

NEWSLETTER

YUNIBÁ-
TAPICHE
CORRIDOR



SEPTEMBER 2025

Coordination in Lima between CTI, Univaja, and OGM, in partnership with Orpio, supports the creation of the Yavarí-Mirim Indigenous Reserve

Between August 23 and 29, a Brazilian delegation formed by leaders from the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (Univaja) and the General Organization of the Mayoruna (OGM), accompanied by the consultant from the *Centro de Trabalho Indigenista* (CTI), Hilton Nascimento, was in Lima to provide political support to the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) and the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP) in their campaign for the creation of the Yavarí-Mirim Indigenous Reserve. Intended to protect isolated indigenous peoples in the Peruvian middle Javari, Yavarí-Mirim is the last large area with isolated indigenous peoples that is not recognized within the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

During the visit, the delegation participated in meetings with Peruvian ministries and other institutional actors, as well as events marking the 19th anniversary of the Law on Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI). The advocacy actions, conducted with the support of the CTI, continued until September 4, aiming to strengthen institutional support for the approval of the reserve by the Multisectoral Commission.

Check out the post on CTI's Instagram



HIGHLIGHTS

Yavari-Tapiche Corridor – Meeting debates strategies to protect indigenous peoples in Brazil and Peru

On July 7 and 8, the Annual Binational Meeting between the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (Univaja) and the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) was held, with the participation of the *Centro de Trabalho Indigenista* (CTI). The meeting brought together leaders of indigenous peoples from Brazil and Peru to strengthen the defense of territories in the Yavari-Tapiche Corridor.

Topics such as monitoring and surveillance systems, food sovereignty, and the network of indigenous communicators in the corridor were discussed. A new agreement was also signed between the participating organizations for binational actions for indigenous protection and governance, as well as alerts about threats at the borders.

The organizations reaffirmed their commitment to continue exchanging experiences in territorial surveillance between the two countries.

Check out the post on Univaja's Instagram





PERU: Yavarí Mirim Reserve in danger due to inaction by authorities

The Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve in Peru has been awaiting classification since 2003, and the delay has left the territory, which is home to isolated indigenous peoples, vulnerable to extractive interests, such as oil and illegal forest concessions.

The area borders the Javari Valley Indigenous Land, in Brazil, which has one of the largest concentrations of isolated peoples in the Amazon, reinforcing the importance of creating the Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve to protect the Yavarí-Tapiche cross-border corridor for the protection of PIACI.

Indigenous organizations such as the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) and experts denounce the negligence of the Peruvian state, which has been postponing the creation of the reserve for more than two decades, despite its relevance for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples, with more than 230 pieces of evidence of their presence in the area.

Read more on the Infobae website



PERU: Hope for the creation of a large new Indigenous reserve in the western Amazon

The creation of the Yavari-Mirim Reserve, designed to protect isolated indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon, is closer after a meeting of the Multisectoral Commission, responsible for its recognition. Proposed 20 years ago, the reserve could cover up to 1.3 million hectares in the Loreto region, on the border with Brazil, within the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

Technical studies confirm the presence of isolated peoples, but political delays and pressure from sectors opposed to its creation threaten its approval. The Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) warns that the delay exposes the area to logging, oil exploration, and drug cultivation and trafficking. The Commission is scheduled to meet on September 4 to decide on the creation of the reserve.

ORPIO says that all that is needed now is a “political decision” to approve the creation of the reserve, which would protect not only the rights and territories of the indigenous peoples living in the region, but also “one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet.” If established, it would be the ninth and probably largest indigenous reserve created in Peru for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples.

Learn more in David Hill's report 





UNIVAJA holds the 1st Meeting of Ethno-Environmental Monitors of the Surveillance Team (EVU)

Between July 21 and August 1, the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (UNIVAJA) held the 1st Meeting of Ethno-Environmental Monitors of the UNIVAJA Surveillance Team (EVU) at the Quixito Training Center. The initiative brought together more than 100 indigenous from the six teams responsible for protecting the Javari Valley Indigenous Land.

