There was nothing at all. She was a part of the darkness. She was pure thought, without form. She began to think. The mother conceived the world in the darkness. She conceived us as ideas, as we think out a house before we begin to make it real. She spun the thread spinning us all in the story creating us in thought. And then came the light, and the world was real. They believe their job is to take care of the world. They decided to abandon centuries of caution and warn us. They came to the Sierra Nevada in 1988. Alan Ereira, working for the BBC. The Mamas said they wanted to send out a message. From the Heart of the World
BBC1, December 4th 1990
KELSEY: He has destroyed so much. Does he see? No. Understand? No. Start to understand or what will happen? Right. That's it.

PETER MORRIS: A major earthquake hit Japan Friday afternoon.

Caitlin Shannon: A severe respiratory disease called SARS2 has repeatedly confirmed the need for Alan to make a new film to show them very clearly.

We have not spoken clearly. We have not spoken clearly.

Our deep analysis of our deep analysis.

The earth is a living body. it has veins and blood

Damaging certain places Damaging certain places is like cutting off a limb.

It damages the whole body This place is called Sezhua.

It is an esuama.

Esuanas connect the mountains with the shore

Younger Brother must listen and stop causing damage or nature herself will finish us off.

We must renew this message to our English brother so that he will explain it to the world subtitle out.

I'd stayed in touch for 20 years, but had not been summoned before.

In the meantime I'd retired.

I had no BBC helicopter. And a Kogi had learned to use a camera.

First they film and then they edit.

Then they show it.

Then they show it.

We'll have to explain everything point by point to show them very clearly.

We start here at Haba Shikaka

We lay the gold thread to show important sites

(Telephone)

We will travel to London to pick up a gold thread and bring it back.

and bring it back.

They wanted to show our scientists the invisible way nature interconnects.

So together we constructed a plan.
ALAN: Um, this is something I need to discuss with the Indians. Um, there is a real possibility that they may come to you to collect it.

Hills at dusk
Barbed wire fence: they walk past
SM from hillside at dusk: they enter shot and stop to look
Profiles looking
Busy street
Shibulata and Francisca walk to cam
They stand at kerb
They cross road
RV on quieter street
Walk to cam
They walk past park fence
They call this the civilized world.
RV they approach civic building
Here they have no address, no documents, no identity.
They enter hallway
RV approach desk
From behind desk
Man at computer
Shibulata fingerprinted
Francisca's photos put on form
Francisca fingerprinted
Other hand
MCU Shibulata
Francisca looks at card
Her cedula
LA they walk down street
For them shoes would break the connection between humans and the earth.
Shibulata through shop window
Without shoes, you're not allowed to board a plane.
Francisca sitting, CU feet
Francisca trying on trainer
They walk out of shop
Alan greets them emerging from Embassy
Shib shows Alan passport
Visa
El Dorado tower
Alan escorts them towards airport
Shibulata settles into plane seat
BILL: 400 kilometres, yes, OK. Fair enough. Is that a fairly precise amount?
ALAN: Er, it's a - there's no way of being really precise about it, is there? I think the question is "how long is a piece of string?"
BILL: Do come through and let me show you the machine that's made this gold thread that I've made for you here.
When time began
the mother laid a black thread
linking special sites. The Black Line.
Now the thread is made by pushing core yarn through a pipe here -
the wire laps round it and it runs onto a reel at the bottom here
Places are linked by a black thread of invisible thought. Gold is linked to Aluna, it never decays. But what's that to us?
Ext observatory

MILL HILL OBSERVATORY, ENGLAND

Kogi enter shot

We arranged a meeting with an world renowned astronomer to see if the Kogi picture of the universe can make sense as science.

Telescope

RICHARD: I'd like to begin by asking the Kogi view of the world.

Richard with whole group

SYNCH: how large it is and its form.

Silvestre, Francisca, Shibulata

According to our ancestors the universe is very large and we see very little of it.

Pan to Shibulata & Ellis

This is Se, the darkness

Pan over telescope

ALAN: Their picture of the universe is never going to be yours.

