

NEWSLETTER

# YNUARÍ- TAPICHE CORRIDOR

MAY 2025



## CTI in action

### Pixi Kata Matis, Brazilian indigenous filmmaker: 'Our future is to live between two worlds'


AFP Paris — Equipped with small cameras, the indigenous Pixi Kata Matis and Damba Matis record everything during their stay in Paris, their first time outside Brazil.

They were born in the huge and isolated Javari Valley, in the middle of the Amazon, where they learned to film their community because the future "is to live between two worlds".

The Javari Valley is one of the most diverse indigenous regions on the planet, home to peoples who live in voluntary isolation on the border between Brazil, Peru and Colombia.







With the support of the Centro de Trabalho Indigenista (CTI) of Brazil, Pixi (31) and Damba (25) learned to film with digital cameras, together with other members of their community.

The result of this process was “Matses Muxan Akadakit”, a 1h32min documentary that can be seen on YouTube, which intimately describes one of the community’s great rituals: the tattooing of young people’s faces.

The Matis filmmakers are currently producing new material on their people’s vision of the isolated indigenous peoples with whom they share territories and on their own questions about life as “isolated” indigenous peoples, a situation that the Matis experienced until the 1980s, bringing indigenous questions and visions to the situation of many isolated peoples in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

**Check out the AFP article on the Globo website**



## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Ticuna and Yagua communities demand the categorization of the Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve**

The Federation of Ticuna and Yagua Indigenous Communities, which represents 17 indigenous communities, and the grassroots federation of the *Organización Regional de Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente* (Orpio), the leading indigenous organization promoting the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor on the Peruvian side, gathered on April 27 in the “9 de Octubre” Native Community, in an informative activity about the Corridor to reaffirm their commitment to defending indigenous peoples in situations of isolation and initial contact (PIACI). During the meeting, the communities expressed support for the creation of the Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve and warned of the growing threats they face from illegal activities and criminal organizations on the Peru-Brazil border.

The Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve, with an initial requested area of 1.4 million hectares, is the last area with the presence of isolated groups within the Yavarí Tapiche Territorial Corridor not recognized by the Peruvian government.

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





## **Matses people promote Network with Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Indigenous Communicators**

From March 23 to 26, an exchange proposed by Orpio took place between the Maijuna and Matsés peoples in Peru, with the aim of starting their experience as part of the Network of Indigenous Communicators of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor. Orpio promoted this process as a strategy for defending the corridor.

The aim of the exchange, which took place in the territory of the Sucusari Indigenous Community, the base of the Federation of Maijuna Indigenous Communities, was for the Matsés people to learn about the Maijuna's experience in building their Network of Indigenous Communicators and, from this, to reflect on the possibility of carrying out their own process. For four days, the Maijuna shared how they used communication to strengthen their cultural identity, recover ancestral knowledge and turn it into tools for territorial demands, contributing to the protection of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

[Read more on the Orpio website](#) 

## **Indigenous people from the Peru-Brazil border go to Brasilia to stop works that threaten the region**

Between April 3 and 8, members of the Ashaninka, Yawanawá and 12 other indigenous peoples from Peru and Brazil visited ministries, embassies and organizations in Brasilia in search of support to stop, once and for all, the proposal to build two highways that cross territories of both countries in Amazon region. The group represents 11 Indigenous Lands in Brazil and 10



Native Communities in Peru that make up the Upper Juruá/Yuruá/Alto Tamaya Cross-Border Commission, an articulation formed by a network of indigenous and non-indigenous communities and organizations located in the border region between Brazil and Peru.

One of these roads connects the city of Cruzeiro do Sul, in Acre, with the city of Pucallpa, in the Ucayali region of Peru. Its planned route will cross the *Serra do Divisor* National Park in Brazil, a conservation unit with records of the presence of isolated indigenous people and which forms the southern part of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor. This project has been suspended since 2023 by a court decision.

The other is the road known as the UC-105, located on the Peruvian side of the border and which, even without authorization, is being expanded illegally, with the aim of connecting the towns of Nueva Italia and Puerto Breu.

