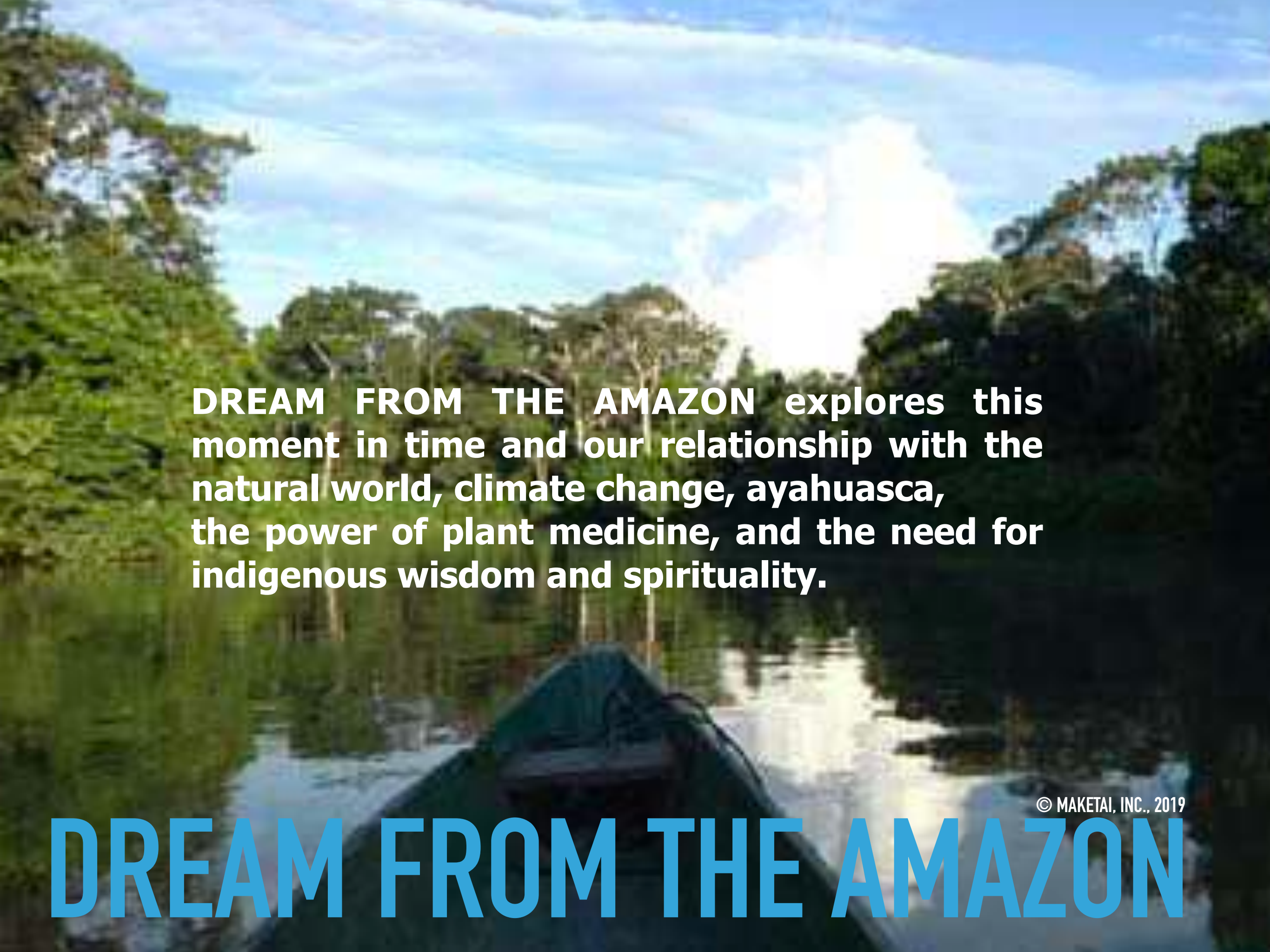


An aerial photograph showing a large, winding river or waterway cutting through a dense, dark forest. The river is light-colored, possibly due to sand or silt, and meanders across the landscape. The surrounding forest is a deep, dark green or black, creating a high-contrast scene.

**A SIX-PART SERIES BY SANDRA MORSE
PRODUCED BY SANDE ZEIG**

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON



DREAM FROM THE AMAZON explores this moment in time and our relationship with the natural world, climate change, ayahuasca, the power of plant medicine, and the need for indigenous wisdom and spirituality.

