

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024



WHAT HAS BROUGHT US HERE

2001

Launch of the Expedition Program pilot project. Two community libraries were created — one in Alter do Chão, Santarém (PA), and another in Vila do Pesqueiro, Soure (PA).



Two Reading Mediation training courses were held, certifying the first 52 reading facilitators.

2002

Launch of the Letter Writing Paper Project (a pilot for the Network Program).



First Expedition — Implementation of 21 community libraries and training of 400 reading mediators.



- Claudia Award
- Marketing Association Award (PA)

2003



- Jabuti Award, Friend of the Book category, by the Brazilian Book Chamber (CBL).

2004



Implementation of 20 libraries

2005



"Amazon in Focus" Seminar, SESC Pinheiros, São Paulo (SP)

Launch of the Network Program



- Millennium Development Goals Award, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

2006

1st Congress — Reading Mediators Meeting in Manaus (AM)



- Chico Mendes Environmental Award, NGO Category, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment
- Medal of Honor for the Book, National Library Foundation

2007

2nd Vaga Lume Congress, in São Paulo (SP)

1st Representatives Meeting, in Itu (SP)



2008

1st Vaga Lume Camp

3rd Vaga Lume Congress in Atibaia (SP)

International Seminar on Literature and Cultural Action, SESC Pinheiros, São Paulo (SP)



2nd Representatives Meeting in Manaus (AM)

Reading Points Contest, Brazilian Ministry of Culture — 10 Vaga Lume libraries awarded.

2009



- Chico Mendes Environmental Award, Environmental Education Category, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment
- Vivaleitura Award, Society Category, Brazilian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture



Publication of the book "Cartas, Pontes, Novos Horizontes" (Letters, Bridges, New Horizons) — about the cultural exchange between children and adolescents from the city of Portel (PA) and Vera Cruz School in São Paulo (SP)

Friends of the Planet in Reading Project — expansion to Breves (PA) and Uarini (AM)

4th Vaga Lume Congress in Santarém (PA)

Social Technology Certification, Banco do Brasil Foundation

2010



Meeting of Reading Hubs from Marajó and Solimões — São Paulo (SP)

Meeting of Vaga Lume Libraries in Indigenous Communities in Sobradinho, a satellite city of Brasília (DF) Brasília (DF)

More Culture Microprojects — Funarte and Ministry of Culture, for the community of São José do Couto, Campinópolis (MT)

3rd Representatives Meeting in Atibaia (SP)

Launch of the publication "Nós e Nosso Meio Ambiente" (Our Environment and Us) by the Network Program



- Brazil Social Award, Innovation Category, Casa da Criança (Children's Home) Project

2011



2nd Vaga Lume Camp in Pirenópolis (GO)

5th Vaga Lume Congress in Brasília (DF)



- Intercultural Innovation Award, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and BMW Group

2012



3rd Vaga Lume Camp in Bragança Paulista (SP)

6th Vaga Lume Congress (Amazon in Focus) in Bertioga (SP)

Participation in Rio+20 — United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2008



- Young Leadership Award, Third Sector Category, by O Estado de S. Paulo and XYZ Live

2013

4th Vaga Lume Camp in Cabreúva (SP)

Launch of the book "Um Brasil Gigante" (A Giant Brazil), by the Network Program

4th Vaga Lume Representatives' Meeting in São Paulo (SP)



- 12th Annual Selection, Culture Category, by Brazil Foundation
- Finalist — Social Entrepreneur Award, by Folha de S. Paulo and the Schwab Foundation

2014

5th Vaga Lume Camp in Sobradinho, a satellite city of Brasília (DF)

7th Vaga Lume Congress (and Meeting with Secretaries of Education) in Bertiooga (SP)



- Reading for All Award, Ministry of Culture

2015

6th Vaga Lume Camp in Sobradinho, a satellite city of Brasília (DF)

Creation of the Youth Council

Vaga Lume 15 Years Expedition to the 23 cities of the Brazilian Legal Amazon with community libraries in the network



- Innovation and Creativity in Basic Education Program Award, Ministry of Education

2016

7th Vaga Lume Camp in São Lourenço da Serra (SP)

Launch of the International Network pilot project (Santarém and Tel Aviv)

Meeting of Vaga Lume Libraries from Quilombola Communities in Mirinzal (MA)

Vaga Lume Regional Meeting in Tefé (AM)

Vaga Lume Regional Meeting in Macapá (AP)

Launch of the game "Muito mais que uma história" (Much More Than a Story)



- IPL Award - Reading Portraits
- Vivaleitura Award, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, and Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI): Dijaik Nery, Tefé - AM (finalist)

2017

Recognition by Criança Esperança and Feature on Fantástico

8th Vaga Lume Congress in São Paulo (SP)



- Itaú-UNICEF Award
- Veja-se Award - Culture Category
- Top 100 Best NGOs in Brazil Award - Época Magazine and Instituto Doar

2018

Vaga Lume Representatives and Partners Meeting in São Paulo (SP)

8th Vaga Lume Camp in Brasília (DF)

Participation in Amazon Week in Washington, D.C. (USA)

Vaga Lume Regional Meeting in Barreirinhas (MA)

Vaga Lume Regional Meeting in Soure (PA)

Launch of the pilot project for the Online Reading Facilitation Course

Implementation of the Library Journey initiative



- Top 100 Best NGOs in Brazil Award - Instituto Doar
- Finalist in the "Promotion of Reading" category - Jabuti Award
- Honorable Mention - Transformative Experiences in Education in the Amazon Award

2021



- Top 100 Best NGOs in Brazil Award - Instituto Doar

Opening of the permanent headquarters of the community library in Graça de Deus, Mirinzal (MA)

SOS Amazon Fund for humanitarian aid

2020

- Cultura Viva Award from the Municipality

9th Vaga Lume Congress in São Paulo

9th Vaga Lume Camp

Launch of the Short Documentary "Bibliotecas Amazônicas" (Amazonian Libraries)



