

Project Update: June 2010

In the past three months, Bora and Huitoto artisans from Brillo Nuevo and Puca Urquillo have created new models of chambira palm fibre table mats, mobile phone pouches, spider web pattern shopping bags, and snake pattern belts and guitar straps. Some musicians in central Pennsylvania are showing keen interest in the anaconda and tropical rattlesnake guitar straps woven by Amazon natives fitted with leather tabs made by Amish shoe makers.

Forest team members have encountered real poisonous snakes in the forest during their rainy season searches for copal and canela moena trees and clavo huasca vines. They couldn't reach one promising site when a dry spell made the Sabalo River impassable, but Rojas, Panduro and their Bora colleagues have now mapped 453 copal and 90 other aromatic plants at 10 sites. This month they will collect resin from select copal trees to distil the next experimental batch of fragrant oil.

