

Project Update: July 2021

Project Background

To preserve the Mangrove Ecosystem of the Ajuruteua Peninsula, Bragança, Pará, Brazil, we, early career conservationists, conduct scientific research, encourage and promote pro-conservation attitudes, and provide tangible results to better conserve and manage the natural world. In this sense, in celebration of the World Day for the Protection of Mangroves (celebrated on 7/26), on 7/24/2021 the Mangues da Amazônia project in partnership with Associação Sarambuí, Municipality of Bragança, Rufford Foundation (represented by me) and other partners held the Mangrove Clean-up Day (Figure 1). This action allowed, in addition to cleaning this important ecosystem, to obtain information necessary for control and monitoring actions, emphasizing the importance of preventing pollution and the need for proper disposal of solid waste and integrating people from communities and tourists to awaken the awareness and commitment to preservation, through Environmental Education with the dissemination of information and promoting the awareness of drivers on their way to Ajuruteua beach.

Mangroves, in addition to being a habitat for countless species of fish, crustaceans, and molluscs, are a nursery and feeding area for an even larger number of species that depend on these environments to be born, grow and develop. The pollution of mangroves with solid residues compromises the functioning of these ecosystems, affecting the life cycle of several species and harming the quantity and quality of aquatic life. In this sense, the importance of preventing mangrove pollution is perceived. When pollution has already occurred, cleaning these areas is essential for the preservation of biodiversity and various economic activities such as fishing, tourism, etc. In this way, we disseminate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14 and 15) in line with the project.



Figure 1: Mangrove Clean-up Day Card with All Partners. © Mangues da Amazônia.

The Mangrove Clean-up Day action was carried out along the road that connects Bragança to Ajuruteua beach/Pa (Figure 2), totalling 4 sampling points called: Furo do Taici, Lagoa Salina, Furo do Chato, and Furo Grande. These areas were covered by the team from Mangues da Amazônia together with its partners for the removal of waste in a collective effort in the municipality of Bragança - PA.



Figure 2: Location of the area where the Mangrove Clean-up Day action took place in the municipality of Bragança, Pará, Brazil. © Dayene S. Mendes.

A total area of 13,421 m² was covered by the Mangues da Amazônia project team and partners carrying out waste removal. In all, 773.75 kg of waste were recovered from the environment, including plastic (351.1 kg), metal (55.9 kg), glass (200.7), rubber (30 kg), fabric (56.6 kg), Wood (1.95 Kg), Paper / Cardboard (5 Kg), and other materials (Figure 3 and 4).

In addition to the organizers of Mangues da Amazônia, the action had the support and participation of the Rufford Foundation, City Hall of Bragança, ICMBio Bragança,

Demutran, Instituto Inã, in addition to a partnership with the cooperative COOMARCA, a local organization responsible for recycling waste removed from the mangroves. A total of 36 people participated directly in the action (Figure 5), which at this time was restricted to partners due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Figure 3: Infographic with the amount, in Kg, of removal of each material found in the mangrove areas.



Figure 4. Waste collected from mangrove areas, Bragança, Pará, Brazil. © San Marcelo.





Figure 5. Participants in the Mangrove Clean-up Day action, Bragança, Pará, Brazil. © San Marcelo.