



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

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— INSTITUTO —

JURUÁ

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INSTITUTO JURUÁ

## PRESENTATION

This month's edition brings health as its main theme. We interviewed the physician Katherine Silvestre, who worked in the Médio Juruá communities. Rodrigo Carmino brings us a health overview in the Roque Community and we have great news about the opening of telehealth centers in the region. Also, an Educommunication course was offered to the social organizations of Médio Juruá this month, and Raqueline Nery introduced us to the Fundo de Repartição de Benefícios do Médio Juruá. Check out Marcio Ayre's moving profile, in the form of a letter, and written by the Amazon itself, and the opinion column by Renato Rocha.

## NEWS

### Telehealth Stations in Carauari

By Tuila Tachikawa

In April, five telehealth stations were installed in Carauari (AM) to serve the rural communities of the municipality. The proposal is the result of an initiative by Fundação Amazônia Sustentável (FAS) and is financed by JBS company. At first, presentations about the telehealth program were elaborated by FAS and JBS. The associations created lectures to explain how the project works and the benefits it could bring, and with the approval of the families from the conservation units, the project came out of the paper and became a reality in the communities. The locations with service stations are: São Raimundo, Nova Esperança, Vila Ramalho, Bom Jesus and Xibauá. Each of them also serves other nearby communities, including communities from the Reserva Extrativista do Médio Juruá and the Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Uacari.

The appointments are weekly: on Tuesdays for psychological care, on Wednesdays for consultations with the nursing staff and on Thursdays for medical appointments. However, in case of an emergency, the patient can go to the nearest telehealth station and the manager of each center will contact the professionals in the requested area for immediate assistance. It is worth noting that if there is more than one patient to be seen without previously scheduled time, the service takes place in order of arrival.



Maria Cunha, manager of the station and resident of the São Raimundo community, says that the program was received with great enthusiasm by the communities. This is due to the fact that, before the program, going to the city for medical care was a constant difficulty and, many times, consultations with health professionals were prevented for this reason.

Telehealth station. Photo: Maria Cunha



Medical care. Photo: Maria Cunha



Telehealth station. Photo: Maria Cunha



To emphasize the importance of the project, Maria recalls the day when a pregnant resident sought medical care at the telehealth station due to a bleeding, the doctor took her to the “ambulancha” – boat ambulance – for a face-to-face consultation in the Carauari city, where the patient unfortunately lost her baby, but received care and was able to recover and survive the event.

The manager also highlights the fact that consultations with psychologists, for example, were not common among community members, mostly due to lack of accessibility to these doctors. However, after the service stations were set up, these professionals became recurrently required. Because of this and other cases, both the program members and users of the program look positively on the period in which the project has been active until now and hope that its continuity will bring to all communities an increase in the quality of life and greater access to health systems.

## **Training in Educommunication is held in the Médio Juruá in partnership with Embrapa**

By Clara Machado

Between the months of June and July, the course “Socio- Environmental Educommunication Practices Applied to the Promotion of Sustainable Development in Amazonia” was offered remotely by Embrapa Amazônia Ocidental and Embrapa Rondônia, in partnership with Instituto Juruá. The course was structured into four modules, via Google Meet, about different tools of educommunication with the objective of helping the communicators of the associations of Médio Juruá to produce information and divulge their activities, projects and dreams.

The course included training activities on content production for social networks, audio and audiovisual narratives, mediated by communicators from Embrapa and from Instituto Juruá. Despite the difficulties imposed by social isolation and internet connection, there was a great adhesion from the participants. Nine different local associations from the Médio Juruá attended the course, which had about thirty students in total. Participants gathered at connection hubs located in the communities of Roque, São Raimundo, Bauana, Nova Esperança and in Carauari.



Educommunication course.

Follow the organizations on social media to stay on top of their future productions.  
Associação de Mulheres Agroextrativistas do Médio Juruá: @asmamj.mulheres  
Cooperativa Mista de Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Economia Solidária do Médio Juruá: @codaemj  
Casa Familiar Rural: @casa\_familiar\_rural\_carauari  
Associação dos Moradores Agroextrativista de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Uacari: @associacao.amaru  
Fundo de Repartição de Benefícios do Médio Juruá: @fundomediojurua  
Associação dos Produtores Rurais de Carauari: @asprocmediojurua

## PROFILE

**From: Amazonia**  
**To: Márcio Ayres**

By Tuila Tachikawa

Hello Márcio, Brazilian biologist and naturalist, a very important figure when it comes to conservation, even more so when conservation also includes looking after the other. The care towards the communities, the traditions, the stories, towards me.

I would like to recall a little about your trajectory: passionate about primates, you did your master's degree with emphasis on primatology at Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), and your doctorate, on the white Uacaris and on my flooded forest, at Cambridge University.

During your doctorate, you searched through my vast territories, a region that was scarcely inhabited. You wanted to observe, as reliably as possible, the behaviour of my Uacaris. I shelter several species of this genus of a primate in my branches, and I wanted to tell you that one of them was named after you! It is a species of black uacari, identified in 2008 and named Cacajao Ayresi. Did you see your last name there?



