



Environmental awareness

RIO DOCUMENTARIES

A part of the regeneration movement 



Who and why?

RIO is an independent documentary series with an integrated approach that combines research, analysis, story of place and interviews to share **environmental knowledge and projects that can help regenerate nature and strengthen communities.**

First time the indigenous school kids of Amubri saw a drone fly.



Looking for the aerial shot



With local guide

Community

Immersing in different communities is an incredibly important part of the process. They share us story ideas that we turn into documentaries.



Visiting the local school of Kachabri while shooting a documentary for the National Alliance of Rivers and Water Sheds of Costa Rica

How?

1

Through research and networking we picked compelling environmental initiatives.

2

Ideas or projects that struck a balance between environment and community became stories and we helped explain them.

3

We interviewed experts, analyzed different angles, reviewed facts, read articles, books and examined maps.

4

We looked for powerful visual evidence and relevant context across the country to **promote community environmental projects**, educate, create awareness and inspire to take action.



Crossing Shiroles River, the only way to access the Bri-Bri Indigenous town...a part of the daily life of the community.



Emotional start to a beach cleanup day in Cieneguita, a community who despite many adversities has come together to win the Blue Flag Award.

5

Footage required an important amount of research and planning. Planning the trips, crafting the itineraries, and developing relationships with local people, including fixers — people who act as guides.

6

Each production trip was about a week long — and I was the whole crew. I packed all my gear into a backpack so I could start filming immediately in each place.



Conical house, a reflection of the conic view of the universe by indigenous people that live respectfully in touch with nature. Kachabri in Talamanca, Limon.



Indigenous mother and baby welcoming us.

7

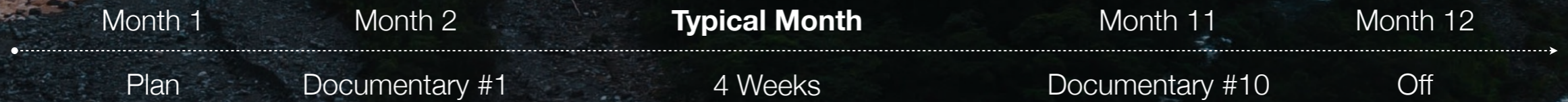
When I got back, I already knew what the narrative of each episode would be. Then I started organizing the footage and working on graphics and animations. I was writing scripts, recording voiceover, and editing videos nonstop.

8

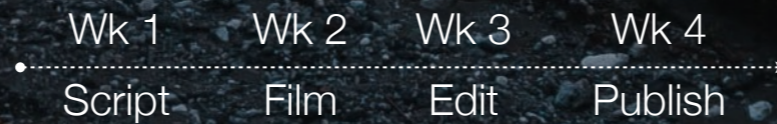
My goal was to have one documentary finished per month. If I stuck to that schedule, I'd be able to edit 10- to 15-minute documentaries in four weeks.

The dream

One Year | 10 Documentaries



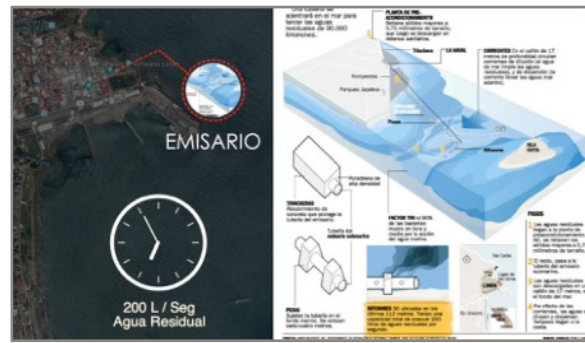
One Month | One Documentary




A group of people are on a boat on a river. In the foreground, a man with a beard and long hair wears a large, wide-brimmed straw hat and a white shirt. Behind him, other people are visible, some wearing hats and sunglasses. The background shows a lush, green riverbank with dense vegetation and trees under a cloudy sky.

Portfolio

•→
We started with **4 documentaries**



Environmental Fragility | Uvita Island and Cieneguita

 180,900 People reached | 42,562 Views | 1,372 shares | 3,941 reactions

This documentary shows the historical and natural value of Uvita Island, the current water problems of Limón and the efforts of the surfer and local community of Cieneguita through the Blue Flag Ecological program as an alternative to resolve the problem. The young people at risk in this poor community find an outlet in sports and environmental activities promoting the revitalization of the community.