2019



- Top 100 Best NGOs in Brazil Award and Best Education NGO in Brazil - Instituto Doar
- European Union Human Rights Award
- Semifinalist - Itaú-Unicef Award: Campina de São Benedito Community
- Municipal Seal of Human Rights and Diversity São Paulo State Points of Culture Award

Online Network Program, with exchanges also between Amazon region libraries

Implementation of the Vaga Lume Digital pilot project

Implementation of the Early Childhood project in partnership with Criança Esperança

Opening of the permanent headquarters of the community library in Santa Rosa, Cruzeiro do Sul (AC)

1st Vaga Lume Virtual Meeting with partners and local teams

Launch of the Online Handcrafted Books Course, with the production of 9 books remotely

1st Virtual Camp of the Network Program

2022

Implementation of 3 new libraries: two in the city of Portel and one in Oriximiná (PA)

Opening of the new library headquarters in São Sebastião, Portel (PA)



- Best Education NGO in Brazil Award - Instituto Doar
- Winner of the Jabuti Award in the "Reading Promotion" category

2023



- Best Education NGO in Brazil Award - Instituto Doar
- Top 100 Best NGOs in Brazil Award, Instituto Doar
- United Earth Amazonia Award, United Earth
- Human Rights and Diversity Seal, São Paulo City Hall

Implementation of 6 new libraries in Pará: 3 in Castanhal and 3 in Santarém

Construction of the library's headquarters in Menino Deus, Portel (PA)

Ranked among the 50 most influential NGOs in Brazil by The Good Dot

2024



- Implementation of 4 new libraries, three in Novo Airão (AM) (Aracari, Renascer, and Sobrado) and one in Oriximiná (PA) (Nossa Senhora de Axipicá)

Participation in the REACH to FOREST event in Washington, DC



- Human Rights and Diversity Seal from São Paulo City Hall in the Children and Adolescents category



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You can navigate the digital report through this menu, available on the pages of each chapter!



HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

It is divided into four sections, and you can have different reading experiences: chapter by chapter, or a more focused reading directed at the points that interest you.

Enjoy a complete experience!

At times, we will indicate hyperlinks and QR codes that connect you to external media that enrich your reading experience and complement the report's content. Happy reading ;)

BEFORE STARTING...

Let's play a game of imagination! Think about the first words that come to mind when it comes to the Amazon. By the time you finish reading this report, check if they still make sense or if any new words have emerged along the way.

List the words that
come to your mind
about the AMAZON.



Photo: Kleber Jr.

1.

ONCE UPON A TIME...

WHAT WE
DO AND
WHERE
WE DO IT



Photo: Kleber Jr.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year was 2005, and I was taking my first professional course in Fundraising. The lesson focused on organizational sustainability, and the professor, Lârcio, introduced a concept I must admit I didn't fully grasp at first:

"The secret to long-term sustainability of projects and organizations is Governance."

I've always been the kind of student who gets curious — especially when something doesn't quite make sense but feels important. That phrase kept echoing in my mind: "The secret is Governance..."

Sometime later, I had the chance to speak with one of the founders of a major Brazilian environmental organization. I asked how they managed to secure support from Nordic countries. With ease, he said:

"We have a complex and well-structured governance system. That's why we receive international cooperation funds."

There it was again — Governance. For a social educator, history teacher, and activist for books, reading, and children's rights, the idea

felt almost mysterious and out of reach. After all, Vaga Lume was just four years old, relying on yearly projects, with a team of six people. What drove us was the urgency to raise resources to consolidate the libraries we started on the Amazon in 2001 and 2002. Our dream was to respond to letters from communities with more courses, projects, and books. It seemed more practical — or necessary — to put governance aside and simply roll up our sleeves to secure funding for the next project.

But time passed. Now, as I present this Activity Report, I see it tells the story of an organization that, even without realizing it, never stopped seeking the meaning of that lesson. With governance that is now strong and solid, I understand in practice what the professor meant.

Beyond the technical team — the organization's beating heart — and our generous volunteers, the councils and committees provide Vaga Lume with the structure needed for longevity.

Our committees energize and deepen work in Communications, Fundraising, People & Management, Education, and Finance. The Fiscal and Advisory Councils guard Transparency and Strategy, constantly challenging us to adopt the best practices.

Good governance pushes us to improve and look further ahead. I now understand that true sustainability arises from this continuous

collective journey of self-improvement.

There is still much to do to secure Vaga Lume's future. Perhaps that's why it's so joyful to celebrate its continuity year after year. Because with each new cycle, something magical happens: a child reads "Bruxa, Bruxa" (Witch, Witch) alone for the first time, a young person from Portel represents the Amazon in Washington, DC, and a new library seed is planted in fertile soil.

If governance is the secret to sustainability, then the secret to enchantment is seeing life through a child's eyes.

With that wonder, we continue — happily ever after.

Enjoy the reading!

Sylvia Guimarães
Co-founder and President
of Vaga Lume



Scan here to
see our 2024
Retrospective



"The things we've done together are like seeds — and seeds have a stubborn way of growing."
Mia Couto

WHO WE ARE

Vaga Lume is a nonprofit organization that creates libraries in rural communities across Brazil’s Legal Amazon. By promoting access to books and reading, we help children and young people plant the seeds for a brighter future.

OUR PURPOSE

Empowering children and youth from rural communities in the Legal Amazon through reading and the shared stewardship of community libraries as spaces for exchanging knowledge.



OUR VALUES



Respect as a premise

A non-negotiable commitment to respectful and ethical relationships — with people, territories, and resources.



Connections that Empower

Fostering collaboration and a sense of community, sharing knowledge and learnings so we can grow stronger together.



Care that Nurtures

A genuine concern for people that nourishes our network of care. We support one another’s growth through listening and open dialogue.



Excellence that Guides

Striving to do better every day, always pursuing excellence without letting perfectionism get in the way. It’s about investing in quality in service of our mission.

