

## SEPI Project Profile: Uwintz, Ecuador



September 2008

### Project Overview:

In August of 2006, we completed, with the support of various donors, the installation of solar home systems in two Shuar villages: Yumisin and Shuar Ampan. Prior to 2006, we had completed home systems and community systems in Kunkup and Numpatkaim. These projects are all part of a wider effort to help electrify the portion of the Shuar community residing in the CTSHA territory in southern Ecuador.

This past September we completed the implementation of solar systems for the homes in the remote village of Uwintz, also located in the CTSHA Shuar territory. In addition to providing systems for 9 families, we continued an ongoing training of 20 Shuar technicians.



The Shuar communities are two to three days by foot from the nearest road or village. On this journey to Uwintz, we found the terrain to be especially challenging. The heavy rains, deep mud, and a hike that climbed 200 feet above sea level to about 5100 feet in just four hours made things pretty interesting. Not to mention the equipment that had to make the trek with us.

### Project Information:

**Location:** Uwintz, Ecuador (located in the Morona Santiago Province)

#### Lead Project Donor:

Light Up the World

#### Implementing Partner:

SunEnergy Power International

#### Local Project Coordinator:

Fundacion Natura

#### Scope of Project:

*Uwintz:* Solar-powered systems for village of approx. 65.

*Entire Project:* Systems for approx. 60 Shuar villages

**System description:** (1) 130Wp Solar Panel, (1) 10A Morningstar Charge Controller, (1) 100Ah Deep Cycle Battery, (2) 11 Watt CF light bulbs, (2) 1.8 Watt LED lights by LUTW, (1) DC Radio/CD Player; cabling, fasteners, tools and junction boxes, (1) DC female receptacle

**Energy:** 200 watt-hrs of energy/day.

## Fundacion Natura:

For some time in the Condor Mountain Range, Fundacion Natura has been supporting the development of capacity building with the Shuar Associations, as the Federation seeks a more adequate governance system over indigenous territory, resource management, cultural strengthening, planning and regulations for the proper use of natural resources and clean technology.

## Project Execution:



By the time of our arrival in Uwintz, many of us were exhausted and all were covered in mud. It rained most of Monday and Tuesday, so we scheduled as much work as possible inside the classroom. We put the panel frames together, fastened the panels to the frames, and secured the power and grounding wires to the panels inside the classroom, out of the rain. We also fabricated the clear-covered junction box containing the charge controller, load connector strips, and strain relief connectors, inside the classroom. During somewhat not-so-rainy periods on Monday and Tuesday, we installed the solar panels onto the poles and erected the poles.

For the rest of the week, we had decent and mostly clear weather as we proceeded to install the systems and do all of the cabling inside the homes. Throughout the installation period, we trained - at each step of the project. The last day was reserved for wrap-up training, discussing again the design, testing, maintenance and time for all kinds of questions and answers.

The crew mostly consisted of technicians we had trained on previous projects. The group has developed to the point where two of the men form the basis of an energy maintenance group for the CTSHA and travel between the various installations we have already implemented. They also maintain the radio communications that they have in various villages - also done by solar power.



We ended the project with a closing ceremony, complete with the issuing of certificates for a job well done.



For more information regarding the project in the Shuar territory in Ecuador, please visit the following websites:

**SunEnergy Power International:**  
[www.sunepi.org](http://www.sunepi.org)

**Light Up the World:** [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org)