



Xixuau, December 2007

Dear Friends,

2007 is coming to an end and all of us here at the Xixuau wish you a Happy Christmas and send our heartfelt thanks for your help and support in keeping this reserve a natural paradise and a better and better place to live and raise our children in.



This has been an intense year and we have never stopped working for the creation of the new extractive reserve. Some of the members of our community even traveled to Brasilia to press the cause and they had a private meeting with President Lula, and other government representatives. The Reserve has still not been decreed but we will continue to do everything we can to see that this happens as soon as possible.



This year the community received a drinking water well which provides a better quality of clean water at a temperature considerably lower than that of the river water.

The village vegetable garden continues to improve and the men are now growing different kinds of vegetables and food plants.



Keila, was sent on a malaria identification and treatment course. She learned to use a microscope and do the tests and earned her certificate. Now we will always have someone in the village who can do this test, although we have not had a single case for two years.

5 people from the Xixuau have become Volunteer Environment Agents and received a government authorization to protect the environment and the natural resources of the area. They are part of a group of 20 from the various villages along the Jauaperi river. The whole river is now closed to any form of commercial fishing and our areas are becoming more and more rich in fish.

Alciney has decided that he wants to have another operation to remove the tumor on his face. As you know the first operation removed the mass on his throat which was touching on vital organs and suffocating him. He is no longer in danger of his life and has grown into a healthy young man. At the time of the first operation the doctors decided not to intervene on his face because it could damage an optic nerve and leave him blind in one eye. He now wants to run this risk in order to have a –normal- face. Thanks to donations from a number of you we now have the funds to send him to Sao Paulo in January to do all his tests and the doctors will then fix a date for the operation and we will look for the rest of the money necessary.



We have begun the work for the construction of the new visitors centre in the reserve. At time goes by the land where our malocas are built is being eroded by the river so we are building a whole new complex just inside the mouth of the Xixuau river. It will be able to sleep twenty people and will be linked to the village by a pathway.



Our association has made an agreement with the other villages on the river concerning the problem of waste disposal. For years we have been gathering glass, metal, batteries and other non degradable rubbish and taking it to the dump in Manaus on our boat.

Now we have convinced the other communities of the importance of removing their rubbish and make a first collection in Samauma last week. We are offering a speech by Tabaco to the other villages and local associations on how a community should treat this problem in an effort to find the best solution for them as well.

We are hoping that the coming year will see the declaration of the new reserve which will bring the protected area to over 600.000 hectares.

In the meantime we wish you seasonal greetings and thanks for your help in the progress we have made this year.

The inhabitants of the Xixuau Reserve