UNDERSTANDING OUR TERRITORY

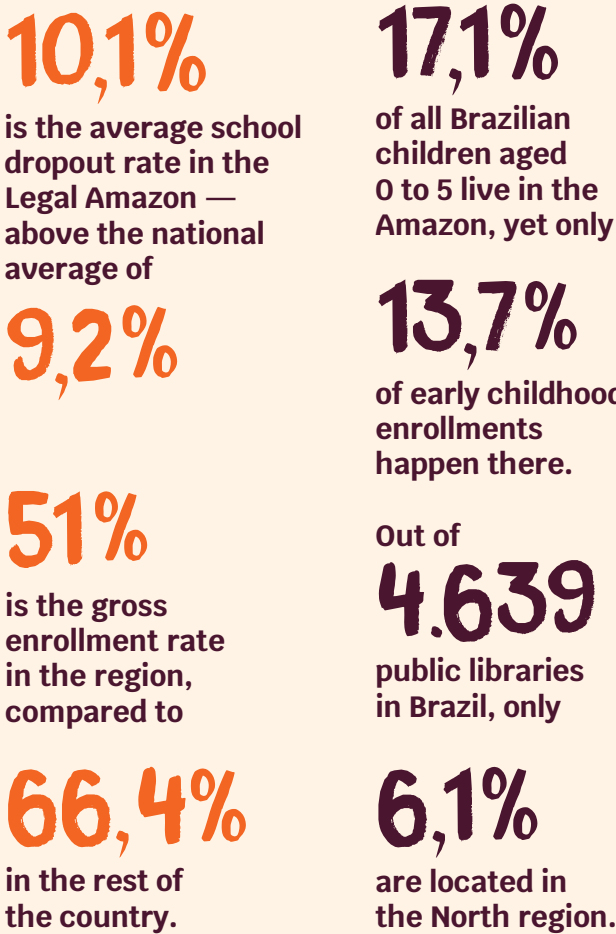
The Legal Amazon covers nine Brazilian states — Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins — and represents about 59% of Brazil’s land area. In this vast region, approximately 24% of the population lives in rural areas, often lacking access to essential public services like education. Over the past five years, reading rates in the North region have dropped significantly. According to the Reading Portraits survey by Instituto Pró-Livro, the percentage of readers in the region fell from 63% in 2019 to 48% in 2024. Among children aged 5 to 10, the drop was from 71% to 62%.

Where Are Our Libraries?

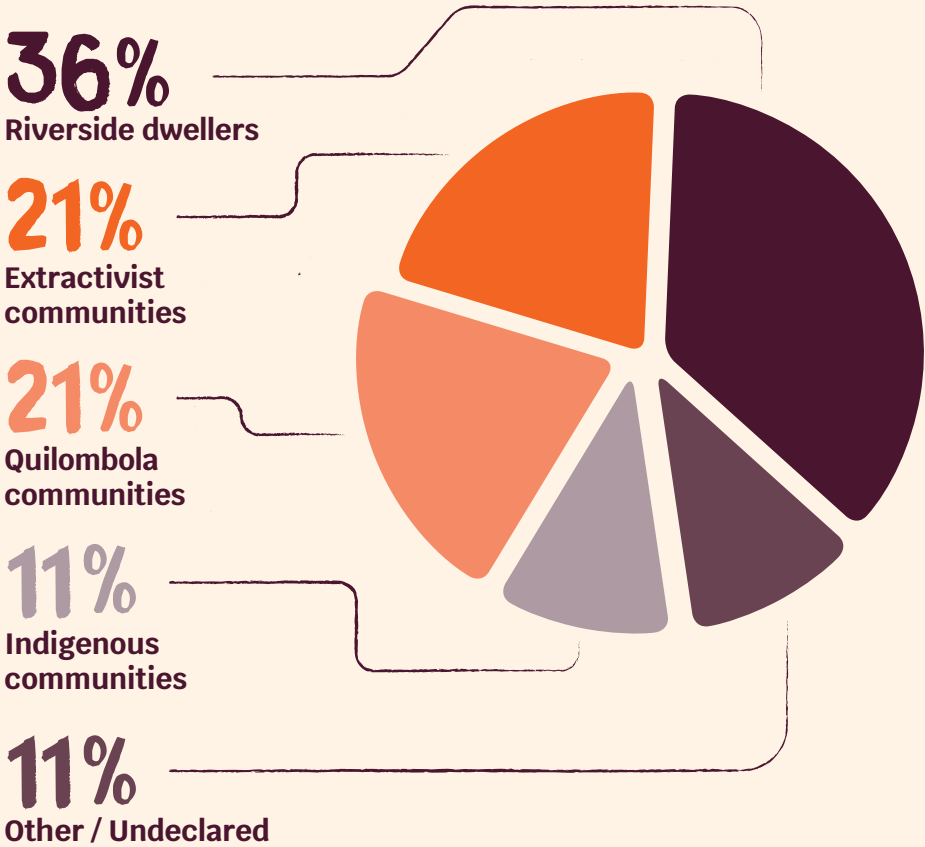


13% of the communities we serve are located in environmental protection areas.

Education in the Amazon



Profile of the Communities with Vaga Lume Libraries



Sources: Report “A Educação na Amazônia Legal – Diagnóstico e Pontos Críticos” (Education in the Brazilian Amazon – Diagnosis and Critical Points); National Public Libraries System website; 6th edition of the “Retratos da Leitura” (Portraits of Reading) survey, by Instituto Pró-Livro; “Amazônia 2030” study; Atlas of Human Development in Brazil; INPE – National Institute for Space Research; IBGE, “Fatos da Amazônia: Socioeconomia” (Amazon Facts: Socioeconomics) – Amazônia 2030 Project

WHERE WE ARE

97
active
libraries
across

23
cities in all

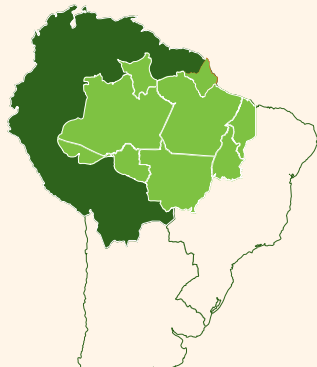
9
states of the
Legal Amazon

To view library locations on Google Maps, point your phone camera at the QR code or [click here to access the map](#).



