

FUTURO NATIVO x SHIPIBO - ININ RAO
Arts Space & Textiles Project - Phase 1
Ucayali, Peru

Project Objective:

Construction of a craft space for the Shipibo-Konibo people of the Peruvian Amazon from the native community of San Francisco. The craft space will be 12 meters long x 10 meters wide.

- Create a space for the sale of craft products from the Shipibo people for women, an activity that provides economy for families
- Create solidarity funds to support women weavers, embroiderers of the Shipibo communities.
- Search national and international markets for the sale of handicrafts: painted fabrics, embroidered fabrics, napkins, bracelets and others.

Background

The Shipibo-Konibo have traditionally lived along the Ucayali River, a large tributary of the Amazon; and eventually established a settlement in Shipibo territory, near the present-day port city of Pucallpa. Pucallpa grew rapidly during the rubber boom of the early 20th Century, prompting European settlement and exploitation in Shipibo-Konibo territory. Since the 1950s, there have been intense missionary efforts to convert the Shipibo-Konibo to Christianity.

Despite encroachment, the Shipibo-Konibo have managed to maintain many of their customary beliefs and traditions. They have their own language, which belongs to the Panoan language family and their society is matriarchal, with women having a dominant say in community decisions, and being the primary artists.

Medicinal plants and the hallucinogenic vine, ayahuasca, are key elements in Shipibo-Konibo culture, informing much of their artistic and ritual behavior. Women use the visions experienced while under the influence of ayahuasca as the basis for their designs.

The Shipibo-Konibo are famed for the distinctive geometric designs which they use to decorate their handmade ceramics and textiles. The designs often involve maze-like red and black geometric patterns and are closely connected to their complex cosmology, in which ayahuasca plays an important part.

Those Shipibo-Konibo that live close to urban centres have been able to generate extra income from the sale of their sought-after pottery, clothing and craft items. However, those living in more remote areas are feeling the pressure on their centuries-old way of life, as climate change and deforestation is affecting their ability to hunt, fish and raise crops. As a result, there is an ongoing trend of relocation to urban areas, in order to gain access to better educational and health services, as well as to look for alternative sources of monetary income.

The Inin Rao Arts Space & Textiles Project

The “ININ-RAO-PERU” project is located in the territories of the Shipibo people in Ucayali, a central region of the Peruvian Amazon, bordering Brazil.

The Inin Rao family would like to raise funds to build a space for the sale of handicrafts from the Shipibo-Konibo people of the Peruvian Amazon from the native community of San Francisco, to create solidarity and support women weavers and embroiderers and provide a sustainable economy for their families based on keeping their culture alive, and connecting with the women in their families to share resources and histories.

Each of the designs in each tapestry, or 'kene' represent a part of the Shipibo culture, each design holds an ancient story, and the weaving of these items keeps their stories and traditions alive. The sale of handicrafts by the Shipibo people by women is an activity that supports the families' independent economy.

Currently the Inin Rao family have no central place for the women to gather and produce their crafts, they do so each in their own homes. The funds will create a space where women can gather and practice their craft as a collective and leverage their craft together to provide stability for their families.

Project Budget

Total: \$5000

Item	Per unit	Total (soles)	Total (USD)
10 pitchforks 5x5	100 soles	1000	260
250 2x2 slats	15 soles	3,750	975
120 3x4 strips	20 soles	2,400	622
100 sheets of corrugated iron	38 soles	3,800	988
2 inch nails (15kg)	8 soles	120	32
3/1 half-inch nails (20kg)	8 soles	160	42
3 inch nails (20kg)	8 soles	160	42
2/1-inch nails (20kg)	8 soles	160	42
one inch nails (15kg)	8 soles	120	32
Project Management		2310	600
Project Visit		1540	400
Fees / Contingency			965
Total			5000