

NEWSLETTER

YNUARÍ- TAPICHE CORRIDOR

MARCH 2025



HIGHLIGHTS

FUNAI reactivates council aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples

The National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) has reactivated the Policy Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples (CPIIRC).

Angela Kaxuyana pointed out the need not only to reactivate the Council, but also to reformulate it in order to increase indigenous participation. She was one of those sworn in as a full member of the CPIIRC, representing APIB.

The council's objectives include proposing strategies for the protection of territories occupied by isolated indigenous peoples, supporting the formulation

of guidelines for the promotion of the rights of recently contacted indigenous peoples and proposing the updating of legislation and legal frameworks, as well as suggesting guidelines and norms for the strengthening of the policy for the protection and promotion of the rights of isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples.

CTI occupies one of the seats allocated to indigenous civil society organizations, represented by Maria Auxiliadora Cruz de Sá Leão. CTI's participation in the council reinforces the contribution of Brazilian civil society, which works to protect the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, defending strategies to protect isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples.

[Read more in FUNAI's coverage](#)



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In historic visit, FUNAI and UNIVAJA advance cooperation to strengthen protection of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land

On February 26, FUNAI signed a Protocol of Intentions with the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (UNIVAJA). The act took place during the Meeting of Leaders of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land (TI), in the Txëxë Wassá Village, of the Matis people. The aim of the protocol is to improve the work of FUNAI and UNIVAJA and strengthen the protection of the territory. With its environmental and cultural wealth, the Javari Valley, located in the state of Amazonas, is home to the largest confirmed concentration of indigenous groups in a situation of voluntary isolation in the world, which reinforces the need to protect the area.

The signing of this protocol between the indigenous movement of the TI Javari Valley and FUNAI (the government agency responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in Brazil) is a further reinforcement of the efforts to guarantee the rights of the isolated indigenous peoples of the Brazilian part of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, an area that corresponds to just over half of the corridor's total area.

[Read Funai's news](#)

PERU — Ministry of Culture suspends process to recognize Yavarí-Mirim indigenous reserve

In Peru, the Ministry of Culture has decided to suspend the sessions of the commission set up to classify and officially recognize the Yavarí-Mirim Indigenous Reserve, a territory located on the border with Brazil which, twenty years ago, was requested from the Peruvian state by the indigenous organizations Orpio and Aidesep to become a refuge for the Matsés, Isconahua and Marubo peoples, considered Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI).

The Yavarí-Mirim reserve is the last area not yet delimited within the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor and the long wait for its recognition puts at risk the protection of the isolated indigenous peoples who share territories in Brazil and Peru.

