



Representatives of Member Countries and the FUNAI team during the preparatory meeting and the expedition



# ACTO's registration of new traces of isolated indigenous peoples

*Technical Exchange mission of the Member Countries of the Organization of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in collaboration with the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) to verify evidence of the existence and to register new traces of isolated indigenous peoples*



Vanguard Group of the expedition with representatives of the Member Countries of ACTO and the technical team of the FUNAI, scanning along the Itaquai river

The Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) made up of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, with its permanent secretariat based in Brasilia, Brazil, has been making efforts to develop a regional agenda for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, while respecting of their rights and observing the national/internal regulations of the Member Countries.

As part of this initiative, in November 2012, for the first time a group of specialists and technicians in the field of protection of isolated indigenous peoples and in initial contact, from ACTO Member Countries participated in a field mission in the Javari Valley, in the Brazilian Amazon. The Technical Exchange Mission was conducted within the context of the program: Strategic Framework to develop a regional agenda for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary



isolation and initial contact of ACTO, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The expedition, organized by the National Indian Foundation of Brazil (FUNAI) in cooperation with the ACTO, facilitated the exchange of knowledge and methodologies for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples, between the state actors to strengthen the multilateral approach on the subject. Also, it facilitated learning and better understanding of the work that FUNAI field staff develops and methodologies applied in the collection of material/cultural evidence, as a result of internationally recognized historic work.

For 14 days, technicians of the Member Countries and FUNAI's agents visited the Javari Valley region in search of traces/remnants of indigenous peoples in isolation to verify their existence. The Expedition team of 30 participants was divided into three groups (vanguard, verification, and logistics) and departed the base of the Ethno-Environmental Protection Front of Javari Valley (FPEVJ) of the FUNAI for search along the the San José river, Itaquáí river and visited the nearby Kanamary community of Bananeira.



Technical Expedition team members recorded evidence of the presence of isolated peoples

In the first stage of the journey, the three areas that were previously visited were evaluated and two areas with recent clear indications of presence of the Korubo isolated Indigenous in the river Itaquáí. The Expedition team journeyed 320 kilometers for three days by boat.



Three tapirís (shelters) that were identified in 2010 by FUNAI were found, some 10 minute walking distance away from the banks of the river. The tapirís were found to contain different materials such as an iron metals, woven palm leaf for serving foods, a clay pot and arrows or hand-made spears used for hunting and defense. Every year, FUNAI monitors and revisits these locations to verify that the return of isolated Indigenous.



Abandoned Shelters (Tapirís) of the "Korubo" people

Two new tapirís remains were located near the banks of the river. One was in perfect condition with several evidences of cultural material, both traditional and nontraditional, which confirmed that it was recently abandoned. A detailed technical report references known as well as the new remains identified by the expedition, which was sent for analysis to the General Coordination of FUNAI's Isolated Indians office in Brasilia.



In the second leg of the trip, three hikes around the Kanamary community of Bananeria were conducted to verify some sort of approximation of isolated indigenous peoples called Povo da Capivara or Arqueiros, who live in close proximity to the community and are dependent on the river. Only a few traces and signs made with plant cuttings to mark the tracks/trails, were found which indicated infrequent visits of the area by the isolated peoples.



Kanamary children of the Bananeira community

The state of tapirís also indicated that at certain times of the year, Korubo peoples visit the Itaquai river for fishing and hunting activities, however, they do not always return to the same places where shelters/tapirís were constructed. In addition, it was observed that on the return to the original tapirís, new and various non-traditional and traditional cultural objects were left. The construction of “tapirís” in close proximity to the river banks indicated that they do not feel threatened.



## Javari Valley Indigenous Land



Javari Valley Indigenous Land is located west of the state of Amazonas in the municipalities of Atalaia do Norte, Benjamin Constant, São Paulo de Olivença and Jutai, and borders with Peru. It is the second largest indigenous territory in Brazil, with an area of 8.5 million square kilometers, demarcated in 2001. Its known indigenous population has about 4900 people, known as Marubo, Matis, Matses, Kanamary, Kulina and Korubo, as well isolated and confirmed groups, among others who are still being studied by FUNAI.



## Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

It is the first binding international instrument that deals specifically with the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, recognizing the right to work, the right to land and territory, to health and education (1989).

## Protection Guidelines for Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (United Nations Organization – UNO)

The December 16, 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Program of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, which makes two specific recommendations on indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact. Internationally recommended “the establishment of a global mechanism to monitor the situation of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and in danger of extinction.” And nationally recommended adopting “a framework of special protection for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and governments to establish special policies to ensure the protection and rights of indigenous peoples who have small populations and at risk of extinction”.



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