

YORENKA TASSORENTSI

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURE AND TRADITIONAL HERITAGE.



REFORESTATION PROJECT

This document presents the Yorenka Tassorentsi Institution and a proposal for the reforestation of lands in the State of Acre, the heart of the Amazon Forest, including preparation of 50'000 seedlings in 2019, planting from December 2019 to march 2020 and maintenance for the 2 consecutive years. With a plan to plant 10 million trees over the next 10 years, your contribution is what will help up us counter

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I. THE ASHANINKA HERITAGE

The Ashaninka tribe has a millenary heritage in the way they interact with their natural habitat. The relationship between all beings is what they seek to develop and maintain to recreate the environmental equilibrium that existed centuries back.

The millenary heritage is an embodiment of biological, psychological, and spiritual wisdom that is passed on through the families. It is through designated pagés or shamans that the knowledge is transmitted to help cure one's health and that of the environment.

In order to maintain this awareness and the synergy between nature and man, Apiwxta, the Ashaninka association has been founded as an example for other tribes and communities, to safeguard their culture and wisdom, all whilst maintaining their economical freedom.

The association today is one of the biggest cooperatives, producing and selling the necessary to provide for the needs of the community. Through arts, cultural objects, traditional clothing and much more, the community is supplied for and is therefore able to reinvest in sustainable projects.

II. YORENKA TASSORENTSI

The Yorenka Tassorentsi Institution¹ is currently being founded Benki Piyāko² to embody the Ashaninka knowledge and values in order to share them with the rest of the world. The preservation of the natural habitat and environment being of utmost concern, all the projects have a direct link between man and nature. The Institution's main line of action is to build a bridge between the traditional knowledge and the modern world, bringing back what has been lost.

Yorenka Tassorentsi has two main aims; heal as many people as possible through medicinal plants and traditional shamanic rituals and practices; and; preserve the environment through reforestation, pisciculture, apiculture, safeguarding of extinct animals, etc. Three centres have already been created in this respect (Yorenka Atãme, Beija-flor, Raio do Sol).

We strongly believe that a healthy environment can only be sustainable if one is living in a healthy body and vice versa. It is therefore our duty and responsibility to act upon known facts and help change the current situation.

¹ Please contact us if you would like to know more about the organisation. The legal entity being consolidated in 2019, the legal name may be subject to change.

² See "The Founder" section below

The founder

Benki Piyãko is an indigenous political and spiritual leader from the Ashaninka tribe working for the rights and preservation of native people, of their cultures and lands, and of nature.

Born in 1974, as the son and grandson of famous indigenous leaders and healers, he is designated to be the next “pajé” or shaman to transmit and defend the ancestral knowledge of his people. From a very young age he has started fighting for the protection of their indigenous territory, rights of indigenous people and the Amazon Forest.

Today, he has put in place different projects to implement his vision, such as planting 2 million trees to counter deforestation, opening different centres for training to help youngsters preserve their lands and cultures, reconnecting and healing people, all to ensure that we as humans have a sustainable future. He has a plan to plant 10 million trees over the next 10 years.



The ecological team

A group of 20 young men and women from various tribes have been training with Benki Piyãko for the past 10 years to develop agroforestry in the State of Acre. They are dedicated to planting native and fruit trees every year on a permanent basis. Depending on the objectives of the project, groups are called to contribute and replicate their learnings in their own communities. When projects are conducted under a voluntary basis, those involved are given the necessary expertise and teachings to execute elsewhere. When budget allows, the work is paid for.



The project management team

As the one who holds the overall vision, Benki Piyãko directs the project management team. It is comprised of an indigenous affairs advisor, Jairo Lima (Director at the FUNAI), a legal advisor Charles Borges Rossi (Adjunct Professor at the Federal University of Acre), a financial accountant, Jack Gomez (holds a finance degree), and a marketing director, Flore Ferjani (an international marketing professional).

Depending on the needs of the project, the help of different existing associations is brought in. The Guardians of the Forest association³ that groups the 20 young men and women is currently the means to planting trees and developing local natural resources. It is through this structure that we plan to partner with Aquaverde.