Richard sitting

RICHARD: No. I have seen things that they couldn't possibly imagine

Pan over telescope

ALAN: But then what you talk about are things that the rest of the normal human race can't imagine.

Richard

SYNCH: It's not that complicated (Laugh).

ALAN: Well, I hear the words "Dark Energy".

Shibulata & Silvestre, pan to Richard

RICHARD: Ah, well Dark Energy is a recent discovery

ALAN: But when you say Dark Energy what are you talking about?

RICHARD: It's a property, that we haven't yet understood, erm, that makes the universe accelerate. And, er, it's a mystery at the moment...

Pan over telescope

ALAN: Well, I hear the words "Dark Energy".

Richard

SYNCH: probably of space, that we haven't yet understood, erm, that makes the universe accelerate. And, er, it's a mystery at the moment...

Pan over telescope

ALAN: But it fills all space.

Richard

RICHARD: But it fills all space.

WS group

RICHARD V/O: It could take another hundred years before we really finally understand what's going on.

Shibulata & Ellis

We were left objects, like maps, that show us where to connect with the darkness These places, or nodes, are called esuamas

Francisca

RICHARD: And these nodes are intersections

Richard and Falk

SYNCH: with the material world and the darkness, is that right?

Shibulata & Francisca look at photos

RICHARD: I'm trying to understand whether the Kogi can grasp the idea of learning something new from an instrument like a telescope. The concept of discovery

Silvestre, Francisca, Shibulata

ALAN: I think that their notion of acquiring knowledge is the opposite of ours. I think our notion is that each generation knows more than the one before.

Alan & Richard sitting

SYNCH: the world of Se, the dark world we cannot see is linked to the material world in places which must not be damaged. We know how to concentrate to connect with the darkness in Aluna In thought.

Kogi

RICHARD: Here he is in London leaning completely.

The world of se, the dark world we cannot see

17:02

17:08

17:13

17:16

17:30

17:37

17:40

17:41

17:49

17:58

CU Shibulata

RICHARD: but I don't get that impression looking at the Mama. I get the impression that he has a vision and his purpose

Richard unrolls poster

SYNCH: is to tell us that vision, and that's why he's here.

Richard

SYNCH: What we see through the telescope, so this is a picture of a small part of the sky

Shibulata & Francisca look, pan to poster

RICHARD OOV: and what we see is lots of systems of stars that we couldn't see without the telescope.

Finding shot of Shibulata with poster, settles

RICHARD: Here he is in London leaning completely.

The world of se, the dark world we cannot see is linked to the material world in places which must not be damaged. We know how to concentrate to connect with the darkness in Aluna In thought.

18:02

18:08

Poster held up to camera

This star is called Sulabena

McU Francisca

RICHARD: Here he is in London leaning completely.

The world of se, the dark world we cannot see is linked to the material world in places which must not be damaged. We know how to concentrate to connect with the darkness in Aluna In thought.

18:19

18:22

18:25

18:27

18:30

18:31

18:33

18:34

Poster held up to camera

RICHARD OOV: Why couldn't we learn from them?
Fade up clouds among mountain tops

We the Mamas know that there are special sites and they are threaded together

Manuel pointing across peaks

We’re explaining this to our brothers across the sea

Helicopter over urban lots

We’re explaining this to our brothers across the sea so we can work with them and show the connection between places

Helicopter down urban road

We’re explaining this to our brothers across the sea and show the connection between places

Francisca spinning

The Mamas set out to trace a black line along the shore joining specific sites by the mouths of the rivers. These, they say

GRAPHIC: Gold spindle becomes map of the world, Gold Sierra emerges as beating heart, appears on map of region. Z/I to Haba Shikaka/Rioacha

The sites may have been destroyed, but that’s the point of the journey. The gold thread will be laid, the hidden line will be revealed.

Francisca, Shibulata, Antanacio

There was a big mangrove lagoon here

Sugui in hand

We used to make payments to the Mother here

Antanacio

That’s not possible now.

LA barbed wire fence

That’s not possible now.

