



PHOTO: MARIO HABERFELD

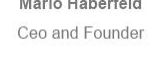
It brings me great joy to announce another milestone in our mission to conserve Brazilian fauna and biomes: Onçafari has acquired another property in the Pantanal, the Mutum Reserve located within the Taquari Wetlands region, in Mato Grosso do Sul state.

The Taquari Wetlands region has been shaped by the altered course of the Taquari River, primarily driven by sedimentation. The formation of the Taquari Wetlands has been hastened and intensified by human activities despite being a natural process. Agricultural expansion and deforestation in the river's upstream areas have resulted in significant sediment accumulation and subsequent flooding, diverting the river from its original course. These changes have led to environmental consequences and significant social impacts, as evidenced by the loss of land and livelihoods experienced by numerous families in the region.

Despite its challenges, now permanently flooded, this region features scattered islands of land teeming with biodiversity. In addition to a wide variety of fish, the area is also a habitat for endangered species such as jaguars, Hyacinth Macaw, and marsh deer.

Unfortunately, this vital region of the Pantanal has suffered from threats such as illegal hunting and overfishing, jeopardizing biodiversity both within and outside its waters. Therefore, Onçafari's presence in the Mutum Reserve is pivotal for advancing research efforts and bolstering monitoring activities to combat wildlife trafficking, an unfortunate reality in this area.

I am profoundly grateful for the generous contributions from Brazilian and American donors, whose support, along with the invaluable partnership with the organization Re:wild, has made the acquisition of the Mutum Reserve possible. Their confidence in Onçafari's work is much appreciated.


Mario Haberfeld
CEO and Founder

RESERVA MUTUM

The Mutum Reserve spans over 6000 hectares in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul and is nestled within the Taquari Wetlands, an area shaped by agricultural expansion and the deforestation of native vegetation in the plateau region. These actions hastened the sedimentation of the Taquari River, altering its course and creating the Taquari Wetlands.



PHOTO: MARIO HABERFELD

Over time, what was once seasonally flooded land has become permanently inundated, forming islands of vegetation that sustain a diverse array of wildlife. Despite some areas drying up, the region has evolved into a sanctuary for biodiversity, boasting natural aquariums and serving as a crucial bastion for Pantanal fauna and flora conservation efforts.

The acquisition of the Mutum Reserve marks our fourth property under management and our 14th operational base. This acquisition is part of Onçafari's strategic plan to acquire large natural areas and expand ecological corridors, further reinforcing our focus on the growth of the "Forests" front.

[Learn more about the Mutum Reserve](#)

ONÇAFARI RECOMMENDS

To learn more about the Taquari Wetlands region, where the Mutum Reserve is, check out the documentaries by Documenta Pantanal:

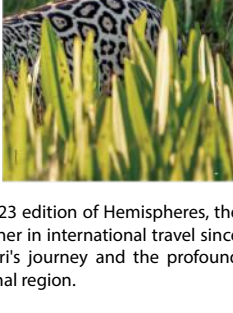
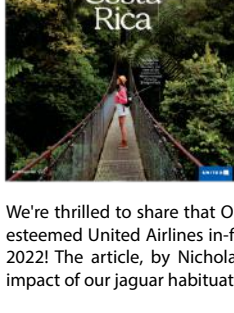
Um Rio Desbocado (Unruly River): This documentary offers an immersive journey through the history of the Taquari River since the 1970s, drawing inspiration from the poetry of Manoel de Barros.

Ruivaldo, o homem que salvou a terra (the Man Who Rescued the Land): The area surrounding the Taquari River is grappling with an environmental crisis, as extensive tracts of land are left unusable due to permanent flooding or erosion. This documentary vividly portrays this situation through the testimony and efforts of Ruivaldo Nery de Andrade, who ingeniously developed a system of makeshift dikes to safeguard his land and secure his family's livelihood.

Finado Taquari (A dead River): The silting of the Taquari River poses challenges to navigation and the mobility of families residing in an area where the river acts as a vital transportation route. However, despite these obstacles, the crew aboard the 20 de Janeiro boat continues transporting supplies and passengers within the affected region. The documentary team joined the crew on a 10-day journey along the river, bearing witness to their compelling saga.

ONÇAFARI IN THE MEDIA

UNITED AIRLINES HEMISPHERES



We're thrilled to share that Onçafari was in the December 2023 edition of Hemispheres, the esteemed United Airlines magazine, our valued partner in international travel since 2022! The article, by Nicholas DeRenzo, delves into Onçafari's journey and the profound impact of our jaguar habituation efforts on the Caiman Pantanal region.

