



arte
DISTRIBUTION
presents

**ECUADOR
AMAZON'S GAMBLE
FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**

These are trying times: two hectares of the Amazon rainforest are razed every minute and climate change is accelerating relentlessly. In this dire context, Ecuador has banked on the knowledge economy to exploit its natural resources. Standing in the heart of Amazonia, IKIAM is a unique international research center. Here, researchers and students draw inspiration from the animal and plant world to find concrete solutions to local and global problems: major pollution, water treatment, energy, the medicine of the future... They believe we can find answers to the planet's problems by studying the forest; and their laboratory is uniquely close to the areas they study. By combining their strengths and knowledge in synergy with local populations, these modern explorers have kept establishing new outposts deep in the Amazon, in search of invaluable scientific treasures.



Synopsis

Welcome to Ecuador, in the province of Napo. This territory represents only 0.2% of the total surface of the globe, yet it holds about 10% of its biodiversity. The majority of this biological wealth is concentrated in the Colonso - Chalupas national reserve. A dense forest, sometimes impenetrable, where the heat, humidity, mosquitoes and snakes constantly harass the interlopers who dare to venture there. A forest that also hides invaluable scientific treasures.



All the more reason to found a unique university at the heart of this sprawling, verdant habitat, teeming with thriving animal and plant life. IKIAM means “forest” in the Shuar language. An apt name for a state-of-the-art university and scientific center located amid 90 thousand hectares of tropical forest. This pioneering campus enables researchers to reach the areas they study within mere minutes. Here, the Amazon jungle is an open-air laboratory. This unparalleled proximity has given rise to numerous discoveries.

But this ecosystem is also extremely fragile. On several occasions, the forest has been contaminated by toxic waste. Ecuador is a country rich in biodiversity, but its economy depends mainly on oil production. The country has large reserves of crude oil, located in the Amazon region. Here, as elsewhere, development driven by mining, forestry and agribusiness is destroying irreplaceable ecosystems. Deforestation and water pollution are a daily reality.

Yanet, Mauricio, and Miguel are three leading scientists in their field. For several years, they have been conducting their research at IKIAM. They live in the heart of this tropical universe. Every day, they work to find concrete solutions to global problems: pollution, water treatment, the medicine of the future...

They believe we can find solutions by studying the forest. By studying the animal and plant world to mimic them, they hope to find the keys to solve our modern scientific problems.

They have decided to carry out their research hand in hand with local populations and to train a new generation of researchers from the Kichwa, Shuar and Huaorani peoples, who have always lived in close contact with nature. Students from all over the region follow excellent university courses in the fields of bio-technology, fair trade, bio-architecture or water sciences.



Sayaro is a 3rd year Kichwa student whose family lives only a few minutes away from the university. Navigating between working in the fields and studying science, he dreams that his people can develop without forgetting their values.

