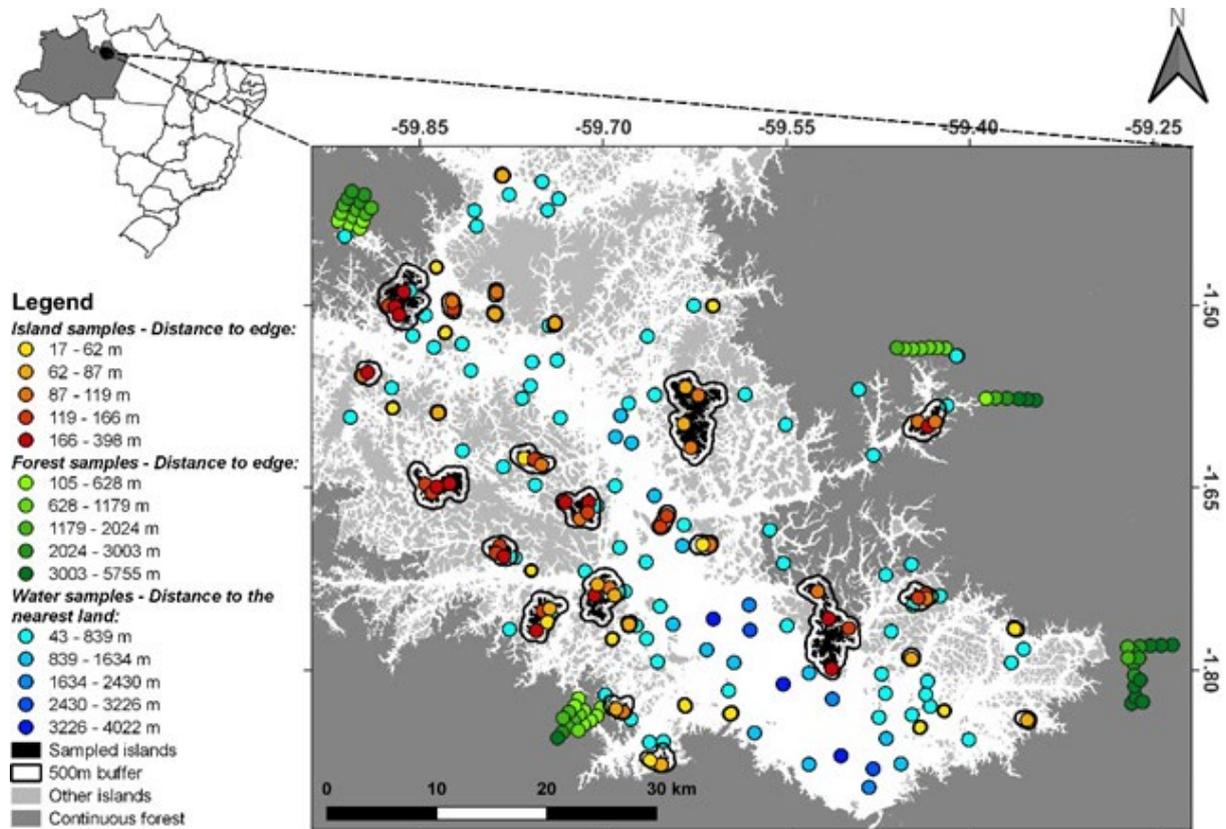


## Project Update: March 2023

Once we received the funds, we embarked on a 3-month fieldwork campaign at the Balbina reservoir in late August 2022. Thanks to the support of The Rufford Foundation, we were able to conduct the largest invertebrate survey ever undertaken in the Balbina reservoir.



To accomplish this, we distributed 1,320 yellow sticky traps across the entire Balbina reservoir, organised into 220 transects of six traps each. Of these, 91 transects were distributed across the water matrix, which covers an area twice the size of London. We also distributed 71 transects across 36 islands in the reservoir and 58 transects in the continuous forest area surrounding the reservoir (see map above).

In addition to our fieldwork, we collaborated with the administration of the Uatumã Biological Reserve to develop an educational programme in the Balbina village. Our goal was to stimulate the formation of environmental scientists in the local community. We visited the community high school and presented our research to the students, showcasing all of the work that had been done in the area where they live (see figure on the right). We also demonstrated our survey methods and presented the pathways to becoming a biologist in the Amazon. Our visit inspired several kids to consider pursuing a career in this field. This programme is still in development in the village, and we're inviting new researchers to share their perspectives on conducting conservation research in the Amazon.

Our diverse team made this work possible, including two amazing local villagers who assisted us throughout the entire 3-month campaign, and two early-career biologists who volunteered during the fieldwork (see figure on the left). With the data

collected, we are currently processing it and expect to publish at least one paper by the end of 2023 and two more by the end of 2024.