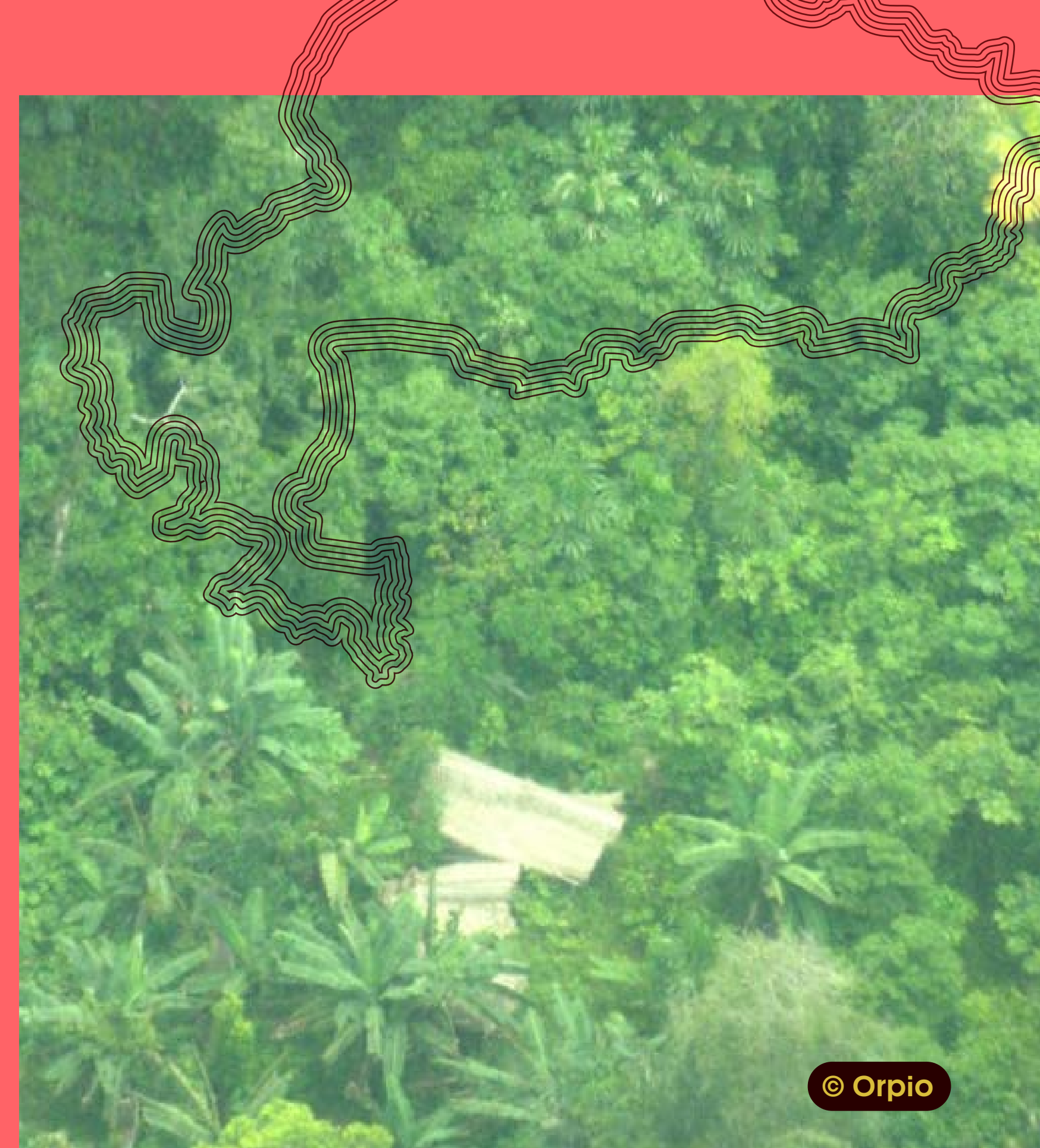
[Read more in the Epicentro TV report](#)

PERU — The Ministry of Culture is about to leave Peru with one less sanctuary: Yavarí-Mirim goes backwards after 20 years of waiting

The Yavarí-Mirim Indigenous Reserve is located on the border between Peru and Brazil, in the Loreto region, and its categorization is essential to prevent the invasion of extractive activities and guarantee the survival of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

The lack of action by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture and the opposition of other important sectors of the Peruvian state interested in exploiting the hydrocarbon and logging potential of the area have created a scenario of uncertainty, leaving the recognition of the area at serious risk and potentially leading to invasion and illegal activities in this important part of the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

[Read the Infobae article](#)



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PERU — ORPIO and the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Platform are fighting for the creation of the Yavari-Mirim Indigenous Reserve

In February, the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Platform and Orpio held an important advocacy day in Lima to speed up the process of categorizing the Yavari-Mirim Indigenous Reserve. The agenda included meetings with the Peruvian Ministry of Culture and congressmen who committed themselves to efforts to speed up the process of creating the Yavari-Mirim Indigenous Reserve.

[Find out more on the ORPIO website](#)

Funai and Univaja discuss joint actions for the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land

The president of FUNAI, Joenia Wapichana, received representatives from UNIVAJA in Brasilia to discuss the drafting of a Cooperation Agreement. The aim of the instrument is to improve the work of FUNAI and the indigenous organization in order to strengthen the protection of the *Vale do Javari* Indigenous Land.

