

# Apuí, Brazil

Engaging local farmers in regenerative agroforestry



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Mid-year update 2024

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## Project status

100 hectares under restoration

More than 170 000 trees protected & growing



**The Amazon rainforest is our planet's lungs, absorbing large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and producing 20% of the world's oxygen. It plays a critical role in global weather patterns and water cycles – but deforestation means it is absorbing less than half as much CO<sub>2</sub> as it did twenty years ago.**

In one of Amazonas State's most deforested municipalities, we're supporting farmers to establish organic coffee agroforestry systems on their lands, which regenerates soil fertility, increases production and decreases the pressure on native forests.

In the last planting season from October 2023 to April 2024, another 35 ha of agroforestry systems were established, with 46 200 coffee seedlings planted alongside 22 120 seedlings

of 9 native species and two exotic species (banana and gliricidia). In total, 100 ha of AFS coffee has been set up since we started in 2021. Later in 2024, we'll plant another 10 ha with 2222 seedlings of coffee per hectare and 632 seedlings of native species per hectare.

Mr. Jair (above) set up his agroforestry plot in 2022. Look how well his coffee and native trees are doing in less than two years! Farmers like Mr. Jair that develop agroforestry systems in this project are included in IDESAM's Apuí Agroforestry Coffee commercial venture, benefiting from higher prices for their produce and increasing the chance that they will continue the forest-based farming systems.

Fires in the Amazon dropped significantly as



stricter environmental controls cut deforestation by 80% from 2004 to 2012, but policy reversals led to record fires in 2020 that have remained high since then. IDESAM and WeForest are discussing adjustments to minimize the impacts of droughts and fires in the project area, as Apuí continues to be one of the leading municipalities for fires in 2024.

This, combined with inflation reaching over 10% in recent years and currency devaluation, has pushed up operational costs significantly, particularly as IDESAM expanded to more remote areas of Apuí. We're also in discussions with our partners to ensure that resources are available to continue into the future.

The new tree nursery is making great progress. A storage shed, office space, bathrooms, and bedrooms are already in place. The photo above shows the area where the seedling beds will be installed, and there'll also be a new facility on-site to process coffee beans before roasting.

Scheduled to launch in September, the nursery will have an impressive capacity of 170 000 seedlings per year. Initially, the focus will be on coffee seedlings to ensure both quantity and quality, with plans to expand to the native species later. This new nursery is a game-changer for the project, as until now, seedlings came from Porto Velho, 600 km away. This often compromised quality and limited diversity. With this local nursery, the project is set to scale up efficiently and reduce costs.



**You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Apuí map](#), and check out the photos on [Flickr](#).**

**You can find an overview of all communications assets and guidance on how to communicate about your partnership with WeForest [here](#).**



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