



SOMETHING UNEXPECTED IS COMING OUT OF THE RAINFOREST...





The Amazon Conservation Team 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



GOOD NEWS!

AS I WRITE THIS — IN A SOAKING DOWNPOUR IN A REMOTE VILLAGE IN SURINAME, AT A LOPSIDED TABLE UNDER A THATCHED ROOF, surrounded by Trio Indians who are comparing notes on the best way to use a GPS device — the last thing I feel is “trendy.” But there can be no doubt: our work in this region has helped ignite an international movement.

Decades ago, ethnobotanists recognized that the vast regions of South American rainforest were key to the welfare of an entire planet. Here, there are natural resources — flora and fauna — with proven medicinal properties and even more prodigious healing potential. In addition, the rainforest’s indigenous people possess knowledge that the world’s most advanced scientists are still struggling to understand.

Yet, the rest of the planet kept postponing its conservation sensibilities. Economic “opportunities” kept trumping the bigger picture. The lure of petroleum, exotic lumbers and large infrastructure development projects are all relentless forces eroding the ecosystems of this region, and threatening to extinguish the culture of its indigenous people.

Ironically, many of those threats have come from development institutions and governmental agencies trying to improve the lives of local peoples. But the rainforest is both a fragile and a hostile environment when it comes to large projects not designed to protect the integrity of the ecosystem or her communities.

Nonetheless, our message this year—our IIth as the Amazon Conservation Team — is one of good news. Together with our partners, both among the tribes and in local governments, we are making a difference.

ACT’s efforts have brought together new and more effective alliances, uniting parties with common conservation goals. To date, ACT has helped 26 tribes learn to advocate for their own interests, improving their ability to negotiate and even partner with local governments which, in some cases at least, had heretofore dismissed them. Together with the Indians and the national governments, we have mapped some 41 million acres of tribal homelands, an essential step to helping these tribes better manage and protect their ancestral lands. We have brought tribal leader Almir Suruí from the remote stretches of the western Amazon to the United States, where National Public Radio and many other major media outlets have helped him reach millions of environmentally concerned citizens around the world.

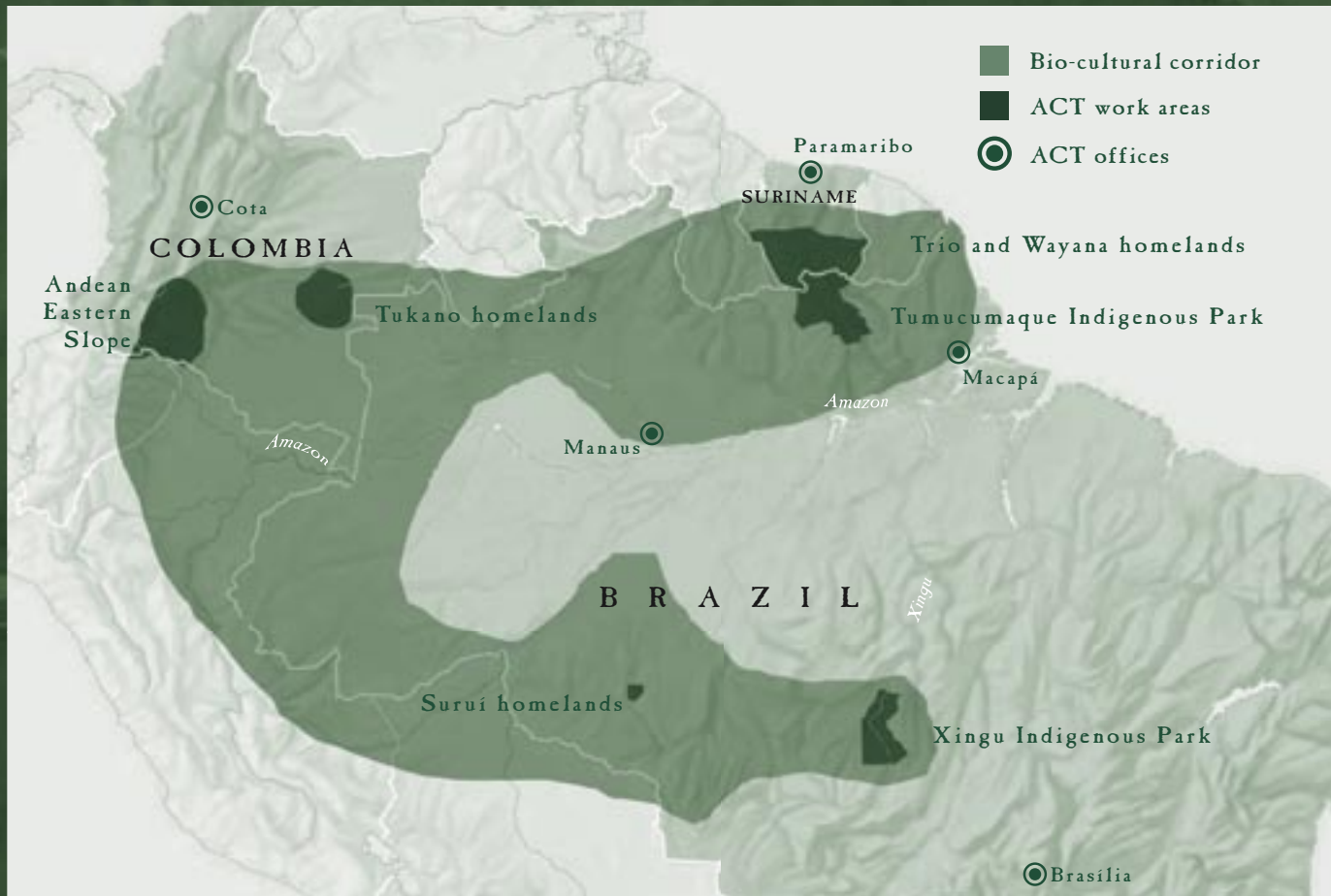
Of course, the topic of global climate change dominates the environmental headlines these days. The destruction of the Amazon, with the concomitant release of carbon into the atmosphere, is a major contributor to global warming. Better protection and management of the South American rainforest is one of the most important goals we can achieve to keep this problem from worsening.

