



FOREST MAKERS

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

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FOREST MAKERS AN ADVENTURE IN SEARCH FOR WATER

*The seeds collected today
will make forests of the future*

"Forest Makers – An adventure in search for water", the film, is a deep dive into the experience of the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) and the Xingu Seed Network Association (ARSX), which brought together people from different backgrounds to restore degraded areas following the courses of the watersheds of Xingu, Araguaia, and Teles Pires rivers, in the State of Mato Grosso.

The 9-minute documentary presents the union between Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, environmentalists, and rural producers with a common goal: to plant the forests of the future. The association of such diverse communities and people seems like an improbable dream. Still, it is one of **the most innovative and effective strategies aiming to restore the Brazilian forests**.

For more than 14 years, the network has combined indigenous knowledge and cutting-edge agricultural technology to bring biodiversity and water back to the region and promote the local economy. The communities' knowledge about seeds helps rural producers to restore springs and riverbank areas.

Based on the harvesting of native seeds, the network moves a socioeconomic chain that values the communities' traditional knowledge, boosts the socio-environmental balance, and improves the well-being of the local residents.

ABOUT THE FILM'S PRODUCERS



ISA
Instituto Socioambiental

Instituto Socioambiental (ISA)

The Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) is a Brazilian non-profit civil society organization established in 1994. ISA proposes solutions to social and environmental issues in an integrated manner, focusing on the defense of social, collective, and diffuse goods and rights related to the environment, cultural heritage, and the rights of individuals and peoples.



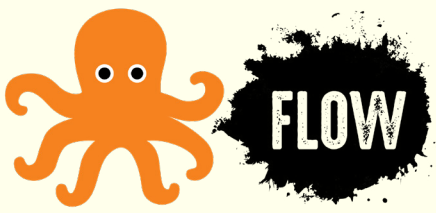
Xingu Seed Network (ARSX)

The Xingu Seed Network Association (ARSX) is a non-governmental, non-profit association considered the most prominent native seed network in Brazil. Created in 2007, the initiative aims to value the peoples and communities that collect seeds for forest restoration in several territories in the watersheds of the Xingu, Araguaia, and Teles Pires rivers. Today, there are more than 500 seed collectors, 20 million trees planted, more than 6 thousand hectares of forests planted, and more than R\$ 4.4 million passed on directly to the communities.



Junglebee

Junglebee is an Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality production company. It develops immersive stories and creates solutions for new communication challenges for companies, cultural institutions, and NGOs.



Flow Impact

Flow as a film distributor was created based on the perception that some changes need to be accelerated. It is a spin-off of Maria Farinha Filmes that experiments with new ways of reaching the audience while carrying out social impact campaigns that provide real and plural ways, fostering the activist spirit. Among the highlights of its portfolio are the documentaries like “The Judge,” an Oscar nominee in 2019, and “Far from the Tree” (2018), which is based on the bestseller of the same title - both of which are the result of a partnership with Participant Media, an American company dedicated to producing films that bring entertainment that raises social awareness, nominated for 73 Oscars and winner of 18 statuettes.



FILM CREDITS

Year of production: 2020

Country: Brazil

Genre: Documentary

Production: Xingu Seed Network Association,
Instituto Socioambiental, and Junglebee

Direction and Script: Tadeu Jungle

Executive Production: Fernando Chiari

Local Production: Bruna Ferreira, Heber Queiroz (in memoriam),
Guilherme Pompiano, Roberto Almeida, Lara Costa, João Carlos Pereira,
Denise Costa, Tatiana Ribeiro, Claudia Araujo and Natanael Lopes

Directing assistance: Rafael Baliú

Photography: Raul Cariello

Editing: Jean Battistini (AMC)

Direct Sound: Marcio Farah

Soundtrack: Luiz Macedo and Thiago Chasseraux

Sound design and Mix Stereo: Rogerio Marques

Color and Effects: Pedro Gebara

Available languages: Portuguese and English

Distribution: Flow Impact

Duration: 9 minutes



“Forest Makers” has institutional support from the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.



The film was produced with support from the European Union, Good Energies, Rainforest Foundation Norway, Amazonia Live/Rock in Rio, Funbio, and Conservation International (CI).



WHERE TO WATCH:

<https://forestmakers.org/> and <https://fazedoresdefloresta.org/>



Photo by Rogério Assis / ISA



SDGs



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ambitious and well-connected targets to address the key development challenges of all the world's nations. There are a total of 17 goals that aim to end poverty, protect the environment and climate, and ensure that people, no matter where they live, can enjoy peace and prosperity.

