



Amazônia Association Newsletter July 2011

Dear Friends,

After four years as president Plinio Leite da Encarnação has stepped down in favour of Justino Filho de Souza, better known here in the village as Tabaco.



Everybody here in the Xixuaú and the Association wish the newly elected president all the best and thank Plinio for his excellent work over the last four years.

The first six months of 2011 have seen the new tourist complex here completed and inaugurated. A large communal maloca hut for eating and relaxing and five smaller malocas with two twin bedrooms and private bathrooms mean that we can now host up to 20 people. These malocas are still in traditional local indigenous style but with red tile roofs instead of thatch, to reduce maintenance and increase their life span. They also have solar powered electricity.



The new structure was inaugurated during a visit by Rolando Pizzini, from the association Trentino Insieme which helped obtain funding, as well as a team from RAI Italian Tv, a reporter from National Geographic and another documentary team led by the presenter Tessa Gelisio.



The water level reached a record high this year and the whole of the state of Roraima suffered from unprecedented flooding. Only now it is dropping again and it will be back to normal soon.



Over the last few years the Amazon region has witnessed major climate imbalance – in our last newsletter we reported a record low water level. A recent study in the magazine Science reported that this drought turned the Amazon into a massive carbon emitter. What worries the scientists is two major droughts during a very small period of time (the last was recorded in 2005) and the alternation between droughts and flooding which seems out of control.



The recent flood led to government intervention and a huge military helicopter came to the Xixuaú bringing food supplies for all the families as part of a federal relief program.

A new teacher has come to the Xixuaú school. After years of pressure and requests to the Education Secretary of Rorainópolis and our participating in the federal EJA Program (Education for Youngsters and Adults), now we have a teacher for the children classes in the morning and another giving lessons to the adults in the evening.



We can announce that our project *Strengthening Ecological Community Tourism in the Xixuaú* was approved by the Public Selection of Projects by the Bank of Amazonia – 2011 edition. The funds obtained will allow the people of the local cooperative to participate in courses of hotel management, tourism guides and cookery, during the second half of 2011.

The Danish organisation Drinks For Trees provided funding to continue our campaign for the creation of the Lower Rio Branco – Jauaperi Extractivist Reserve.

In April inhabitants from our area participated in the National Conference Um Grito pela Floresta, held in Parintins, where the Environment Minister, Isabela Teixeira, declared that she will do everything in her power to bring about the creation of this reserve. The reserve is still meeting with a lot of political opposition at a local level and we hope that soon the federal and state authorities will reach an agreement regarding its creation.



In April the Association also participated in the World Forum on Sustainability in Manaus, together with our colleagues from the Amazon Charitable Trust in London. The second edition of this Forum saw the participation of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bill Clinton and Richard Branson, as well as leaders of sustainable development organisations, major national and international companies, NGOs and political leaders, with the aim of incentivizing proven sustainable development techniques in the Amazon region.

On the 15th of June, in Italy, a conference was held called *Historias do Xixuaú - relato e imagens de uma viagem na Comunidade Xixuaú-Xiparina*, with Regina Nadaes Marques. On the same occasion Chiara Tosi presented the projects of the Association and a mini craftworks exhibition made by the local inhabitants.

The new web site of the Amazônia Association www.amazoniabr.org is now on-line. Please visit us.



Visit our Facebook page **Associação Amazônia** and leave a message.

Where we appeared

- [Buongiorno Economia](#), Sky Italy
- Corriere della Sera, Sette Green: [L'Amazzonia si salva grazie a un parco](#)
- Radio Marconi
- Radio 105, 105 Friends
- Radio Popolare, Avenida Brasil

In brief

On the 26th of September, in Trento, Italy, during the event "Rotte nel Mondo" a new documentary about the Xixuaú made by Rai TV and directed by Lorenzo Lucianer will be presented.

Vanity Fair Italy

National Geographic Brazil



Our thanks again to all those who support us:

- Amazon Charitable Trust
- Provincia Autonoma di Trento
- Trentino Insieme
- For Planet
- Drink for Trees
- Rothoblaas
- Solar Electric Light Fund

And thank to Barry Cawston, Tessa Gelisio, Emiliano Mancuso and Tomica Bajsic for their beautiful photos.

We will wait for you in Xixuaú!

*Amazônia Association
Xixuaú Xiparinã Community*