Photo: Reproduction/Green Bold

So, Márcio, I think you can see how important you are to us, and how much your passage on Earth means to me. For having studied my meadows so much, you went beyond and above. Concerned about illegal deforestation and intense fishing, you played a key role in the creation of the Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável of Mamirauá and of the Amanã, which are not only conservation models, but also projects that combine the protection of biodiversity with the social concerns of the communities that live there.

Always thinking about this union, you once said “Poverty alleviation in the Amazon can only be done if we decrease migration from the rural zone to large cities. To keep the population in the rural zones, in addition to providing school, health and medical infrastructure, we need to manage the resources in a sustainable way, with solid scientific bases.” More than that, you also participated in the creation of the Instituto de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá (IDSM), which built one of the most revolutionary projects in terms of conservation in my territory: community-based management of pirarucu!

Always ahead of your time, you already knew that the relationship between humans and nature would not be supported by a predatory model. Today we live in a pandemic, governments usurp me, banks “invest” in me and my territory is often seen as a bargaining chip. Cattle tramp and compact my land and my people fight for the right to live and to exist.

But what warms my heart, Márcio, is knowing that just like you, and maybe even because of you, many understand my meaning, understand my vastness and fight for my existence. Thank you very much, José Márcio Corrêa Ayres, may your memory always reside in me, in us.



Márcio Ayres sailing. Foto: Luiz Cláudio Marigo

## ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MID JURUÁ

### Get to know the Fundo de Repartição de Benefícios do Médio Juruá

By Raqueline Nery

The Fundo de Repartição de Benefícios do Médio Juruá (FRBMJ) has been active in the Médio Juruá region since 2013 indirectly through financial donations via Social and Environmental Projects, implemented by institutions in the region, and only in 2017 was formally created in accordance with the Law of Biodiversity, the law 13.123 of May 20, 2015, based on the commercial relationship between the company Natura and Community-Based Organizations of the Médio Juruá. In this collective arrangement, all community organizations access FRBMJ resources. The FRBMJ steering committee is formed by five organizations, three of which are community-based: Associação dos Produtores Rurais de Carauari (ASPROC), Associação dos Moradores Agroextrativista de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Uacari (AMARU) e Cooperativa Mista de Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Economia Solidária do Médio Juruá (CODAEMJ) in addition to Natura and ICMBio, and is supported by the fund's executive secretariat. The FRBMJ aims to finance projects with a socio-environmental, community, organizational, productive focus and other activities that aim the sustainable development in the RDS Uacari, RESEX do Médio Juruá, Terra Índigena Deni and in the surrounding areas, with projects implemented by the proposing organizations covered in the notices.

Raqueline Nery is 33 years old and has been an Environmental Manager for nine years, graduated in the Universidade do Estado do Amazonas (UEA), she has been working in social movements since 2009, when she joined the Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros (CNS) as a volunteer, and worked in community-based organizations, such as : Associação dos Produtores Rurais de Carauari (ASPROC); Associação dos Moradores Agroextrativistas da RDS Uacari (AMARU); Associação das Mulheres Agroextrativistas do Médio Juruá (ASMAMJ);

Cooperativa Mista de Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Economia Solidária da Resex do Médio Juruá (CODAEMJ) and currently works as an Executive Analyst for the Fundo de Repartição de Benefícios do Médio Juruá (FRBMJ)



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## OPINION COLUMNS

### Songs that cannot be silenced

By Renato Rocha

In August 1979, the Porantim newspaper, published by the Indigenous Missionary Council, printed in one of its pages a list of 85 names of indigenous people of the Deni ethnic group who had died as a result of an outbreak of tuberculosis that was devastating the villages of the Xeruã river, an affluent of the Juruá River. Due to its gravity, the news reached national repercussion, still what happened was not enough to alert public authorities about the ongoing genocide. According to Egon Dionísio, the missionary responsible for the complaint, FUNAI even sent a doctor to the Deni Villages, who diagnosed some “perebas” and distributed vitamins for the indigenous.

Without a doubt, this was not the first time that the indigenous people of the Médio Juruá have been faced with a serious epidemiological outbreak. Unfortunately, it would not be the last either. Years later, in 1992, the Deni and Majiha Kulina people would be in the news again, but this time due to an outbreak of measles that resulted in the death of 67 people (PEZZUTI, 2009). According to an article by José Rocha, published in march of that year in the Manauara newspaper A Crítica, “the alarming number of deaths from measles highlights at least two problems faced by the indigenous people from the Amazon: the violation of land rights and the state of neglect with the lack of health care”. The journalist showed a reality currently ignored by the Brazilian government: the intimate relationship between the well-being of the indigenous people and the guarantee of the original right to the land.