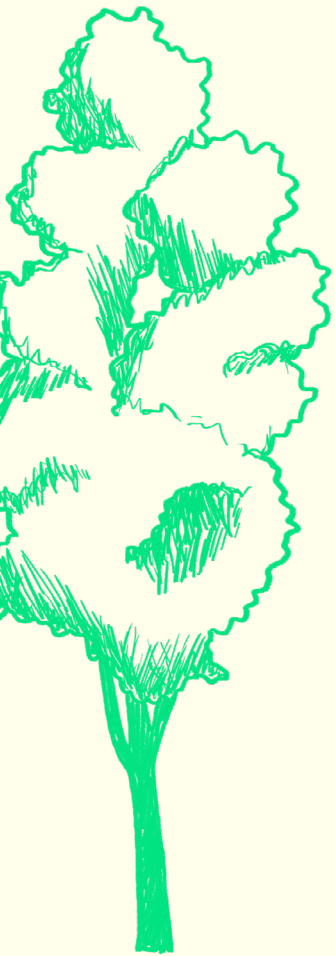
The film deals with six SDGs: 01, 02, 10, 11, 13, and 15.



Photo by Caio Corrêa / Amazonia Live



LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING:



For quite a long time, the headwaters of the Xingu River in the State of Mato Grosso have been threatened by deforestation, degradation, and the drying up of its springs. This is a region of prime importance for the ecological balance of Brazil. It is not by chance that the Cerrado is called “the water reservoir of the country.”

The Xingu River begins in the Cerrado and flows into the Amazon biome. Along its course are Conservation Units, Indigenous Lands, Rural Properties, and Municipalities. The Xingu River watershed is home to endemic plant and animal species that only exist in that region. There is a wealth of diversity in people, cultures, plants, and animals.

As a result of deforestation and forest degradation, everything is threatened: livelihoods, biodiversity, sources of income, water quality, and the forest itself. Therefore, in 2007, ISA launched a campaign to restore degraded ecosystems. It was the launch of the Y Ikatu Xingu Campaign, which soon after became known as the innovative Xingu Seed Network. The idea behind the Xingu Seed Network is to unite different people and knowledge to restore the forest in degraded areas and bring back water and life in the headwaters of the Xingu River.

Since 2007, the Xingu Seed Network has united family farmers, Indigenous people, and rural producers to restore the region using seeds from native Cerrado trees. As time passed, they discovered the best techniques for harvesting, storing, processing, and planting the seeds. That’s the right word: discovery. Because this knowledge already existed. It is a long-time reality in the Indigenous tradition as well as well-spread among local family farmers. Thanks to the Seed Network, this knowledge has achieved scale and recognition.

By 2020, about 260 tons of seeds from more than 220 native species will have been collected, generating an income of R\$4.4 million for the collectors and their communities. This strategy becomes even more powerful when rural producers recognize that traditional knowledge and technology work in their favor and help restore forests that benefit their crops, the regional climate balance, and the rainfall regime throughout the country. Based on the articulation with several groups, the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) and the Xingu Seed Network have already restored 6.8 thousand hectares of native forest in the region.

Photo by Eder Irber / ARSX



WHO MAKES THE XINGU SEED NETWORK?

Many people make the network. The seed collectors are Indigenous people, family farmers, and residents of the cities in the region. Forest engineers also support the care with the storage and processing. And the planting is carried out on the rural property of farmers and ranchers. Without this intertwining of people, the Network would not exist.



ARSX DATA

Figures – Infographics



Xingu Seed Network Association (ARSX)

568 collectors

Three macro-groups: **Indigenous people, family farmers from rural settlements, and urban dwellers from cities in north-central Mato Grosso**

25 collection groups



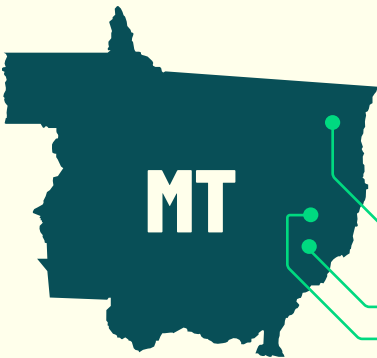
32 indigenous villages in three territories (Marãiwatsédé, Pimentel Barbosa and Xingu Indigenous Territory)

6 Indigenous peoples: Wauja, Matipu, Ikpeng, Kawaiwete, Yudjá and Xavante



16 rural settlements

21 municipalities



Ten (10) Seed Houses (7 for pre-storage, in the collection groups, and 3 larger ones, which concentrate the seed storage in the cities of Nova Xavantina, Canarana, and Porto Alegre do Norte)

In association with partners, over these **14 years**, the ARSX has already spread **262 tons of seeds** of **more than 220 species of native plants** all over the soil, with a **total turnover of R\$4.4 million** in the local communities.