Created with the support of the Nia Tero Foundation, EVU is the only indigenous surveillance team in Brazil that pays its members. In 2024, it received the UNDP Equatorial Prize, international recognition for community-based projects, as the most important and organized indigenous surveillance action in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

The meeting featured workshops on mechanics, safety, navigation, boat maintenance, surveillance protocols, and report writing. It was also attended by partners such as *Expedicionários da Saúde*, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), as well as journalist Scott Wallace, author of the book *Beyond the Conquest*.

The event marked the consolidation of the EVU 2.0 project and the beginning of the use of CT Quixito (a space built with the support of the Rainforest Foundation Norway), which now serves as a base for indigenous actions in the Javari Valley.

[Read more on the UNIVAJA website](#)



‘Radios’ reciting the Bible found in isolated indigenous villages

Seven solar-powered devices with biblical messages in Portuguese and Spanish were found in the Javari Valley Indigenous Land (AM), near the border with Peru, in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, where live the Korubo, an isolated indigenous people. The devices, called Messenger, are distributed by the US Baptist organization called In Touch Ministries.

The distribution of such equipment in the territories of isolated peoples is prohibited by Brazil's "no contact" policy, in force since 1987, to protect these populations from external risks, such as disease. Brazil has 114 isolated peoples, 29 of which have been confirmed by Funai (National Indigenous Peoples Foundation).

In addition to the devices, drones have also been spotted in the region, with no confirmation of their origin. The case is reminiscent of other illegal attempts by foreign missionaries, such as that of US citizen Andrew Tonkin, who in 2020 used seaplanes to try to enter the Javari Valley Indigenous Land.

[Read more on the Ecoa UOL website](#)



'Colombia' becomes defendant as mastermind of the deaths of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips

The Federal Court of Amazonas accepted the complaint filed by the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) and indicted Rubén Dario Villar, known as Colombia, accused of ordering the killing of Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and British journalist Dom Phillips. The complaint was filed on June 5, three years after the crime. Eight other people have already been indicted by the Federal Police (PF) for involvement in the execution and concealment of the bodies.

Arrested since 2022, Colombia is also under investigation for illegal fishing and drug trafficking and was already serving a sentence for forgery and leading a transnational criminal organization. According to the PF, he was in direct contact with Amarildo da Costa Oliveira, known as Pelado, who confessed to participating in the murder.

Bruno and Dom disappeared on June 5, 2022, in the Javari Valley, the largest protected area in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor. Ten days later, their remains were found. The case exposed the activities of criminal organizations linked to predatory fishing and hunting, which threaten indigenous peoples and environmental officials in the region.

Bruno was an indigenist and consultant for the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (Univaja). Dom was a journalist for The Guardian, had lived in Brazil for 15 years, and was writing a book about the Amazon.

Learn more on the UOL website 



Three years without Bruno and Dom: the fight for Indigenous rights and the strengthening of Funai continues