The communities express concern about the construction of roads due to environmental impacts, increased illegal exploitation of resources and deforestation, as well as the growth of activities linked to drug trafficking and the associated violence in a region increasingly dominated by criminal factions.

**Read it in Folha de São Paulo** 







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## **Operation against illegal mining launched in areas of isolated indigenous peoples**

Between April 24 and May 1, the Brazilian Federal Police, Ibama and Funai's *Vale do Javari* Ethno-Environmental Protection Front carried out Operation Nidaid Isquim, on the Jandiatuba River and adjacent areas, within the Javari Valley, a region located in the far west of Amazonas, as part of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, with a focus on combating illegal mining, which threatens isolated indigenous communities, riverside communities and unique ecosystems in the Amazon.

During the first days of the operation, 16 dredges and mining machinery were destroyed. The Federal Police also took steps to gather intelligence information, which will support future actions aimed at identifying the leaders and financiers of the illegal activity, as well as their connections to organized crime.

**Read more on the Government News Agency website**



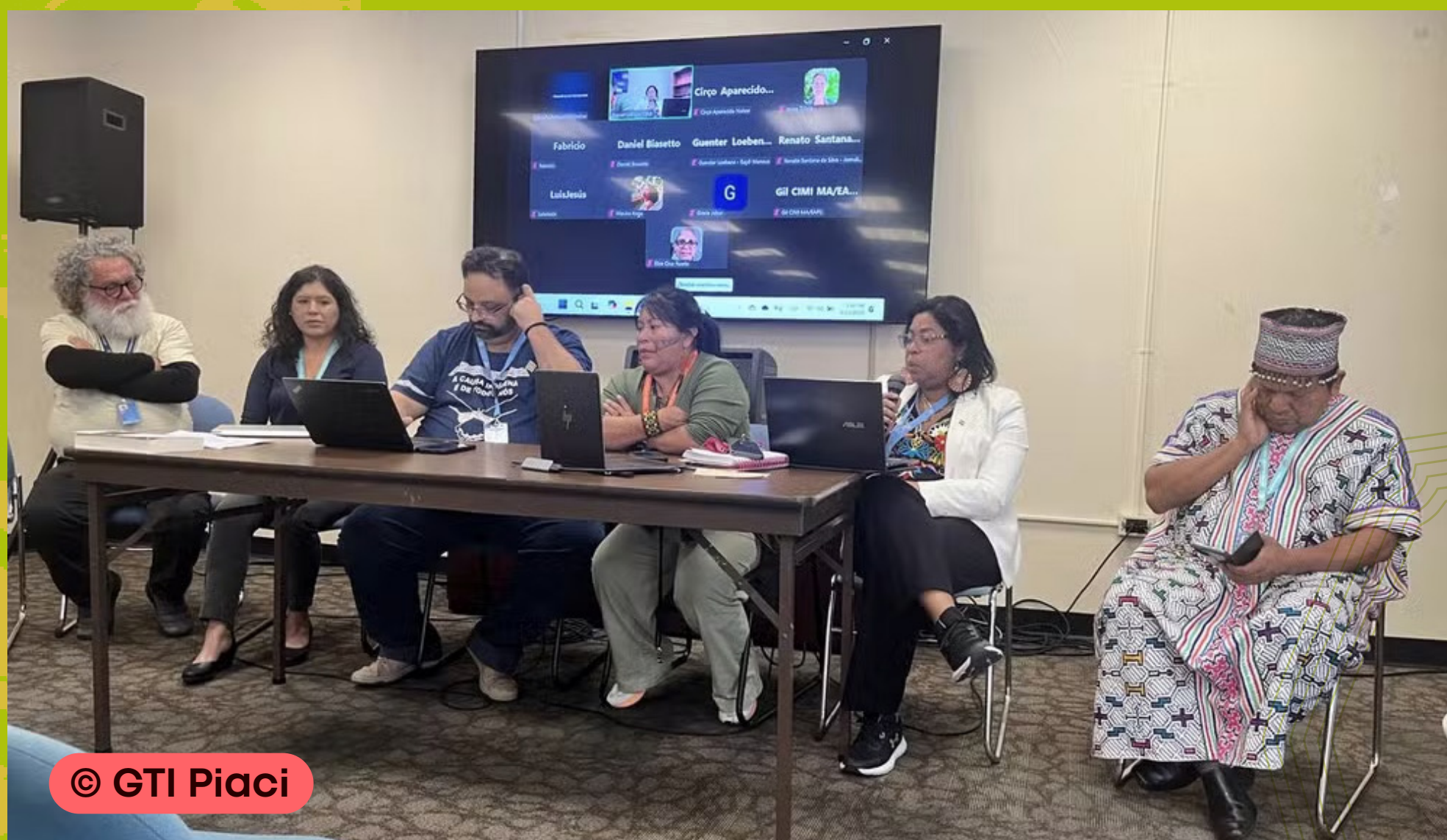


## Isolated peoples: UN events reinforce urgency to protect indigenous peoples across South America

A survey obtained by *Globo* newspaper within the GTI PIACI points to the existence, throughout South America, of 188 records of isolated peoples, of which only 60 have been officially recognized by the States, with at least 128 records remaining unrecognized. This situation means that the majority (around 70%) of isolated peoples on the continent are denied legal existence — and therefore their rights.

Regional consultant for GTI PIACI, indigenous Antenor Vaz presented the report at the UN, calling for and suggesting, among other measures, the strengthening of international standards and the consolidation of methodological protocols and practices in the region for locating and confirming these groups.

[Read more in the Globo report](#)





## Isolated Ayoreo could face health risks as *Gran Chaco* shrinks, experts warn

The International Working Group for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (GTI-PIACI) visited northern Paraguay to better understand the threats to Ayoreo indigenous communities living in isolation.

The Ayoreo live between the Paraguayan and Bolivian *Gran Chaco*, where they are threatened by deforestation caused by the expansion of the agricultural frontier.

GTI-PIACI has asked the Paraguayan government and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to develop more comprehensive measures to protect the groups and prevent deforestation.

Read on Mongabay



