Preserving medicinal knowledge

Since ten years the Dutch organisation Kleinschalige Ontwikkelingsprojecten (SKOP) is working together with the Columbian organisation Nabi Nuhue ("House of the Jaquar" in Kogi language) on a project to preserve knowledge of medicinal plants and indigenous healing practices. Nabi Nuhue is led by Kajuyali Tsamani, anthropologist and chairman of the Fundación de Investigaciones Chamanistas in Pasto. For the last 30 years he has been an apprentice of elder shamans of several tribes where he gained knowledge that was under threat of disappearing because either the tribes themselves where disappearing or because within those tribes there was no interest anymore in becoming an apprentice of the shaman.

The work of the last ten years

In the south of Columbia project Nabi Nuhue now owns about ten acres of land with a large botanic garden of medicinal herbs, fruit trees and crops. Six acres are natural preserve. In a molaica (ceremonial hut) cultural and shamanic exchanges take place between spokespeople of tribes from Columbia, neighbouring countries and the USA, such as the Kogi, Huittoto, Kofan, Matsés, Guambiano, Sikuani (all Columbia), Indaya (Ecuador) and Lakota (US). In collaboration with SKOP, Nabi Nuhue also organizes events on the compound that are attended by people from both the local region and around the world. These visitors seek personal healing in addition to knowledge and understanding of traditional practices and culture. They are inspired by the use of Ayahuasca and other medicinal plants, indigenous traditions, art and alternative uses of energy and agriculture. The income generated by these events has allowed the organization to operate independently of donations or subsidies for the past several years. As a result of these efforts and with the support of SKOP, Nabi Nuhue has helped to preserve, stimulate, and disseminate the traditional medicine and shamanic knowledge of several tribes. It has also encouraged and enabled those tribes to revisit and revive their own traditions, supported by exchange and relations with other interested communities from around the world, both traditional and modern.

The goal of the next five years will be the expansion of the current objectives of project Nunhue Nabi of preserving and promoting the knowledge of medicinal plants and indigenous medicine. This will be done by:

A. Increasing the cultivation of medicinal plants and organic, agricultural products
B. Expanding the natural reserve
C. Promoting the objectives of the project and inspire others towards similar goals
D. Achieving self-sufficiency in water and energy supply
E. Achieving financial independence
F. Creating new employment positions

Details

A. Increase the cultivation of medicinal plants and organic, agricultural products. Additional land will be acquired for this purpose.
B. Expand the natural reserve in front of being used as farmland by others.
   a. Additional land will be acquired for this purpose.
   b. Areas of this newly acquired land will be referenced.
C. Promote the objectives of the project regionally, nationally and internationally through activities for the exchange of indigenous traditions and self sufficiency on a local, national and international level. Education and the exchange of information will allow the project to be brought to the attention of farmers, students, healers and others interested in the field.
D. Achieve self-sufficiency in water and energy supply.
   a. Installation of solar panels
   b. Installation of solar water heaters
   c. Installation of a generator to produce electricity from a river
   d. Installation of water pumps, pipes and constructions of an irrigation system
E. Achieving financial independence. The existing project is financed through the proceeds generated by events until it is financially independent of SKOP. After this period the project should continue to be financially independent after the five-year period by means of own income generation and a reduction in costs.
   a. Capital can be raised through the sale of products and services.
      i. Sale of organic agricultural products and organic bread. A new bread oven will be acquired for this purpose.
      ii. Sale of medicinal plants
      iii. Sale of jewelry, ceramics, instruments, etc.
   b. A workshop will be raised for this purpose.
   c. A shop will be rented in the city of Pasto for the sale of goods produced and cultivated on Nabi Nuhue. The shop will also serve as a meeting place where the objectives of Nabi Nuhue can be promoted.
   d. The income generated by events and the shop should be used as farmland by others.
   e. Income generated from the organization of local, national and international events.
   f. Income generated from offering health programs, guiding excursions and cultural and shamanic healing. A treatment room will be built for this purpose.
   g. Income generated from the use of medicinal plants cultivated on the compound.

At a to-be-determined date between September 2012 and early 2013 we will be hosting a week long workshop at Nabi Nuhue for the purpose of giving the opportunity to western scientists to learn about and experience first-hand the traditional healing practices of the Amazon. The workshop will include conversations and lectures by scientists and shamans (Kajuyali Tsamani and visitors) and will involve around three Ayahuasca ceremonies, a Yopo ceremony and a tour of the botanical gardens. With a select group of people (~15) the goal will be to share and reflect on our personal experiences and to discuss the potential of (entheogenic) shamanic practices to inform academic discourse on topics such as pharmacology, neuroscience of consciousness, psychology, anthropology and biology. To receive more information, to apply for possible attendance or to discuss contributions to the program please send an email to OurMagicalMind@gmail.com

Chachagui (8 km north)
Pasto (25 km south)
Bogota (800 km north)

Future
(The next five years)

Visitors will use the facility to the full.

Scientists meet Shamans

A scientific workshop at Nabi Nuhue

The House of the Jaguar

Introduction

The therapeutic and medicinal potential of Ayahuasca (yage or yajé) has become recognized in popular culture resulting in an increasing number of Ayahuasca retreats organized all over the world. Ironically, the knowledge of its use held by indigenous cultures, as well as knowledge of other medicinal plants and practices, faces increasing ecological, political, economic and legal challenges. While western science is slowly turning its head towards the staggering wealth of clinical and scientific questions that these practices raise, its indigenous knowledge is disappearing.

[1222x159]cultivated on the compound.

vi. Raise capital from offering health programs, guiding excursions and cultural and shamanic healing. A treatment room will be built for this purpose.

v. Raise capital from the organization of local, national and international events.

iv. A shop will be rented in the city of Pasto for the sale of goods produced and cultivated on Nabi Nuhue. The shop will also serve as a meeting place where the objectives of Nabi Nuhue can be promoted.

iii. Sale of jewelry, ceramics, instruments, etc.

i. Installation of solar panels

b. Areas of this newly acquired land will be referenced.

f. Income generated from the use of medicinal plants cultivated on the compound.

Enjoy your day!

For more info about Nabi Nuhue go to www.janfrank.magi.net and www.kogi-gold.com

For more info about Scientists meet Shamans: ourmagicalmind@gmail.com