Located in the state of Amazonas, the territory is home to the largest concentration of indigenous peoples in isolation in the world, which increases the need to protect the area, and represents a significant part of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

[Read Funai's news](#)

Death of Korubo children discredit indigenous health in the Javari Valley

In a span of just three months, two Korubo indigenous children (one of the three recent contact groups located in the region covered by the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor) died of preventable causes, such as diarrhea and flu, in the Javari Valley, in western Amazonas. One of the deceased children was part of the group contacted by FUNAI six years ago, in 2019. In the last two years, outbreaks of flu-like syndromes have plagued the recently contacted ethnic group. The Korubo are made up of a population of only 150 people, so the death of these two children has an impact on the physical and cultural reproduction of this people.



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The sequence of illnesses calls into question health care in the *Javari*, the second largest indigenous land in the country, and it worries the National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) and the Federal Prosecution Service (MPF), which have requested urgent measures from the Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (SESAI), linked to the Ministry of Health. The situation demonstrates the vulnerability of health care for isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor region.

[Read the story on the Agência Pública website](#)

FUNAI gains police power to protect indigenous lands

From now on, FUNAI agents can arrest people who threaten indigenous rights. In practice, this allows them to arrest and prosecute gold miners, land grabbers and other groups that operate illegally on indigenous lands.

The institution will also be able to request cooperation from public security bodies, especially the Federal Police and the Armed Forces, to protect the communities. The decree complies with a determination by the Supreme Court and a demand by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. The regulation of FUNAI's police powers was a long-standing demand of the agency's employees. The issue returned to the debate after the murder of indigenist Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips in the *Vale do Javari* Indigenous Land, in Amazonas, in 2022.

[Check it out on TV Cultura](#)



Government listen Supreme Court and indigenous people and regulates FUNAI's police powers

The decree was issued by the Supreme Court, in response to a demand from the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. Although the 1967 law that created FUNAI provided for police powers for its agents, this was never actually put into practice. This is because the text was vague about the situations in which this could occur.

[Read on UOL](#)



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NEWS FROM THE BORDER

Bruno and Dom: MPF appeals to bring the accused to the dock

The Federal Prosecution Service (MPF) has appealed to the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) to annul the decision that benefited one of the three defendants accused of the murder of indigenist Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips, in the *Vale do Javari* Indigenous Land, in Amazonas, in 2022.

The appeal seeks to bring fisherman Oseney da Costa de Oliveira to trial before a jury. In September last year, the Federal Regional Court of the 1st Region (TRF1), based in Brasília, accepted the defense's appeal and ruled that there was no evidence of Oseney's participation in the murders. On the day of the murder, he gave Amarildo, his brother and perpetrator in the murder, a ride in a canoe.

[Read the article in Carta Capital](#) 

PEOPLES IN ISOLATION ON THE AGENDA

New platform monitors threats and pressures on isolated indigenous peoples

The tool shows that all the territories in which the 28 peoples whose existence has already been confirmed by the federal government live suffer some kind of invasion carried out by various criminals, such as loggers, miners, fishermen, land grabbers and even drug traffickers.

In addition to the 28 known peoples, there are other 26 references being studied in the country and 60 pieces of information being qualified, for a total of 114 records. Among the activities considered to be threats to the isolated, the database included the actions of evangelical missionary groups who seek to contact the isolated in defiance of government agencies and against the indigenist policy. The analysis of the overlapping threats shown on the platform underline the vulnerable situation of many isolated indigenous peoples' territories.

[Read the article from Agência Pública](#) 

Film about isolated indigenous people has been banned for eight months

FUNAI has ordered the suspension of the documentary *The Invention of the Other*, which tells of an expedition led by indigenist Bruno Pereira. The film premiered in November 2022 at the Brasilia Film Festival and won awards for best film, photography, editing and sound editing. It also competed at the Belgian Docville festival and won the award for best international documentary. The film's commercial premiere was scheduled for May 23, 2024. On the same day, FUNAI filed a lawsuit demanding its immediate suspension. The foundation wants the director to show the film to the Korubo who have recently been in contact and to obtain their authorization to broadcast the images, respecting their right to consultation.