## Indigenous delegation at UN warns of isolated peoples in the Amazon

The indigenous delegation at the 24th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues drew attention to the threats faced by indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

Isolated peoples are affected by the exploitation of natural resources in their territories, drug trafficking, logging and other illegal economies.

The indigenous peoples and organizations present at the forum urged states to adopt a territorial corridors initiative and to implement



cross-border policies, standards and mechanisms to guarantee their territories and rights.

There are 188 records of isolated indigenous peoples in South America, but national governments officially recognize only 60.

[Read more on Mongabay](#)

## ISOLATED PEOPLES ON THE AGENDA

### **Cimi launches book on Free/Isolated Peoples in the Amazon and *Gran Chaco***

The book proposes a broad and diverse approach to the issue, with a South American focus. In a context of growing threats to the life and future of the Free Indigenous Peoples, resulting from the development policies adopted in various countries in the Amazon region and also in Paraguay, the book seeks to present, update and discuss the aspects related to them in order to make visible the context of threats in which they live, to stimulate solidarity actions and adequate and necessary public policies for the protection of their territories. The publication is also



intended to be a support for the work of indigenous organizations and indigenist entities, public bodies, both national and international, and civil society.

Find out more on the Cimi website



## What an automatic camera showed of an isolated indigenous people in Brazil

Funai shared with BBC News World images of an isolated indigenous people living in the state of Rondônia, near the border with Bolivia, taken in February 2024, as well as others images taken when the Massaco, as they are known, had already completely abandoned their temporary settlements (the name Massaco comes from the river that runs through their lands).

To obtain these photos, the experts used not only their knowledge of the community's seasonal movements, but also satellite images.

The idea is to get to know them, to protect them, but without talking to them or looking them in the eye. Faced with this challenge, experts used camera traps — cameras that are activated by movement — to obtain an image.

Read more in the BBC report



© CGIIRC/Funai



## Deforestation approaches isolated peoples in the last frontier of the Brazilian Amazon

The National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (Funai) in Brazil continues to monitor the situation involving a family of isolated indigenous people from the Mamoriá Grande Indigenous Land, located between the municipalities of Pauini and Lábrea, in Amazonas. The family of isolated indigenous people got lost from their group and ended up making contact with residents of a non-indigenous community in the surrounding area. For over a month, members of Funai have been camping near the family, monitoring and supporting their situation.