Shibulata and group

subtitle out

This place is the origin of everything

Tilt to Francisca tying thread to rock

This place is the origin of everything

Francisca and Shibulata walk with spool

It’s the start of the thread.

The Mamas set out to trace a black line along the shore joining specific sites by the mouths of the rivers. These, they say

Shi means thread. It connects everything.

Spool in Shibulata’s hands

It is mother and father to everything

Tilt to Francisca tying thread to rock

The sites may have been destroyed, but that’s the point of the journey. The gold thread will be laid, the hidden line will be revealed.

Group with thread

Shikaka is the Black Thread

3 mamas

Shi means thread. It connects everything.

Side view group faces, pan to sea

Important sites along the Line on the coast

Hands

are connected to esuamas in the mountain.

Seated Mamas

are connected to esuamas in the mountain.

We collect materials here on the shore

We collect materials here on the shore to make payments in the mountains and we bring materials from the mountain to make payments down here.

Group with spool

Esuama means place of authority. The Kogi believe that is how nature operates.

Esuamas in the mountain have direct linkage to places on the shore.

The Kogi told me before about token objects they exchange between the mountain and the shore.

The Kogi told me before about token objects they exchange between the mountain and the shore.

But I’d thought this was symbolic.

WS fisherman mending net

We gather shells here

Hands gather shells

We gather shells here

Pan to Shibulata

We gather shells here

One hand gathering shells

They are like seeds of knowledge

Group gathering shells

We put them in the sugui

Collecting burned shells in gourd

We must always carry the sugui

Placing shells on unlit fire

When we taste the shells we connect with Aluna, with thought

Smoking fire

we connect with Aluna, with thought

Group watch

Subtitle out

Raking shells from fire

Shi means thread. It connects everything.

Collecting burned shells in gourd

Shi means thread. It connects everything.

Bowl of water poured into gourd

Raking shells from fire

Shi means thread. It connects everything.
Shaking gourd
Mixing the burned crushed shells
with water produces lime. That
makes a paste in their mouths
that Kogi men say connects them to the source of life. That paste
is rubbed off the stick onto the top of the sugui.

Another angle
that Kogi men say connects them to the source of life. That paste
is rubbed off the stick onto the top of the sugui.

Tilt down meeting tree
Our thoughts build up on top of the sugui
Each man carries the book of his thoughts

Luntana pouring nugui into sugui
Sugui means "to know everything"
To be given the sugui means to listen.
To listen.
That is why we have ears.
To think is to listen
Listen

VLS Mamas walking to cam along
shore
In the days of our ancestors
we made payments
at the special sites here
But now they are destroying these sites

Shibulata & Francisca in boat
This lagoon was larger.
It is drying out bit by bit.
It must not be damaged further.

VLS Mamas walking to cam along
shore
In the days of our ancestors
we made payments
at the special sites here
But now they are destroying these sites

Francisca and young girl
VLS man walks on water (!)
This lagoon was larger.
It is drying out bit by bit.
It must not be damaged further.

Working sugui
Listening

VLS man walks on water (!)
This lagoon was larger.
It is drying out bit by bit.
It must not be damaged further.

Mama and girl in skilled
This lagoon was larger.
It is drying out bit by bit.
It must not be damaged further.

Night open shelter with hammocks
That is why we are walking along the line
making payments at all the sites
connecting with the mountain in Aluna.
They must see us do this

Path to beach
They must see us do this
connecting with the mountain in Aluna.
They must see us do this

Small town street, pan to Kogi
approaching
They must see us do this
connecting with the mountain in Aluna.
They must see us do this

We have walked for a long time
Subtitle out
We stop here
Now what do we do?
They might not believe us
That is why we are walking along the line
making payments at all the sites
connecting with the mountain in Aluna.
They must see us do this

Hands with thread
Why do you want younger brother to see this? What is the point?
Younger Brother will -
We have always cared for this place
But Younger Brother destroyed it
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?

Shibulata
We have always cared for this place
But Younger Brother destroyed it
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?