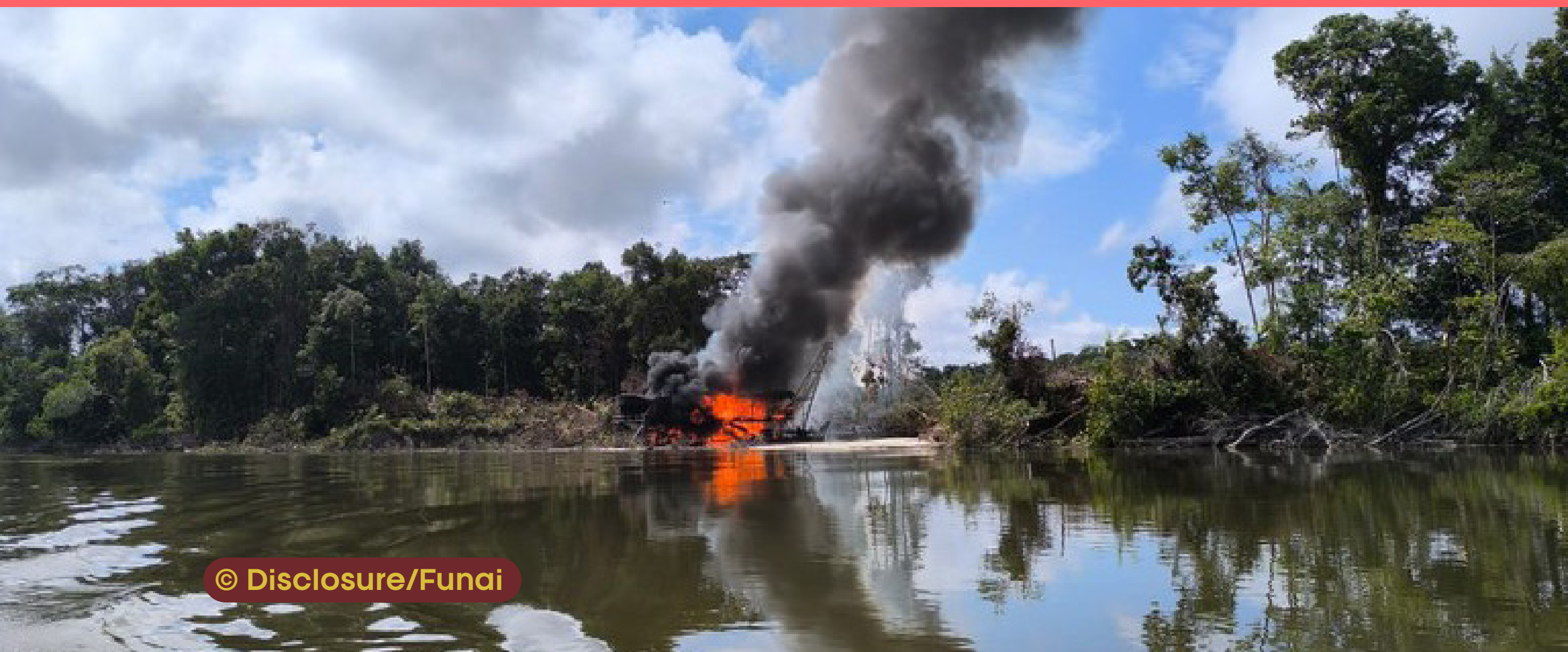
On World Environment Day, June 5, the

National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai) honored the three-year anniversary of the deaths of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips and warned of the vulnerability of officials working to protect Indigenous peoples.

The agency is intensifying its actions in the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land, with territorial surveillance, combating illegal mining and partnerships with security agencies and Indigenous organizations, including operations that have resulted in the destruction of dredges and the seizure of weapons and illegal timber.

Despite these advances, Funai faces legislative threats that could restrict its powers, such as the demarcation of Indigenous lands and participation in environmental licensing, posing a risk to the rights and survival of Indigenous peoples.

Learn more on the Funai website-👉



Funai, PF, and ICMbio combat illegal mining in the Javari Valley and impose losses of R\$ 18 million to criminals

Operation Kampô, carried out between July 22 and 30, destroyed illegal mining structures in the Jutai, Bóia, and Igarapé Preto river basins (AM), in the vicinity of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land, causing losses of over R\$ 18 million. The integrated action involved the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai) through the Alto Solimões Regional Coordination (CR-AS) and the Vale do Javari Ethno-Environmental Protection Front (FPEVJ), the Federal Police (PF), and the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), with support from the Operational Aviation Coordination and the Amazon International Police Cooperation Center.

Sixteen dredgers, five tugboats, six speedboats, 4,000 liters of fuel, bottles of mercury, and other equipment were destroyed, and documents were collected for future investigations. Endangered animals, such as Amazonian turtles, were seized and released.

The operation sought to contain the environmental damage caused by illegal mining, such as silting, mercury contamination, and river degradation, which directly affect the quality of life of traditional and isolated Indigenous communities. The Javari Valley, the second largest Indigenous land in the country and the largest protected area in the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, covers approximately 8.5 million hectares, nine confirmed isolated groups, and approximately 7,000 indigenous people from different tribes.

[Read more on the Funai website](#)



MPI reports progress in the Javari Valley in the 2nd Report on the Implementation of the Indigenous Land Territorial Protection Plan

Between June 2023 and March 2025, the Territorial Protection Plan for the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land (PPT-TIVJ), coordinated by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI), resulted in 42 interagency operations and 211 enforcement actions, with R\$ 27 million in fines imposed and 97 arrests. More than 1.5 kg of gold, 80,000 liters of fuel, 157 dredges, 55 rafts, 171 engines, 5.5 tons of illegal fish (mainly *pirarucu*), 3.1 tons of illegal game meat, 689 wild animals, 13,879 turtle eggs, and various equipment used in illegal fishing and mining.

