

RUFFORD LEARNING EVENT

REPORT

AMAZONIA

12 to 15 March 2024
Manaus, Amazonas



12 to 15 March 2024
Manaus, Amazonas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the event.....	1
About the logo	2
Short description	3
Overall summary.....	4
The venue	5
An illustrated summary of the event.....	6
Day 1: March 12th.....	6
Day 2: March 13th.....	7
Day 3: March 14th.....	12
Day 4: March 15th.....	15
The pre and pos survey.....	18
The event in numbers.....	19
Environmental impact.....	20
Key lessons.....	21
Summarized expenses report.....	22
Expenses report.....	23
The organisers.....	25
Speakers.....	26
Participants.....	30
Acknowledgment.....	39

ABOUT THE EVENT

This report covers the Amazonas Rufford Foundation Learning Event (RFLE 2024). The activity aimed to promote the exchange of experiences and networking between Rufford Foundation grantees, as well as learning new skills and having insights from facilitators who have been acting in research and conservation in the Brazilian Amazon. The event took place in the *Bosque da Ciência* in Manaus from March 12–15, 2024. The Rufford Foundation provided sponsorship for the event, and the *Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia* provided local support for its organization. The conference was not open to the public but focused on providing capacity building for former and current Rufford Foundation grantees. The grantees participated in workshops, speeches, and a "round table" with regional stakeholders throughout the event. The participants visited the Turtle conservation project and made a visit to the open museum "Museu da Amazônia".



ABOUT THE LOGO

The logo is composed of four elements: water, vegetation, fauna, and people. Nothing represents the Amazon more than these elements. We chose to use Pied Tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*) to represent "fauna" in our logo because this it is a critically endangered species that occurs only in the Manaus region. Another important element is the palm trees, a group of species characteristic of tropical forests, with great historical, ecological, and social significance. The logo was created by the talented grantee, Eugenia Cordero Schmidt. She took advantage of poetic and artistic freedom to unite these elements as a way to characterize the necessary integration for understanding the Amazon system and, consequently, for its conservation.



SHORT DESCRIPTION

Name of the event:

Rufford Foundation Learning Event (Amazonas Learning Event)

Date of the event: 12th to April 15th, 2024.

Location: Manaus, Amazonas, Brazilian Amazon

The number of persons attending:

17 Rufford grantees.

1 Rufford Foundation staff.

2 grantees organisers

6 Speakers

Sponsoring organisation: Rufford Foundation

Local organisers:

Tainara Venturini Sobroza - Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM)

Heloisa Dantas Brum - Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO)

Contact information of Rufford grantees that organised the event: tv.sobroza@gmail.com; hbrum@gmail.com

Overall summary

A total of 20 grantees were invited, but three could not attend (2 due to scheduling conflicts, and one individual did not respond). We made contact with an additional 3 individuals to fill the remaining spots, but we did not obtain confirmations in time. The event was attended by 17 Rufford grantees from Brazil's North and Midwest regions.

The event took place at the *Bosque da Ciência* auditorium, located within the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA) premises. Participants were accommodated at the Ramada Hotel, located near the INPA, to facilitate transportation to and from the event, which was provided by a rented van in the mornings and evenings. All meals were vegan, except for the hotel breakfast and snacks offered during the excursion at the Museum of the Amazon, which were vegetarian. In the post-event questionnaire, we asked participants to evaluate the lectures and activities offered based on a ranking from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 the highest. We received 12 responses out of 17 grantees. Throughout the description of the activities, we will also provide the evaluation given by the grantees.



The venue

The auditorium of *Bosque da Ciência* is a space within the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA, acronym in Portuguese), which houses a remnant of forest with native fauna, gathering spaces, and several research projects. INPA is one of the most important research institutes in the Amazon, bringing together unique initiatives and key researchers for the conservation of the largest tropical rainforest on the planet.