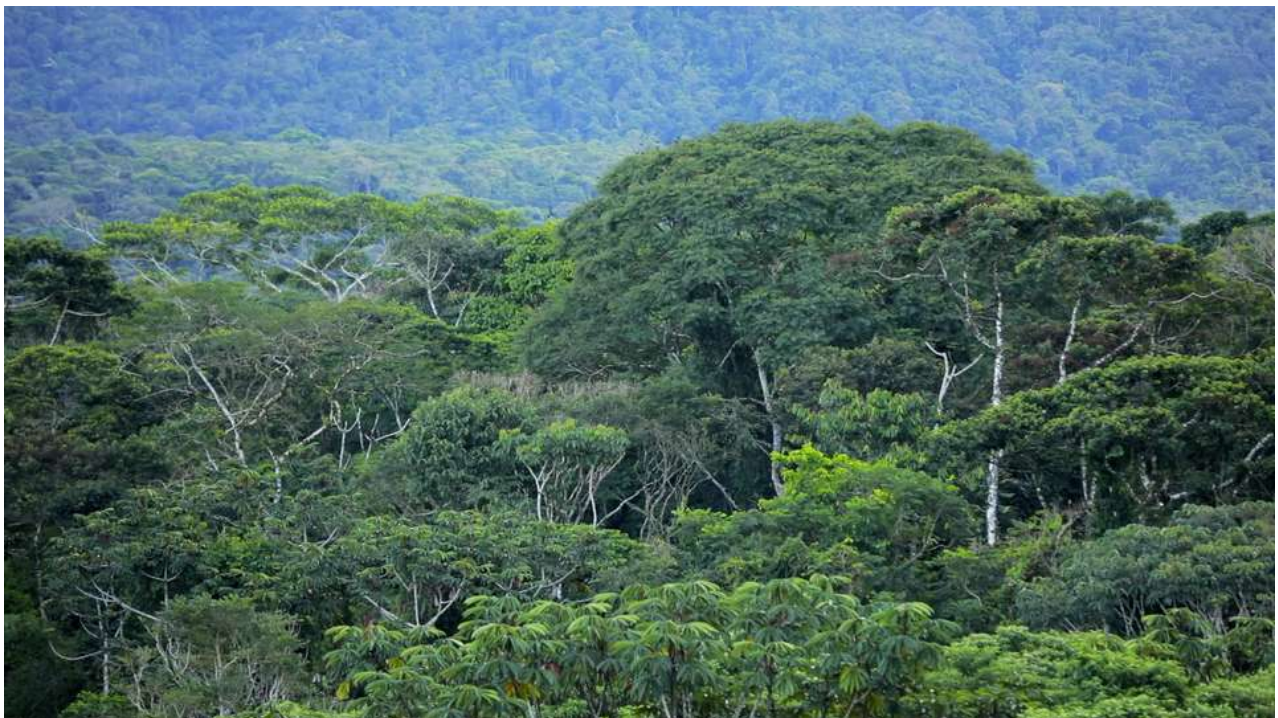
Eriberto is a traditional medicine man who, thanks to his knowledge of the forest and the species that inhabit it, helps Mauricio in his nocturnal expeditions in search of new species. Adriana, a committed citizen, has managed to mobilize her entire village to monitor the quality of the water on which her community depends.

This is the poorest region of Ecuador, with the lowest education rate in the country. Yet, alongside scientists, they have succeeded in making the University of the Forest a collective project. To build bridges between science and indigenous cultures.

For several weeks, we will follow Miguel, Yanet or Sayaro in the areas they study, at the university, in the villages that border the reserve, on the rivers and in the deep forest to understand the incredible discoveries being made here every day.

Together, they will embark on a common adventure: the creation of a new outpost in the heart of the reserve. To continue making new discoveries, they will need to go even deeper into this emerald ocean, where no scientist has ever set foot. An expedition of several days where they will live in total autonomy deep in the wilds.

Throughout this collective adventure, we will follow the thread that is woven every day between the village, the forest and the university; by characters who, faced with global challenges, have decided to act together. By collaborating and sharing their points of view, they hope to generate knowledge that will benefit all of humanity.





arte DISTRIBUTION

the ultimate reference for factual documentaries



FLORENCE SALA

*Head of
International Distribution
& Marketing*

f-sala@arteFrance.fr



ALEC HERRMANN

*Head of
Catalog and Video
Acquisitions (DVD/VOD)*

a-herrmann@arteFrance.fr



AUDREY KAMGA
Sales Manager

a-kamga@arteFrance.fr

Canada, USA, South America,
Australia, New Zealand,
MENA Region



ISABELLE MONTEIL
Sales Manager

i-monteil@arteFrance.fr

UK, Ireland, Italy, Spain,
Portugal, Asia
language versions



MARLENE CHA
Sales Manager

m-cha@arteFrance.fr

Eastern Europe, Russia, Africa
Israel, Greece
worldwide inflight



FRANKA SCHWABE
Sales Manager

f-schwabe@arteFrance.fr

Germany, Austria, Switzerland,
Belgium, France, Netherlands
Scandinavia, Iceland