Organizations involved

University of Costa Rica	Weaving Dreams Foundation
Surfing Association of Limon	UNED
Pura Vida Rivers	Blue Flag Environmental Committee
National Alliance of Rivers and Watersheds of Costa Rica	Grommets soccer team

 [Watch documentary](#)



Typical home along the Cieneguita River




Surfing Uvita Island, a place of natural beauty and historical value to Costa Rica



Local kids learning about the Blue Flag Program before the Beach Cleanup



Bioremediation San Jose.

 24,764 People reached | 4,956 Views | 148 shares | 486 reactions

Documents a project about teaching the communities and schools in Costa Rica how to use the concept of Bioremediation to clean the pollution of their rivers using a technique in which mud balls are mixed with effective microorganisms (EM) that treat the contaminated mud at the bottom of the river and allow it to gradually recover the flora and fauna. The technique is part of a world wide movement and its accompanied by other environmental activities such as labeling, reforestation and organized river cleanups.

Organizations involved

National Alliance of Rivers and Watersheds of Costa Rica

Green Planet Network Association

Rio Urbano

Local Schools

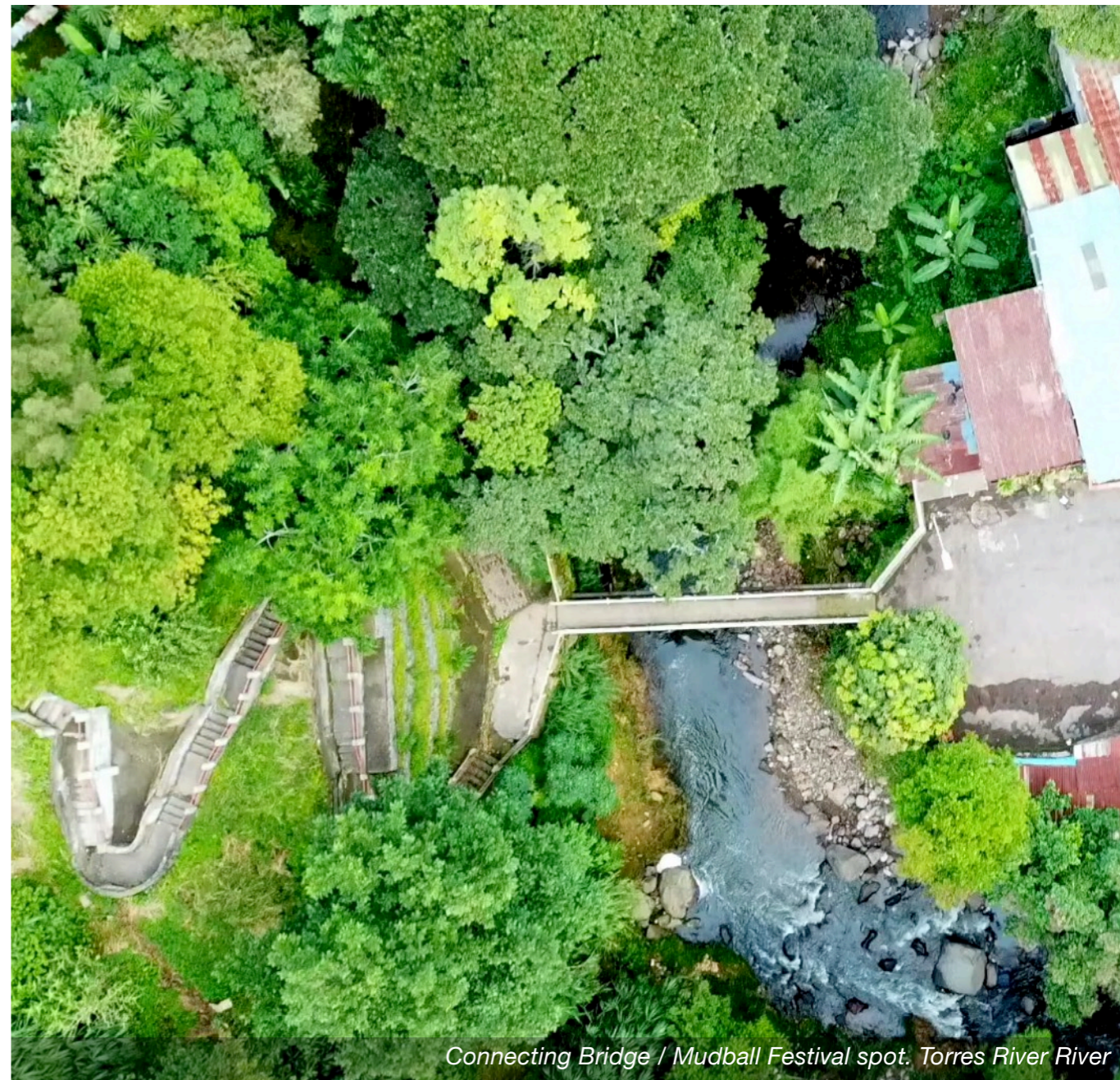
Amigos del Torres

Feria Verde

 [Watch documentary](#)