The plan is implemented in an integrated manner by the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai), the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), the Federal Police (PF), the Army, the National Force, the Federal Highway Police (PRF), the Amazonas Military Police (PMAM), the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN), and other agencies, ensuring the territorial, health, and cultural protection of isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples. The action includes inspection, protection, and removal of intruders from illegally occupied areas, as well as continuous monitoring of protection policies and communication with society.

The Vale do Javari Indigenous Land, covering 8.554 million hectares, is known for having the highest concentration of isolated indigenous peoples in the world, with nine confirmed records and six records under study, in addition



to approximately 7,000 indigenous people from various peoples. Located on the border with Peru and Colombia, the region suffers from illegal activities such as mining, hunting, fishing, and logging, which threaten indigenous life and territories. The Protection Plan also seeks to honor the memory of indigenist Bruno Pereira, who was murdered in 2022 during an expedition in the region.

The actions of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land Territorial Protection Plan contribute to the protection of this important area of the Javari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

Read more on the website of the
Ministry of Indigenous Peoples



MDHC and IACHR carry out joint mission in the *Vale do Javari* to protect human rights defenders

Between August 4 and 7, the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship (MDHC), together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), carried out a mission in the *Vale do Javari* Indigenous Territory (AM) to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders in the region of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor.

The initiative sought to implement Precautionary Measures 449/22, originally granted to Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips, and involves family members, federal agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI), Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF), Secretariat of Social Communication of the Presidency of the Republic (Secom/PR), General Secretariat of the

Presidency of the Republic (SG/PR), and organizations such as the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), Article 19, the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (ABRAJI), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the Observatory of Human Rights of Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples (OPI), and the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (UNIVAJA).

Among the activities, we highlight the meeting on Precautionary Measures at UNIVAJA, meetings with defenders and local communicators, and an extraordinary meeting of the Deliberative Council of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists (CONDEL/PPDDH) of Brazil with the participation of the IACHR, aiming to expand the presence of the State and visibility of protection actions.

Read more on the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship website





Peruvian Government rejects creation of Yavarí Mirim Indigenous Reserve

The Multisectoral Commission, responsible for categorizing reserves for isolated indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon, rejected the request to create the Yavarí-Mirim Indigenous Reserve. With eight votes against five, the commission disapproved the Additional Categorization Study for the reserve, ignoring more than 20 years of indigenous struggle for its recognition and 113 pieces of evidence of isolated indigenous peoples.

The votes against came from sectors such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior, as well as the Regional Government of Loreto and the municipalities of Ramón Castilla, Requena, and Maynas. The session was marked by political pressure from opposing sectors and the undue presence of Congressman Celis Mori, author of a bill that seeks to review all indigenous reserves already created.

The indigenous organizations ORPIO, AIDSESEP, CONAP, and the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Platform will denounce that the Peruvian state has prioritized economic and criminal interests over human rights. “This is a historic setback and an attack on the Amazon and its Indigenous peoples,” they said in a joint statement.

Read more on the website of epicentro



NEWS FROM THE BORDER

Webinar discusses challenges of territorial protection for isolated indigenous peoples on the Brazil-Peru border

On August 13 and 14, the Higher School of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (ESMPU) held a webinar entitled "The Brazil/Peru Border: challenges for nation states in protecting the territories with the highest concentration of isolated peoples on the planet."

With 10 hours of classes, the activity discussed the challenges faced by isolated and recently contacted indigenous peoples, the impacts of environmental crimes, logging, roads, and drug trafficking, as well as cooperation strategies between Brazil and Peru. The event was broadcast on YouTube.

[Learn more on the ESMPU website](#) 

Indigenous organizations demand the shelving of Bill 11822, which puts indigenous peoples in isolation at risk

The Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP) and the PIACI Platform highlight that Bill 11822 puts indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and recent contact at serious risk, as it would allow hydrocarbon activities within their protected territories.