How will this change Younger Brother?
I don't understand.
Younger Brother will -
We have always cared for this place
But Younger Brother destroyed it
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
He has been destroying everything.
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?
The world is our mother
If we destroy her, where will we live?

Fade to black
I just can’t see that what happens to one specific place is echoed in another miles away. But the Mamas say understanding that is the key to healing the world.

ALAN: Doctor Camillo, you have been working as a doctor in the Sierra for many years, you have got to know the Kogi very well, you’ve learned a good deal about them.

DR. JULES CAMILLO MD
Caption ends
For the last 35 years

Take the basin of the Guachaca river for instance.

It was completely deforested by cocaine producers and cattle farmers.

Until they returned it to the indigenous people.

And that was only 20 years ago.

Today the basin is utterly changed. What was once a cattle ranch and a nearly dried up river

Now there are forests, many animals in the river is full again. It’s astonishing.

But these are not immediate results.

When a baby is born is it an adult the next day?

We’re going to another site

The Mamas will connect with the sites at the top of the mountain

I agreed that it would be a good idea for the Mamas to consult and think more about what they’re doing and consider how they communicate with us, because they need to show to us that they actually do have something to say.

OK I will tell them
They will consult the water
They will consult the water
We must show you in action
We must show you in action that we really have a connection with nature.

LUKIDDO ARBUAH, PANA PUGALIA, KATE EREIRA: The lakes that are found high in the mountains are linked to the sea

Bubbles appear in the water and the bubbles make the connection.

The waters speak.
Manuel and Sale look at water
We consult the water
We read the bubbles
and the Mother is telling us
to see what's happening
and the Mother is telling us
We can see this in the bubbles
We can see this in the bubbles
Like reading a book
Like reading a book
It's true! It's true!
It's true.
It's true.
You must straighten out what we said
to make sure it is understood

Antanacio seated
But the bubbles only speak to you.

Coconut palms
No-one will understand without seeing the connection with an
esuama

ALAN: What is our first possible date for going up the mountain?

Mamas MLS walk on beach
We just found out
that there are guerrillas
that there are guerrillas
in the Sierra Nevada
in the Sierra Nevada
They know foreigners are coming
They know foreigners are coming
which makes it very dangerous for us.
which makes it very dangerous for us.
Subtitle out

ALAN: Right. Obviously we must cancel. We can’t - we can’t take
the risk of going
anywhere dangerous
the risk of going
anywhere dangerous
Younger Brother doesn’t understand
They do not know these sites are special.
If they continue destroying these sites
no-one will survive.

Kogi walking away from communities on the world’s highest coastal
mountain
to reach this site on the shore.

CAITLIN SHANNON: The indigenous tribes are so alarmed that
they walked
for days from communities on the world's highest coastal
mountain

The hill of Hukulwa
stood guard at the ocean.

He has authority over many things
Over wind, fish and animals.
He was the highest authority. The leader.

It never occurred to any of us
not even my teacher
that they would demolish Hukulwe.
that they would demolish Hukulwe.
and build Puerto Brisa.

Developers have dug a trench to drain
the lagoons here

The construction
company says that
building a port here

is necessary for Colombia’s growing mining industry
and will create 5000 new jobs

This is an official map of the area

The site they call Hukulwa
is 12 kilometres to the west of here
There are no indigenous sites here.
It's you who doesn't know.
This is our own place and we are telling you.
Not just today, but for 500 years!
What are you doing here?
I wish we could speak Spanish
so we could explain to the state and others
so we could explain to the state and others
Subtitle out
that this destruction
that this destruction
would cause fierce storms and landslides
would cause fierce storms and landslides
We've come as far as Hukulwe
They say we are not allowed in.
They keep saying there is no site in here
They think they own all of this
Subtitle out
They think they own all of this
Why are we here?
Why are we here?
You can see the scars on the mountain.
These landslides happen
These landslides happen
because of the damage at Hukulwa
The water cycle is changing
The water cycle is changing
The rain now pours
day after day
There used to be seasons
Not anymore.
If you block a person's vein
If you block a person's vein
her blood would not flow.
It is the same for this site.
That's what they've done
by destroying Hukulwa
Well it's a beautiful day
down here on the coast of Colombia and behind me
there's the snow visible on the mountain peaks of the Sierra Nevada. And it seems that the guerrillas have melted away like snowmen. The army is saying that they’ll fly us up
The only problem is this s the third day we’ve been waiting for the army helicopter because the weather has been lousy.
So our schedule’s fallen apart, we’re not at all sure what we’re doing or how we continue. We hope that a helicopter is going to turn up today, it looks very good here but apparently the weather where the helicopter is taking off from isn’t so good. So, we’ll see what happens.