Recently, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB) achieved a historic victory in the Federal Supreme Court (STF), through ADPF 709<sup>1</sup>, which denounced racist acts practiced by the Union against indigenous people, such as FUNAI’s omission to the constant invasions of indigenous territories and SESAI’s refusal to assist indigenous people residing in an urban context or on indigenous lands that had not been ratified. The decision of STF was favorable to the indigenous movement, by determining, among other things, the creation of sanitary barriers in indigenous lands and the priority application of COVID-19 vaccines to the entire indigenous population of Brazil, regardless of the legal status of their territories or location of their residences.

This decision ensured that the indigenous people of the Middle Juruá, who do not yet have their traditional territories recognized by the Union, could also be vaccinated. In the Middle Juruá, the Kanamari and Majiha Kulina ethnic groups are still waiting for the demarcation of their lands. Even though the horizons are cloudy, these people are joining the national indigenous mobilization in the historic struggle for the original right to their land.

In June of this year, hundreds of indigenous people, representing about 45 ethnic groups, gathered in Brasilia in the “Levante pela Terra”(Rising for the Land). The mobilization sought to mark the people’s opposition to the approval by the Comissão de Constituição e Justiça (CCJ) of Bill 490/2007. Flagrantly unconstitutional, the Bill 490 represents a serious setback in the rights of native indigenous people by allowing the opening of indigenous lands to predatory economic activities, injuring these people’s right to the exclusive use of their territories. Bill 490 also promotes an offensive against isolated indigenous people, and adopts the thesis of a temporal framework and procedures that would make the demarcation of indigenous lands inviable.

During the CCJ session that tragically approved Bill 490, indigenous deputy Joênia Wapishana was prevented from speaking precisely when she was denouncing the absence of hearing of the indigenous people, provided by OIT Convention 169, which guarantees traditional communities the right to free, prior and informed consultation before any administrative or legislative measures that may affect them.

By deciding not to die, the indigenous people refuse to remain silent and are already organizing new mobilizations to resist PL 490 and so many other ongoing offensives in the National Congress. In the Middle Juruá, attentive to national mobilizations, the Deni, Kanamari and Majiha Kulina people, sustain the struggle for their original rights. They protect their lands, feed their children, dance and sing their stories, certain that this genocide, already denounced in 1979 and experienced throughout their history, will come to an end.

Renato Rocha is an indigenist for Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN) and an activist for the defense of human rights. He has been working in the mid-Juruá region since 2015.



<sup>1</sup>Arguição de Descumprimento de Preceito Fundamental (ADPF) 709, available at: <http://www.stf.jus.br/arquivo/cms/noticiaNoticiaStf/anexo/adpf709.pdf>



## Health in the Roque Community

By Rodrigo Carmino

When it comes to health, we're directly discussing life – human lives or animal lives, both are extremely important. The Roque Community has approximately 700 people: men, women, elderly, youngsters and children who are hostages of a single health center and an agent who works there, all at the mercy of the disregard of the Department of Health of the Carauari Municipality, which has treated these residents' lives in a banal way.

With the decrease in water levels, mosquitoes that transmit malaria begin to appear, drastically increasing the number of sick people in the municipality. The health center does not have medicine for the treatment of malaria, nor staff trained to carry out the examination within the community, thus making the treatment more difficult as the disease worsens.

Some residents were asked about health within the community and many reported their indignation towards government officials regarding their negligence towards the citizens' lives. Community leaders have already requested the health department to provide agents who work at the Amazonas Health Surveillance Foundation (FVS) with medicines; however, so far, there is still no response.

Others emphasized that health is not merely physical or mental, but also the garbage that is thrown on the streets, streams, rivers and even inside our homes. It's up to each of us to know how to manage our own waste and avoid still water. And many also mentioned COVID-19 and emphasized the importance of keeping hands always sanitized and always wearing masks out of respect and consideration for your own life and others' lives. They also mentioned that COVID-19 has been destroying families, raising questions and making us understand the importance of the touch of our loved ones.

Rodrigo de Souza Carmino is 24 years old and lives in the Roque Community, in the municipality of Carauari (AM). He is a pedagogy student and dreams of a fairer and more egalitarian world.



## EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRTS

How about wearing a shirt of the Amazon biodiversity and still contribute to the conservation activities and research in the Middle Juruá? The Instituto Juruá launched exclusive T-shirts illustrated with participants of the aquatic megafauna of the Amazon!



The t-shirts, in 100% organic cotton, of our beloved Pirarucu and the beautiful Amazon Turtle are already available! The exclusive illustrations are by artist Gui Cavalcanti. To guarantee yours, access our partner online store [Natureza e Arte Ecocamisetas](#).





### IJ RECOMMENDS

**MARTÍRIO, VINCENT CARELLI'S DOCUMENTARY THAT ADDRESSES THE INDIGENOUS STRUGGLE IN BRAZIL.**



**ECOFALANTE PLAY, FREE STREAMING PLATFORM WITH MOVIES THAT PROMPT REFLECTING AND DEBATING SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.**

**SÍTIO PANC, DR. VALDELY KINUPP'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON UNCONVENTIONAL FOOD PLANTS**

