

Nabi Nuhue



Preserving knowledge of Ayahuasca, medicinal botany and its indigenous use

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The House of the Jaguar

Introduction

The therapeutic and medicinal potential of Ayahuasca (yagé or yajé) has become recognized in popular culture resulting in an increasing number of Ayahuasca retreats organized all over the world. Ironically, the knowledge of its use held by indigenous cultures, as well as knowledge of other medicinal plants and practices, faces increasing ecological, political, economic and legal challenges. While western science is slowly turning its head towards the staggering wealth of clinical and scientific questions that these practices raise, its indigenous knowledge is disappearing.

Preserving medicinal knowledge

Since ten years the Dutch organisation Kleinschalige Ontwikkelingsprojecten (SKOP) is working together with the Columbian organisation Nabi Nuhue ("House of the Jaguar" in Kogi language) on a project to preserve knowledge of medicinal plants and indigenous healing practices. Nabi Nuhue is led by Kajuyali Tsamani, anthropologist and chairman of the *Fundacion de Investigaciones Chamanistas* in Pasto. For the last 30 years he has been an apprentice of elder shamans of several tribes where he gained knowledge that was under threat of disappearing because either the tribes themselves were disappearing or because within those tribes there was no interest anymore in becoming an apprentice of the shaman.



The work of the last ten years

In the south of Columbia project Nabi Nunhue now owns about ten acres of land with a large botanic garden of medicinal herbs, fruit trees and crops. Six acres are natural preserve. In a moloca (ceremonial hut) cultural and shamanic exchanges take place between spokespeople of tribes from Columbia, neighbouring countries and the USA, such as the Kogi, Huitoto, Kofan, Camenza, Guambiano, Sikuaní (all Columbia), Inbaya (Ecuador) and Lakota (US). In collaboration with SKOP, Nabi Nunhue also organizes events on the compound that are attended by people from both the local region and around the world. These visitors seek personal healing in addition to knowledge and understanding of traditional practices and culture. They are inspired by the use of Ayahuasca and other medicinal plants, indigenous traditions, art and alternative uses of energy and agriculture. The income generated by these events has allowed the organization to operate independently of donations or subsidies for the past several years.

As a result of these efforts and with the support of SKOP, Nabi Nunhue has helped to preserve, stimulate, and disseminate the traditional medicine and shamanic knowledge of several tribes. It has also encouraged and enabled those tribes to revisit and revive their own traditions, supported by exchange and relations with other interested communities from around the world, both traditional and modern.



Future

(The next five years)

The goal of the next five years will be expanding the current objectives of project Nunhue Nabi of preserving and promoting the knowledge of medicinal plants and indigenous medicine. This will be done by:

- A. Increasing the cultivation of medicinal plants and organic, agricultural products
- B. Expanding the natural reserve
- C. Promoting the objectives of the project and inspire others towards similar goals
- D. Achieving self-sufficiency in water and energy supply
- E. Achieving financial independence
- F. Creating new employment positions

