



## THE WIND AND THE WATER



Vero Bollow  
2009  
Ibero-American Competition  
100 Min.  
Panama  
Kuna/Spanish with English subtitles

The glitter of Panama City collides with the rays of island sun as beautiful young Rosy meets Machi in this coming of age romance between cultures. But when the stakes of a transitional deal rock Panama's pristine shores, this unlikely pair must wind their way from catwalks and crystalline waters to backloads and urban undergrounds, only to realize they may be in deeper than they could ever imagine. This is a true gem from Panama, written by the indigenous people of the Igar Yala Collective and director Vero Bollow.

### ***BASIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

- Do you know the meaning of the word "indigenous"?
- Have you ever heard the phrase "first nation" and what does it mean to you?
- Had you heard about Kuna Yala before viewing the film?
- What do you think the film is trying to say?
- What other message did you find in the film?
- Do you think it is okay to displace people in the interest of commerce and progress?



## **DEEPER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Do you feel it is important to understand your cultural roots?
- Have you ever been ashamed of your cultural background?
- Do you think it is important to preserve undeveloped land and prohibit building and development?

## ***FURTHER RESEARCH FOR DISCUSSION***

When the Spaniards arrived, the Kuna lived primarily near the Gulf of Urabá in what is today Colombia. Contact with the Spanish, which began in the 1600s was violent, and trade was limited. Fleeing from the Spaniards, the Kuna traveled up the Jungle Rivers and settled in the Darién region of what is now Panama. As early as the mid-1800s, entire Kuna villages started to relocate gradually to the sandy islands near the mouth of freshwater rivers. Moving to the islands gave the Kuna easier access to trade vessels plying coastal routes and freedom from disease-carrying insects.

When Panama became an independent nation in 1903, the new government attempted to impose by force a “national culture” on the Kuna. In 1925 the Kuna staged a rebellion (La Revolución Tule, or the Kuna Revolution), and with the backing of United States government were able to negotiate a semi-autonomous status for their region. In 1938 the region was officially recognized as a Kuna reserve, and their new constitution, known as *la carta organica de San Blas*, was approved in 1945. Legal cognition of San Blas as a territory collectively owned by the Kuna people had implications of the economic organization of the region, the *carta organica* prohibited non-Kuna from purchasing, renting, or otherwise using land within Kuna territory. This law has been used by the Kuna to ensure that all enterprise within the San Blas region is owned and operated by Kuna rather than by outsiders. A subsequent law (Ley 16), passed by the Panamanian government in 1953, further delineated the reserve’s boundaries, as well as political and economic relationships between San Blas and the rest of Panama continue to be the subject of negotiations.

For more information about the Kuna Yala and San Blas visit the following websites:

<http://www.fotw.us/flags/pa-nat.html>

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/bsp/publications/aam/panama/panama.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/kuna\\_\(people\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/kuna_(people))



## **STANDARDS**

Main standards covered include Florida State K9-12: **Language Arts, Geography, Science, World Issues, Current Events**

## **The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation**



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