INPA is an institute linked to the Ministry of Science and Technology, which, like many universities and other public institutions, has been suffering from a lack of resources for infrastructure maintenance and research staff. This venue was chosen so that participants could get to know the INPA facilities up close, experiencing a bit of the institution's daily life, despite some operational difficulties (for example, the air conditioning was not working properly). As a result, we were able to host the INPA Director at the opening of the event, who could share with participants the importance and challenges faced by the institution at the present time.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

DAY 1: MARCH 12TH

19:00 - 20:00h

Most of the participants arrived in the 12th and participated of the first dinner at the Ramada hotel. During this period we welcomed them and gave the goody bags.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

DAY 2 : MARCH 13TH

On the second day, all the participants moved from the hotel to the Bosque da Ciência, where most of the event was held.

9:00-9:15h OPENING

The event opening counted with the participation of the Director of the *Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia*, Dr. Henrique Pereira, the Rufford Foundation representative, Mariam Weston, and the organisation representative, Heloísa Brum. All of them highlighted the importance of learning events and funding sources to empower the youth to be involved in the production of knowledge and solutions for nature conservation.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

DAY 2 : MARCH 13TH



19:15- 10:30h OPENING

Heloisa Brum, one of the local organisers, gave a short talk about the event. Following, Mariam Weston from the Rufford Foundation gave a talk where she explained the overall goals of the learning events.

In the sequence the participants formed a circle for introductions, where each participant stated their name, where they were from, and briefly discussed their research area and interests.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

10:50h LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL PROGRAMS

After the coffee break, Dr. Flávia Costa made a talk about climate change and its impacts on Amazon flora. The participants learned about the importance of long term projects to evaluate such impacts and propose conservation areas based on vegetation resilience too water loss. In the post-event form, 10 gave a rating of 5, and 2 gave a rating of 4.



12:00-12:30h - After Flávia's talk the participants made posters where they mention abilities they have, abilities they wanted and hidden abilities. The posters remained hanging on easels on the hall during the whole event. The posters were where we usually had coffee breaks and allowed people to interact with each other and to exchange experiences and promote future collaborations.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

14-15:00h: CLIMATE CHANGE

After lunch, Dr Phillip Fearnside gave a talk about climate change and landscape modification in the Brazilian amazon. Dr. Phillip divulged his talk on personal media, so other students and teachers from INPA participated from the discussions soon after the talk. Participants familiarized with the political and environmental challenges asked for creating an agenda that consider climate change as a priority. Participants shared their experiences with habitat restauration, and the lecture was also well-rated, with scores ranging between 4 and 5.



15:30- 17:00H

The participants made a walk on Bosque da Ciência, which is a space dedicated to scientific education which houses forest vegetation, free-living animals and attraction to tourists. During the walk we also made a guided visit to the Centre for the Studies of Amazonian Chelonians (CEQUA) that is housed in *Bosque da Ciência*. During the walk, the participants saw free range squirrel monkeys, agouties, among other.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

The first day was extremely productive. The lectures were highly rated by the attendees and covered ecological concepts and updated information on Amazon conservation in the face of climate change. The walk through INPA provided a more relaxed and engaging moment, taking participants out of the auditorium and allowing them to interact with each other and with the local wildlife.

19:00-21:00h

Participants had dinner at the city centre and had the opportunity to see the grand Amazonas theatre as well as enjoy a music show that was happening in the square.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

DAY 3 : MARCH 14TH



5:30 - 8:00h

We made a visit to the Museum of the Amazonia (MUSA) where we made a birdwatching activity guided by Dr. Mario Con- Haft. During the observations participants could learn about the local biodiversity of Amazonian birds . The observations took place on top of a 40 m tower that allowed participants to see forest canopy as well as a urban-forest transition. During this activity we discussed about Amazon ecology and had the opportunity to see some wildlife as king vultures, macaws, howler monkeys and, after a great effort by many participants, a sloth attempting to hide at the top of a tree.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

8:00 - 11 :00h

We made a guided visit in Museum of the Amazonia (MUSA) where we saw and learned about some plants, butterflies, snakes, fishes and other ecological interactions. The visit was lead by the young and excellent guide, Jone. We also visited fossil replicas of megafauna animals that inhabited the Amazon thousands of years ago. After the walk, and we had a snack with tapioca and coffee in the local restaurant.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

14:00-17:00h: FUNDRAISING

In the afternoon, we went back to Bosque da Ciência, where we had lunch, and in the afternoon, we attended the “fundraising” workshop ministered by Mariam Weston. During the activity the participants shared their experiences with companies, crowdfunding as well as Rufford. The participants also worked in groups and discussed more about how to design and write grant proposals.



