



## SHUAR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT (ECUADOR)

The Shuar Renewable Energy Project will provide solar power for lights and radios to 34 indigenous Shuar families living in remote communities of the Ecuadorian Amazon. This project aims to improve livelihoods by enhancing education, communications and health while reducing expenses and dependence on fossil fuels. The continued training of local technicians and household heads will build lasting capacity throughout the communities to ensure the long term sustainability of the project.

This effort is part of an ongoing initiative in the Condor Mountain Range in which Fundación Natura (LUTW's primary local partner) has supported community development with the Shuar Associations. The efforts aim to strengthen the Shuar's self-governance over their indigenous territory and cultural resources. Central to this process is the ability to plan for the use of natural resources and the ability to implement clean energy technologies to serve these remote areas. This project will benefit approximately 340 individuals who live in the communities of Kutukus and Chimius who will receive the renewable energy systems in their homes. The systems will provide solar power for home lighting and radios for communication. The project will also benefit 20 local technicians from the greater Shuar community who will receive installation and maintenance training. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 people in the surrounding Shuar communities will benefit indirectly from this project as the local technicians are able to serve the wider community.

The Shuar communities are located a significant distance (1-2 days by foot) from roads and other infrastructure networks. The



Photo: W. Ratterman

### Project Summary

**Timeline:** August - November 2010

**Objectives:** Provide light to 34 homes in the region, enhancing education by expanding the number of productive hours in the day.

- Increase coverage of renewable energy in the region to reduce environmental impact of transporting and burning fuel
- Increase livelihood opportunities through training and specialized skill development among Shuar technicians
- Improve health through the elimination of toxins caused by burning diesel and gasoline for home lighting
- Strengthen community organizations by promoting family-community ownership and management of the equipment once installed.
- Improve training for the 20 Shuar technicians who were prepared in previous projects.
- Increase regional communications and improve access to information through solar powered radios

**Individuals benefiting:** Two communities consisting of approximately 340 individuals along with 20 local technicians from the greater Shuar community receiving installation and maintenance training

**Location:** Shuar communities of Kutukus and Chimius in the Morona Santiago Province of the Ecuadorian Amazon

**Implementing Partners:** LUTW, Fundación Natura, Circunscripción Territorial Shuar Arutam



villages, therefore, have limited access to markets, capital and other public services-including health care and education. Families depend on the forest for approximately 80% of their livelihood.

Feedback from the field has shown promising results. Renewable energy systems have been operating successfully in five Shuar villages since 2004, contributing to the demand for projects to be replicated in other communities. Overall, the technology has contributed to greater disposable income in the household, thereby expanding opportunities for families to spend vital resources on other priority areas. Based on assessments from the five communities where solar energy systems were installed previously,

the systems have made a significant impact on the lives of families in the Shuar communities. It has been reported that the systems are well looked after, especially by the women. It has also been reported that the children have been using lighting regularly for evening study.



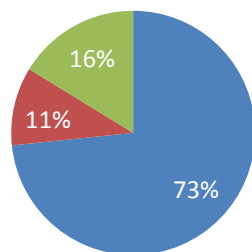
Economically speaking, the renewable energy systems increase disposable income by approximately USD \$12.00 per month (the average household expenditure for gasoline, diesel and batteries for lighting). All of these indicators demonstrate the value of renewable energy and its potential to improve the standard of living for the Shuar people.

Light Up The World is actively fundraising to bring sustainable energy to the Shuar Communities. If you are interested in supporting the *Shuar Renewable Energy Project*, please contact us directly or visit [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org).

### Project Budget

Equipment - design, installation and transportation	\$47,284.00
Training, monitoring and evaluation	\$ 6,700.00
Project management and support	\$10,472.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>* \$64,456.00</b>

\* Seeking full funding (May 2010)



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- Project management and support