Amazon and Brazil

- Legal Amazon
- International Amazon



Vaga Lume
Libraries
Operating
in 2024

- Cities where Vaga Lume is present
- Communities
- State capitals



OUR PURPOSE

Empowering **children and youth from rural communities in the Legal Amazon through reading and the shared** stewardship of **community libraries** as spaces for exchanging knowledge.



READING: A RIGHT AND A REVOLUTION

Despite challenges like the worsening droughts affecting the Amazon region in 2023 and 2024, we remain steadfast in our mission to guarantee access to books in the communities we serve. Our library work has never stopped, because we believe in the power of reading as a tool to overcome crises and build a fairer, more equal future.

At Vaga Lume, we believe that by promoting access to reading through community libraries, we contribute not only to the individual growth of children but also to strengthening their sense of belonging and community. The habit of reading has the power to build community bonds, broaden critical thinking, and foster inclusion.

As stated in the Brazilian Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA), every child is legally entitled to health, education, nutrition, culture, leisure, sports, vocational training, dignity, respect, and family and community life. Vaga Lume's methodology and work directly support ensuring these rights.

Libraries, books, and reading facilitation can change lives, especially when they reach the hands of children and youth. Over 24 years, we have witnessed countless stories that prove this impact. Stories inspire people, and people change the world.

Promoting access to reading is about nourishing a community with knowledge,

inspiration, and opportunity. After all, a library is much more than a physical space: it feeds dreams, strengthens connections, and transforms realities.

Lia Jamra Tsukumo – Executive Director, Vaga Lume



Lia, at the center of the photo, during the Partners' Trip in Soure (PA)

HOW WE WORK

Given the unique social and political realities of the Brazilian Legal Amazon, we emphasize the importance of working closely with local communities to promote access to reading—so children and young people can access citizenship and opportunities for bright futures.

Discover our strategy, built on an inside-out movement across five key dimensions:



STRUCTURE

A well-functioning library relies on a rich and varied collection of books, a dedicated physical space to keep them, and a warm, inviting atmosphere where children, young people, adults, and reading facilitators feel welcome.

TRAINING

Reading facilitators bring the library to life and give it meaning. To do so, they must be actively involved and trained in Vaga Lume methodology.

MANAGEMENT

The library must be community-run, so local residents and volunteers need to be committed to its operation and responsible for its management.

LOCAL CULTURE

The library belongs to the community and honors its stories, memories, and local culture. Each community is unique, and the library should reflect that uniqueness.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Cultural exchange among youth broadens their worldview, values local cultures, and fosters understanding of other realities—while encouraging social and community engagement.

“Before Vaga Lume came to my city, I hadn’t heard about reading facilitation. I truly admire Vaga Lume for bringing books to remote places and for recognizing the excitement of the communities and the joy that reading brings to the children.”

GERLISBELE SARAIVA PINHO - Volunteer, Local Team in Tefé (AM)

Reading facilitation in São Sebastião, Portel (PA)

Photo: Kleber Jr.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE MEDIA

In 2024, we had the opportunity to elevate public discussions around topics that matter to us, with organic media coverage across major regional and national outlets.

This natural presence in the press is equivalent to an average investment of

BRL 3,627,415.05.

This is the advertising value we would have spent to secure space on websites, newspapers, radio, and TV.

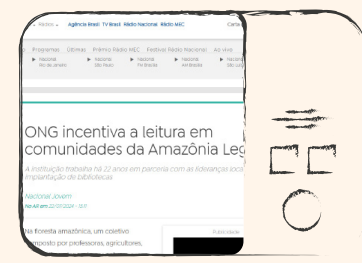


Click on the images to access the content



In 2024, G1 showcased how the building and enhancement of the Menino Deus library hub boosted reading promotion within the community.

g1



We shared our story and explained our working methodology in an interview with Rádio EBC.



g1

Our participation in Reach to Forest was featured on G1, which interviewed the Larley Barbosa from the Menino Deus Community in Portel (PA).



Lia Jamra, our Executive Director, discussed our goals and challenges in the Legal Amazon region.

CBN



Nathalia Flores, our Education Manager, spoke about the importance of fostering reading habits from an early age.



We recommended books featuring Black representation for children and youth to enjoy during school holidays.

g1

2.

WRITING
THIS STORY
TOGETHER
NETWORKS
AND
CONNECTIONS



Photo: Kleber Jr.

VOLUNTEERING

Today, our
volunteer
network numbers

769
PEOPLE

supporting
97 community
libraries across 23
municipalities in
the 9 states of the
Legal Amazon.

In 2024, our volunteers contributed over
140,000 hours of dedicated work to Vaga Lume
— a contribution valued at approximately

BRL 1,897,765.78.

77%
identify as female.

23%
identify as male.

38
is the average
age among
volunteers.

“The library was a game changer in our community. It became much more than just a reading space—it turned into a hub for cultural expression. One book that left a lasting impression on me as a child was *Tudo Bem Ser Diferente* (It’s Okay to Be Different), from Vaga Lume’s older collection. It highlights the importance of inclusion—a subject not often talked about back then—and that message had a profound effect on me.”

DÉBORA FERNANDA - 17, from the quilombola community Bom-Viver in Mirinzal (MA).

New Vaga Lume
volunteers in
Oriximiná (PA)
during Reading
Facilitation training.



Photo: Kleber Jr.

Let's take a closer look at the profile of the people behind Vaga Lume's volunteer work:

31%
are teachers.

12%
are students



7% work in other school-related roles

50% of our volunteer team is connected to the school network.

13%
are farmers.

3%
are public employees.

1%
are health workers or counselors.

34% include boat operators, freelancers, security guards, administrative assistants, homemakers, and retirees.

How does volunteering at Vaga Lume work?



YOUNG LEARNING VOLUNTEERS

These are young people up to 17 years old who take part in library activities.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

They help run the community libraries by facilitating reading sessions, organizing events, and supporting the Library Journey — our plan to foster the development of reading spaces.