The visit to MUSA allowed the grantees to learn about some important elements of the fauna, as well as to marvel at the forest seen above the canopy, which is truly impressive. Everyone praised Mario's knowledge and the patience with which he guided the observation of the animals. Mario and, in the afternoon session, Mariam, were the speakers who **received the highest rating from 100% of the respondents.**

An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

DAY 4: MARCH 15TH

09:00 - 12:00h: COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

In the morning Joao Campos made a key talk on the Community based conservation where he mentioned the importance of traditional people on conservation. He highlighted that conservation must have an holistic view and take into account the perception and necessities of people while developing co-participatory conservation action. He showed some examples on how reserves where people extract natural resource are still more diverse than areas with none of such reserves.



After the coffee break André Antunes made a talk on human-animal interactions showing some examples of the importance of hunting for tradicional people and how such activities can be monitored with participatory methods.



After André's talk Simelvia Vida spoke about the importance of women in conservation. She spoke both in terms of research making as well as the empowerment of local women to participate in conservation programs.



Unfortunately, the last speaker for the day, Vanessa Apurinã (Maipatxi Apurinã), couldn't participate as she had a last-minute work commitment.

An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

14:00 - 16:00

In the afternoon, we made a “world coffee” dynamic where each facilitator and organiser stimulated participants to bring their experiences and questions related to the topic the speakers worked with. We separated the participants into four groups, and they rotated every twenty minutes. João and Heloisa facilitated the “Conservation-based conservation” group, André and Tainara facilitated the “Human-wildlife interactions” group and Simélvia and Mariam facilitated the “Women in conservation” group. The facilitators wrote down the topics in the group conversations and then summarised what was discussed for the whole group. Some of the topics that came up from João Victor's discussion group, for instance, were about the importance of **the well-being of people involved in conservation**, including the researchers themselves. From André's discussion groups, people reported the most diverse topics that could be understood as human-wildlife “conflict”, for instance, how introduced species could change ecosystemic processes and impact people or how hunting can be important for traditional people's lives but also a focus of conservation actions. Simélvia's group discussed the importance of **including women in conservation actions and promoting their safety**. As the facilitators discussed such topics, more exchanges happened between participants. The discussion was fruitful as it showed many transversal topics. Some of the subjects were also personal and some of the participants shared touching testimonies.



An illustrated summary of the Amazonas Learning Event 2024

16:30-17:30

Finally, after the coffee break, we conducted a 'Web of Life' close-up activity. In this activity, the participants stood in a small circle and passed a ball of yarn to a colleague. During this dynamic, the person holding the ball of yarn spoke a word that summarised the event's meaning for them and mentioned the most valuable feelings or lessons they were taking with them. By the end of the round, the yarn formed a net symbolising the new and strong connections the participants had made during the event.

The activities of the last day received **a top score from 75 to 90%** of the participants. Furthermore, the evaluation also showed that engagement with local communities is achievable, and according to the participants' remarks in the final activity, **the presentations contributed to a better understanding of the importance of interacting with local populations.**



The pre and pos survey

Two surveys were conducted before the event, one for 280 Brazilian grantees of the Rufford Foundation, to assess general interest and assist in defining the event that would be held. This survey presented 99 answers:

- 70% of the respondents had their supported projects completed, and 33% were still ongoing;
- 57% were women, 41% were men, and 1% identified as non-binary;
- 56% were white, 31% were mixed-race (brown), and the remaining 12% included individuals who did not identify with any specific skin colour or preferred not to declare, as well as black and yellow individuals.
- Among the most cited themes to compose the lectures and activities of the event, we highlight "How to write proposals for funding," with 47%, "Community-based conservation" with 43%, and "Climate change" with 39%.

The second survey was conducted among the grantees selected for the event, and 16 responses (from 17) were received. In this questionnaire, we asked about the challenges faced in conservation within the context of each participant's studies and the possible difficulties with stakeholder engagement, the collaboration network among grantees, and expectations regarding the event and the proposed lectures and activities. We identified some changes in the post-event questionnaire, as described below.

