

ACRE, BRAZIL · NOVEMBER 2026

AN INTRODUCTION

Ayahuasca Restoration Foundation

Restoring Ayahuasca, and All Her Guardians

An introduction to the Foundation, the work in Yawanawá territory, and how to take part.

A PROGRAMME OF CÉU DO NOVO MUNDO · EIN 84-1799040

THE PURPOSE

Why this work exists

Some of the oldest wisdom on Earth nearly disappeared once already. The Yawanawá, an Indigenous people of Acre, Brazil, were reduced from roughly five thousand to just over a hundred by the rubber boom and the violence that came with it. The missionary period that followed did to the culture what the rubber boom had done to the people: the language, the ceremonies, the creation stories, the traditional medicines and the Indigenous names were all forbidden, in exchange for medicine for the sick and schooling for the children.

For close to forty years the dieta of Muká, the path through which the people's leaders, healers and knowledge keepers are formed, did not happen once. Around the turn of the millennium, with the missionaries gone, three men entered that dieta again. The culture has been in real rebirth since, and the young are again learning the language, the songs and the ways of preparing medicine.

The global expansion of ayahuasca is a third wave of contact with the outside world. For most of its history there was a balance: the vine and the leaf grew where they were used, the people who prepared the medicine were the people who drank it, and the forest that held them all was cared for as a matter of survival. The expansion has broken that balance. The medicine now flows out of the forest faster than it grows back, and the abundance it creates elsewhere rarely returns to the place it came from.

The Foundation's purpose is to help bring that balance back: for the plants, the people who steward them and the forest they grow in to be left more abundant, not less, by everything the medicine has made possible.

> *In the Yawanawá language there is no word for thank you. Gratitude is enacted, through care for what has been received and for the place it came from. That is what reciprocity means here.*



MARIRI FESTIVAL IN MUTUM

THE STORY SO FAR

Where it comes from

The Foundation grows out of more than a decade of work with the Yawanawá, especially the village of Mutum, where Dennis Notten first arrived in July 2013. The early years were carried by Stichting Sananda Wasi (2013 to 2019), followed by Céu do Novo Mundo, the US 501(c)(3) within which the planting programme became known as Plant a Vine.

Since 2015, roughly $300,000 has been moved into the territory through this work. With the communities, we built a Shuvu, five dieta houses and a kitchen at Sete Estrelas; a Shuvu at Apíuri, later restored; and the Muká Centre at Mutum, established in 2018 and expanded in 2022 with dieta houses, a Shuvu, kitchen and fornalha. Five Escolas do Feitio have taken place.

Our current records count 3,167 ayahuasca vines, 1,670 chacruna and 200 açaí seedlings across earlier planting and the new nursery. These numbers include 1,000 vines, 500 chacruna and 200 açaí seedlings still being cared for in the nursery at Mutum. The other 2,167 vines and 1,170 chacruna were planted in earlier years. These are gross counts, **not verified numbers of surviving plants**.

In 2026, Plant a Vine became the Ayahuasca Restoration Foundation, extending the work across four pillars. It remains a programme of Céu do Novo Mundo, with its own funds, projects and records kept distinguishable.



ALEXANDRA PLANTING

THE WORK

The four pillars

Vine and Leaf Restoration

Planting today for generations yet to come.

Imagine a future in which the worldwide expansion of ayahuasca has brought new abundance to the forests from which the medicine first emerged. Where vines planted today climb high into the canopy decades from now, and children walk among plants their grandparents placed in the earth.

Together with Indigenous communities, we establish nurseries, plant ayahuasca vines and chacruna, and support the care these plants need to survive. More than a decade of planting has taught us that restoration is not measured by how many seedlings enter the ground, but by how many are still growing years later.

Our ambition is that the worldwide sharing of ayahuasca will one day leave more medicine growing in the Amazon than it has taken away.

Food Sovereignty

Restoring the abundance of the forest, one village at a time.