With nothing else to do the Mamas have time for a Caribbean beach party.

Peter and Mamas: Manuel in play tussle with Sale

But they also consult the bubbles

This is the estuary of the Guachaca river

This is the estuary of the Guachaca river

It is one of the sites on the Black Line.

They should not have built here

They should not have built here

That is why their buildings have died

That is why their buildings have died

That is why their buildings have died

They should not have built here

Mamas have restored the forest further up river, but

at the estuaries, professionals are in charge.

PROF. GERMÁN GALVIS, National U. of Colombia

I’ve studied fresh water fish my whole life.

I’ve studied fresh water fish my whole life.

A river is a system

A system that moves.

in only one direction.

The effects are clear from top to bottom

but less clear the other way.

Nothing ever moves upwards

The downward flow has obvious effects

Erosion and deforestation higher up

affect the coastal areas below.

The other way round is not at all evident

You say he is learned. I don’t believe it.

We have studied the mother well.

She shows what must be protected...

This man has learned nothing at all.

You don’t teach each other not to damage

the mother.

You dig. You exploit the earth.

If you knew she can feel, you’d stop.

But you plunder her.

All the estuaries are like this.

You block the lagoons.

How would you feel if someone stuck a cork up your ass?

How would you feel if someone stuck a cork up your ass?

But he hasn’t explained how.

The connection top to bottom is obvious.

The water flows down and carries things

But what takes things back?

If we explain this step by step

they still won’t understand.

they still won’t understand.

The rain that falls in the highlands

has its home down here,

You just see the water coming down the mountain

but first it has to ascend from here.

The home of the rain that falls up there is down here.
Buildings across lagoon

Snow peaks

Manuel

Shibulata on bench

Antanacio under tree

Shibulata on bench

Bird flies past trees

Mountains in distance

Pan with distant helicopter

RV MCU Kogi windblown at wire fence

Helicopter comes in

Francisca windswept by fence

Kogi walk to Helicopter

Loading

Lift off

MAP Flight to

MAP Sezhua

River in high pasture, find Sezhua

L/A MS Mama of Seizua

Distant helicopter

Alan covering ears

Kogi walk to Helicopter

Loading

Lift off

MAP Flight to

MAP Sezhua

River in high pasture, find Sezhua

L/A MS Mama of Seizua

There was a small lake here.

There was a small lake here.

called Haba Nisenumwe

when they built a power station

at the lagoon this river feeds

and changed the course of the river

destroying the site of the Mother of hanio.

This is Sechua

Esuamas connect the mountains with the sea

They connect with the sea

They connect with the sea

and establish how things are.

and establish how things are.

There was a small lake here.

There was a small lake here.

called Haba Nisenumwe

when they built a power station

at the lagoon this river feeds

and changed the course of the river

destroying the site of the Mother of hanio.

This one is dead.

If the other dies, all hanio here will die as well as other plants in the area.

We exchange special food, leaves of hanio

Alan! You don't believe me? Look at this,

When the Mother was washed away it killed this tree.

This is the ancestral tree of hanio.

Only one remains.

This one is dead.

If the other dies, all hanio here will die as well as other plants in the area.

You shake hands

We exchange special food, leaves of hanio

We concentrate our thought by chewing hanio

We are taught

We are taught

how to shape this house.

how to shape this house.

