



### Dear Friends

The current year has been a very busy one here in Xixuau. We have had visits from two television companies, rebuilt the office, made a new health post and renovated our speedboat. A large number of tourists have visited the Xixuau, with an increase of around 30 percent compared to last year.

#### Renovation of office and new health post

As always - here far out in the humid rain forest - we have had to do renovation work.

This year we completely renovated our office which we need to do all of our administrative work and for communication with all our cooperators.

The second building project was a new health post which is staffed by our nurse who treats everything from malaria, to flu and infections as well as many other things.

The renovation of the old office was begun in July. The new health post was built in November, and in the beginning of December our nurse was able start working there.

Thanks for the support and financial help from Licia Tonetto from New York, the local government of Roraima, Trento in Italy and others, who donated and helped!



The new health post (left) and a the new office (right) in the Xixuau



The new health post is ready to receive patients

# AMAZÔNIA ASSOCIATION

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**The outboard has been renovated and is ready to transport tourist and others**

## **Renovations of boats**

Also several of our boats and canoes have been in need of renovations.

An outboard, that was originally donated by the Volunteer Ecological Guards of Modena in Italy, needed complete renovation. Thanks to a contribution from the Amazon Charitable Trust in London and income from our tourists we now have a very nice boat with a new engine, seats and cover.

The Association boat Certeza has been completely rebuilt from the water line down. It now needs to be finished above. The Amazon Charitable Trust also donated funds for a new engine for the small village boat.

## **Tourism and other visitors**

2013 saw a positive development in terms of tourism and our goal of creating sustainable employment. The cooperative in Xixuau has made agreements with two responsible tourism organizations based in the UK and the US, and we hope that they will soon begin sending more people to visit the Xixuau.

For the first time we are seeing a growing number of Brazilian visitors coming to the Xixuau. In the past we were only visited by foreigners, but now Brazilians are beginning to discover the Amazon and the Xixuau.

This year we also hosted a field botany course organized by the National Amazon research Institute which was attended by 20 graduate students from around Brazil and 10 local people from the Xixuau. This was a great success and we hope to repeat it in the future.

## **Covering cost**

The increase in tourism has helped the local cooperative to cover running costs and carry out repairs and improvements, like when the village generator broke down and needed urgent and expensive repairs.

We also bought a new grass cutting machine to change the look of the village which always became very muddy when it rained. Now it is covered by a grass lawn.

Tourists are bringing an extra advantage to the Xixuau as many groups bring donations of clothing, school materials and fishing equipment as well as increasing the income of the local people and the cooperative in Xixuau.

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## Visits from TV-companies

Over the years many TV companies have visited Xixuau and made interesting documentaries about the uniqueness of the Amazon rainforest here.

This year in August we were visited by the German television company Light and Shadows to make a new documentary series based in the Amazon and concentrating on underwater filming. The project was a success and we are awaiting a copy of the film.



FrenchTV filming a baby sloth in clear river water

In October we did a major film project with Canal 5 from France. An enclosure measuring 50 meters by 25 was built in one of our clear water rivers, called Agua Azul. A large number of animals and fish species were filmed in crystal clear water, including a large anaconda, huge caymen and many species of turtle and fish. We look forward to seeing the film, and to informing all our cooperators were they can see it.

## Easier access to drinking water

Getting water for our daily needs has not always been easy here in the Xixuau. To get good drinking water we had to travel up the river, and water for the kitchens and bathrooms we pumped up with a gasoline water pump from the river in front of the village.

Thanks to two donators, the Danish waterpump firm Grundfos and the Solar Electric Light Fund we are about to see an end to these problems. They have together donated new pumps and solar energy. The Grundfos engineers have been to Xixuau to take all the measurements and make their calculations. They will come back early next year to do the actual installation.

The Solar Electric Light Fund is donating 4 Kws of solar panels to work the pump and also to provide all the energy necessary to run the new health post. This is the first step in an ambitious new project to create a micro grid of solar energy in the Xixuau of 40Kws which will completely cover all our requirements and also power the possible new science center that is being planned.

This project aims to provide clean water for drinking and other uses to all the houses and buildings in the village and be powered by cheap, environmentally friendly solar energy as an example of true sustainable development for the future.

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## Children and working with the next generation

Our children in the Xixuau are all fine, going to the local school every day, playing and showing off for our visitors whenever they have time –living their lives as children do.

This summer we were many who were biting our fingernails as one of our teenagers was bitten by a snake and quickly taken to the hospital. This sort of thing almost never happens. Fortunately he came out of it without any injuries at all. We are now beginning to include the young man in our team of experienced guides. It is reported that he is very talented, with a good sense of what it means to be a guide, and knowledge of the rainforest.

In order to provide education for our older children we have bought our first house in the town of Novo Ayrao. We are gathering money to purchase a second one which will provide the young people of the reserve with somewhere to live while they are furthering their education in the city. Thanks to those who have helped us realize our project so far.

## Ownership of our land

For many people who live their lives in the Amazon it is a source of frustration that it is unclear who owns the land.

For us here in the Xixuau it is a major development that the land ownership issue has finally been resolved. The Federal government has reached an agreement with the government of the state of Roraima and now there is no further doubt that we are in a federal area.

Both governments now support the creation of the Extractive Reserve and this looks more likely than ever to become a reality that we have been working towards for over 12 years.

A busy and successful year for all of us here in Xixuau. Once again our heartfelt thanks to all our collaborators and supporters around the world.

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Associação Amazonia, CoopXixuau and Comunidade Xixuau*

**The Xixuau-Xiparina-reserve** is located along the Jauaperi river, at the southern tip of Roraima state. It measures 175.000 hectares and is home to around 100 local people.

**Amazônia Association** (or Associação Amazônia as it is called in Brazil) was created in 1992 with the aim of protecting the area and creating a sustainable livelihood for the local people. The organisation was created through cooperation between the local people and volunteers from among others countries Italy, Scotland and Denmark.

**The cooperative in Xixuau** (or Coop Xixuau) was created by the local inhabitants of Xixuau in February 2010.

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