On the front lines of this fight, ACT has earned its status as a top-rated non-profit for organizational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. With your support, we will continue to earn it.

Here, in the field, the rain is slowing down — the cue for us to accelerate our efforts to map, manage and protect. Looking up, I can almost see the sun, starting to break through.

Mark J. Plotkin, Ph.D.





The mission of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) is to work in partnership with indigenous people in conserving biodiversity, health, and culture in tropical America.

TODAY, MANY ORGANIZATIONS EXIST TO PROTECT THE REMOTE regions of the Amazon from deforestation. But ACT's approach to rainforest preservation is truly unique, and uniquely effective.

ACT On Location.

ACT is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Yet, most of its people and resources are stationed in South America. As a result, ACT is strategically positioned to better understand the threats to the Amazon region, and to assess how best to solve them.

Earning Trust, Winning Friends.

Trust is not easily won in the rainforest. Too many years of greed and treachery have driven a wedge between tribes and outside forces. Yet, through years of patience and positive interaction, ACT has developed its "inside-out" approach to conservation that seeks to empower and sustain the rainforest's rightful guardians. This approach is the key



to preserving indigenous inhabited rainforests — which constitute about a quarter of the Amazon.

The People Are the Forest.

Through many years of working with indigenous tribes, ACT knows that the backbone of the rainforest is the people who have always lived there. And the strength of these people is their tribal leadership — notably the elders and shamans who teach, heal and pass down generations of wisdom and learning. ACT believes that when these cultures are nurtured, the tribes thrive — and provide better management of a strong, healthy rainforest ecosystem.

As indigenous communities grow stronger and develop the new skills necessary to advocate for themselves, conservation successes for Amazon biodiversity, health and culture increase exponentially.

Ethnographic Mapping.

Before a tribe can hope to lay claim to its traditional land and cope with the illegal logging, fishing and hunting activities that threaten tribal culture and natural resources, it must demonstrate tribal use and knowledge of this land, and clearly demarcate its boundaries. To this end, ACT has developed a series of essential maps that identify sites of tribal significance.

To date, ACT has mapped over 40 million acres of remote regions in Brazil and Suriname. These maps result from the application of 21st century Geographic Information System (GIS) technology overlaid with ancient tribal knowledge. The maps' accuracy is acknowledged by governing bodies of both countries. Without these invaluable tools, meaningful dialogue over the tribes' rightful territories would be impossible.



Trees, Tribes and Technology.

Today, much of this ethnographic mapping is being done by the tribes themselves, as ACT has trained many community leaders in Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology. As a result, land that has been historically portrayed as “uninhabited” by former mapping techniques is now increasingly recognized — and respected — as the occupied homelands of specific peoples.

Training Community Leaders.

Another of ACT's fundamental strategies has been to train indigenous community leaders in dealing with practical issues, including such critical matters as biological resource protection, land rights advocacy, firefighting and village-level healthcare.