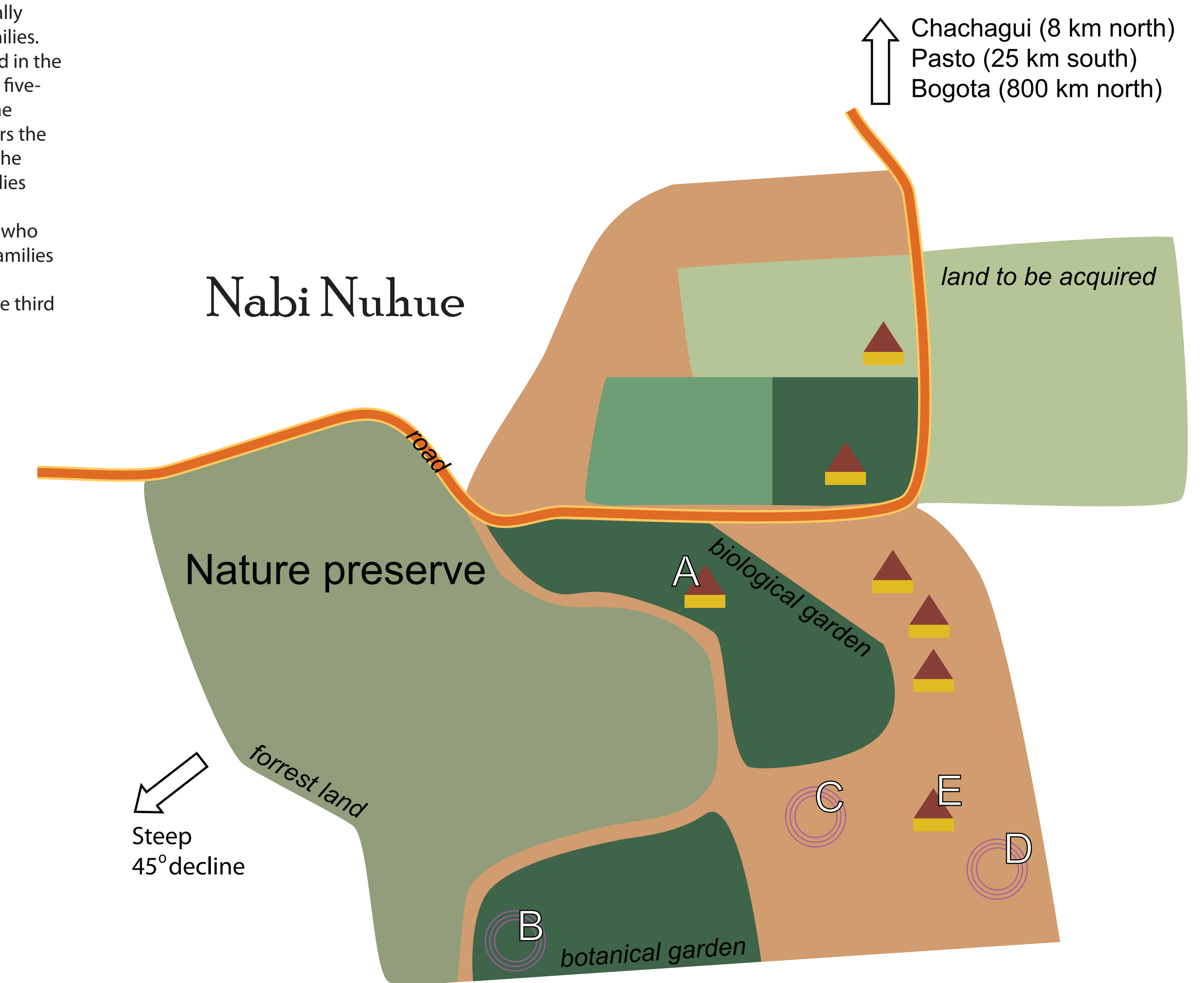
Details

- A. Increase the cultivation of medicinal plants and organic, agricultural products. Additional land will be acquired for this purpose.
- B. Expand the natural reserve to prevent it from being used as farmland by others.
 - a. Additional land will be acquired for this purpose.
 - b. Areas of this newly acquired land will be reforested.
- C. Promote the objectives of the project regionally, nationally and internationally. Introduce and allow for the exchange of indigenous traditions and cultures on a local, national and international stage. Education and the exchange of information will allow the project to be brought to the attention of farmers, students, healers and others interested in the field.
- D. Achieve self-sufficiency in water and energy supply.
 - a. Installation of solar panels
 - b. Installation of solar water heaters
 - c. Installation of a generator to produce electricity from a river
 - d. Installation of water pumps, pipes and construction of an irrigation system
- E. Achieve financial independence. The existing project is financed through the proceeds generated by events and is thus financially independent of subsidies and donations. Following on from this, the project should continue to be financially self-sufficient after the five-year period by means of own income generation and a reduction in costs.
 - a. Capital can be raised through the sale of products and services:
 - i. Sale of organic agricultural products and organic bread. A new bread oven will be acquired for this purpose.
 - ii. Sale of medicinal plants.
 - iii. Sale of jewelry, ceramics, instruments, etc. A workplace will be built for this purpose.
 - iv. A shop will be rented in the city of Pasto for the sale of goods produced and cultivated at Nabi Nunhue. The shop will also serve as a meeting place where the objectives of Nabi Nunhue can be promoted. Within three years the rent for the shop should be covered by its income.
 - v. Raise capital from the organization of local, national and international events.
 - vi. Raise capital from offering health programs featuring acupuncture, crania sacral therapy and shamanic healing. A treatment room will be built for this purpose.
 - b. A reduction in costs can be achieved:
 - i. Through the production of Nabi Nunhue's own water and energy supply.
 - ii. Through the use of agricultural products cultivated on the compound.
- F. Create new employment positions, specifically employment and income for three local families.
 - a. Three families, who are already involved in the project, will be employed to realize the five-year plan. This is necessary to ensure the project comes to fruition. After five years the families' income will be financed from the proceeds of the project. The three families consist of six adults and three children. Education will be given to the children who live at the compound and children of families from the neighborhood.
 - b. Houses will be built for two families. The third family already lives on the compound.

Scientists meet Shamans

A scientific workshop at Nabi Nuhue

At a to-be-determined date between september 2012 and early 2013 we will be hosting a week long workshop at Nabi Nuhue for the purpose of giving the opportunity to 'western' scientists to learn about and experience first-hand the traditional healing practices of the Amazon. The workshop will include conversations and lectures by scientists and shamans (Kajuyali Tsamani and visitors) and will revolve around three Ayahuasca ceremonies, a Yopo ceremony and a tour of the botanical gardens. With a select group of people (~15) the goal will be to share and reflect both on our personal experiences and to discuss the potential of (entheogenic) shamanic practices to inform academic discourse on topics such as pharmacology, neuroscience of consciousness, psychology, anthropology and biology. To receive more information, to apply for possible attendance or to discuss (contributions to) the program please send an email to OurMagicalMind@gmail.com



Guest house



Woman's Moon place



Oshoka (ceremonial place)



La Loma (place of divination)



Moloka



Enjoy your day!