LOCAL TEAMS & REPRESENTATIVES

They function as multipliers of the Vaga Lume methodology in nearby communities, supporting partnership efforts and helping distribute books and materials.

Reading facilitation in Axipicá, Oriximiná (PA)



LOCAL TEAM VOLUNTEERS 2024

ACRE



CRUZEIRO DO SUL
URBAN AREA
Maria Nileide de Oliveira

VILA SANTA ROSA
José da Silva Araújo

AMAZONAS



BARCELOS
MARARÁ
Carlos Alberto Lopes Silva
Sandra Lopes Coelho

URBAN AREA
Ednir Carvalho dos Santos
Iêda Maria Furtado de Paula Rodrigues
Ivaneide Ferreira Chaves
Josely de Macedo Bezerra

NOVO AIRÃO
URBAN AREA
Elzilene Barbosa da Silva
Telma de Lima Brasilino

CARAUARI
URBAN AREA
Raimundo Ailton Barbosa da Silva
Antonia lacerda da Silva
Ausilene Braga da Silva
Melque Paulino da Costa

SÃO GABRIEL DA CACHOEIRA
CAMANAUS
Sediel Andrade Ambrósio

URBAN AREA
Daurinéia Pereira da Gama
Maicon Samoni Melo
Maria Suely de Andrade Ambrósio

TEFÉ
URBAN AREA
Dijaik Nery de Souza
Gerlisbele Saraiva Pinho
Jozeianes Miranda do Nascimento
Kellen Karoline Gomes Lopes
Larissa Oleriano Pedroza

UARINI
URBAN AREA
Alciene Fragoso Remédio
Alessandra Martins Barbosa
Cleomilton Ferreira Guedes
Denilson de Souza Tavares
Elen Cristina Lino Marinho

Elkey Trindade Martins
Erike Lopes da Silva
Evandenilson Ribeiro Vasque
Ivanete Lima Marinho
Jessonilda Neves Cordeiro
José Américo Brandão Marinho
Josiane Frazão Fernandes
Josiele de Souza Lira
Josimar Ferreira Sevalho
Maria Dinária Lopes Sevalho
Moisés dos Santos Cordeiro
Raimunda Nonata Situba da Costa
Robson Praia Frazão
Sandro Motta dos Santos

AMAPÁ



MACAPÁ
URBAN AREA
Aurilene Tertuliano da Silva
Márcio Roberto Sousa Pereira

MARANHÃO



BARREIRINHAS
SOBRADINHO
Cleonicy Martins de Sena Conceição
Rafaelle Luíza Rocha Roza Menezes

URBAN AREA
Ilka do Amparo Sousa Reis
Ireneide Lisboa Souza

Israel Silva Diniz
Letícia Santos Canavieira
Raimunda Nonata Oliveira Diniz
Araújo

SÃO DOMINGOS
Zelia Maria Silva Barroso
GUIMARÃES
QUILOMBO DAMÁSIO
Alessandra Martins Trindade
Veronica de Jesus Barbosa
Azevedo

QUILOMBO MACAJUBAL
Rejane Costa Ferreira

QUILOMBOLA LAGO DO
SAPATEIRO
Josana Marly da Silva Martins
Josenilson Brito de Carvalho
Zunara Costa Melo

MIRINZAL
QUILOMBO BOM VIVER (GURUTIL)
Gracilene Costa Pereira
Sandra Nazareth Fonseca
Pereira

QUILOMBO GRAÇA DE DEUS
Jane Araújo Pereira

RESERVA EXTRATIVISTA
QUILOMBO FRECHAL
Janileia Silva Gomes
Jonailson Silva Gomes

MATO GROSSO



CAMPINÁPOLIS

SÃO JOSÉ DO COUTO
Nataly Santos Vilela
Simone Maria dos Santos Barcelos

CHAPADA DOS GUIMARÃES

COHAB VÉU DE NOIVA
Adriana Moraes dos Santos
Aline Paula Barlati
Ana Flávia da Silva de Oliveira Pereira
Dalva Santos de Oliveira
Edilene Márcia da Silva Siqueira
Luiza Benedita Sampaio Bezerra
Marcela Caroline Lara Ormond
Pauliana Nonato de Oliveira

DISTRITO DE ÁGUA FRIA
Ivana Moreira da Silva

PARÁ



BREVES

MANANCIAL CELESTE
Hesron da Costa Vale

SÃO MIGUEL DOS MACACOS
Jesus de Nazaré Leite Vieira

ORIXIMINÁ

URBAN AREA
Ana Rosa Barbosa Serrão Sombra
Andréa Maria Tavares Malcher
Elizete Cavalcante Lages
Elzo Ramos Picanço
Francisca Gomes Teixeira
Izabelle Souza Tavares
Jorge Hipólito de Souza
Klicia Oliveira Lopes
Maria Laise Picanço Siqueira
Sílvia Printes da Silva

CASTANHAL

URBAN AREA
Lidiane Cristina Silva da Poça
Maria Macilene Magalhães
Evangelista

PORTEL

URBAN AREA
Emerson da Silva Vieira
Vania Lucia Dias Matos

SANTARÉM

URBAN AREA
Andria Cohen Ferreira
Clariomar Souza da Silva
Daniely Nascimento das Chagas
Giselle Emanuela de Castro
Fonseca Vidal
José Janderson Gomes de Almeida
Keledy Avinte Soares
Maelison de Siqueira Pinto
Monique Melo Marinho da Paixão

SOURE

PESQUEIRO
Ana Cristina Penante Vasconcelos
Matheus Adams Pereira Almeida

RONDÔNIA



OURO PRETO DO OESTE

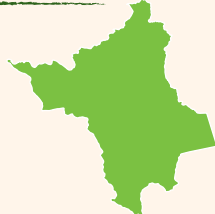
URBAN AREA
Claudio Martins da Silva
Marcia Gasperini