³ See appendix I for more information

The Yorenka Tassorentsi Institution is currently being created as a legal entity with its own bank account (which takes time in Brazil). Until this phase is completed in 2019, we will be proceeding through the **Guardians of the Forest association** in order to undertake reforestation and agroforestry projects.

III. WHAT WE DO

Through the developed space located in Marechal Thaumaturgo in the State of Acre, the closest town to the Apiwtxa village, home to the Ashaninka tribe, and in the village itself, we have already contributed to the revival of the environment by the following actions:

Training

140 persons trained in agroforestry

Including Ashaninka, Kashinawa, Kutanawa, and other indigenous and non-indigenous peoples
All these youngsters are still working in over 40 communities, reaching over 1,000 people.

Reforestation

500 ha reforested lands in Apiwtxa and Marechal Thaumaturgo surroundings

2 million trees over 10 years

10 million trees to be planted over 10 years

Large trees planted: Cedro, copaíba, cumaru, mogno.

Fruit trees planted: Acai, avocado, bacaba (Oenocarpus bacaba), banana, buriti, cacao, caja, cashew nut fruit, castanha do para, coconut, coffee, cupuaçú, inga, guava, graviola, ingá, jambo, lemon, mango, orange, pupunha, patauá, puruí, tajarana, tangerine and more.

Fruits & vegetables cultivated: beetroot, carrots, cucumber, lettuce, maxixe (cucumber family), onions, pineapple, pumpkin, regional kale, tomatoes and more.

Medicinal plants cultivated: Alfavaca, bota, chamaki, esperai, ichanga, pariana, pinis, tenori, yoenke and more.

Pisciculture

3 fish ponds in Yorenka Tassorentsi

3 fish ponds in Beija-flor

3 fish ponds in Raio do Sol

(15,000 have been inserted in 2018, 22,000 have been inserted in 2019, the communities living in these areas were able to eat these fish during the past months)

14 fish ponds in Apiwtxa (70,000 fish has been inserted in the beginning, the Ashaninka community was able to eat during 2 years)

50 fish ponds to be created in Yorenka Tassorentsi's new land⁴ (200,000 fish to be bred, given to communities who do not have resources and sold⁵ at a cheaper price to local inhabitants)

Apiculture

50 bee hives in Yorenka Tassorentsi

30 bee hives in Apiwtxa village

Each hive contains about 1000 bees.

⁴ The land is undergoing legal procedures to allow for payment.

⁵ Currently the fish available in Marechal Thaumaturgo comes from Cruzeiro do Sul (35 hour boat ride) and are fed with fish rations

The honey collected is used for medicinal purposes and is given to those who are in need. In the future, these natural remedies can be sold to the local inhabitants of Marechal Thaumaturgo and international visitors.

Animal Conservation

Turtles and tortoises

The tortoises and turtles project has been created in 2002 in the aims of prevent extinction of these species. The elders of the Apiwtxa village who have noticed the change in the climate and environment over the years have shared information regarding the alarming decrease of turtles and therefore encouraged the breeding of tortoises and turtles. Eggs found during birthing season have been collected and nurtured in order to ensure reproduction.

In numbers:

250 tortoises raised and freed

200 tortoises to be bought in 2019 and placed in the Yorenka Tassorentsi area

15,000 turtles in Apiwtxa (500 currently in the lakes, the rest have been freed in the rivers)

Tapirs

The tapir, although considered as a common animal in the world is endangered in the state of acre due to extensive hunting. Being a strong and healthy animal, locals from cities hunt to sell the meat which is easily bought. The Ashaninka have a sustainable and respectful strategy allowing hunted animals to reproduce. The project which currently consists in a few tapirs is to raise 30-50 to counter the decreasing numbers and also be an example in sustainable living.

In numbers:

2 tapirs bought and raised (1 female, 1 male has passed due to a strike of thunder)

1 male tapir to be purchased for reproduction

Wild pigs

A wild pig may be considered as an animal which does not have much use except for consumption. Benki has always fought against preconceptions and intended to portray how it is also possible to domesticate certain animals and live in environmentally diverse area. The wild pig that he raised was a preliminary test to see how he adapts to the surroundings and people.

