsa wood (called Wawa in Shuar). The establishment and management of the new balsa forests will provide employment and enable the Shuar to say no to pressure from illegal loggers. By producing the balsa in plantations, on previous farmland, the demand for wood is concentrated on a smaller area, creating a buffer for the undisturbed primary forest and eliminating the need for cutting balsa in the primary forest.

The project will also launch a Shuar led Climate Fund that will invest in sustainable economic activities in the villages, such as tourism, craft production, fish farming and the like.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- To establish 25 hectares / 50.000 trees in three different indigenous Shuar communities.
- Create jobs related to the production and management of balsa plantations.
- Market and sell sustainable balsa timber from the plantations no later than 4 years after establishment, combined with skills and general education level about sustainable forest management.
- Carbon capture through plantation establishment as well as carbon emissions displacement effect by use of balsa wood products. One hectare of balsa forest captures 30 tons of carbon per hectare per year, which can be purchased by companies.
- Establish a Shuar led climate fund. The fund will receive DKK 1 per tree planted and 5 percent of the profit from the sale of balsa wood. The fund will support sustainable development in the communities, such as ecotourism, women's group activities, craft production and the development and sale of traditional medicine, etc.



Shuar man crossing the Pastaza River on a balsa raft

About balsa

In the Shuar language, the balsa tree is named Wawa. It grows naturally in the rainforest of Ecuador.

In Spanish, balsa means raft. It is a lightweight timber and floats easily. Due to its lightness and strength, balsa is used for a wide range of products: wind turbines (blades), planes, ships, cars, pencils, model aircraft and fishing tackle, etc.

- Scientific name: *Ochroma pyramidale*
- Density: 150 kg. per m³
- Height growth: 20-30 meters in 4 years
- Diameter growth: 25-35 cm after 4 years
- Volume growth: 150-200 m³ per hectare per year (marketable quantity)

The Shuar

The Shuar is an indigenous group living in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Until the 1960's, the Shuar were feared and known as one of the most warlike tribes in the Amazon Basin, due to their much-feared tradition of making shrunken heads of their enemies.

Today the Shuar number around 100.000 people. They live in the rainforests of Ecuador, where they make a living from subsistence farming, hunting and fishing. The life of the Shuar is strongly connected to the rainforest as they consider life an integral part of nature. Dreams and omens are heavily relied upon to plan the activities in the communities. Supernatural beings, gods and the position of the stars and the moon control the circle of life and wild and cultivated products.

The Shuar make a living from traditional farming, hunting, fishing and collecting various fruits and insects in the forest. The Shuar women are knowledgeable farmers and use various sacred songs (anent) for the benefit of the cultivated plants. They grow crops such as plantain, cassava, sweet potato, taro, corn, squash, peanuts, sugar cane, bananas, pineapple, papaya and chonta palm, etc.

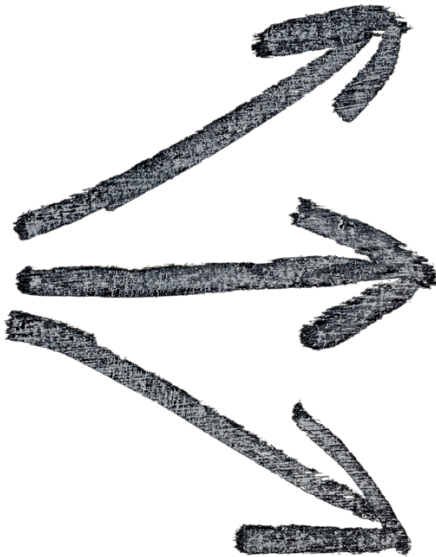
It is usually the men who are dedicated to hunting, fishing and clearing forest for cultivation. The Shuar women then cultivate the land, cook, and take care of the children. A central part of the Shuar culture is chicha or nijiamanch, which is a kind of light cassava beer. The cassava beer is a central part of the diet, social life and a symbol of female productivity, and is enjoyed with all meals.



MAKE A CHANGE SUPPORT US



Enhance your green credentials by carbon capture: 2000 trees = 30 tons per year



Differentiate your business as environmentally responsible by helping to preserve the Amazon and the Shuar culture



Align your business to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and support the Shuar Climate Fund with DKK 1 per planted tree.

*For only DKK 16
per tree (VAT free)*



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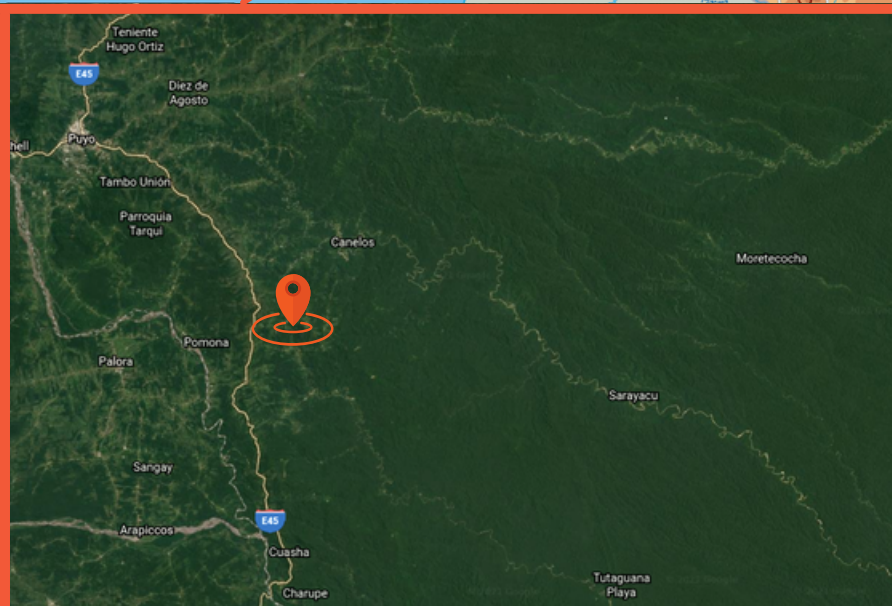
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Project area



The project area is located in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The area is one the most biodiverse nature areas in the world and home to the Indigenous Shuar people.

The Balsa-forests will be established on previous farmland in three different Shuar villages in the Pastaza region.

Take a view of the area in Google Maps
<https://goo.gl/maps/o5AP6xaCxhUHczSM8>