MARACATIARA
Joaquim Alves da Silva

ORIXIMINÁ

URBAN AREA
Ana Rosa Barbosa Serrão Sombra
Andréa Maria Tavares Malcher

RORAIMA



CARACARAÍ

VISTA ALEGRE
Rozenilda Soares da Silva

URBAN AREA
Ana Lucia Rodrigues da Silva
Chaves

PACARAIMA

URBAN AREA
Apoliana Guerreiro Messias
Erivaldo Messias da Silva
Roseli Almeida Paiva
Sheila Amori

TOCANTINS



PONTE ALTA

URBAN AREA
Noé Rodrigues Bezerra

LOCAL PARTNERS 2024

Barcelos (AM)
Novo Airão (AM)

Tefé (AM)
Macapá (AP)
Guimarães (MA)
Castanhal (PA)
Oriximiná (PA)

Portel (PA)
Santarém (PA)
Ouro Preto do Oeste (RO)

Municipal Government
Fundação Almeirinda
Malaquias, State
University of Amazonas
SEMEEC
SEMED
SEDUC
SEMED
Federal University of Western Pará, SEMED
SEMED, SEMA
SEMED
SEMEC

OUR GOVERNANCE

We have a strong governance structure that guides our actions based on the Theory of Change. Our impact is driven by a clear and focused strategic plan, guided by well-defined objectives and a governance model that brings together experts in advisory boards and committees, supported by a technical team committed to ongoing development. We are a social innovation with proven results in the Legal Amazon region and strong potential to expand to other territories.

“What inspired me to join Vaga Lume’s board was the firm belief in the transformative power of education. I have always believed that the future of the Amazon depends on empowering its people. And that journey begins with reading, access to knowledge, and the chance to dream.”

ILANA BENCHIMOL MINEV, Vaga Lume Board Member and Chair of the Board of Directors at Bemol

Menino Deus
Library,
Portel (PA)

BOARD CHAIR

Sylvia Guimarães

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lia Jamra Tsukumo

ADVISORY BOARD

Cristiana Almeida Pipponzi

Cristina Sarian

Ilana Benchimol Minev

Isabel Aparecida dos Santos Mayer

Joaquim Augusto Sanches Pereira

Rodrigo Hübner Mendes

Sharon Hess

Zeuner Fraissat

FISCAL COUNCIL

Clóvis Panzarini Filho

Murilo de Carvalho Gabriel

Nathalie Oliveira Sakotani

VAGA LUME TEAM

Aline de Almeida Novakoski

André Luís Silva Nascimento

Bianca de Riccio

Bianca Fernandes Fasano

Cristiana Mello Leão

Daniele dos Santos Paganotti

Danila Guedes Azevedo

Denise Crescentino

Débora Lotufo Manzano

Douglas de Souza Ramos Oliveira

Fabio Alves Fernandes

Felipe Cincinato

Fernanda Vianna Prado

Gabriele da Silva Faustino

Itaciara Souza Dias

Jean Antonio Vieira

Joyce de Paula Correia

Julia Aparecida de Lima

Julyane Kalik Souza

Lohana Sobania Gomes

Lucas Brito do Nascimento

Maria Luiza Monteiro da Costa

Michelle Soares Botelho

Nathalia Flores

Pâmella Pierna Lupiano

Priscila da Silva Fonseca

Priscila Gandra Miranda

Sara Silas da Cunha

Severina Maria da Conceição Soares

Suelen Karoline Prestes Araújo

Victoria Dos Santos Felix



Photo: Kleber Jr.

OUR COMMITTEES

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Adriana Tuono
Sharon Hess

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Zeuner Fraissat

PEOPLE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Silvia Maria Louzã Naccache

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Ilana Benchimol Minev
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Juliana Fonseca
Letícia Albernaz Guimarães Lyle
Ligia Juliano
Marta Almeida Pipponzi

2024
Partners' Trip

Photo: Kleber Jr.



Lei Rouanet
Incentivo a
Projetos Culturais



Sponsors



Partner Organizations

ASA SÃO JOSÉ

ASSOCIAÇÃO ACORDE

CAMINO SCHOOL

CASA JOSÉ COLTRO

ESCOLA VERA CRUZ

FUNDAÇÃO TIDE SETUBAL

INSTITUTO RIZOMAS

PRÓ SABER SP

Realization

MINISTÉRIO DA
CULTURA



Partners



Advisories

ASSESSORIA JURÍDICA

AUDITORIA

COMUNICAÇÃO



BE PART OF THIS STORY

Help transform the future of thousands of children and young people from communities in the Brazilian Legal Amazon.



Photo: Kleber Jr.



Visit vagalume.org.br and make a difference.

Young reader in the Menino Deus community, Portel (PA)



Tax Incentive Laws

Individuals and companies can allocate a portion of their income tax through mechanisms such as the Federal Cultural Incentive Law (Rouanet Law) to support projects conducted by Vaga Lume.



New Business Opportunities

We work closely aligned with our partner companies' strategies, developing and implementing tailor-made projects within Vaga Lume's areas of expertise.



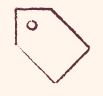
Direct Donations (without tax incentives)

Companies can contribute their own resources to fund library infrastructure, collection acquisition, training of reading facilitators, maintenance of spaces, and provide institutional support or targeted funding for specific Vaga Lume projects.



São Paulo State Tax Credit Program (Nota Fiscal Paulista)

Individuals residing in the state of São Paulo can support Vaga Lume through the Nota Fiscal Paulista program. By registering the organization once as a credit recipient, every time their CPF (tax ID) is entered on a purchase receipt, the corresponding amount is automatically directed to Vaga Lume.



Cause-Related Marketing

Vaga Lume develops cause-related marketing initiatives that align companies' impact objectives with our purpose.



Monthly Donations

Individuals can become recurring or monthly donors to help ensure access to reading in all Vaga Lume libraries.



Gift with Purpose

Getting married, celebrating a birthday, or marking a special milestone? Encourage your guests to give meaningful gifts by donating to Vaga Lume.

3.