- ACT PROGRAMS HAVE TRAINED COUNCIL MEMBERS, PARK rangers, healthcare workers and farmers, among others.





- **TO HELP TRIBES INTERACT WITH GOVERNING BODIES, ACT** has conducted workshops in computer applications, accounting, radio communications and proposal development.

ACT's intention is always the same: to empower indigenous people to advocate for themselves in sustainable ways, by training tribal leaders so they, too, can become trainers and multiply program effectiveness. Once this transition has been fully achieved, ACT seeks to hand over program operations to indigenous institutions and assume an advisory role.

Progress Through New Partnerships.

For ACT, bringing key parties together has been a precursor to progress in the Amazon. A few recent examples:

- **ACT CONVENEED TRIBES IN SOUTHERN SURINAME TO** establish the first-ever official indigenous association for land management – an agreement that took a year of intense negotiations.



- **ACT ASSEMBLED TRIBAL LEADERS FROM NORTH AND SOUTH America** to exchange traditional knowledge on conservation and healing.

- **ACT CONVENEED THE FIRST TRANS-BOUNDARY MEETING** on environmental protection between Brazil and Suriname that involved not only official governments, but indigenous tribes and NGO stakeholders.

- **ACT HELPED ESTABLISH FIVE OFFICIALLY** registered indigenous associations in Colombia, and is now building their capacity to protect and manage their ancestral lands.

Preserving Indigenous Cultures.

The *Shamans and Apprentices Program*, another of ACT's signatures, has been designed to document and preserve the extraordinary healing wisdom and practices of Amazonian tribes – vital information that in the not so distant past was in real danger of extinction.

The program's companion piece, the *Shamans and Novices Program*, has been designed with tribal children and youth in mind, to assure the successful transfer of priceless traditional knowledge to future generations. Recent accomplishments include:

- **ACT CONVENED THE HISTORIC GATHERING OF SHAMANS**

of the Colombian Amazon, attended by 53 shamans from seven tribes. These leaders collaborated to form the first traditional healers' council of the region, UMIYAC.

- **ACT SUPPORTED AN ETHNO-EDUCATIONAL** school that teaches traditional, as well as western, perspectives on subjects including biology, botany, art and the natural sciences.

Expanding Healthcare Access.

In Colombia, ACT supports traditional "health brigades" – indigenous healers who provide indispensable care to

thousands of villagers across dozens of communities who would otherwise have little or no access to health services. ACT's support includes elder care and the cultivation of special medicinal plant gardens in villages.

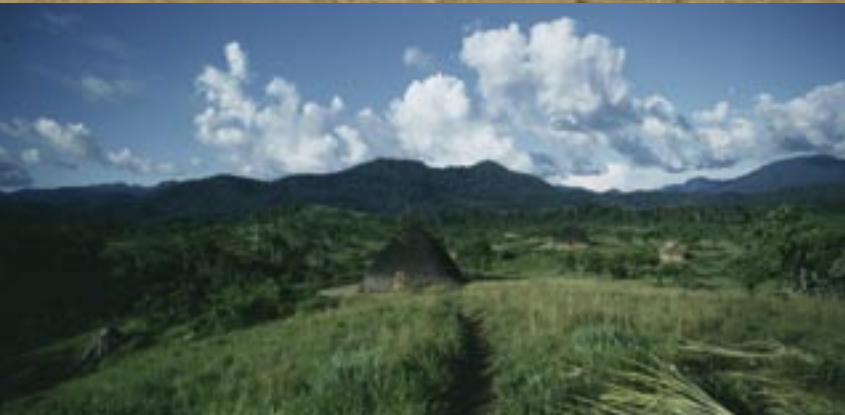
In Suriname, ACT has several healthcare initiatives underway that utilize new and traditional medicines:

- **ACT'S FIRST TRADITIONAL CLINIC**, in the village of Kwamalasamutu, celebrated its seventh anniversary.
- **ACT – WITH THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY** care provider, the Medical Mission – held a series of workshops, engaging hundreds of villagers on topics that included disease prevention, hygiene and contamination.

- **ACT ESTABLISHED TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CLINICS MANNED** by shamans that operate in conjunction with western clinics, greatly expanding the capacities of these facilities to deliver a range of health services to people most in need.