For generations, the Amazon has nourished its communities through its rivers, forests and gardens. Yet traditional sources of food are increasingly supplemented by supplies brought in from outside, while growing numbers of visitors place additional demands on village resources.

If people from around the world come to receive the medicine, we share a responsibility to support what sustains the communities who welcome us.

Imagine villages surrounded by flourishing food forests, where children gather fruit from trees planted by their grandparents and families have greater freedom to nourish themselves from their own land.

In Mutum, we have begun with 200 açaí seedlings. Our hope is that this first food forest pilot can grow into a programme shaped by the needs and wishes of many villages.

The four pillars, continued

Escola do Feitio

Keeping the fire burning for generations to come.

The art of preparing ayahuasca is knowledge cultivated through decades of practice and passed from one generation to the next.

Traditionally, medicine was prepared for relatively small gatherings. Today, festivals can bring hundreds of visitors into a village, creating demands that existing facilities were never built to accommodate.

With this expansion comes responsibility. The communities sharing their medicine with the world should have the resources, facilities and opportunities to respond on their own terms.

The Escola do Feitio brings younger generations together with experienced medicine makers to learn through participation. Since the first Escola in Mutum in 2022, five gatherings have taken place.

May the medicine's growing presence in the world help keep the fires burning in the villages from which it came.

Ceremonial and Hosting Infrastructure

Creating places where traditions can live for generations to come.

Every tradition needs places where it can continue to live. Ceremonial houses, dieta centres and communal spaces where elders teach, younger generations learn, and communities gather.

As more visitors reach the Amazon, the villages face growing demands for accommodation, kitchens, clean water and suitable ceremonial spaces.

But these buildings are not simply facilities for international visitors. They belong first and foremost to the communities themselves. Welcoming visitors should strengthen their purpose, never displace it.

Since 2014, we have helped build and restore Shuvus, dieta houses and communal facilities in Sete Estrelas, Apíuri and Mutum, including the Muká Centre.

Our hope is that these places will continue serving the communities, their children and generations not yet born.

The four pillars support one another. The plants need people to care for them; the people need nourishment and places to pass on their knowledge. All four depend on relationships that endure.

THREE RINGS

How the work grows

The work begins in Mutum and grows outward only where relationships and resources can sustain it.

01 Mutum first

Mutum is where this work took root in 2013, where the Muká Centre and the fornalha stand, and where Matsini Yawanawá guides the community's priorities. It is where we learn how to keep a nursery healthy, care for a planting over years and maintain the places needed for ceremony and study. The work here must continue to stand before we extend it elsewhere.

02 Yawanawá territory

Planting has already begun in Mutum, Yawatxiva, Matrixa, Awavana and Sete Estrelas. Six more Yawanawá villages have asked for nurseries of their own. How many can begin in 2027 depends on funding, local capacity and agreements made with each village. Each community decides what it wants to plant, who will care for it and how the work will be carried out.

03 Other Amazonian tribes

The Huni Kuin have already invited us to explore working together. In time, other tribes may do the same. We will not impose a standard model: each new relationship begins with an invitation and grows at the pace of trust.

THE PRINCIPLES THE FOUNDATION HOLDS ITSELF TO

Each village decides whether to take part, what it wants to plant and how the work is carried out. Donations help put those decisions into practice. The community retains full authority over its territory, culture and knowledge. Expansion happens by invitation. Nothing is built or planted without provision for its continued care. Local work and coordination are paid fairly; finances and results are reported openly. The medicine, ceremonial practice and traditional knowledge are not for sale, and financial support does not confer access to them.

HONESTLY

What went wrong with the plantings, and what changes now

Before the current nursery, our records show 2,167 ayahuasca vines and 1,170 chacruna planted since 2015, at a cost above $50,000. These are plants placed in the ground, not proof that they survived. Davi Nunes de Paula's preliminary assessment, made on one visit and still to be checked against a field count, is that many earlier plantings did not establish.

