

Project Update: March 2010

Project coordinator Campbell Plowden and field manager Yully Rojas visited our partner communities in January 2010 and received written endorsements from the Bora villages of Brillo Nuevo and Ancon Colonia and FECONA – the association that represents 14 communities in the region. Brillo Nuevo appointed Rolando Panduro as local project coordinator.

One project goal is to help communities produce a marketable aromatic essential oil from copal tree resin. The first batch had too strong a lemon scent so Rolando, Yully and five Bora men have begun surveying a new forest area each month to collect and distil resin samples from different species.

Yully is also working with women artisans to develop new marketable handicrafts. They are weaving belts with naturally-dyed chambira palm fibres in patterns of jungle snakes including anaconda, boa constrictor, coral, tropical rattlesnake, and green tree pit viper. Musician requests prompted them to make prototypes of several snake design guitar straps.