In numbers:

1 wild pig bought and raised

Other animals

The Yorenka Tassorentsi area including all the lands owned by Benki were used for cattle before his arrival thus deprived of wild vegetation and trees. Thanks to his reforestation projects, an increase in biodiversity has been noticed.

In (approximate) numbers:

100 Tatus

100 Pacas (similar to a wild rodent)

50 Night monkeys

IV. THE TREESISTERS PROPOSAL

On behalf of the Institution, Aquaverde will be the intermediary between Tree Sisters and Yorenka Tassorentsi. Below is the discussed proposal between the different parties.

The reforestation area

The lands we offer to reforest in 2019 & 2020 are all owned by Benki Piyãko in an area close to the town of Marechal Thaumaturgo, which is allocated to the the Yorenka Tassorentsi project.

Objectives

- Reforest a land of 10 ha with a variety of 10 fruit & native trees
 - Increase biodiversity in the area⁶
 - Give agroforestry training for 70 young men and women
 - Create a program for women of the region to plant (open to indigenous and non-indigenous individuals to help create bonds and the sharing of knowledge)
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- Create a program for students
 - Educate on the preservation of nature
 - Improve the health of the regional communities by providing nutritious alternatives
 - Give an opportunity for indigenous and non-indigenous communities to buy and sell fruits at affordable prices
 - Reinvest funds in agroforestry, pisciculture, apiculture and other



Plan

The reforestation plan is as mentioned below, the other programs will be developed in the upcoming weeks.

10 hectares to be reforested

5000 trees per ha

50,000 trees in total 10 types of fruit and native trees per area (abacaba, acai, avocado, biorana, buriti, cacao, cupuaçú, inga, mogno, pupunha)

The area has a capacity of 100,000 tree seedlings

Process

Phase 1 (February - April 2022) : preparation of tree seedlings

Phase 2 (May - December 2022): growth of tree seedlings

Phase 3 (January - March 2023): planting

Phase 4 (April 2023 - April 2024): reforested area maintenance

⁶ This is not yet measurable but can be seen by the number of birds and animals that have inhabited the region

Accountability

To ensure that the project is well conducted, we will provide you with a report including progress of each phase, the resources that have been used and the results. Once our website and social media channels are on track, we will provide visibility of our partnership with Aquaverde and TreeSisters.

The number of tree specified will be planted and all who die will be replaced the following year.

Appendix I - GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST

Background

Created in 2012 by Benki Piyãko, the Guardians of the Forest Association is composed of 20 young leaders with an overall aim of sustaining life in the Amazon forest. Facing a great problem of deforestation, river pollution, chemically treated foods, the young men and women have been trained in this respect. The areas of expertise include agroforestry, pisciculture, apiculture, vegetable farming techniques and many more. Just like its mothership, The Yorenka Tassorensti Institution, the association is a means to achieving the same ecological, cultural, social, economical and holistic goals.

The overall vision of the association is to train and empower young leaders as well as local families to have a sustainable and self-sufficient way of life. The individuals of the team are also an example to other fellows of a healthy lifestyle.

Objectives

Ecological

- Raise awareness on the current situation in the local surroundings and Amazon forest
- Create programs to recuperate deforested lands and increase biodiversity by planting fruit and other trees
- Contribute to diminishing river pollution by planting trees

Cultural

- Diffuse, organize and participate in educational and/or cultural activities by doing research, holding conferences, seminars, workshops
- Produce documents, videos, photos to promote the work being done

Social

- Help local indigenous and non-indigenous communities by defending their rights including health
- Create opportunities for the locals of the Alto Jurua area to have a healthy lifestyle all while preserving their environment
- Creating eco-friendly and sustainable job opportunities

Economical

- Create an alternative, sustainable and eco-friendly form of income
- Create a local economy based on self-sufficiency and respect towards the environment

Holistic

- Be an example for young individuals who are living an unhealthy lifestyle (drugs, alcohol, etc)
- Treat local individuals who are in need of healing

The Team

Leonilson Da Silva, President

Benki Piyãko, Vice-President

Francisco (Tico) Oliveira, Secretary

Raine Piyãko, Vice-Secretary