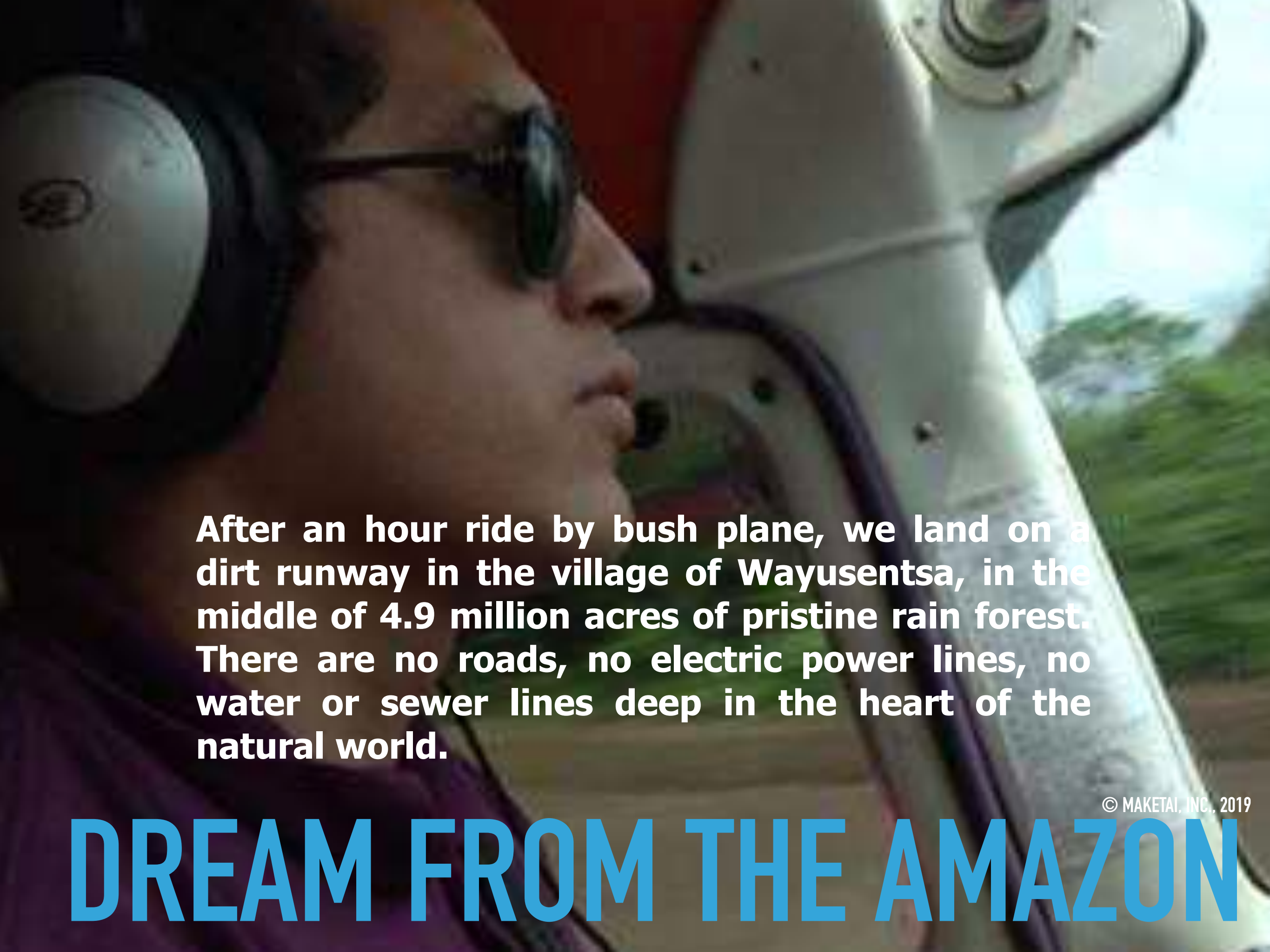
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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

We start our journey in Puyo, Ecuador where we take off from the Shell Airport. The Shell Oil Company came to this area in 1937 prospecting for oil. After numerous attacks by indigenous tribes, Shell pulled out of the area in 1948.