His explanation is practical. Seedlings travelled long distances from nurseries by car, boat and wheelbarrow, disturbing their fine roots. Some vines were tied up too early, or cut inadvertently when paths were cleared. Crucially, long-term care was not consistently funded. Davi has spent more than twenty years learning from similar losses, and his approach now shapes our next chapter.

Davi's method has three stages

I. Establish the cantero. The nursery bed is built exactly where the vines will eventually grow. A family nearby waters and watches over the seedlings while they establish themselves.

II. Plant out. In January 2027, the young vines, chacruna and açaí are moved only a few metres from their nursery bags into the surrounding ground.

III. Follow through. Around six months later, local carers clear the understory and help each vine reach its host tree. Survival is monitored and the work continues for years, not weeks.

The first cantero beside the Muká Centre at Mutum was built by Davi's team in September 2026. The plants are tended by a family living beside it. Davi has offered to partner on planting and preparing the winter's medicine at cost, as the beginning of a lasting working relationship.



RIO GREGÓRIO, THE WAY INTO THE TERRITORY



TWO MASTERS IN THE MAKING

DECEMBER 2026 TO MARCH 2027

This winter

This winter's plans bring together planting, the Escola do Feitio, repairs at the Muká Centre and the first part of the documentary.

THE WINTER'S WORK	NEEDED
Plantation, stage two at Mutum In January we plan to plant out 1,700 nursery plants: 1,000 ayahuasca vines, 500 chacruna and 200 açaí seedlings. The $10,000 covers planting and follow-up.	$10,000
Escola do Feitio with Davi, 10 to 20 December Cooking the medicine for the New Year festival and the months after, at Davi's church in Cruzeiro do Sul, at his cost price. The first session of the Escola with him.	$15,000
Muká Centre at Mutum, first phase Bathrooms for the dieta houses; scope confirmed with Matsini Yawanawá in January. Further phases in 2027.	$15,000
Winter coordination Proposed contribution to the winter work of Alexandra Ciobanu and Dennis Notten, $5,000 each.	$10,000
Documentary, first part Filming the four pillars across generations, the material for the philanthropy conversations of 2027.	$15,000
TOTAL NEEDED BY 1 DECEMBER 2026	$65,000



A VINE WE PLANTED IN 2023

What each level does

$25,000 – the commitments to Davi are honoured: the feitio is cooked and the plants go into the ground.

$35,000 covers the planting, the feitio and the proposed winter coordination costs.

$50,000 — restoration of the Muká Centre begins.

$65,000 – the first part of the documentary is filmed and the winter is fully funded.

Already paid, outside this total: the first cantero at Mutum and the recovery of an earlier planting at Yawatxiva.

The winter begins with the feitio with Davi from 10 to 20 December and the Mariri Festival in Mutum from 31 December to 5 January. In January we plan to transplant the young vines, chacruna and açaí, count surviving plants from previous years and make agreements with the community on the priorities for 2027.



DENNIS COOKING MEDICINE AT THE FORNALHA IN MUTUM

THE FIRST FULL YEAR

2027

In January we plan to transplant the young vines, chacruna and açaí from the Mutum nursery into nearby ground. In the months that follow we will revisit earlier planting sites, count what survived and publish what we find.

Six Yawanawá villages have asked for nurseries of their own. The next nursery-building round is envisaged for September 2027, so young plants can root before the following planting season. Starting work in two to four additional villages is a planning scenario, not a commitment to all six at once; the number depends on funding, capacity and each village's decisions.

Our 2027 field programme has a funding ceiling of **$300,000**. Taking on more than we can support responsibly would undermine the long-term care that restoration requires.

At the Muká Centre, Matsini will guide the priorities: bathrooms for the dieta houses, then work on the huts, kitchen and grounds. With full funding, a permanent feitio house would allow the community to cook the medicine each year without rebuilding the fires.

We also hope to hold two sessions of the Escola do Feitio with Davi, one mid-year and one in December, and to pay local teams to tend the plants. Beyond Mutum, the work will expand only at the invitation and pace of the participating villages.



