

## Project Update February 2026

**Rufford I.D.:** 44881-1

**Project Title:** Guardians of the Night: How the Waimiri-Atroari's Highway Closure is Leveraging Environmental Justice and Biodiversity Conservation

### **Update:**

We have now completed all field activities for the project. Over the past months, we surveyed 150 camera-trap locations along the BR-174 highway, both inside and outside the Waimiri-Atroari Indigenous Territory. We had a total of 21,600 traps/nights during the 8 months the cameras were active. We have now completed the ecological analyses, examining how the relative abundance of medium and large mammals changes with proximity to the road, and whether species shift their daily activity patterns, for example from more diurnal to more nocturnal behaviour, potentially to avoid disturbance. Fieldwork was done together with the community. We worked closely with 12 Waimiri-Atroari members who were trained in camera-trap ecological monitoring.

We also finished all planned semi-structured interviews with community members and key stakeholders. These conversations about wildlife, the road, and nighttime traffic restrictions were some of the most meaningful parts of the project. I am currently transcribing them, which has been a reflective process in itself.

The project is now moving from fieldwork into analysis and writing. We are finalising statistical models, completing qualitative coding, and finishing two ecological manuscripts.

Over the past year, I also had opportunities to share the project beyond the field. I presented the work at the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) 2026 in Brisbane, Australia. At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, I gave three talks and spoke with members of the Brazilian government about the Waimiri-Atroari nighttime traffic restriction and the pressures the territory is facing. It was important to bring these local realities into those spaces.

The project has also been discussed outside academic settings. I was interviewed for the Rewildology (Amazon series), and the Sinal de Vida podcast is now producing a second season focused on this work.

In the coming months, I plan to return to the community to share and discuss the results together. It is important that the ecological findings are interpreted alongside the knowledge and perspectives of the Waimiri-Atroari people. This project has been a life-changing journey, and the most meaningful part has been the partnership with a community that are the guardians of the forest and live with the impacts of the road in their territory every day.