

THE HEART OF BRAZIL

Photographs by Sue Cunningham from her recent expedition along the Xingu River in Brazil



Tribes Alive is an initiative of Indigenous People's Cultural Support Trust, founded in 1995 by Emily Burridge, to help tribal communities to become self-sustaining and independent, and to promote indigenous people's traditional way of life as an equal, valuable and valid alternative to each other cultures.

Working with tribal communities, **Tribes Alive** is helping to develop vital income streams to enable them to become self-sufficient and independent. All **Tribes Alive** programmes respect tribal traditions and social systems. Plans are also being developed to adopt appropriate technological solutions, which will reinforce the communities' cultural strength and security.

The objective of the expedition was to understand the daily lives of the eighteen ethnic groups, and to assess the impact on them resulting from the continuing high rate of forest destruction.

"We don't impose our ideas but rather we listen to what the villages say about their needs, then we work with them to find long-lasting solutions. A recent example is the production of some wonderful rain forest oils which we are taking to the market place for them." Sue Cunningham

The Amazon forest provides vital climate regulation services to the whole world.

The destruction of the forest threatens to reduce rainfall in the agriculturally productive regions of South America, which in turn would damage the world's food supply. The resulting changes to climatic systems are already destabilising climate patterns throughout the world. It is the indigenous communities who sustain the forests – if they are forced off the land, the chain saws and bulldozers will come and the forest will disappear.

This exhibition is an invitation to the world community to understand the importance of these incredible individuals in the 21st century.

"We are now spending the majority of our time developing Tribes Alive. When ever we are unsure we are motivated by the thought of 10,000 war clubs right behind us." Sue Cunningham

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DONATIONS to help the work of **Tribes Alive**, however small, would be gratefully received.

Charity number 1050461

www.tribesalive.org

Donations can be made through the web site or contact Rosemary Williams:

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