The documentary records a contact expedition between FUNAI and the already contacted Korubo with an isolated Korubo group within the area of the Yavari-Tapiche

Territorial Corridor, due to the serious risk of extermination as a result of conflicts with other people in the region. This situation led FUNAI to decide for contact, which only occurs when their survival is at imminent risk, otherwise the policy is to respect the self-determination of isolated indigenous peoples, protecting their territories and respecting their wish not to be contacted.

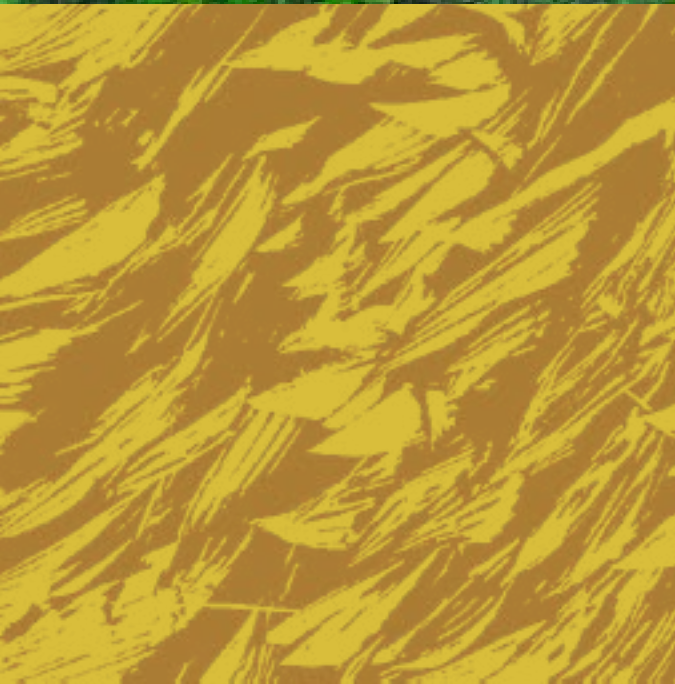
The documentary was praised by critics and is part of a lineage of documentaries called "contact films", considered by many to be a fetish of the Western imagination for recording first contact with an indigenous people. For many indigenists, it is a fundamental historical record and an important weapon for drawing society's attention to the struggle to guarantee the rights of these peoples and in the fight against misinformation about indigenous peoples as a whole.

[Read the article in Piauí magazine](#)

FUNAI issues decree interdicting the Mashco Indigenous Land of the Chandless River in Acre

Located in the municipalities of Santa Rosa do Purus, Manoel Urbano and Sena Madureira, the area has an approximate perimeter of 421 kilometers, occupying 538,000 hectares. The restriction of use guarantees the protection of the Mashco Piro indigenous people, considered to be the most numerous group in isolation in the world, who live in the border region between Brazil and Peru, with an estimated population in both countries of 800 people. Their territory on the Peruvian side has historically been invaded by loggers.

[Find out more on the OPI website](#)



FUNAI creates Technical Group to improve policies for monitoring and protecting isolated indigenous people

The National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) has published an ordinance setting up the Technical Group for Locating Isolated Indigenous Peoples (GTLII). The aim is to improve the implementation of the policy for locating, monitoring and protecting isolated peoples.

The GTLII was permanently set up to advise the General Coordination of Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples (CGIIRC), under the Territorial Protection Directorate (DPT).

Among GTLII's competencies are the technical analysis of information contained in the records of isolated indigenous peoples; the analysis of field reports prepared by the Ethno-Environmental Protection Fronts; and the issuing of technical

opinions and analyses to support decision-making related to the policy of protection and location of these peoples.

Of the sixteen official records of the presence of isolated indigenous peoples recognized by FUNAI within the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, nine are considered confirmed, with six records considered to be references under study or as qualifying information. The creation of this group could speed up FUNAI's process of verifying these unconfirmed references, as in the case of the reference located within the Serra do Divisor National Park, for which there is almost no information on its situation, allowing FUNAI to develop more qualified protection actions for these peoples.