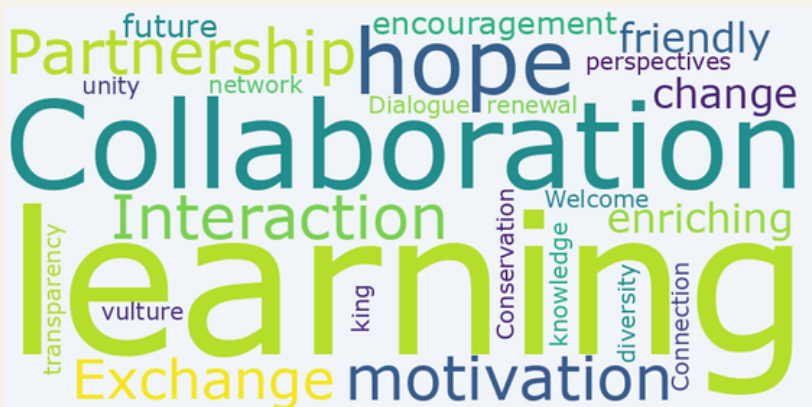
Finally, the feedback on the event was positive. Only one of the respondents criticised the event venue due to one of the air conditioners not working properly. All respondents approved of the choice of vegan food, which, besides being delicious, also demonstrates a concern for our impact on the planet. Lastly, 10 people stated that their expectations for the event were met or exceeded, and only 2 said that some specific topics were not covered.

The event in numbers

From the post-event report conducted online, we identified that:

- **91.7 %** of the participants think that the information presented in the LE would help them to identify the biggest challenges and needs to achieve conservation in their study context
- **91.7 %** of the participants think that the event was useful for networking, but 83.3% of them think that a collaboration will actually happen
- **100%** of the participants feel confident to apply for the Rufford Foundation for more funding. While in the pre-survey (N=16)33.3% of the participants felt very confident about writing a proposal to TRF, in the post-survey (N=12)50% of them felt very confident
- When asked if there is any kind of engagement with local communities in their projects, in the pre-survey, **73.3%** of them responded “yes”, while in the post-survey, **83.3%**
- All talks were classified as good or very good.

We asked the participants to describe the event in three words. The following word cloud was created based on their responses. Larger words appeared more times in the responses.



Environmental impact

We made an effort to conduct the event with the least possible impact on the environment. We didn't use disposable cups or utensils, and considering that livestock farming (both for meat and dairy production) in Brazil is the leading cause of deforestation and forest destruction, we opted to offer vegan food to the participants, together with products from Amazonian regional cuisine. According to the post-event questionnaire, the food was praised and enjoyed by everyone. We also had the support of an oat milk company (NAVEIA), which provided some products to enrich the coffee breaks between the lectures.



Key lessons and challenges

Participants praised the event and the choices of lectures and activities conducted. For many, expectations were exceeded, providing significant learning opportunities and collaboration opportunities. Some participants mentioned that they learned that it's important to include local/traditional communities in our projects and that projects must consider direct changes in society and/or the studied environment. Many also showed animation to continue their projects and apply for more funding.

For us, the organisers, creating the Event Program was challenging but exciting; we tried our best to attend to the participant's demands, though we were aware that maybe not all wishes were fulfilled (e.g., habitat restoration and project communication).

We also paid attention to keeping a balance between men and women in the panel of facilitators. We also wanted to include more local stakeholders and traditional people in the program, so we could have a less academic approach and give some more "hands-on" examples. However, we had some difficulties settling a final program as these people are usually super busy, and we had multiple withdrawals from facilitators before the event.



The organisers

HELOISA DANTAS BRUM



Heloisa is a biologist with a master's and PhD in ecology, focusing on spatial ecology, the use, and conservation of non-timber forest resources in the Central Amazon, especially in sustainable use conservation units, with a focus on palms and the Amazonian açai palm (*Euterpe precatoria*). She has diverse professional experience in NGOs, classroom, public administration, and more recently has been involved in the conservation and environmental management of marine and coastal protected areas. Her life goal is to reduce her negative impact on the planet and not contribute to animal exploitation.

TAINARA VENTURINI SOBRZA

Tainara is a biologist with a master's and PhD in ecology, motivated to use sounds as a tool to access ecological information about species, interactions, and habitats, with a primary focus on primate species. Currently living in Manaus, she is researching how pied tamarins (*Saguinus bicolor*) cope with anthropogenic disturbances such as habitat changes and anthropogenic noise.



