



## WHEN PROTECTION BECOMES PRACTICE

### ON THE GROUND UPDATES

There is a moment in the life of any initiative when a project stops being an idea and becomes a daily practice. When it is no longer defined by pilots, launches, or firsts but by what is held, sustained, and repeated over time.

For Treesistance, 2025 marked that moment when we were selected by the United Nations as a preferred partner and it has been confirmed that we will be featured as the headline success story in the World Wildlife Crime Report 2026. We share this not as an endpoint, but as recognition of something far quieter: the consistency of Indigenous-led territorial protection carried out day after day, often far from view.

Across the Amazon, Forest and Water Guardians continued their work not because it is visible, but because it is necessary. Patrols became routine. Governance structures strengthened. Rivers were monitored. Fires anticipated. Decisions were taken collectively, sometimes slowly, always deliberately. This is what protection looks like when it becomes practice. Continuity matters. In regions where organisations often arrive with urgency, stay briefly and leave with funding cycles, staying is a form of accountability. Trust is built not through presence alone, but through returning, through listening again, adapting, and remaining when conditions are difficult.

Care runs through all of this work. Care for water as a living being. Care for forest as kin. Care for leadership, for youth stepping forward, and for governance systems that hold communities together under pressure. These are not separate pillars; they are interdependent practices that make long-term protection possible. As we step into 2026, our focus is not simply on what we will launch next, but on what we will continue to hold. Scaling, for us, means deepening what already works ensuring that protection remains embedded in everyday life, guided by Indigenous leadership and sustained through time.

In summary, protection, when practiced daily, shifts resistance from fighting to stewardship.

### WHAT IS FLOWING

Some forms of protection are immediate a patrol, an intervention, a river cleared of illegal fishing trawlers. Others move more slowly, shaping what becomes possible over time.

One of the most important currents flowing through Treesistance was the quiet work of legacy funding: building pathways that allow protection to continue long after individual grants end. As for many Indigenous communities, the greatest threat is not the absence of action, but inconsistency. Too often, initiatives do not stay long enough to become practice, leaving behind unfinished processes and fractured trust. Legacy funding responds to this reality by asking a different question: how do we stay?

Over the past year, Treesistance began laying the foundations for an ecosystem of impact-driven initiatives designed to generate long-term, unrestricted support for Indigenous-led territorial protection. These are not side projects, but structural responses to the need for continuity funding that can cover what grants often cannot: maintenance, replacement equipment, governance meetings, daily patrol costs, and the unseen work that keeps protection alive.

Two early expressions of this approach took shape in 2025. Purpose is a functional drink made with Amazonian superfruits. Through it, everyday consumer choices are translated into sustained support for Forest Guardians

Each bottle sold contributes to Indigenous-led protection, creating a simple but powerful connection between daily habits and distant territories. And Sapiens - an impact events platform, using movement / to generate both visibility and long-term funding for conservation. Treesistance retains a stake not for growth's sake, but to ensure that nature remains represented where value is created.

What flows through these initiatives is more than income. It is the possibility of shared stewardship, grounded in reciprocity rather than extraction. Support that stays with the work allows communities to plan beyond the next season. When protection becomes practice, funding must follow the same rhythm. Not fast. Not fleeting. But steady and with care, to carry the work forward.



### COMING SOON

**Real-time territorial monitoring** - In collaboration with Hack the Planet, from April 2026 we will equip the first Indigenous territory with smart camera traps and real-time alert systems — the first technology of its kind to be deployed in the Amazon enabling communities to detect and deter intrusions more safely and effectively.

**Surara** - Our latest short film is a story of courage and continuity featuring the Maró Forest Guardians and how they successfully removed Brazil's largest logging company from their territory. The film will be finalised in March 2026 and prepared for international distribution.

**Strengthening access to justice** - In April 2026, Treesistance will host its first Public Prosecutors–Indigenous Leadership event in the Lower Tapajós, creating direct dialogue between Forest Guardians and State / Federal Public Prosecutors to strengthen evidence pathways and enforcement.

**Scaling the Water Guardians programme** - In 2026, we will expand the Water Guardians programme to include a third Indigenous territory on the opposite side of the Tapajós River, increasing protection of this vital waterway.

**Tales of Resistance** - In 2026, we will carry the voices of Pajés and Indigenous knowledge holders into cultural spaces across Europe through Tales of Resistance — an audio-visual journey bridging ancestral wisdom and contemporary resistance.

If you would like to know more about the above or reach out to discuss new collaborations, please contact [jesse@treesistance.com](mailto:jesse@treesistance.com)



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN THE FOREST TO JOIN THE FIGHT.

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