



## Protect a Critical Forest from a Mega-highway in Brazil

In the heart of the central Amazon Rainforest, an area of pristine tropical forests lies between the Madeira River and the Purus River, both tributaries of the upper Amazon. They feature high-carbon, “flooded forests” in the lowlands around Capanã Lake that are seasonally underwater as well as dry forests and, remarkably, 98% are intact, thanks to their historic isolation. An astounding array of species, many endemic, survive here.

All this is at great risk from the controversial 540-mile partially paved highway, BR-319, that was constructed across the Brazilian Amazon in the 1970s to link the major city of Manaus to Porto Velho in the Western Amazon and its network of roads connecting clear to the Pacific coast. Much of the highway has been impassable since 1988, but in 2020, the Brazilian government announced it would resurface the highway. It runs directly along the northern border of the Indigenous territory targeted by this proposal.

A mosaic of Indigenous territories surrounds Capanã Lake. Although many have been mapped and officially recognized as Indigenous lands, a significant portion of them were not, leaving them vulnerable to land grabbing, speculation and illegal extraction of timber and other resources.

Urgent action must be taken to secure this vulnerable area as Indigenous owned and managed territories, so that communities have legal recourse to defend their forests. Rainforest Trust and our partner, Centro de Trabalho Indigenista, seek \$1,706,689 to support the establishment of the 429,823-acre Lago Capanã II Indigenous Territory. The Indigenous communities here have initiated the process with the government to have the boundaries of their territory officially defined, but there is much yet to be done.

### SAVE HABITAT AND THOUSANDS OF SPECIES FROM HIGHWAY-RELATED THREATS

Abundant biodiversity and numerous threatened species are found in the mix of forest types here. Large mammals including Jaguar, Lowland Tapir, various primate species like the tiny Eastern Pygmy Marmoset, White-lipped and Collared Peccaries and Red Brocket inhabit the higher grounds. The aquatic environments are home to wading birds and mammals, such as Giant Otter, Amazon River Dolphin and Amazonian Manatee. Over 740 species of birds have been recorded in the wider region, and massive Brazil-nut Trees and other large tree species, such as Big Leaf Mahogany and Rubber Tree, grow in the drier areas.



**429,823**  
ACRES

**\$1,706,689**  
PROJECT COST

**\$3.97**  
COST PER ACRE

**138,627,435** mT  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Giant Otter (EN),  
Amazon River Dolphin (EN),  
Tucuxi (EN)



## PROTECT INTACT INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

Indigenous communities have sustained themselves here as hunters, gatherers and fishers for likely thousands of years. They will be directly involved in on-the-ground activities to define their territorial boundaries and once legally declared, commercial scale logging, extraction and leasing of land to non-Indigenous third parties will be strictly prohibited.

The newly declared territory will enable the Mura and Mundurucu communities to maintain their traditional ways of life and land use practices that are compatible with forest conservation, and participate in monitoring and surveillance of the Indigenous Territory for invaders and environmental crimes.



Rainforest Trust has made a long-term commitment to support Indigenous and traditional communities in the Brazilian Amazon to secure legal land tenure and management rights of their territories. We have a number of projects underway in this region to permanently safeguard intact forests that sustain people and threatened species, and lock up billions of metric tons of carbon to alleviate climate disruption.



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