Speakers

ANDRÉ PINASSI ANTUNES

Filiation: RedeFauna e INPA

André is a biologist who completed his Ph.D. in ecology at the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA) and has been seeking to integrate science and outreach to enhance the effectiveness of participatory management of protected areas in the Amazon. His efforts primarily aimed at supporting the planning and implementation of natural resource management and conservation in indigenous and traditional territories, combining scientific tools and traditional knowledge.



FLÁVIA REGINA CAPELOTTO COSTA

Filiation: INPA

She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of São Paulo, a master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of São Paulo, and a Ph.D. in Biology (Ecology) from the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA). She is a researcher at INPA and has been the coordinator of Site 1 of the Long-Term Ecological Research Project (PELD) since 2009. She has extensive experience in both plant and applied ecology, focusing on three main research lines: forest dynamics, functional ecology, and historical ecology. One of her major interests lies in the effects of local hydrology on the structure, dynamics, and filtering of forests in the Amazon, as well as their responses to climate change and other anthropogenic changes.



Speakers

JOÃO VICTOR CAMPOS-SILVA

Filiation: Instituto Juruá

JB, as he is called by his friends, is an ecologist with a broad interest in the conservation of tropical socio-ecological systems. He has been working in the Amazon since 2008, focusing on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, protected areas, and community-based natural resource management. João has found his professional happiness in trying to understand how to align biodiversity conservation and human well-being, believing that a sustainable future for the Amazon will only be possible if conservation ensures quality of life for local communities.



MARIAM WESTON

Mariam Weston, an Engineer in Sustainable Development with an MPhil in Conservation Leadership from the University of Cambridge, possesses over eight years of experience developing sustainable conservation strategies. Currently serving as a Grants Officer at the Rufford Foundation, Mariam specializes in the Small Grant Programme and coordinating capacity-building events worldwide. Mariam has expertise in building strategic alliances across governments, private sectors, academia, and NGOs. Mariam's career showcases her unwavering passion for wildlife conservation, incorporating human dimensions and sustainable social development, combining technical proficiency through social and community approaches.



Speakers

MARIO COHN-HAFT

Filiation: INPA

He is an ornithologist specialising in Amazonian birds, with an emphasis on biogeography. He graduated from the public school system in the city of Northampton, Massachusetts. He holds a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Dartmouth College (1983), a master's degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology from Tulane University (1995), and a Ph.D. in Zoology from Louisiana State University (2000). He has been working in the Amazon since 1987 and owes his initial opportunities to explore the region to the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project and to Field Guides, Inc.



PHILIP FEARNSIDE

Filiation: INPA

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (USA) and is a senior researcher at the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA) in Manaus (AM), where he has lived since 1978. He conducts ecological research, including estimating the carrying capacity of tropical agro-ecosystems for human populations and studies on the impacts and perspectives of different modes of development in the Amazon, as well as the environmental changes resulting from deforestation in the region. He is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and received the Nobel Peace Prize as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007. He has authored over 600 scientific publications and more than 500 outreach texts.



Speakers

SIMÉLVIA VIDA DANTAS ALVES

Filiation: Instituto Juruá

Simélvia graduated in Fisheries Engineering from UFAM, with a master's degree in Freshwater Biology and Inland Fisheries-BADPI/INPA. Worked for 3 years as a fisheries engineer/rural extensionist at IDAM in the Alto Solimões region, supporting the participatory management of pirarucu. She was also a teacher of courses in fishery technology and fish farming at CETAM, and conducted training courses in sport fishing, in addition she had experience as a logistics analyst for the Forest Cities project developed by IDESAM. Currently, she serves as the Coordinator of Education and Training at the Juruá Institute.



Participants

ANDRÉ LUIS GONÇALVES SOUSA

André is a biologist with a master's and doctoral degree from INPA (National Institute of Amazonian Research), with experience in natural history, ecology, and conservation of Neotropical vertebrates. He is a professor, consultant, and advisor in environmental issues, focusing on environmental licensing and natural resources management in the Amazon biome. He has a particular interest in research involving the use of databases generated by sampling with camera traps, geospatial data, and the application of survey techniques for Amazonian mammals. He is a member of the Amazonian Mammal Research Group (INPA) and works as a servant at the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA).