Because we do not have writing

and are not educated in their schools

Younger Brother may not believe what we say

Subtitle out

This is Sechua

Esuamas connect the mountains with the sea

They connect with the sea

They connect with the sea

and establish how things are.

and establish how things are.

There was a small lake here.

There was a small lake here.

called Haba Nisenumwe

when they built a power station

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We concentrate our thought by chewing hanio

We are taught

We are taught

how to shape this house.

how to shape this house.
CU faces
Tilt up from floor into roof
The first ring represents the beach
Then another ring, and another
until the top of the mountain.
Subtitle out
If we destroy a single ring
the whole building weakens.

So why is this place an esuama?
So why is this place an esuama?
This is a place where we can connect
This is a place where we can connect
Subtitle out
From here we can concentrate
an understand where payments are
needed...
All along the coast.
We are told where work is required.
Subtitle out
When it is not possible to go down
When it is not possible to go down
we concentrate here
to make the payment from here.
Subtitle out
Because it is connected.

I was trained as a Mama
I was trained as a Mama
closed in the dark.
In the darkness there are no distractions.
In the darkness there are no distractions.
Thought is concentrated.
Thought is concentrated.
Subtitle out
I was taught to stare at my feet
I was taught to stare at my feet
to concentrate and connect with Aluna
Subtitle out
I was not allowed to look around
or I would lose the thread
I was only allowed to eat certain food
I was only allowed to eat certain food
throughout my training.
I was only allowed to bathe at midnight.
I was only allowed to bathe at midnight.
Subtitle out
I was kept in the darkness
from the age of seven months.
Subtitle out
I stayed inside until I became a man.
I stayed inside until I became a man.
Subtitle out
That is where I learned to work as a Mama
That is where I learned to work as a Mama
To make payments for all the crops
and other things too.

When I came out of the darkness,
the whole world was white.
Subtitle out
I stood there, staring at nature.

I saw everything.
The sun, the trees, the creatures.
It all looked strange.
The sun and everything else looked
strange.
Subtitle out
ALAN: Well this is the third night of our two-day visit to this esuama.

SYNCH: We're not quite sure why we're still here. We needed to move on and to do that we needed mules and the helicopter. Mules to carry food and baggage and a helicopter to carry the camera equipment. We got the mules. We didn't get the helicopter, and we don't know why.

OOV: We have satellite phones but they're not really working. All that we can do is receive text messages.

SYNCH: Why does your phone say it's 17.28? Have you noticed that?

ALAN OOV: And so far we have had two. We believe they come from somewhere in the 21st century but they are a bit mysterious.

That was at 8.30 this morning.

SYNCH: We waited, and we're still waiting. We'll see what happens tomorrow.

When I was a child
when I was a child
all the peaks were covered in snow.

When I was a child
When I was a child
all the peaks were covered in snow.

Everything was white.
Look at it. Just look at it.
Subtitle out

The lakes up here are drying out.
as the lagoons below are drying out.

The water has been sucked away
and now the rivers become dry.

Seven rivers that feed the coast
are born in this place
are born in this place

In this lake. On this peak.
It's the source of all those rivers.
It's the source of all those rivers.
Subtitle out

Last time we were here there was more water
Last time we were here there was more water

It's dying because these plants don't belong here.
It's dying because these plants don't belong here.

There used to be much more water before.

and the water is already dry on the other side.
and the water is already dry on the other side.

Subtitle out

You must understand
that these trees should not be here.
They have been brought here.

The native plants are dying
Shibulata & Francisca, he walks away

**ALAN:** The Kogi say that damage at the bottom of the river mouths affects the system up here. Do you believe this?

**BIBIANA SALAMANCA,** Specialist in Ecosystem Restoration.

**Believe it? It's a fact!** Any damage done up here has an effect all the way down the river and just as they're saying, damage below also affects the top.

The vegetation is changing around this lake. The government has planted trees from other countries; eucalyptus, cypresses around the lagoon. These trees take away the water and complete with the local vegetation. Normally, dense clouds ip here cool the water which runs down the tree trunks and accumulate(s) in the rocks. These rocks act like sponges holding the water, releasing it farther down the mountain.