[Read more in Funai's news release](#)



New images show that Brazil's isolated peoples continue to live in the face of threats

Under the Brazilian government's policy of non-intervention, the population of indigenous people in voluntary isolation is increasing, as has been recorded by the monitoring carried out since the early 1990s by FUNAI with the isolated indigenous people of the Massaco Indigenous Land in Rondônia, the first territory in Brazil protected exclusively for isolated populations. But the risk of catastrophic contact is also growing.

Other isolated peoples with sufficiently large and effectively protected forests reflect the same population growth as the Massaco indigenous land. In an expedition carried out in July in the Rio Pardo Kawahiva territory, in the neighboring state of Mato Grosso, FUNAI experts found evidence of an isolated people who, according to them, have doubled in size in 25 years.

A 2023 report in the scientific journal Nature analyzed satellite images showing that isolated peoples in the state of Acre, in western

Brazil, expanded their plantations by 17% each year between 2015 and 2022. The same study recorded the growth of the Moxihatëtëa, a subgroup of the Yanomami people, in the north of the Amazon. Similar growth was observed in the Javari Valley, an important area of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, following its demarcation as indigenous land in 2001.

The good news of the growth of isolated indigenous peoples alerts us to the imminent risk of contact, not only because it could lead to the need for more land, but also because of climate change.

[Read in The Guardian](#)



***Fantástico* shows the threat to isolated indigenous people who have no demarcated land**

A team from *Fantástico*, a widely watched Sunday program on Brazilian television, accompanied a FUNAI expedition for 21 days to monitor and protect the isolated indigenous people of the Kawahiva do Rio Pardo Indigenous Land, in the Mato Grosso region.

Estimated by FUNAI to have a population of between 40 and 50 people, this Indigenous Land was declared by the Brazilian state in 2016, but has not yet been demarcated by FUNAI and faces the threat of illegal mining and deforestation. Rare images of the isolated Kawahiva of the Rio Pardo, captured with camera traps placed by FUNAI, are shown at the end of the report.

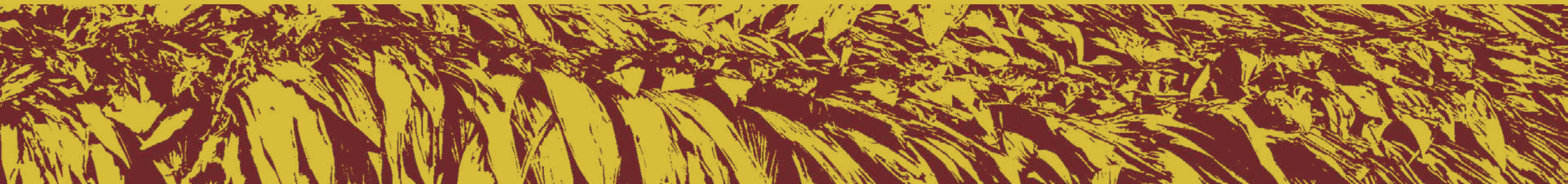
[See the full story on Globoplay](#)

Isolated indigenous man makes contact with riverside dwellers in southern Amazonas

This young indigenous man is part of the group of “Isolated People of Mamoriá Grande”, between the municipalities of Pauini and Labrea, in the south of the state of Amazonas. He was taken to a FUNAI base, where he underwent a health assessment.

A team from the Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (SESAI) provided health care and carried out a health blockade in the community where the contact took place. Since 2021, FUNAI has been reporting the existence of an isolated people in the region without any measures being taken by the agency, then under the control of Jair Bolsonaro’s government, despite pressure from indigenous organizations. It was only in December 2024 that FUNAI published a decree restricting the use of this people’s territory, with indigenous organizations demanding that FUNAI demarcate it as an Indigenous Land. Their area is heavily pressured by invasions for timber harvesting, hunting and illegal fishing.

[Read more in the Amazônia Real article](#)



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