ANDRESSA BÁRBARA SCABIN

Andressa is a biologist with a master's and doctoral degree in Ecology, with a focus on tropical forest ecology. She is a co-founder of the Juruá Institute, an NGO that integrates traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge to develop and implement solutions for the conservation of the Amazon, led by riverside communities along the Juruá River. As a project coordinator, she is involved in scientific research, education, training of local communities and associations, socioeconomics, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources in protected areas.



Participants

CAMILA CARVALHO DE CARVALHO



Camila is a biologist who graduated from UFSCar–Sorocaba and is a member of the Amazonian Aquatic Mammals Research Group at IDSM. In Tefé/AM, she found her Amazonian family, tried jaraqui, and returned to work on manatee monitoring and participated in expeditions to estimate dolphin abundance. In 2017, she started her master's in Biological Oceanography (FURG) to investigate the feeding ecology of the two manatee species in Brazil. From 2019 to 2021, she worked on conservation projects for the toninha in the South and Southeast. Since 2022, she has been working at Aquasis/CE, monitoring rehabilitated and released marine manatees, having experienced numerous adventures on land, in the sky, and at sea.

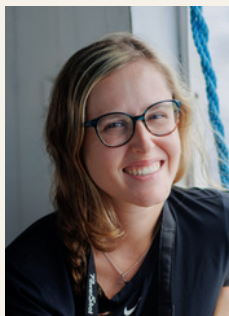
DAYENE SANTIAGO MENDES

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, a Master's and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the Environmental Biology Graduate Program (PPBA), with an emphasis on socio-environmental ecology from the Federal University of Pará (UFPA). Her experience in ecology focuses on ecosystem ecology, particularly in the following areas: mangrove ecology, gas emissions (CO₂ and CH₄) in mangrove areas, and aquatic pollution, with an emphasis on plastic and microplastic pollution.



Participants

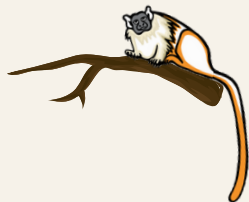
GIULLIANA APPEL



She is a biologist, with a master's and a doctorate in Ecology from INPA. She specializes in bat ecoacoustics and in understanding how habitat fragmentation, prey-predator interactions, and the moon affect the activity of insectivorous bats in the Central Amazon. Alongside the bat laboratory at INPA, she built the first bat acoustic library in Brazil – the "morcegoteca". Currently, she works at Rainforest Connection as a biodiversity researcher, assisting the team in acoustic monitoring of various animal groups .in priority conservation areas.

HUGO CARDOSO DE MOURA COSTA

Hugo is a biologist, holding a master's degree in Zoology from the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology at INPA. His main research interest lies in the ecology of vertebrate movement in different land use scenarios and anthropogenic pressures. He is also interested in species distribution modeling and remote sensing. As a founding member of the Juruá Institute, he serves as a liaison between the associated researchers and the Institute's team, facilitating the development of cutting-edge research to support natural resource management actions by rural communities.



Participants

INDIRA ÂNGELA LUZA EYZAGUIRRE



She is an environmental engineer and holds a Ph.D. in environmental biology. Currently, she works as a researcher at the Mangrove Ecology Laboratory (LAMA) at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA). Additionally, she serves as a sustainability analyst and develops sustainable development projects focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Sarambuí Association. She also holds the position of project director at the NGO Innovative Resilience, working on topics such as climate change, environmental governance, among others. She is the creator of educational communication products using an ESD approach. She is also the creator and coordinator of the Mangrove Observatory and its Tides project, which won the Millennium Ocean Prize in 2022.

INGRID DE MATTOS

Ingrid holds a Ph.D. in Zoology, a master's degree in Ecology, and a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Brasília (UnB). She served as a temporary lecturer at the Federal University of Catalão from 2015 to 2016. She has experience in various aspects of mammal ecology and conservation, including studies on population dynamics (consumer-resource interactions), the impacts of habitat fragmentation and loss on different dimensions of biodiversity, landscape ecology, and isotopic ecology. Currently, she is a CNPq DTI-A fellow (UnB) studying the use of stable isotopes as a tool for environmental traceability in forensic sciences. She also works as a mammal environmental consultant in environmental licensing processes.



