

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

July 2, 2013

In Case You Missed It...

Colombia's Kamentzá Featured as Part of Folklife Festival's Showcase of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity



Photo: Parade in Putumayo, Photo Credit: Gobernación de Putumayo; Photo: Rainforest in Putumayo, Photo Credit: Gobernación de Putumayo

The Kamentzá – one of Colombia's many indigenous language communities – is featured as one of five examples of the country's linguistic diversity as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's "One World, Many Voices: Endangered Languages and Cultural Heritage" program, which begins again tomorrow.

Kamentzá Facts

- The Kamentzá primarily live in **Putumayo**, a department (state) in Colombia's southwestern rainforests.
- The **Kamentzá language is often described as unique and isolated because unlike some indigenous languages, it does not belong to another linguistic family.** The language is also endangered as younger generations of Kamentzá are not learning the language from their elders.
- Some members of the Kamentzá community are working to preserve the language through poetry, storytelling, handicrafts and other traditions. **Hugo Jesús Jamiroy Juagibioy, a Kamentzá poet and storyteller, is participating in the Festival and sharing these cultural expressions with festivalgoers.**

The Festival's hours are 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3 – Sunday, July 7. The Colombia tent is close to the Smithsonian Metro station (Mall exit).

For information on Colombia's participation, click [here](#). For general information and a schedule of Festival events, click [here](#).

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