The organizations denounce that the initiative ignores international conventions and Peruvian legislation itself, prioritizing economic interests over human lives. They demand that congressional committees issue opinions against the bill and that it be shelved as a direct threat to the survival of these peoples.

[Read more on the AIDSEP website](#)



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Peru: a bill seeks to open protected areas to hydrocarbon exploration

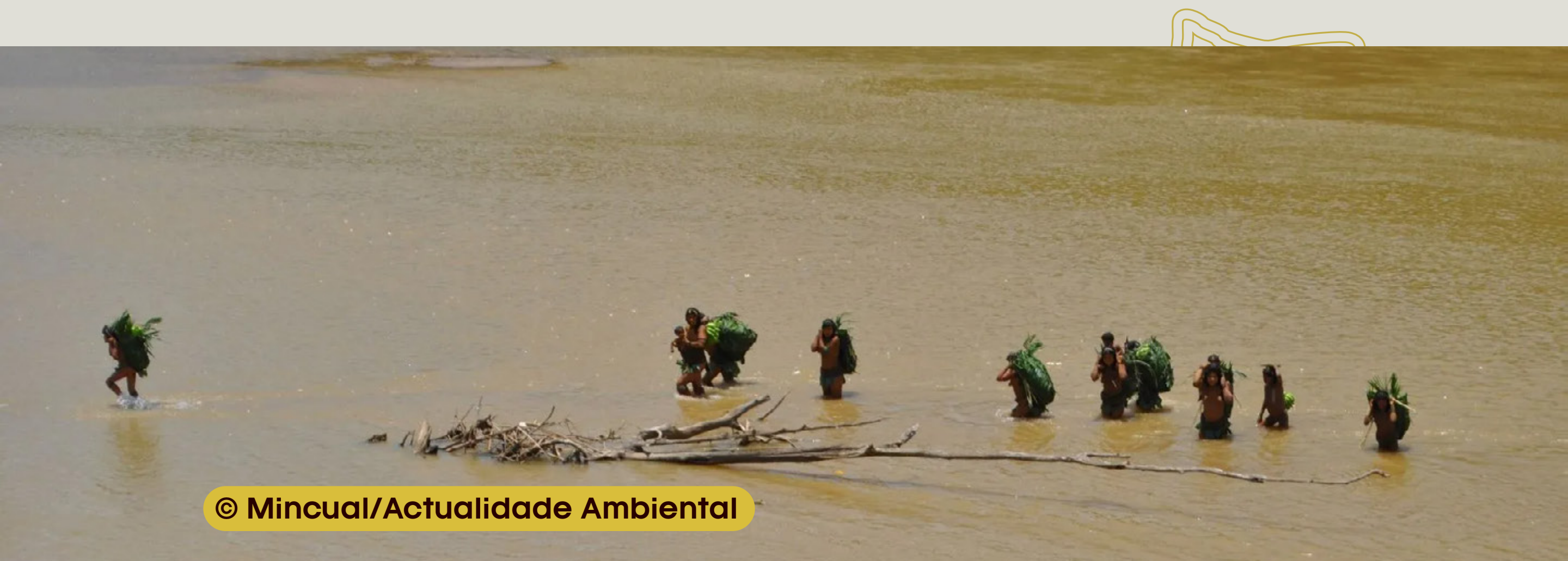
Published in July, Bill 11822/2024-CR, authored by Congressman Jorge Luis Flores Ancachi (Acción Popular), proposes to amend nine articles of the Protected Natural Areas Law and add three additional provisions. Among the changes is the possibility of allowing the exploration of natural resources in protected areas where it is currently prohibited, as well as approving changes in these protected areas by supreme decree, weakening parliamentary control.

The text also opens the door to declaring extractive projects as “public necessity,” allowing exploitation in national parks and indigenous reserves. Legal experts warn that the proposal is unconstitutional and compromises Peru’s climate commitments.

Several civil society and indigenous peoples’ organizations have spoken out against the new proposal, which they consider a serious threat to the rights of indigenous peoples.

This bill could weaken the protection of several protected areas within the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, as well as hinder the creation of the Yavari-Mirim Indigenous Reserve.

