

Cabeceras Aid Project

The Camisea Nanti Project

Summer 2002

This summer, Cabeceras fieldworkers will return to the Nanti communities of Montetoni and Maranjejari on the Camisea River in southeastern Peru and continue our on-going work to document Nanti language and culture, develop Nanti language materials, and promote the well-being and autonomy of these communities. In addition to these on-going collaborative activities, this summer we will do substantial mapping work in order to document the land and resources used by these two communities for their farming, hunting, and fishing activities. The goal of this mapping work is to help these communities develop specific proposals for gaining legal titles to their lands. Last, but not least, Cabeceras fieldworkers will continue our medical training program with Nanti healthworkers in these two communities, to reinforce and develop their skills in providing basic and essential healthcare to their villages.

Our mapping work this summer has an unexpected urgency. Montetoni and Maranjejari are located within a communal reserve that is home to three different indigenous groups – Nantis, Yoras, and Matsigenkas. This reserve was established by Peruvian law to protect ‘nomadic populations’ within its borders. Recently, Cabeceras learned of Yora efforts to gain legal title for their now-permanent community inside the reserve. Titling their community is a crucial step for the Yoras. At the same time, their efforts will alter the legal status of the entire reserve. In essence, the Yoras’ decision to title their lands forces the more recently formed Nanti communities to title their lands as well.

This summer, Nanti colleagues will work with Cabeceras fieldworkers to document their land use patterns to create a map of their present subsistence areas. Using satellite maps, we will combine GPS mapping techniques with Nanti ethnogeography to document the extent of their hunting, farming and wild-gathering areas. These data will enable us to formulate concrete titling proposals for these two communities.

Thank you for your support!