



FOREST NEWS • NOTÍCIAS DA FLORESTA

BÀNHO PIOK

The Kayapo Project — including **Biome Conservation**, **The Protected Forest Association**, **The Kabu Institute**, and **Instituto Raoni** — present the July 2026 edition

Thank you for reading Bânho Píok's second issue. In this edition, we focus on the collaborative fieldwork that makes the Kayapo Project alliance so successful. From annual meetings to Indigenous forest schools to recovering ancestral trails, this edition features a handful of the initiatives that ensure Kayapo territorial and cultural autonomy.

COVER STORY • EDUCATION

Bàkra: The Kayapo Forest School Continues to Grow

Bakrà: The Kayapo Forest School is an intergenerational educational program that provides a week-long teaching and learning experience for Kayapo youth and elders focused on traditional knowledge and skills, and conservation technologies.

This program, built by and for the 16 Kayapo communities along the northern Xingu River, has grown to include almost 200 youth and elder participants

annually. Momentum for the Bakra program has transcended the Xingu River basin with plans for communities and Kayapo NGOs across Kayapo Territory to participate in the years to come.

This year, the first Bakra expansion included the 18 communities of the nearby Riozinho River communities with plans to expand to other regions in 2027. [Read about a typical day at the Kayapo Forest School >](#)



Elders and youth share traditional food-preparation knowledge during a week at Bàkra.

GOVERNANCE

Building Institutional Capacity During Kayapo Assembly Season



Instituto Kabu holds its Assembleia Geral.

Institutional strengthening and capacity building are among the core pillars of the Kayapo Project support for Indigenous-led conservation. Every year, between April and June, Kayapo leaders depart their villages to meet with their association representatives to review the previous year's activities, discuss the coming year's activities, vote on new leaders, or approve budgets.

These meetings ensure transparency and accountability among communities, NGOs and their collaborators. They provide an intensive snapshot of the challenges, realities, and opportunities of working alongside the Kayapo.

[Read more about 2026 visits with the Kayapo organizations >](#)

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP

Recovering Ancestral Kayapo Pathways



The multidisciplinary Caminhos Ancestrais team on the Riozinho-Xingu trail.

The **Caminhos Ancestrais (Ancestral Trails)** team explored a historical trail from the Riozinho River to the Xingu River. The multidisciplinary project team includes Kayapo and non-Kayapo members focused on recovering the biological and cultural heritage of remote Amazon environments across the Xingu and Tapajós River basins.

Led by colleagues from Amazonia-based Brazilian institutions like the Federal University of Pará, the expedition was part of the [Amazonia +10](#) initiative to support inventories and scientific research on remote and inaccessible areas of the Amazon Basin.

This was the [first exploratory expedition](#), intended to reopen a trail that, in 1940, enabled the dispersal of a Kayapó group from the village of Kubenrankej — in the headwaters region of the Riozinho River, a second-order tributary of the Xingu — westward to the Xingu River itself. Future expeditions will investigate biodiversity and histories along this pathway, and another trail will be explored in the Menkragnoti Indigenous Territory.

[Read more about the expedition >](#)

ON THE FIELD



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Matheus Costa

Matheus is an agricultural engineer who has been with the Ba-Y Kayapó Forest Products Cooperative (COOBAY) for four years. COOBAY's objective is to strengthen production chains focused on income generation, subsistence, and food and nutritional sovereignty. There, Matheus has helped strengthen the production chains for Brazil nuts, cumaru, handicrafts, and community-based tourism.



MEDIA MAKER & COMMUNICATOR

Prai Kayapó

Kokomeket Kayapó, known as Prai Kayapó, is a Mëbëngökre photographer, Indigenous communicator, and cultural documentarian. Born in the village of Kokrajmoro, in Pará, Prai later moved with his family to Metukire, in Mato Grosso, where he grew up immersed in the traditions, knowledge, and daily life of the Mëbëngökre people. [Read more and follow Prai's work at \[kayapo.org/prai-kayapo\]\(https://kayapo.org/prai-kayapo\) >](#)



CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Giant Armadillo "Apjeti"

The Giant Armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*) is the largest and rarest armadillo species in the world and officially listed as endangered. Known in Portuguese as tatu-canastra, giant armadillos use their large front claws to dig for prey — including ants and termites — through termite mounds. Surprisingly fast, they can reach a top speed of 48 km/hr.



GUARD POST FEATURE

Angme-e

Located in the Bau Indigenous Territory and administered by the Instituto Kabu, the Angme-e (also known as Pista Nova) guard post is the only guard post that operates over the entire year. The site must be monitored year round to prevent re-entry by goldminers who were expelled by the Kayapo and Brazilian government agents in 2022. [Read about the Kayapo Guard Post Program >](#)

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SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



A longtime supporter of the Kayapo Project, [The Paul W. O'Leary Foundation \(PWO\)](#) was instrumental in the launch of the Bakra: Kayapo Forest School initiative. The PWO team provided strategic governance and administrative advising, allowing the Kayapo Project team to plan for future scale and replication of the program throughout the alliance.

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