- **IN THE WESTERN BRAZILIAN STATE OF RONDÔNIA, ACT** partnered with the Suruí tribes to create ethnographic maps of a half million acres, taking initial steps to address the environmental threats facing Suruí communities and their natural resources.
- **IN SURINAME, ACT MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS** and the interior's indigenous leaders to develop the first consultative body for consensus on land use rights between the government and tribal communities.
- **IN COLOMBIA'S CAQUETÁ DEPARTMENT, THE STATE-** recognized and ACT-sponsored Yachaicuri Ethnoeducation School graduated its inaugural class of high school students with diplomas in traditional technologies – preparing them to assume leadership in indigenous organizations.
- **IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER** Federation, and with the benefit of instructors from multiple national institutions, ACT held the first-ever park guard training and certification course for personnel from state and non-governmental institutions operating in the

environmental sector or in protected areas in the Brazilian rainforest state of Amapá.

- **IN SURINAME, ACT PUBLISHED A HANDBOOK IN THE TRIO** and Wayana tribal languages on the 10 most prevalent illnesses of interior people with botanical medicine treatments for each disease. This project was a joint effort between traditional practitioners and Western researchers in each village.
- **IN BOTH THE 7.5 MILLION ACRE XINGU INDIGENOUS** Park and 10 million acre Tumucumaque Indigenous Park, ACT supported the communities in implementing indigenous designed conservation and management plans for park lands and surrounding areas, emphasizing indigenous border monitoring.
- **IN THE COLOMBIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUTUMAYO,** ACT constructed two dormitory facilities at the women healers' center to allow overnight stays for up to 150 people.
- **IN BRAZIL'S XINGU INDIGENOUS PARK, ACT BROKERED** an historic conference of indigenous healers from two continents. Representatives of 13 tribes from Canada, the US and South America convened to exchange traditional knowledge and methods.

ACT began with a commitment to collaboration with indigenous people, and this remains a defining characteristic of our integrated approach to rainforest conservation. The paramount importance of facilitating indigenous-driven approaches infuses everything we do and how we do it. All eight of the core values speak — directly or indirectly — to our belief that the health of the Amazon depends first and foremost on the engagement and health of its indigenous people.

Culture, Nature and Health

ACT promotes research and interdisciplinary study that examines the indigenous worldview which integrates culture, nature and health.

Biological and Cultural Diversity

ACT works for the preservation of biocultural diversity.

Intrinsic Value Of Nature

ACT does not engage in bioprospecting.



Shamanism

ACT contributes to the strengthening of shamanic knowledge systems and their transmission to the following generations for conservation purposes.

Traditional Health Systems

ACT promotes the study, recovery, protection and dissemination of traditional health systems.

Intercultural Dialogue

ACT's programs are based on an intercultural dialogue between indigenous wisdom and Western knowledge systems.

Support For Indigenous Rights

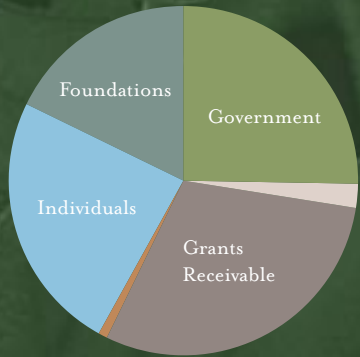
ACT supports and promotes the fundamental rights of indigenous people.

Social and Environmental Responsibility

We are all responsible for our natural and social environment.

O U R C O R E V A L U E S

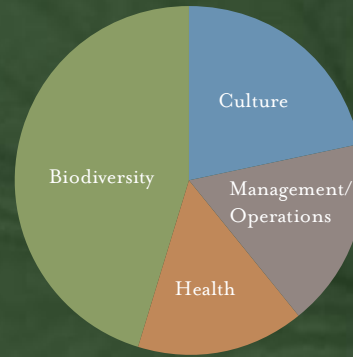




2006 Revenue

26%	Government	\$1,178,218
2%	Operating Reserve	\$100,000
29%	Grants Receivable	\$1,362,301
1%	Other	\$43,142
24%	Individuals	\$1,113,052
18%	Foundations	\$814,587

