



Google earth



The Suruí People on the Internet: "Trading Bows & Arrows for Laptops"

In October 2009, at the 20th anniversary of the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, California, Chief Almir Suruí and his colleagues, Rebecca Moore, Manager of Google Earth Outreach, and Vasco van Roosmalen, Brazil Director of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), unveiled the "Trading Bows and Arrows for Laptops" Google Earth tour. The tour uses Google Earth to share the history and realities of the Suruí people as well as their contributions to preserving the Amazon rainforest.

At the conference, Almir displayed how the Google Earth high resolution satellite images abundantly demonstrate the rapid encroachment of illegal logging and mining onto the Suruí's 600,000-acre reserve in the western Brazilian state of Rondônia. The maps on the tour include layers of videos, pictures and historical markers assembled by Suruí tribal members accompanied by explanatory text.

Additionally, members of the Google Earth Outreach team recently traveled to the Amazon to teach the Suruí how mobile devices can be used to capture photos of illegal logging activity and uploaded to Google Earth. The Suruí, Google and ACT hope that bold images of forest devastation in context will bring more support and enlist new allies in the Suruí's struggle to protect their land and culture over the long term.

View the Suruí Google Earth Tour: ["Trading Bows and Arrows for Laptops" Google Earth tour](#)

Read feature on Almir Suruí and Google Earth in the San Francisco Chronicle, October 18, 2009, Page A-1: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/10/18/MN4O1A3I0E.DTL>

Read Chief Almir Suruí's blog on Google Earth's "Lat Long" Blogspot: <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2009/10/Suruí-on-internet-trading-bows-arrows.html>