[Learn more on the Mongabay website](#)



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19 years of the PIACI Law: advances and challenges in protecting isolated indigenous peoples

Enacted in 2006, the PIACI Law established the legal framework for protecting isolated and initially contacted indigenous peoples in Peru, creating intangible reserves that today total 4.5 million hectares in the Amazon.

Despite the advances, the model faces serious challenges: lack of public funding, heavy dependence on international cooperation, delays of up to 20 years in categorizing reserves, and growing threats from mining and drug trafficking. Experts point out that it is urgent to strengthen resources and inter-institutional coordination to ensure the survival of the country's most vulnerable peoples.

[Read more on the Actualidade Ambiental website](#)

Ágata 2025: Defense operation imposes R\$ 225 million in losses to organized crime in the Amazon

Launched in May and concluded in early June, Operation Ágata 2025 mobilized around 2,000 military personnel from the Armed Forces and resulted in R\$ 225 million in losses to organized crime across a wide swath of the border in the Western Amazon, including the *Vale do Javari* Indigenous Territory. The actions neutralized 34 illegal mining structures, seized 20 boats, almost a ton of skunk marijuana, 184 kg of cocaine, and arrested 13 people.

In the final stretch, Brazil and Colombia carried out a so-called “mirror operation,” neutralizing eight mining sites on the Puruê River, with the participation of 200 military personnel from both countries. The action was supported by agencies such as the Federal Police (PF), the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai), Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (Sesai), Brazilian Intelligence Agency (Abin), and Management and Operational Center for the Amazon Protection System (Censipam).

[Read more on the Ministry of Defense website](#)



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ISOLATED PEOPLES ON THE AGENDA



© Vicente Buyal/Coiab

In a historic moment, Indigenous and organizations gather in the Javari Valley to discuss the protection of isolated peoples

Between June 2 and 7, 18 indigenous organizations and four indigenist organizations, including the *Centro de Trabalho Indigenista* (CTI), participated in the II Exchange on Surveillance and Monitoring in the village of Massapê, in the Vale do Javari Indigenous Territory (AM). The meeting brought together representatives from 13 peoples from nine territories, where isolated groups live and circulate, to exchange experiences on protecting these peoples through strategic activities that combine traditional knowledge and public policy.

The event also paid tribute to Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips, murdered in 2022, with the presence of Beatriz Matos (Ministry of Indigenous Peoples), who visited the site where the bodies were found. The National Indigenous Peoples

Foundation (Funai) presented the work of the 11 Ethno-Environmental Protection Fronts, while indigenous leaders reinforced the importance of community protection plans.

The 22 organizations approved a letter addressed to the three branches of Brazil's government, calling for the incorporation of indigenous surveillance collectives into public protection policy, the regularization of indigenous lands with isolated peoples, the creation of an emergency fund for critical situations, and the inclusion of the rights of isolated peoples in COP 30 in Belém.

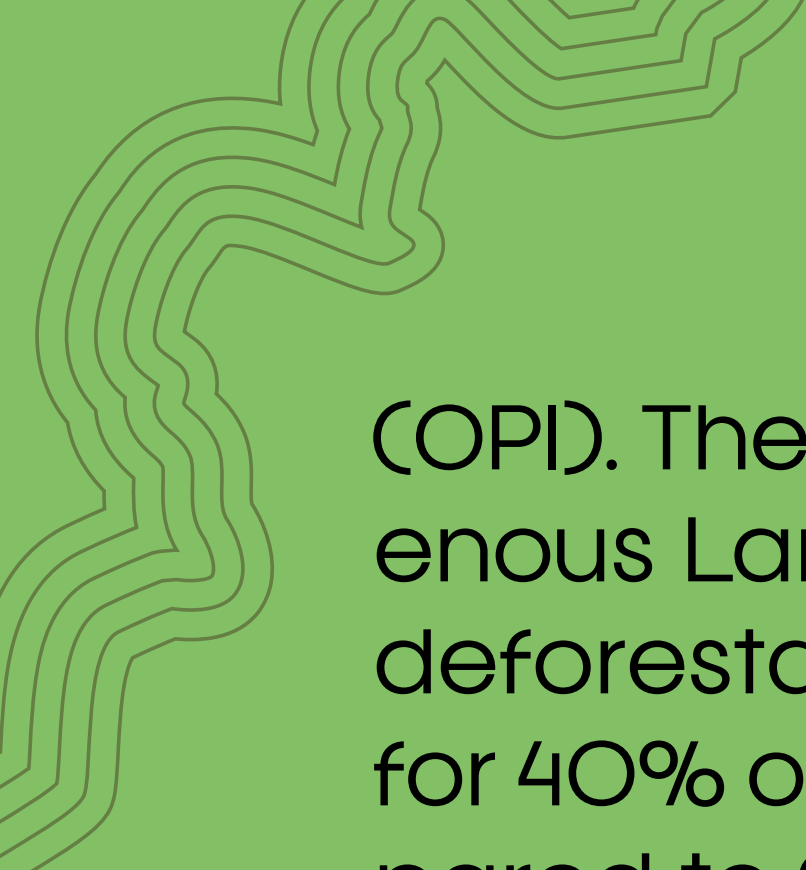
[Learn more on the OPI website](#)