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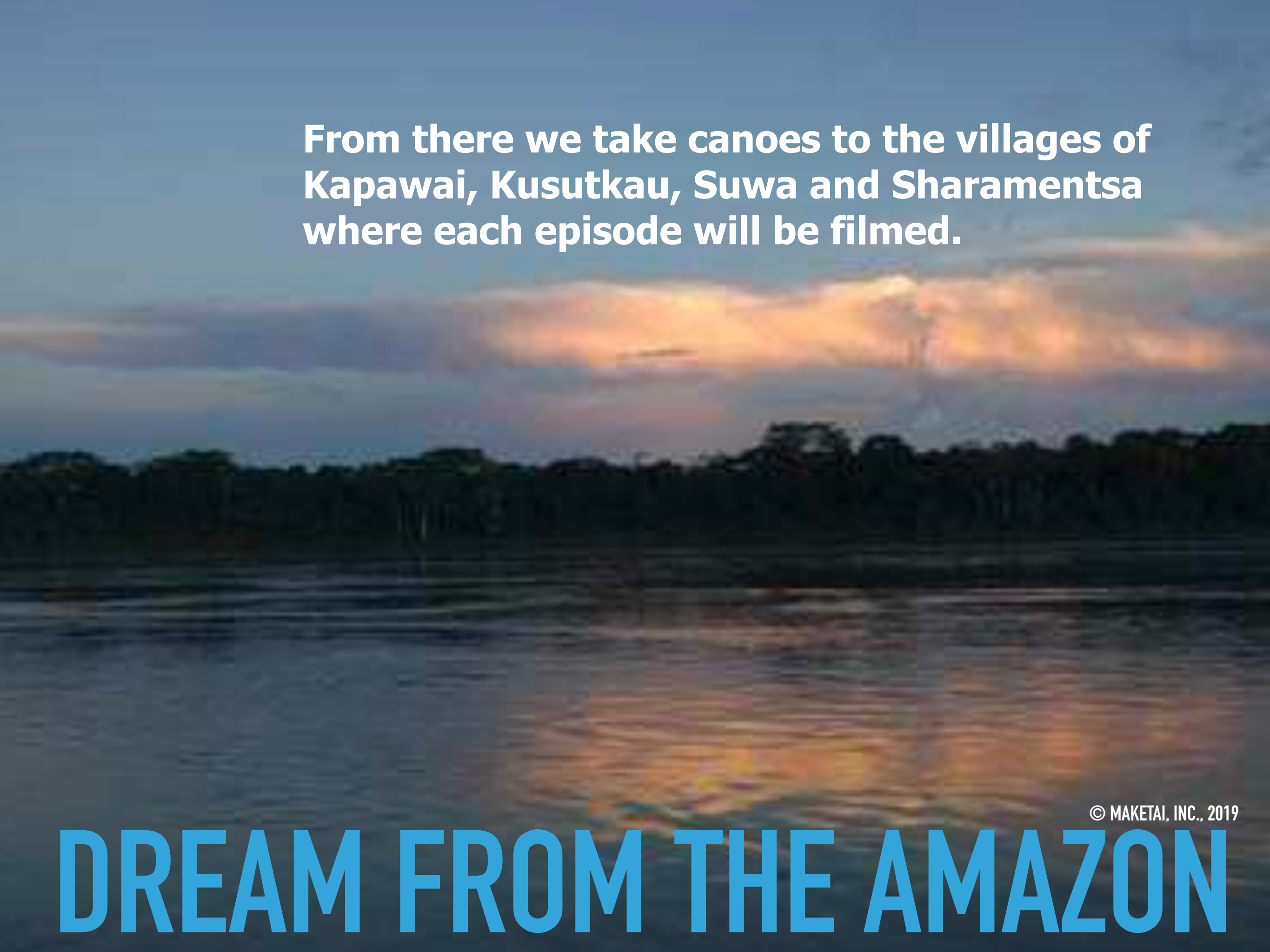
DREAM FROM THE AMAZON



After an hour ride by bush plane, we land on a dirt runway in the village of Wayusentsa, in the middle of 4.9 million acres of pristine rain forest. There are no roads, no electric power lines, no water or sewer lines deep in the heart of the natural world.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A wide river flows through a lush, forested landscape. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water reflects the colors of the sky, creating a shimmering effect. The forest on the banks is dark and dense, with some trees visible in the distance.

From there we take canoes to the villages of Kapawai, Kusutkau, Suwa and Sharamentsa where each episode will be filmed.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON



Episode Summaries

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river in a forest. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The trees are silhouetted against the sky, and their reflection is visible in the water. In the foreground, the dark, curved roof of a boat is visible, suggesting the viewer is on the water.