Before our intervention, people rarely saw jaguars in the area, considering them mythical creatures. In 2011, when Onçafari's initiatives began, sightings of these majestic felines numbered fewer than 10. Since then, our successful habituation work has significantly increased jaguar sightings. Today, Caiman Pantanal stands proudly as one of the premier destinations worldwide for observing the species.

The article also highlights our contributions to jaguar reintroduction efforts, underscoring our role in bolstering the local jaguar population and advancing the species conservation initiatives in the Pantanal and beyond.

We sincerely thank United Airlines for their steadfast partnership and unwavering support of our conservation efforts. Together, we soar towards even greater heights for Brazilian biodiversity.

[Read the full article here](#)

STRAIGHT FROM THE FIELD UPDATES ON THE REINTRODUCTION FRONT

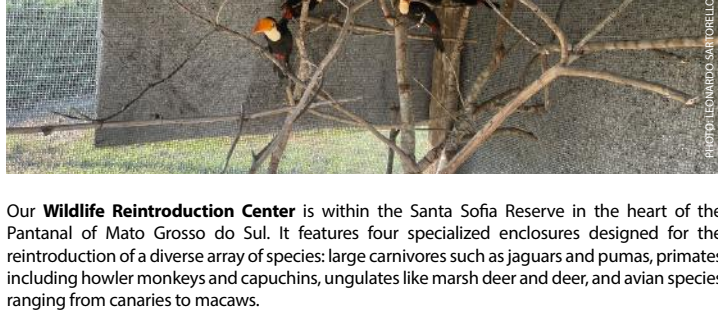


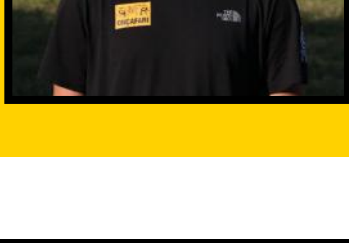
PHOTO: LEONARDO SARRIHELLO

Our **Wildlife Reintroduction Center** is within the Santa Sofia Reserve in the heart of the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul. It features four specialized enclosures designed for the reintroduction of a diverse array of species: large carnivores such as jaguars and pumas, primates including howler monkeys and capuchins, ungulates like marsh deer and deer, and avian species ranging from canaries to macaws.

Exciting news emerged last month as our bird reintroduction enclosure welcomed new arrivals! A cohort of 9 young toucans (*Ramphastos toco*) joined our ranks, hailing from various locations across the Pantanal: some rescued by the local population, and others seized from illegal trafficking. Our devoted team is now responsible for their well-being and will provide them with rehabilitation to ensure their successful reintroduction. So they can live free again!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Mato Grosso do Sul Environmental Institute and our esteemed partners Instituto PremieRpet®, Carrefour Brasil, and the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for their unwavering support of our ongoing reintroduction endeavors! [Learn more](#)

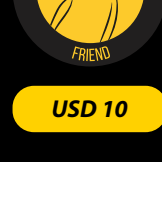
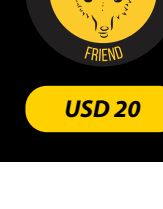
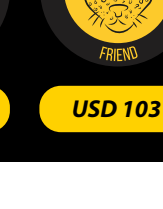
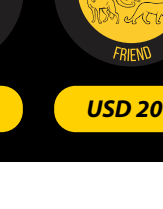
STAR TEAM!



Fabio Souza | Biologist
Originally from Miranda, Mato Grosso do Sul, Fabio Souza graduated from the Federal Institute of Brasília (IFB) in 2019. He joined the Onçafari team in 2021, specializing in photographic trapping, tracking, and the habituation of jaguars in the Pantanal. His passion lies in ecology, animal behavior, and conservation. Currently, he is a guide at the Caiman Pantanal base while leading a scientific project focused on human-jaguar coexistence in the Pantanal.

Would you like to contribute to conservation efforts and support Onçafari's mission?

JOIN US AND BECOME A FRIEND OF THE JAGUAR!

			
USD 10	USD 20	USD 103	USD 206

ECOTOURISM WITH ONÇAFARI

BOOK YOUR TOUR!



CAIMAN PANTANAL

POUSADA TRIJUNÇÃO

LEGADO DAS ÁGUAS

Ecotourism is one of Onçafari's main areas of operation, and you can book guided tours with our team at three operating bases. In Caiman Pantanal, join us for safaris designed to spot jaguars in their natural habitat. At Pousada Trijunção, our safaris for sighting maned wolves amidst the unique Cerrado landscape. In Legado das Águas, experience the Atlantic Forest with an immersive forest trail and night kayaking.

Interested in joining our team for an adventure? Contact us via email at viagens@oncafari.org

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

Partners:



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