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Invasions and mining continue to devastate Indigenous Lands with isolated peoples, despite protective measures

In 2024, Indigenous Lands with isolated peoples recorded more than 2,000 hectares of deforestation, despite an 18.2% drop compared to 2023, according to the Sirad-I report, released by the Socio-Environmental Institute (ISA) and the Observatory of Human Rights of Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples




(OPI). The Kayapó, Munduruku, and Xingu Indigenous Lands (IL) accounted for about 60% of deforestation, while the Kayapó IL accounted for 40% of the fires, an increase of 2,000% compared to 2023.

Illegal mining affected the Zoró IL, with 92.2 hectares deforested, and the Munduruku IL, with 159 hectares, while the Piripkura IL saw an 89% reduction, but still lost 23 hectares of forest. The Jacareúba-Katawixi IL also recorded an increase in deforestation, close to developments and the BR-319 highway.

The report warns of continued pressure on isolated indigenous territories and highlights the need for effective enforcement and protection measures.

[Learn more on the OPI website](#) 

MPF and partner agencies launch publication with guidelines for public policies specific to recently contacted indigenous peoples



The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF), through the 6th Chamber of Indigenous Populations and Traditional Communities, published a technical note with guidelines to help public agencies in protecting recently contacted indigenous peoples. The document, prepared in conjunction with the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (Funai), the Ministries of Health, Indigenous Peoples, and Social Development, reinforces the need for integrated and culturally appropriate action, respecting the autonomy, customs, and ways of life of these groups, preventing vulnerabilities and irreversible impacts.

The guidelines address issues such as access to public policies, social assistance and differentiated health care, civil documentation, accessibility barriers, and guaranteeing the right to free, prior, and informed consultation. The importance of continuous protection measures, cultural translation, and specialized monitoring is highlighted, especially given the epidemiological vulnerability of these peoples.

The MPF emphasizes that contact should only occur in exceptional situations of extreme risk, and that self-determination and territorial preservation are fundamental. Recently contacted indigenous peoples often live in remote, border areas or on unapproved lands, and their ancestral knowledge is recognized as cultural heritage.

Learn more on the MPF website 



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Threat in the Amazon: Isolated indigenous people face loggers and drug traffickers

The Mashco Piro, the world's largest indigenous group living in voluntary isolation, are facing a humanitarian crisis on the border between Acre (Brazil) and Peru. Conflicts over invasions, illegal logging, and climate change are increasing the vulnerability of the people, while enforcement is insufficient and binational cooperation is ineffective.

Recent observations indicate displacement and community protection measures, but the slow implementation of public policies compromises the survival and preservation of their ancient culture.

Read more on the Na Hora da Notícia website



Can the Uncontacted Ayoreo Be Saved?

In the northern Paraguayan Chaco, more than a hundred Ayoreo continue to live in isolation, despite most of this people having been forcibly contacted in the 1960s. These nomadic groups face threats such as deforestation, climate crisis, and large infrastructure projects.

Recently, Ayoreo volunteers located the remains of Argentine guide Wenceslao Benoit, highlighting their deep knowledge of their territory. The NGO *Iniciativa Amotocodie* defends these peoples' right to remain in isolation, while their original territory in Paraguay has already been reduced by 98%.

Read more on The Paraguay Post website



© Iniciativa Amotocodie

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