Rivers are living systems. They constantly communicate with plants and birds they are vital to the spreading of seeds from top to bottom and bottom to top. New studies explain why some species turn up unexpectedly in mountain peaks. For example some fish from the lagoons are associated with migrating birds which carry fish eggs in their wings.

Many countries, Spain for instance, are putting this knowledge into practice by removing canals from rivers on the coast to improve water flow at the top of the mountains.

Alan: It was beginning to fit together. And we'd had a stroke of good luck.

**PROF. ALEX ROGERS** U.of Oxford

This site is the origin of blood. Of all the blood of all the things that exist Plants, animals and fish.
We can see how it is drying out this lagoon.
It is almost dead.
We know how important this site is.
It protects everything we consume.

Here the Mamas are saying that all the water
is being sucked down and it is drying out.

This is happening in many places.
The rivers feed the ocean
When we interrupt that, how will we live?
We will not be able to breathe well nor live well
We agree with him.

I came here, before there was a power station.
There was very little black sand then.
The sand is dirty
The sand is dirty
It has been since they built it.
Look how they’re trying to clean it up for the camera.

We can see how it is drying out this lagoon.
It is almost dead.
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I came here, before there was a power station.
There was very little black sand then.
The sand is dirty
The sand is dirty
It has been since they built it.
Look how they’re trying to clean it up for the camera.
Gold piece on ground

They are buried.

Finding a piece like this takes four, five, six months of work. That's if you're lucky.

Most of the time you dig and all you find is bits of pottery. Gold is hard to find.

But this means a lot to them. Because it's from their ancestors not the people who buy them. But as with everything in life, this is part of our struggle to survive.

Did your ancestors make this? Selling this is like selling a person. Stop doing this!

It's like selling a child to another person.

Tell the Mama we're sorry. Tell the Mama we're sorry.

Subtitle out

It is a macaw. It was found in the place of the macaw. It is a macaw. It was found in the place of the macaw.

There used to be many macaws. Subtitle out

But because of the looting there are almost no macaws now. Subtitle out

The birds are disappearing. I think the macaws are gone because of deforestation. Because of deforestation. They have nowhere left to live.

There's no forest left for food and shelter. I think that's the reason. Not the looting. Subtitle out

Phone

ALAN: Hallo, Jonathan? PROFESSIONAL JONATHAN BAILLIE Zoological Society of London

JONATHAN: Hello, Alan. How are you?

ALAN: OK fine. We've just managed to log on to Skype. (distorted) You can hear us?

JONATHAN SYNCH: Yes we can hear you and please send my greetings from the Zoological Society (OOV) of London

Greetings my little brother.

I want to talk to you about the Fathers of species.

Each species has a special site it's root, which people must protect.

Here on the coast there are many special sites which are the origin, the parents of each species.

Little Brother has destroyed so many,
the species have gone...
When sites are looted the animals leave.
Then they can no longer survive.

Baillie RV looks at Shibulata (SYNCH) We have to better understand connectivity and right now we have a very basic understanding of how things interact and affect each other and I believe that this is essential for our future security to understand these special sites, to ensure that they are conserved.

Baillie side view

Baillie CU

Baillie looks at screen
This will come as a surprise...It certainly comes as a surprise to me and I think will come as a surprise to a lot of people.

OS Kogi with screen
Living with nature you realise that certain species have certain strongholds or certain refuge areas that are central to them, they're telling us something from their experience which we should easily recognise but for some reason we find it very difficult.

OS Kogi with screen (OOV) And I think it's very important to have that message and, and er

OS Kogi with screen (SYNCH) they're the ones that are going to know these particular areas in the forest that will be important for the long-term survival of species. So I think we have much to learn from them.

Dolphins
Kogo walk past Basidas statue on Santa Marta front

CU statue

Kogi walk past seafront vendors

MIX to MAP Haba Sekun/Santa Marta

MAP Haba Sinylgula/Cienaga
The final estauary, the final place to lay the thread. Cienega Grande, the greatest lagoon.