PAGES THAT TRANSFORM IMPACT



Photo: Kleber Jr.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING LIBRARIES

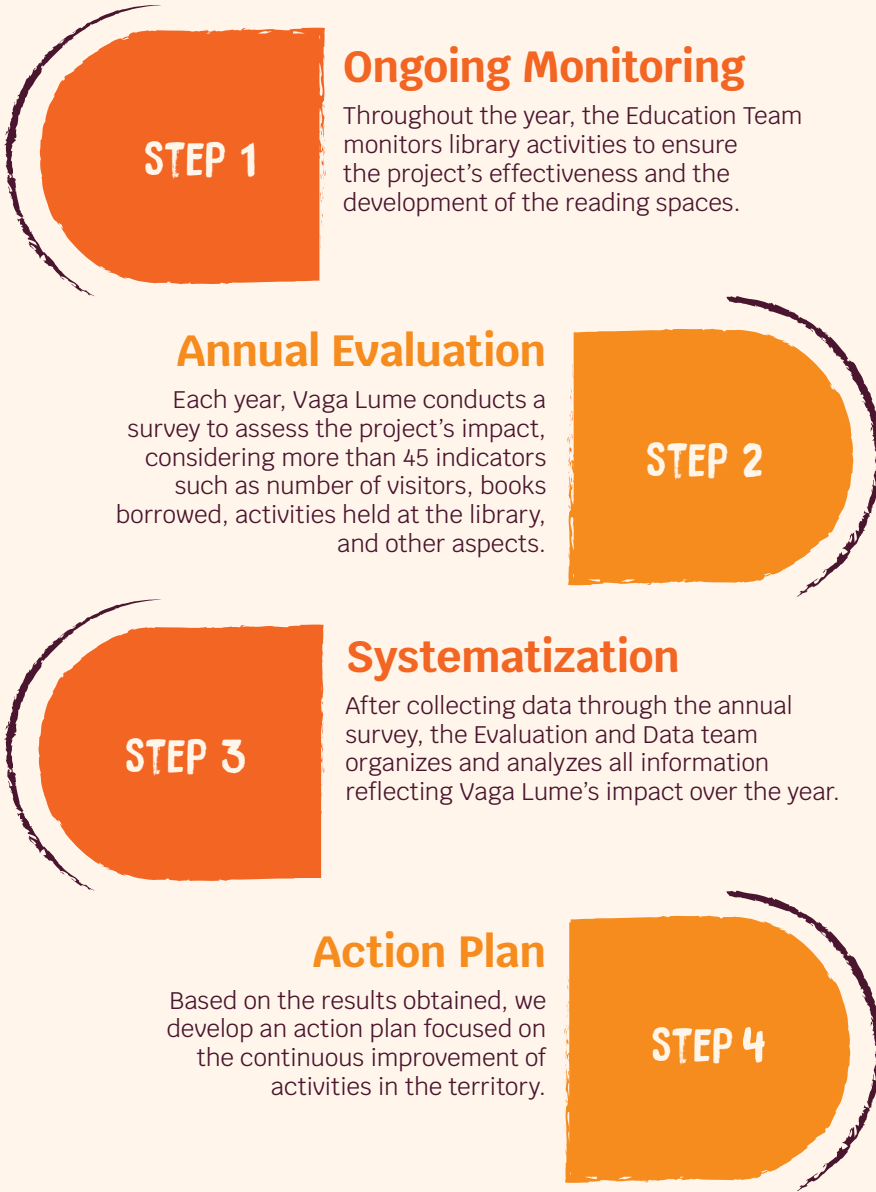
Establishing a library is not enough; close monitoring and attentive listening are essential to ensure the work is embraced by the entire community. The Annual Library Evaluation is when we engage with each reading space to understand our operating environment better and measure our impact.

We track over 45 indicators that help us see the year's results—from the number of readers who visited the libraries to the stories behind the borrowed books. Additionally, we assess the condition of the physical spaces, volunteer

engagement, frequency of reading sessions, and cultural activities held. We also analyze satisfaction with the collection, participation in virtual meetings, and the strength of communication among local teams.

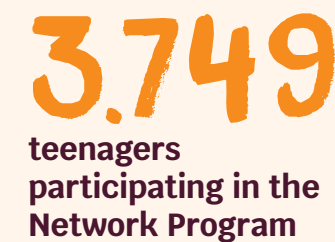
This data is gathered firsthand by the volunteers themselves and stored in Pomar; a platform launched in 2022 to organize all information related to our work in the Legal Amazon region. It is through this careful analysis of our results that we provide precise support to communities and reinforce our commitment to the development of the Legal Amazon through its people.

The way we work confirms our HOWs and WHYS. Our work involves community agents and stakeholders, supports strategic movements of progress or retreat, and gives meaning to decisions and outcomes.



OUR FIGURES SINCE 2001

Based on the systematization of the Annual Library Evaluation data on the POMAR Platform—launched in 2022 to organize all data related to our work in the Amazon—we present Vaga Lume’s impact over these 23 years.



The traditional handmade book course offered to the communities served did not take place in 2024. However, the communities independently produced 31 books. This demonstrates engagement, proactivity, and the effectiveness of our methodology, which encourages autonomy among children, youth, and volunteers.



Photo: Kleber Jr.

São Sebastião
Library, in
Portel (PA)