TESTIMONIALS:

Amanda Kaiabi

Samaúma Village – Kaiabi People - Xingu Indigenous Territory (MT)

“After I joined the Network, I saw that all this work we do, to restore the forests, to restore the Xingu springs, is for our future, the future of our children, and I want this feeling to be strengthened in everyone who is planting the seeds we have collected. This is what worries me a lot: losing our forest. And the water, too, that keeps us alive. We eat fish that come from the Xingu River; we wash our clothes in the river. Whoever cuts down our forests also makes the water dry up.”

Rone Cesar Borges Silva

Bordolândia Settlement PDS – Mato Grosso

“When I came with my family to the Bordolândia Sustainable Development Project (PDS), here in northeastern Mato Grosso, in 2010, I even started working with logging. But everything changed when I met the Xingu Seed Network in 2015. Today, I collect seeds with my group, and I am the president of the agroecological association Acampaz, right here with my neighbors. We advocate for forest preservation, and we prove that it is possible to reconcile life in the countryside, agriculture, livestock, with agroecology and preservation.”

Cledinélia Aparecida de Souza

Jaraguá Settlement – Água Boa (MT)

“Before I became a seed collector, I used to look at the forest, and I was not fond of the trees as I am today. Being part of the Xingu Seed Network has changed the way I see the forest. The courses and meetings encouraged me to preserve nature. Today, we are five collectors in the same family. When we leave home to harvest seeds, we take the whole family along. It is an amusing intergenerational encounter: we tell stories, play, exchange knowledge, and learn a lot from each other. When we come back home, I choose some samples for seedlings and plant them in my backyard. Some trees are already growing, and I think we will be collecting seeds nearby in a little while. My backyard full of trees is such a tiny contribution to forest recovery, which has been deforested at an astonishing rate.”

Photo by Carol Quintanilha / ISA





Photo by Camila Grinsztejn / Amazonia Live

Vera Alves da Silva Oliveira

Seed collector in Nova Xavantina (MT)

“I lived in the rural area, and my father would always take me to the woods to help him with some work. I have always been very curious, so during those walks, I would ask him the names of the plants. When I was invited to join the Xingu Seed Network by a neighbor who is a seed collector, it was like a dream come true for me. So, I jumped at the chance and started with a minimal seed list because I had not much experience with seeds yet - although I really knew a lot! At that time, I worked as a house cleaner in the morning, and the rest of the day, I went to collect seeds by bike with my daughter. After one year, I quit my job as a house cleaner and started working only with seeds. And I am here to this day. It didn't take me long to buy a motorcycle, a car, a plot of land, a house... And this way, I just keep growing better and better!”

WHY IS IT INNOVATIVE?



The innovation of the Xingu Seed Network can be summed up in one word: **MUVUCA**. Muvuca is not only a mixture of seeds, but it is also a mix of knowledge and people in favor of restoring the headwaters of the Xingu, Araguaia, and Teles Pires rivers.

It brings together Indigenous people, cattle ranchers, family farmers.

It also brings together seeds from different native species.

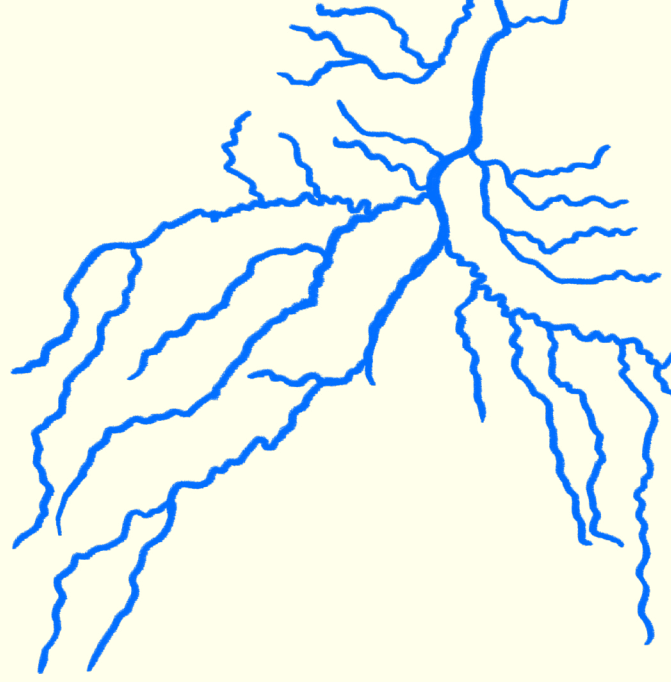
It aggregates traditional knowledge with technology in the field.