Group with Alex approach water, RV

Dead stumps in lagoon
Closer

Shibulata looking out, describing

Alex listening

Tilt up across lagoon, up dead tree

I think this really illustrates the Kogi concept of threads between different parts of this ecosystem

RV group at water's edge

Stumps in water

More

They walk to cam down scrubland road

View across desolate lagoon

Dead land with rubbish

CU rubbish

More rubbish

They lay thread past rubbish

Dry dead land

Walk to camera in bush

Shibulata & Francisca walk to bush

Shibulata ties off thread

He puts down spool

The start of the thread was the origin of the world.

Remains of lagoon

Carrion birds

Tilt up from spool to Shibulata & Francisca

All walk away
LUKIDDO ARBUAH, PANA PUGALIA, KATE EREIRA: Gold does not decay.

Gold spool
Fade to black

Flashes of light
BCU Francisca in dark
Band of light with gold
Gold pieces against violet
Smaller pieces
Esuamas were dressed in gold
More
Shibulata & Francisca looking down
Large piece silhouette against purple
Many pieces hanging
Cluster of hanging pieces
Gold butterflies
Shibulata & Francisca looking down
BCU Francisca

This was the material bridge to life, vitalising the water
The esauamas are stripped. The water dries out
How will we live?
Trees against sky
ALAN: I thought the journey was over,
But now the Mamas took over the filming, simply saying that without hope all this would be pointless.

RV line walking towards river
HA group descend to water
Doorway of hut
Women inside with babies.
Francisca looking down
Tilt to hands working loose thread
Newborn
Shibulata peering in from door
Toddler in hut
Women with baby & child

Alan being given leaves at riverside
ALAN (SYNCH): I've still got my clothes on! (Laughs)

Women and babies watch
Teach the example of others who have lived well.

Women and babies int.
Teach the example of others who have lived well.

Wide women and babies int.
Teach the example of others who have lived well.

Alan making payment
Alan turns to see women undressing and getting in river
Shibulata undresses and gets in river

Alan (SYNCH): I've still got my clothes on! (Laughs)

Alan topless in river with Shibulata
Shibulata's sugui on mountain top, tilt to face
Freeze
Freeze
Freeze
Freeze
Image shrinks to portrait
Mama Shibulata
Francisca with ice cream, laughs
Freeze
Image shrinks to portrait
His daughter Francisca
Manuel on peak, points
Freeze
Image shrinks to portrait
Mama Manuel
Mama Luntano
Freeze
Image shrinks to portrait
Mama Luntana
1:25:06 Mama Antanacio
1:25:08 Freeze
1:25:09 Image shrinks to portrait
1:25:12 Mama Pedro Juan
1:25:13 Freeze
1:25:14 Image shrinks to portrait
1:25:16 Sale, Manuel, Luis
1:25:17 Manuel removed
1:25:18 Mama Luis
1:25:19 Mama Sale
1:25:22 Split screen, Alan on mule and leading mule
1:25:23 Screen divides
1:25:24 and Alan Ereira
1:25:27 Black
1:25:28 Produced and directed by: Alan Ereira

CREDITS
Produced and directed by: Alan Ereira
Director of Photography: Paulo Perez
Editor: Andrew Philip
Music composed and produced by Alejandro Ramirez Rojas
Executive Producer: Ben Woolford

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Arregoces Coronado Zarabata
Mama Esteban Zarabata
Francisca Zarabata Pinto
Jacinlo Zarabata
Mama Juan Mamacatan Mascoct
Mama Luis Nueva
Mama Luntana Vacuna
Mama Manuel Coronado
Manuela Pinto Zarabata
Mariana Alberto Mascoct
Mama Pedro Juan
Rosenda Zarabata Daza
Mama Sale Zarabata
Saul Gil
Mama José Shibulata Zarabata Sauna
Silvestre Gil Zarabata
Sisa Pinto
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Location Translator Spanish: Falk Xue Parra Witte
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Luis Vaca
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Shane Deasy
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Second Unit Sound:
Saúl Gil

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Molinare

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