Mamoriá Grande is in the middle of a mosaic of a dozen conservation units and indigenous territories in the Purus River region, which act as a barrier to deforestation. Not coincidentally, there are at least four other isolated peoples living in the south of Amazonas.

For the time being, the biggest threats to the indigenous peoples living in these areas are occasional illegal hunters and fishermen. However, large-scale logging and land speculation are getting closer, especially after the explosion in deforestation rates recorded during the government of former president Jair Bolsonaro (2019-2022). The northward advance of the Arc of Deforestation increases the risk of the Amazon reaching a point of no return, when the biome would become a drier, more degraded ecosystem with less biodiversity, which would no longer be considered a rainforest.

[Read more on the Amazon Portal](#) 





## **“Our territory is no longer what it used to be,” say indigenous people affected by the climate crisis**

The climate crisis and the advance of predatory enterprises in the Amazon also threaten isolated indigenous peoples, who, because of the pressure on their territories, have to make contact with non-indigenous society.

“It is indigenous peoples, women and isolated peoples who are suffering the most. We are seeing more and more reports of contact between autonomous peoples. There is a lot of pressure on indigenous territories, forcing these peoples to ask for help. There is a change in the autonomous way of life. These territories are increasingly surrounded by farms and large enterprises,” denounced Angela Kaxuyana, an indigenous leader.

**Read more in the Ciclo Vivo report**



## ***Ferrogrão* could increase the vulnerability of eight isolated indigenous peoples in the Amazon**

The railroad planned by the Brazilian government to transport soy through the Amazon's forests and rivers also threatens isolated indigenous peoples. This is the



finding of a study based on data from the Mapi Platform, which monitors threats to isolated indigenous peoples, at the request of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Directorate for the Protection of Isolated Indigenous Peoples. The study shows that the railroad EF-170, known as *Ferrogrão*, could affect at least eight isolated groups.

Among the records that could be affected, six are within Indigenous Lands, one is in a Conservation Unit and another record is in an area without any formal protection. The records indicate the presence of isolated indigenous people in portions of Brazilian territory that the state considers for the purposes of territorial and rights protection. In the cases analyzed, the information is in the study and qualification stages, which means that it has not yet been confirmed by the National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (Funai).

Find out more on the OPI website 

## **The last isolated peoples: how uncontacted humans live**

Brazil is home to the largest number of uncontacted people in the world. There are over a hundred indigenous groups who have no links with the rest of the country. Find out how Funai discreetly monitors these populations and why it is necessary to protect them from contact with outsiders and diseases.

Read more in Superinteressante 



## Isolated people who have already fought colonizers face a new 'plague': influencers

Brazil is home to most of the world's isolated peoples. But they're not just in Brazil. One of them is on an island in India, which even has a 1956 law dedicated to maintaining isolation.

Over the centuries, the island's inhabitants, known to researchers as Sentinelese, have repelled attempts at contact by explorers, colonizers, missionaries, fishermen and other foreigners, each with their own interests. But the risks have increased.

In 2025, they have to deal with a new type of unwelcome invader: influencers. Last week, an American YouTuber was arrested after making an incursion onto the island to try to make contact with the Sentinelese.

Read more on UOL



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## Fourth indigenous people with groups in voluntary isolation identified in Venezuela

New data from experts highlights the presence of E'ñepá (Panare) indigenous peoples in isolation, as well as the Jödi, Yanomami and Uwottüja. So far, three indigenous peoples with groups in voluntary isolation or initial contact have been recognized: the Jödi (Hoti), the Yanomami and the Uwottüja (Piaroa). However, the research determined that in the area of Upper Cuchivero, in the state of Bolívar, there are a considerable number of indigenous groups of the E'ñepá (Panare) people in voluntary isolation.