EM Mudball Workshop at Torres River



Connecting Bridge / Mudball Festival spot. Torres River River

Indigenous Communities and our Rivers

 25,021 Views | 676 shares | 674 reactions

This documentary shows prospective interns from Canada and their families what life will be like working and living in Talamanca. The interns will help fill the void of specific subjects that the community needs. It makes us reflect on the knowledge of indigenous people and their sense of conservation of natural resources and our rivers. The project was chosen together with the projects of four other nations... Guyana, Nepal, Cambodia and Kenya.

Organizations involved

National Alliance of Rivers and Watersheds of Costa Rica

Native Council of PEI

Atlantic Council for International Cooperation


BYTE Empowering Youth Society

Northern Council for Global Cooperation of Canada

Indigenous Network Bribri and Cabecar of the Atlantic Region of Costa Rica (RIBCA)

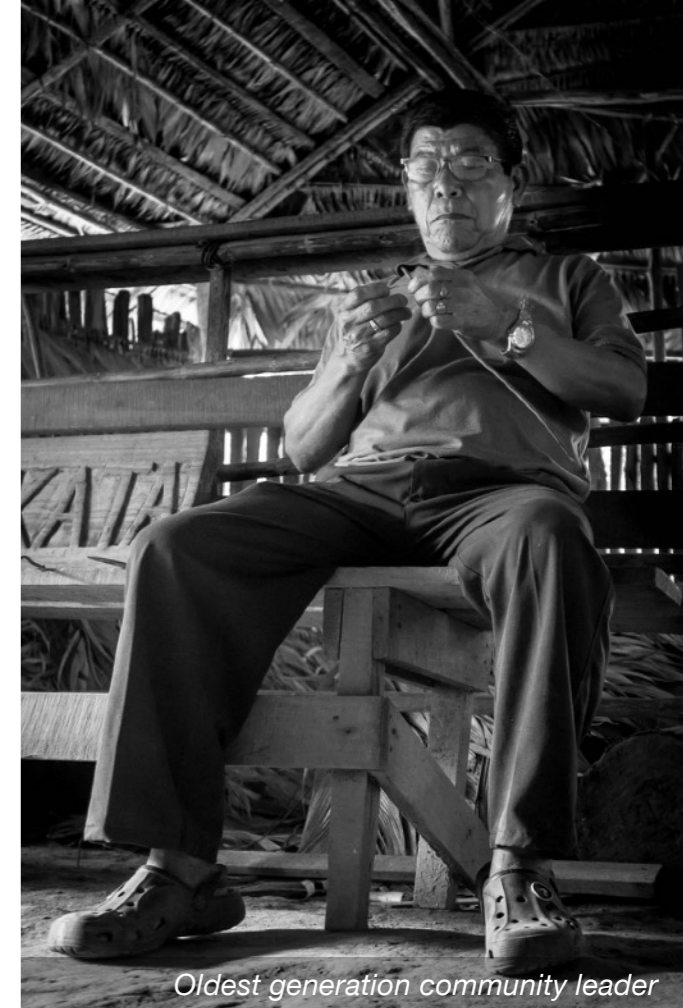
Mi'maw Conservation Group

Acomuita Mujeres (Association of Indigenous Women of Talamanca)

 [Watch documentary](#)



Indigenous mother and son



Oldest generation community leader



Conical house



Bioremediation Santa teresa, Costa Rica

 153,951 People reached | 36,657 Views | 1,250 shares | 2,754 reactions

The documentary shows the environmental problems of rivers in Santa Teresa, Costa Rica and the use of bioremediation as an alternative to reverse their pollution. This was the first community in Costa Rica to implement the project and today there are more than 20 communities around the country that will follow the lead.

Organizations involved

National Alliance of Rivers and Watersheds of Costa Rica	Ministry of Health
Nicoya Peninsula Waterkeeper	Hotel Tropico Latino
Green Planet Network Association	Local Schools
Santa Teresa CAM Project	Municipal Council of the District of Cobano

 [Watch documentary](#)



Kids walking along River Danta for the first time



Takatsura Nishikawa / Bioremediation Expert



Next steps

RIO is currently researching for the next story and looking for support and funding for the production costs of the next 10 chapters.