BANISTERIOPSIS CAAPI

2027

The programme

THE 2027 PROGRAMME	BUDGET
Feitio house at Mutum Written quote in hand; timing depends on funding and the village.	$60,000
Two feitios with Davi Mid-year and December.	$30,000
Plantation Next planting rounds in September. Follow-up at Mutum and wages for the people tending the plants in participating villages.	$40,000
Muká Centre at Mutum Continuing restoration: sanitation, huts, kitchen and grounds. Phased into 2028.	$40,000
Field coordination and compensation Two people carrying the programme on equal terms. Cost scales with the level of funding.	$80–100,000
Operations, travel, administration, buffer	$30,000
PROGRAMME CEILING	$300,000

At $150,000: two feitios with Davi, Mutum through stage three, nurseries in two additional villages and continued care for the Muká Centre. No new feitio house at this level.

At $300,000: the full programme runs. If the year is funded before the winter, the agreements can be made in person with Matsini, Davi and the caciques of the villages that want to plant, which is what makes them hold.

The film. A feature documentary on the Foundation, filmed across the four pillars, is a separate campaign with its own budget, lead and donors, so that the projects never depend on the film and the film can find the people who want to make it. Working envelope about $200,000. In November 2027 the Indigenous Ayahuasca Conference comes to Aldeia Sagrada in Yawanawá territory; the aim is to stand there with the year's work visible and a film that shows it.

THE PEOPLE

Who carries it

Matsini Yawanawá guides the work at the Muká Centre in Mutum and sets the priorities for its care. **Davi Nunes de Paula and his team** tend the nursery, support the plantation stages and prepare the medicine. The first 200 açaí seedlings of our food forest pilot are growing in Mutum alongside the young vine and leaf.

Dennis Notten founded the Ayahuasca Restoration Foundation after more than a decade of working with the Yawanawá. **Alexandra Ciobanu** coordinates the Foundation's work with Matsini, Davi and the participating villages, maintaining contact and helping organise the work between visits.

Behind these relationships stands a growing group supporting the Foundation's administration, finance, fundraising and documentary work, alongside a Board of Advisors offering experience and introductions. Decisions about planting, construction and the continuation of traditions remain with the communities themselves.

A written, costed project is being prepared among Céu do Novo Mundo, Davi's cultural association and the Yawanawá association for agreement before implementation. The purpose is to support long-term work that can be maintained locally, not a succession of short-lived projects.



TATÁ TXANU YAWANAWÁ (1913–2016), ONE OF THE LAST ELDERS TO CARRY THE OLD KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE MISSIONARY YEARS

AN INVITATION

How to take part

Your support helps families and field teams at Mutum care for young ayahuasca vines, chacruna and açaí; sustain the Escola do Feitio; and restore the Muká Centre. The work is already under way, and the next planting season is approaching.

The winter programme budget is $65,000, including the first phase of documentary filming. The separate 2027 field-programme ceiling is $300,000. Full budgets and planned activities are set out on the preceding pages.

There are three ways to take part: a contribution toward the winter programme, a pledge toward 2027 or an introduction to someone who may want to help. After the winter, we will report what was planted and cooked, what survived, the work undertaken at the Muká Centre and how funding was used.

Céu do Novo Mundo is a US 501(c)(3), EIN 84-1799040. Gifts may be tax deductible for US taxpayers to the extent allowed by law. Donors outside the United States are welcome to contribute through the same routes.

WAYS OF GIVING

ZELLE (US)	mail@sacredjourney.earth
PAYPAL	mail@sacredjourney.earth
WIRE	Céu do Novo Mundo · JP Morgan Chase, 270 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017 Account 507375621 · Routing for wires 021000021 · SWIFT/BIC CHASUS33 Account holder address: 20269 Croydon Ln, Topanga, CA 90290
ANYTHING ELSE	Write to mail@sacredjourney.earth

Restoring Ayahuasca, and All Her Guardians

QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS · MAIL@SACREDJOURNEY.EARTH