Find out more on the website of the Program for the Promotion of Indigenous Rights in Venezuela "Wayamoutheri"





# EDITORIAL

**Writing, editing and revising:**

Helena Ladeira, Hilton S.  
Nascimento e Rafael Nakamura

**Translation**

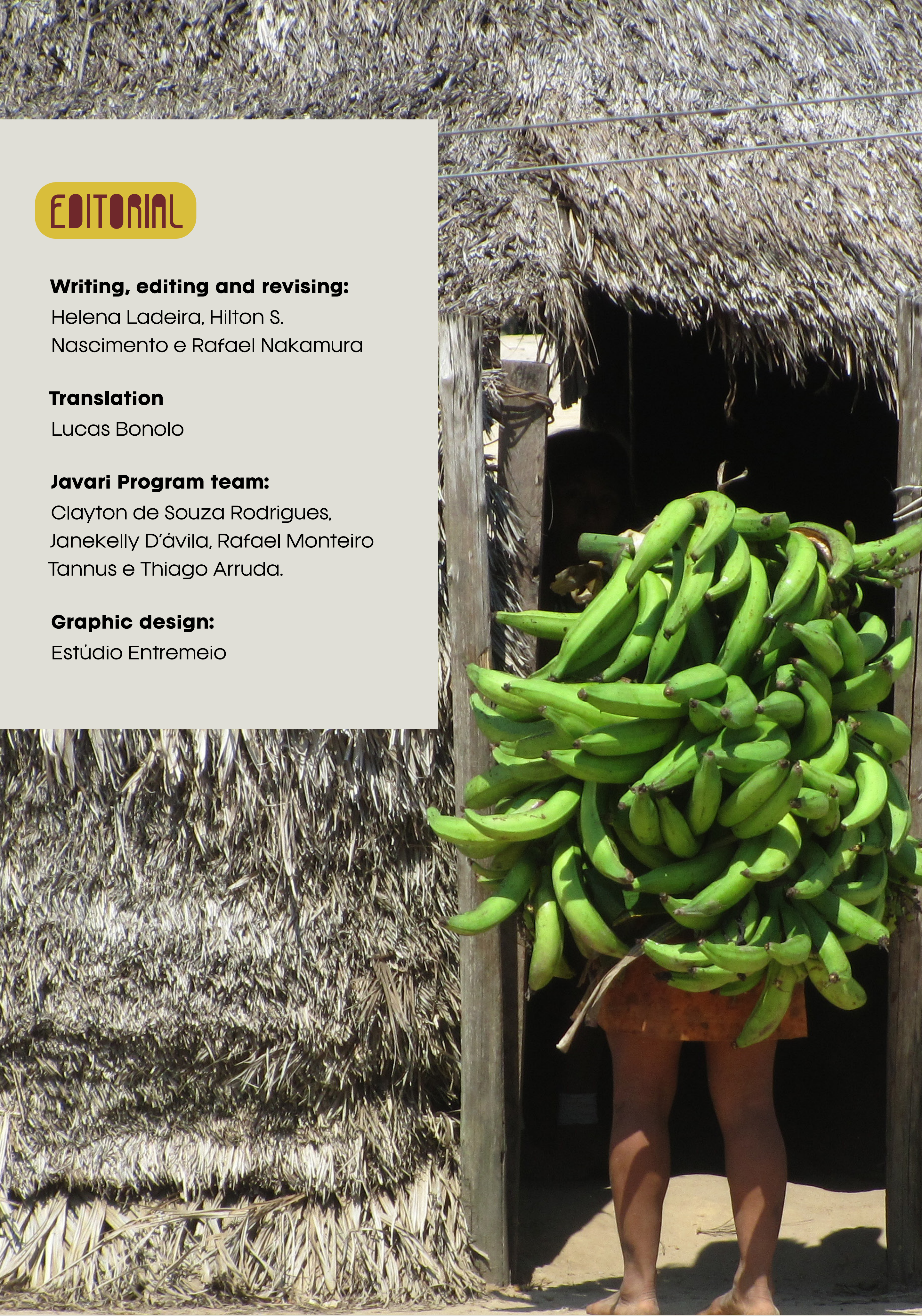
Lucas Bonolo

**Javari Program team:**

Clayton de Souza Rodrigues,  
JaneKelly D’ávila, Rafael Monteiro  
Tannus e Thiago Arruda.

**Graphic design:**

Estúdio Entremeio



**PRODUCTION**



**PARTNERSHIP**



**SUPPORT**