Participants

JOSÉ VICTOR ALVES FERREIRA



José Victor holds a bachelor's and teaching degree in Biological Sciences and a master's degree in Environment and Agricultural Production Systems from the State University of Mato Grosso. Currently, he is a doctoral student in the Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation Graduate Program at the State University of Santa Cruz (UESC) and a member of the Applied Ecology to Conservation Laboratory (LEAC), where he is developing a project to understand how habitat modification, at both local and landscape scales, affects the different components of bee and social wasp diversity within cocoa agroforests and Atlantic Forest remnants.

LUCAS FERREIRA COLARES

Lucas is an ecologist and a Ph.D. student in Animal Biodiversity at the Federal University of Santa Maria (RS) and the University of East Anglia (UK). Currently, he is studying how forest loss and fragmentation affect the functional patterns of insects in the Amazon, as well as applying artificial intelligence models for automatic monitoring of arthropods, mammals, fish, and plants. He also conducts research in aquatic ecology, pollination, and functional diversity patterns in music.



Participants

MATHEUS DE OLIVEIRA NEVES

He holds a degree in Biological Sciences from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, with a master's degree in Animal Biology from the Federal University of Viçosa, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Conservation from the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul. Currently, he is a professor and PDCTR associate researcher in the Zoology Graduate Program at the Federal University of Mato Grosso, Cuiabá/MT. He coordinates the Sapó Pantaneiro Project, serves as secretary and environmental educator at the NGO Pacto Ambiental, and works as a project manager at the Ecotrópica Foundation. His research focuses on the taxonomy, biogeography, and conservation of amphibians in the Pantanal and surrounding plateaus (Alto Paraguai Basin), with extension activities in environmental education for public school students, rural communities, and virtually.



MILTON JOSÉ DE PAULA



Milton holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and works as a Geography professor at the Federal Institute of Education, Science, and Technology of Pará - Altamira Campus. His main area of expertise focuses on medium and large terrestrial vertebrates, with an emphasis on monitoring, their uses, and local ecological knowledge of traditional populations.



Participants

RAÍSSA SEPULVIDA ALVES



Raíssa is a biologist who graduated from UFRJ, where she worked on a species reintroduction project focused on restoring ecological interactions. She completed her master's degree at UNESP in Rio Claro, studying seed dispersal by woolly monkeys in the Amazon rainforest. Soon after, she joined Panthera as a biologist, an institution dedicated to feline conservation in the Pantanal. At Panthera, she works on demographic monitoring and movement ecology of jaguarundis, as well as jaguar conservation.

RENANN HENRIQUE PAIVA DIAS DA SILVA

Renann graduated in Biological Sciences from FACIS (2011) and holds a master's degree in Zoology from the Federal University of Amazonas, where he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Zoology, focusing on the diet and ecology of primates of the genus *Cacajao*. He works in environmental consulting and wildlife survey expeditions. As a freelancer, he has been involved in documentary production and has worked as an environmental monitor. With extensive experience in various fields of biology, from fieldwork to academic research, he is always committed to environmental conservation.



Participants

RENATO RICHARD HILÁRIO



Renato graduated in Biological Sciences from UFMG and holds a master's degree in Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Wildlife from UFMG, as well as a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from UFPB. Since 2014, he has been a professor at the Federal University of Amapá, where he conducts research focused on the conservation of the red-handed howler monkey (*Alouatta belzebul*) and the savanna region of the state. Both the red-handed howler monkey and the Amapá savannas are threatened by the expansion of monocultures, particularly soybean cultivation, which motivates Renato to conduct these conservation efforts, supported by the Rufford Foundation.

