Traditional knowledge in a changing world: new insights from the Chácobo in Bolivia

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The Chácobo

- Pano speakers
- about 1000 members (350 adults)
- originally nomadic
- present villages since 1960s
- initial territory 45,000 ha, now 450,000 ha
- anthropological visits 1909, 1950s, 1970
- ethnobotanical studies 1986, 1995, 2010 (Palms)
Chácobo 2011

Loss of knowledge and diversity
Proyecto Etnobotanico Chacobo 2014

12 local ethnobotanists trained
Hundreds of vouchers collected and identified
Almost the entire adult population interviewed
Over 30000 free-list use-reports
All previous knowledge repatriated
Chácobo plant use compendium in progress
Proyecto Etnobotanico Chacobo 2014
Chácobo ethno-botanists collecting plant biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge
Chácobo hunting arrows

Above 1986 (Boom 1987)

Below 2013
Chácobo grinding tub

A-B. 1909 (Nordenskjöld 1922)
C. 1970 (Kelm 1972)
D. 1986 (Boom 1987)
E. 2013
Chácobo jibe production

A. Jibe pan 1909 (Nordenskjöld 1922)
B. 1958 (image provided by CIRABO)
C. 1986 (Boom 1987)
D. 2013
Chácobo chicha production

1958 (above, image provided by CIRABO)

2013 (below)
Chácobo bark clothing

A. 1958 (image provided by CIRABO)
B. 2013

Hunting technique

C. 1958 (image provided by CIRABO)
D. 2013
Above: Chácobo chair made from *Mauritia flexuosa* petioles and *Ochroma* wood

A. 1909 (Nordenskjöld 1922)
B. 2013

Below: Mortar

C. 1986 (Boom 1987)
D. 2013
Chácobo
“cacano”
burden basket

A. 1909 (from Nordenskjöld 1922)
B. 1958 (image from CIRABO)
C. 1970 (Kelm 1972)
D. 1986 (Boom 1987)
E. 2013
Chácobo canoe construction

A. 1958 (image from CIRABO)
B. 1970 (Kelm 1972)
C. 1986 (Boom 1987)
D-E. 2013
Chácobo roof construction

A. 1986, with *Phenacospermum* (Boom 1987)
B. with *Phenacospermum* and *Attalea phalerata* 2013

Chácobo houses

C. The men’s meeting house 1970 (Kelm 1972)
D. Contemporary houses in Alto Ivon, 2013
Crop diversity

Above: Banana varieties encountered 1986 (Boom 1987), all of which were still grown in 2013

Below: *Manihot* varieties found 2013
Modern nomadism

1 Alto Ivon
Central village
School, Clinic
April – Nov.

2 Tokyo
New fields

3 Castaña
Dec. - March

4 Triangulo
Commerce
Fishing
“Los Chácobo y las palmeras”

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The communities of Alto Ivon, Tokio, Puerto Tujure and Motacuzal.

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A translation and repatriation of all documents published on the Chácobo between 1909 and 2000

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Repatriation of traditional knowledge on biodiversity -

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GRACIAS a
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