The planting of trees for restoration can be done in so many ways. In the case of the Xingu Seed Network, the innovation introduced by Muvuca combines what farmers and Indigenous people have been doing for centuries: planting native species using the direct seeding technique with the help of field machinery. Planting forests through the **Direct Sowing of Native Seeds** means savings for those who perform the planting of around 50% compared to planting seedlings, with the advantage that it can be mechanized. Thus, restoration is completed on a large scale and quickly.

Muvuca is good for:

- **The Collectors** (Indigenous people, family farmers, residents) for generating income from the sale of harvested seeds.
- **The Farmers and Rural Producers** because it offers an alternative to restore degraded areas, saving money, and empowering the local community.
- **The environment** by restoring flora, bringing the water back, and creating conditions for local people to prosper locally.

OTHER SEED NETWORKS:



The Xingu Seed Network Association is not alone. Currently, in Brazil, more than 10 collectives organize the harvest and sale of native seeds for environmental restoration.

Learn more about other networks here:

[Vale do Ribeira Seeds Network \(SP\)](#)

[The Cerrado Seeds Network \(DF\)](#)

[Portal of Amazônia Seeds Network \(MT\)](#)

[Geraizeiras Springs Restorers and Collectors Network \(MG\)](#)

[Standing Cerrado Association \(GO\)](#)

[Hileia Baiana Seeds Network and Arboretum Institute \(BA\)](#)

[Vale do Rio Doce Seeds Network \(MG and ES\)](#)

[Verde Novo Native Seeds \(DF\)](#)

[Seeds Network of São Francisco Integration Project – Ecology and Environmental Monitoring Center NEMA/UNIVASF \(PE\)](#)

[Xingu Seed Network \(PA\)](#)

[Rio Doce Seeds Network \(MG\)](#)

[Paraíso Seeds \(MG\)](#)

[Monjolinho Seeds \(SP\)](#)

GET INVOLVED

You can now join the network that makes and protects the Brazilian forests! Learn how:

Share the film with your friends and family:

[English version](#)

[Portuguese version](#)

Donate to ISA and help us plant more trees

<https://joinus.socioambiental.org>

Be a maker of your own forest:

<https://forestmakers.org/learn-more/>

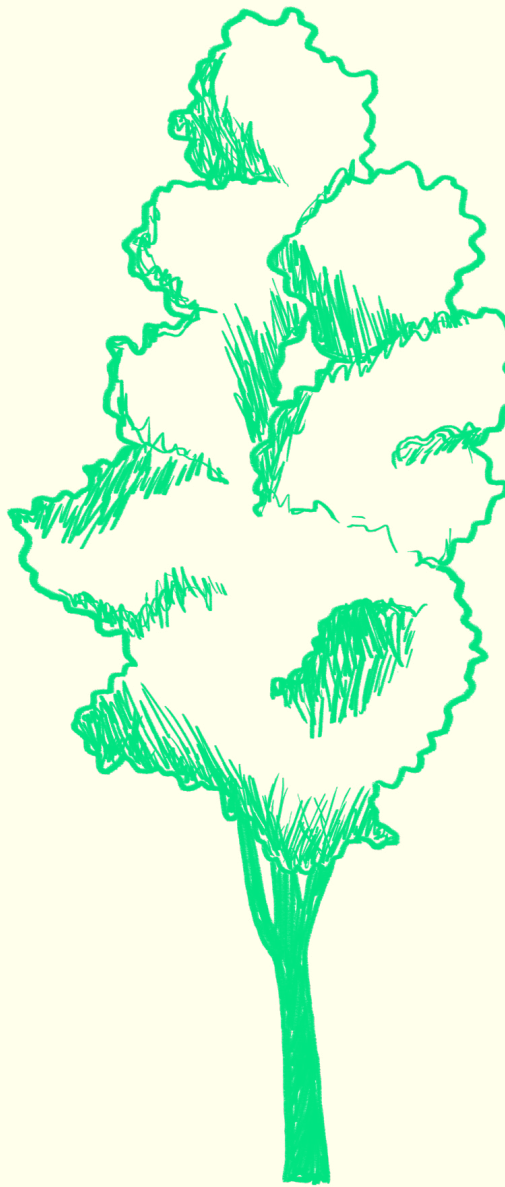


Photo by Camila Grinsztejn / Amazonia Live



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