SILVIA BARBOSA RODRIGUES

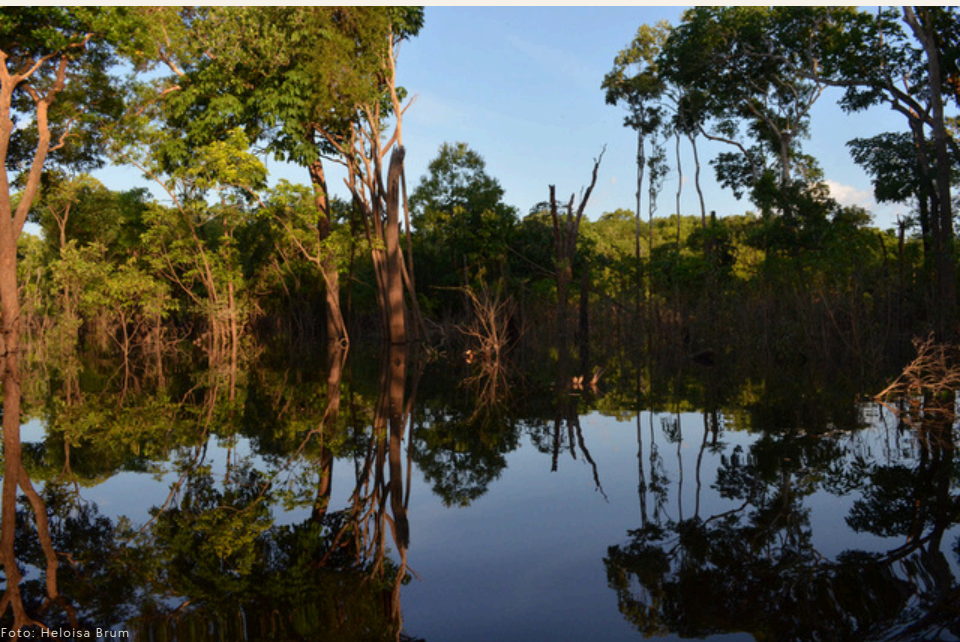
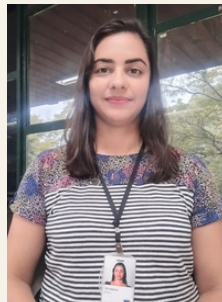
Sílvia is a Ph.D. student in the Ecology Graduate Program at UnB. She holds a Bachelor's and Teaching degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Brasília (UnB). She was a scholarship recipient of the Science without Borders program at Indiana University, United States. She works with community ecology, applied ecology, and ecological restoration, focusing on the Cerrado and the Amazon, particularly in studies involving direct seeding and natural regeneration. Currently, she is studying how remote sensing tools can contribute to monitoring vegetation recovery.



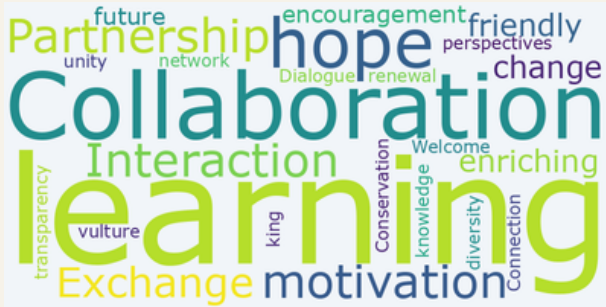
Participants

VIVIANNE EILERS

Viviane holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Sciences from the University of Aberdeen, where she sought to implement an automated system to monitor birds on transmission lines, aiming to assess the impacts and mitigation measures of such projects on avifauna. She has been an environmental analyst at IBAMA since 2009 and until 2023 was stationed in the environmental licensing unit in the state of Amapá, working with highways, hydroelectric plants, transmission lines, pipelines, mineral extraction, among others. Currently, she works exclusively with environmental licensing for transmission lines and pipelines at IBAMA headquarters in Brasília. She is responsible for biotic environment analyses related to fauna.



Acknowledgement



Using the same words as the participants, we, local organisers would like to thank Rufford for the opportunity of promoting this space to exchange and motivate young conservationists. We specially thank Mariam Weston for her assistance and motivation throughout the event organization in all stages. We also thank ALFA for the institutional and managerial support of the resources, we extend our gratitude to INPA for providing the event venue and lunches. We also thank the Juruá Institute for contributing to the structuring of the community-based conservation workshop by sharing their experiences and knowledge. We also thank Naveia for providing vegan products to complement the coffee breaks between the lectures.

Realization:



Support:



