

# COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN BRAZIL

## Introduction

At ECO-SOLVE, we believe that local communities are stewards of natural resources and vital partners in preventing environmental crime. They are often the first to detect threats, the first to act and the ones who hold the deepest knowledge of their territories.

In the Amazon — particularly in Pará state — Indigenous, Quilombola and riverside communities are on the frontlines, defending their lands from illegal logging, mining, wildlife trafficking and deforestation. In 2024, we brought them together for a dialogue on the challenges they face and the leadership they can offer. Out of this conversation, four innovative projects emerged, now supported by ECO-SOLVE community grants.

These projects reflect bold, grassroots leadership in action. Here is what they are doing:



## Grantee profiles

### 1. INSTITUTO SUCUPIRA – SANTARÉM, PARÁ

**Title:** Guardians of the land

**Project focus:** This project equips the Mundurucu people, an Indigenous community, with training to use drones and satellite imagery to track deforestation, land grabbing and illegal mining in their territory.

**Why it matters:** It turns this data into evidence for legal action and supports advocacy at local, national and even EU levels. It is Indigenous technology and tradition working together to defend the Amazon.



## 2. MOVEMENT REPUBLIC OF EMAÚS – CEDECA-EMAÚS – COTIJUBA ISLAND, PARÁ

**Title:** Mobilizing against wildlife trafficking: Protecting life in the Amazon

**Project focus:** Through this initiative, community members are learning how to recognize and report wildlife trafficking. Youth and boatmen are especially engaged in awareness-raising workshops and are connecting with public security institutions to join their efforts.

**Why it matters:** The project brings communities into active collaboration with law enforcement to protect their environments. It culminates in a community-led presentation at the COP30 climate negotiations, amplifying their voices on the global stage.



## 3. INSTITUTO ZÉ CLAUDIO E MARIA – MARABÁ, PARÁ

**Title:** Casa de Respiro: Defending nature and its defenders

**Project focus:** Environmental defenders in the Amazon are under constant threat – this project provides them with comprehensive protection: shelter, legal aid and emotional support. Casa de Respiro is a safe space where Indigenous and local leaders can rest, recover and speak out.

**Why it matters:** This initiative protects the defenders who are at the forefront of the fight against environmental crime in the Amazon. It enables them to withstand and adapt to the challenges they face in their advocacy and activism.

## 4. MOVIMENTO DOS ATINGIDOS POR BARRAGENS (MAB) – CAMETÁ, PARÁ

**Project:** Waters for life, agreements for the future

**Project focus:** Illegal fishing is emptying the Tocantins River and harming the livelihoods of local artisanal fishers. Through community fishing agreements and community-led monitoring, this project safeguards fish stocks while supporting residents to protect their resources.

**Why it matters:** The project helps secure local livelihoods, protect the environment and strengthen community resilience. It also fosters cooperation with local authorities, reinforcing community-led environmental governance.



*Supporting communities.  
Defending nature.  
Preventing environmental crime.*

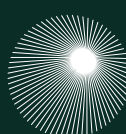
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