Total **\$4,611,300**

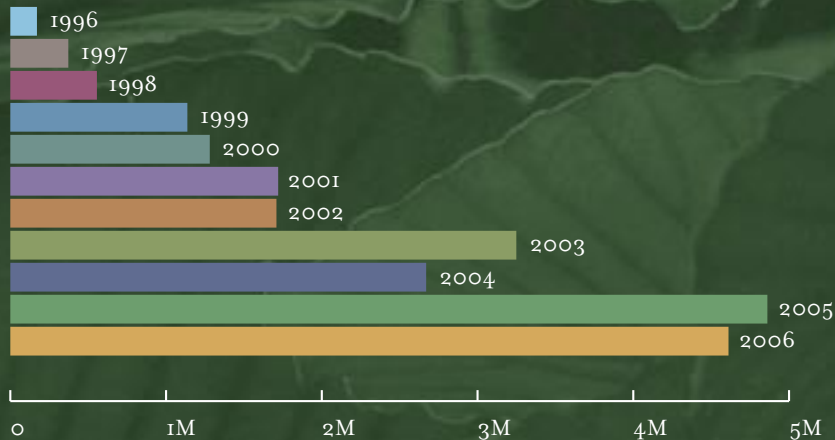


2006 Expense

22%	Culture	\$891,865
17%	Management/ Operations	\$710,569
15%	Health	\$628,569
46%	Biodiveristy	\$1,834,655

Total **\$4,065,658**

Growth in Dollars



ACT earns the highest rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities, for our efficiency in exceeding industry standards and for outperforming other charities in fiscal standards.



The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness and cost effectiveness. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.



Audited financial statements available upon request.

Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Faculty of Medicine
Paramaribo, Suriname

Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas
de la Zona de Yapú
Vaupés, Colombia

Asociación de Cabildos indígenas del pueblo Siona
Putumayo, Colombia

Asociación de Cabildos Nukanchipa Atunkunapa Alpa
Cauca, Colombia

Asociación de Cabildos Tandachiridu Inganokuna
Caquetá, Colombia

Associação de Defesa Etnoambiental Kanindé
Rondônia, Brazil

Associação dos Povos Indígenas do Tumucumaque
Tumucumaque, Brazil

Associação dos Povos Indígenas Tiriyo, Kaxuyana, e Txikiyana
Amapá, Brazil

Associação Indígena Hopep (Trumai Community)
Xingu, Brazil

Associação Indígena Moygu (Ikpeng Community)
Xingu, Brazil

Associação Indígena Myrená (Kamayurá Community)
Xingu, Brazil

Associação Indígena Tulukai (Waurá Community)
Xingu, Brazil

Batalhão Ambiental - Amapá
Amapá, Brazil

Cabildo Inga Kamtzá De Mocoa
Caquetá, Colombia

Cabildos del Resguardo Inga de Yunguillo
Cauca, Colombia

Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment,
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec

Centro de Estudios Médicos Interculturales
Cota, Colombia

Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario
Bogotá, Colombia

Consejo Regional Indígena del Orteguaza Medio Coreguaje
Caquetá, Colombia

Corporación Reconocer
Bogotá, Colombia

Ecodesarrollo - Comunidad de Castilla La Mancha
Castilla La Mancha, Spain

Fundación CIPAV (Centro para la Investigación en Sistemas
Sostenibles de Producción Agropecuaria)
Cali, Colombia

Fundación Equilibrio
Bogotá, Colombia

Fundação Nacional do Índio - Rondônia
Rondônia, Brazil

Fundação Nacional do Índio - Amapá
Amapá, Brazil

Geografische Land Informatie Systemen
Paramaribo, Suriname

Kumúá Yoamará (Unión de la Cultura del Yurupari)
Vaupés, Colombia

Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais
Renováveis
Amapá & Brasília, Brazil
International Ranger Federation

McMaster University Programme for Indigenous Studies
Hamilton, Ontario

Medische Zending Suriname
Paramaribo, Suriname

National Aboriginal Health Organization
Ottawa, Ontario

National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname
Paramaribo, Suriname

Organização Metareilá do Povo Indígena Surui
Rondônia, Brazil

Pan American Development Foundation
Washington, DC

Peace Corps
Paramaribo, Suriname

Polícia Militar - Amapá
Amapá, Brazil

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Bogotá, Colombia

Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural REVECOM
Amapá, Brazil

Stichting Jeugd tandverzorging
(Youth Dental Hygiene Organization)
Paramaribo, Suriname

Stichting NANA
Paramaribo, Suriname

Suriname Indigenous Health Fund
Seattle, Washington (www.sihfund.org)

Tareno ma Wajanaton-Akoronmato TALAWA
(Organization of Trio and Wayana Representatives
of Southern Suriname)
South Suriname

United Nations Development Program
Paramaribo, Suriname

United States Agency for International Development
Washington, DC

Universidade Federal do Amapá
Amapá, Brazil

Unidad Administrativa Especial del Sistema de Parques
Nacionales Naturales
Bogotá, Colombia

Unión de Médicos Indígenas Yagcceros de la Amazonia
Colombiana
Caquetá, Colombia

Unión de Mujeres de la Medicina Tradicional
Mocoa, Colombia

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