1. Achuar Dream Culture

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

This program introduces the main characters including Sandra Morse, Communications Philosopher, whose twelve-year relationship with the Achuar, gives us access to their unique dream culture. Her relationship with the Achuar is impossible to replicate.



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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

Julian Larrea, Sandra's Ecotour guide, lives in Quito and has a profound and unique connection with the Achuar. Celestino Antik and Ruben Shakai are Achuar ornithologists and Ecotour guides with the ability to bird-call over six hundred bird species. Rafael Taish is one of the most respected shamans in the entire Achuar territory. This is an extremely rare opportunity to capture Rafael on film and is possible only because of his long-term, trusted relationship with Sandra Morse.



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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

The Achuar Dream Culture program begins with Sandra telling the story of how we came to know the Achuar; how they dreamed us into their culture. For hundreds of years, the Achuar have used their dreams to navigate their future. They begin their ayahuasca plant-healing ceremonies with an invitation to participate offered to their past, living and future ancestors.

According to the Achuar, all humans create their futures by accessing their dreams. To understand and experience the structure and discipline of the Achuar dream culture is a life enhancing experience.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. The trees on the banks are dark silhouettes. In the foreground, the dark, rounded shape of a boat's roof is visible, looking down the river.

2. Communicating through Birding

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON



We will follow Celestino Antik and Ruben Shakai as they demonstrate how they call over a thousand birds species and translate messages from six hundred species from Achuar to Spanish to English. They are masters of ornithology and the role birds play in the meaning of Achuar life. For example, we will see how birds inform them of the weather, when to harvest food, when to make love, and when to rest.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river in a jungle. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The river reflects the light, and a boat is visible in the foreground. The trees are silhouetted against the sky.

3. The Jungle Pharmacy and Hardware Store

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON



We will take a tour through the rainforest to see how everyday life is a collaborative expression between the plants, animals and the Achuar. The rainforest is their pharmacy, hardware store and supermarket. Everything they need to live is available in the near vicinity of their villages.

We will be shown simple remedies for earaches, toothaches, etc., as well as more complex illnesses, including how they manage death. We will explore the relationship between the modern world's understanding of wellness and the Achuar's relationship with health.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river in a tropical forest. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The trees are silhouetted against the sky, and the water reflects the light. A boat is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the text.

4. The Achuar Chicken Project

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

We will take a tour of how the Achuar imported broiler chickens to increase the protein in their diet while decreasing the need to hunt and fish in the area. This is a recent phenomenon. Because of increasing threats by tree farmers and oil producers, the once nomadic Achuar have established permanent communities to maintain and protect their land and culture from exploitative outside influences. We will show how Sandra inspired the Achuar, especially the women, to use chicken farming and ecotourism to stabilize their heritage as they interact with the modern world.



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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river in a forest. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The trees are silhouetted against the sky. A boat is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the dark foreground.

5. The Circle of Life

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

In this episode we will explore how, within the Achuar “cradle to cradle” cosmology, nothing really dies. On a practical level, the Achuar do not even produce trash. They throw nothing “away.” There is no “away.” Everything simply returns to Pachamama (Mother Earth) to become new again.

As animals and the Achuar participate in the life-death-life cycle, everything and everyone returns to Pachamama (Mother Earth) in simple, meaningful ways.

In Achuar reality, all that exists is alive and animated. Everything has consciousness—a soul. The Achuar call this energy ARUTUM—the very soul of Pachamama.

For the Achuar, everything is alive—even rocks. If you can see beyond their outer manifestation—their surface—you can experience the life force of rocks and communicate with them. For the Achuar, there is no such thing as “nonliving.”

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

A photograph of a sunset over a river. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. The trees on the banks are dark silhouettes. A boat is visible in the foreground, its shape also in silhouette.

6. Commitment to Community

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

After having five episodes with the Achuar in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest, we may question our independence in favor of their interdependence. As we experience their simple wholeness, we may come to question our complex brokenness.

We will live the Achuar lifestyle, culture and folklore through their language, arts, crafts, food, music, dance and recreation. We will laugh and cry together. We will trust each other. We will see that we and they are kin. Their ancient wisdom and our modern technology will merge as one planet, one people, one dream.

We call it the Dream from the Amazon.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON

An aerial photograph of a winding river, likely in the Amazon basin, showing a mix of green forest and brownish riverbanks. The river meanders through the landscape, with some straight sections and some sharp curves. The overall tone is natural and somewhat muted.

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DREAM FROM THE AMAZON