

Project Update: August 2010

In July 2010, the project brought an expert climber to Brillo Nuevo to teach seven Bora men how to scale tall trees with curved spikes and cut branches with a pole pruner. The team then collected bags of leaves from copal study trees – essential for identifying them and distilling single-species batches of their resin. We are now drying the leaves for deposit in the National Peruvian Amazon University herbarium – challenging since the severe drop in Peru's river levels has restricted supplies of bottled gas and other materials.

Twenty-four artisans from Brillo Nuevo are now weaving belts and guitar straps from chambira palm fiber. The whole group gathered one day to share their techniques for sewing on buckles, loops and snake eyes to the colourful patterns. Four veteran artisans then led a workshop in Nueva Esperanza to teach Bora, Ocaina and Huitoto women from four villages the basics of chambira belt making.