VAGA LUME IN 2024



LIBRARIES

93 +4

active
libraries

new libraries
established



IMPACT

15.388

children and young
people reached



Approx. 10%
increase
compared to
2023



STRUCTURE

17.550

books distributed

Approx. 20%
increase
compared to
2023



OPERATIONS

86

remote monitoring
sessions

57.727

books borrowed

769

active
volunteers

413

people trained
in our reading
facilitation
methodology

113

reading mats

15

bookshelves

11

in-person
monitoring visits

121

participants in
the 4th Virtual
Gathering

4

furniture pieces
adapted for people
with disabilities

35

field trips totaling
over 170 days

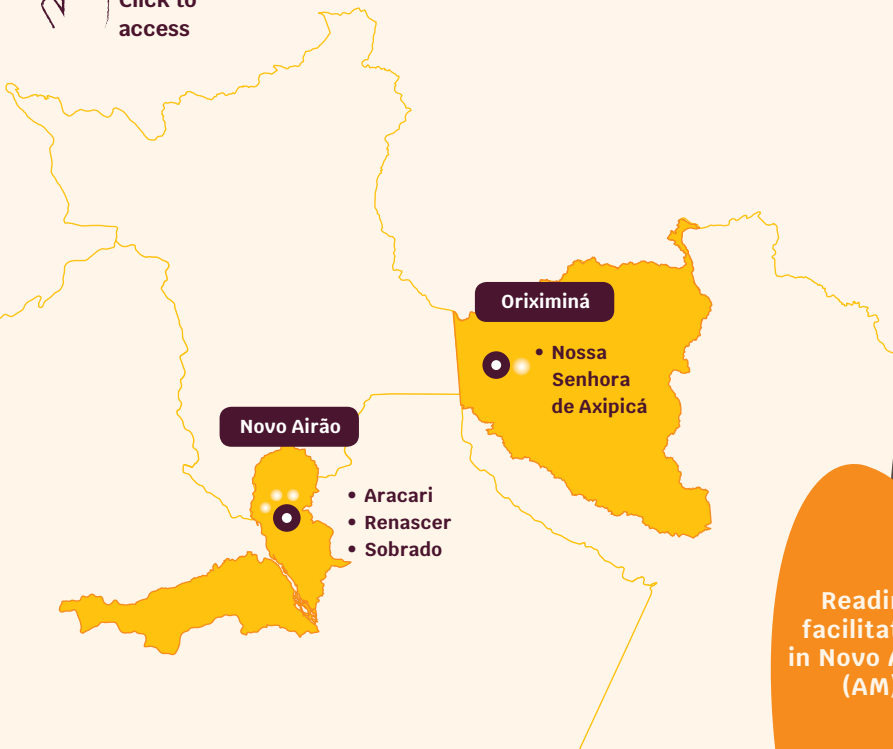
Source: Pomar Platform

KEY ACTIONS OF THE YEAR

Our strategy is grounded in five key pillars: Infrastructure, Training, Management, Local Culture, and Cultural Exchange. Below, you'll find the main actions we performed in 2024, categorized according to the dimensions they relate to.



Read stories from Novo Airão and Oriximiná



Four New Libraries

- STRUCTURE
- TRAINING

In 2024, we planted new seeds by opening four additional community libraries. We expanded our reach to a new city in the state of Amazonas, with institutional support from Fundação Almerinda Malaquias and funding from Criança Esperança: Novo Airão, which now has three Vaga Lume libraries. In the state of Pará, we opened a new reading space in Oriximiná, with financial support from Instituto Tecendo Infâncias.



Reading facilitation in Oriximiná (PA)



Reading facilitation in Novo Airão (AM)

Library Renovations in Corre Água (Macapá, AP) and Menino Deus (Portel, PA)

STRUCTURE

With support from Instituto FAR, two communities celebrated a significant achievement: the renovation of their libraries. More than just structural improvements, these transformations reflect the care and commitment the communities have for these spaces. Implemented in libraries with their own dedicated buildings, these renovations strengthen Vaga Lume’s presence in the region, spark local engagement, and help make the libraries even more welcoming places for reading, sharing knowledge, and enjoying cultural activities.



Photo: Kleber Jr.

Library Monitoring

MANAGEMENT

We continuously monitor libraries, both remotely and in person. This allows us to support community-based management, understand the unique needs of each location, and guide the development of each library until it reaches full autonomy. Our Library Journey is a methodology that follows the progress of each library—from its initial setup (the seed stage) to maturity, when all five of Vaga Lume’s dimensions are fully integrated.

11
n-person visits
and monitoring
trips

35 field trips
totaling over 170
days in the field

86
remote
monitoring
sessions

Check out the
renovated library
in Corre Água
(Macapá, AP)

Click to
access

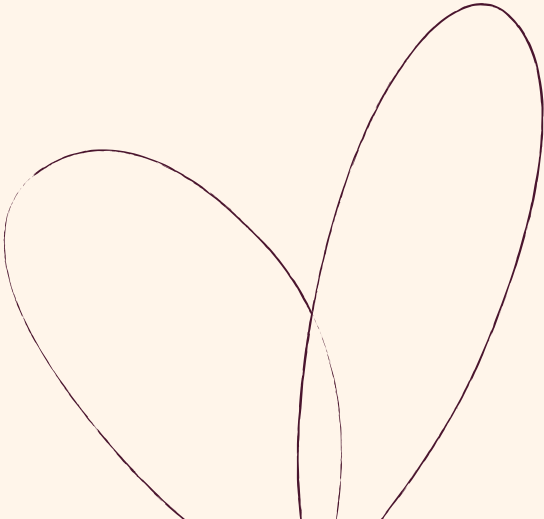
Result of
the library
renovation in
Menino Deus
(Portel, PA)

Training in Reading Facilitation

TRAINING

We see reading facilitation as a cultural practice. We don’t read a story just to ask children about its moral, or who the author and main character are. Reading together is, above all, an act of appreciation—like watching a movie, contemplating a piece of art, or experiencing a cultural event. Through this shared experience, we build a bridge between children and books, fostering a love of reading and opening doors to new worlds and different kinds of knowledge.

413
people trained
in our reading
facilitation
methodology



Collection and Furnishings

STRUCTURE

We are recognized for our expertise in curating children’s books. Quality and diversity are the main criteria in our selection. Our collection consists primarily of literary books for children and babies, including a range of formats and themes—young adult and adult fiction, poetry, comics, novels, short stories, experimental works, picture books, and more—with strong representation from Black, Indigenous, and Amazonian authors. Books are sent each year to our library network via air, river, and/or road transport—a logistical challenge we continue to embrace.

In 2024, we confirmed that satisfaction with the 2023 collection remains extremely high among participating communities, with 93% rating the books as “good” or “very good.”



Very poor Poor Fair Good Very good

Did you know?
The basic furniture setup of a Vaga Lume library includes two shelves, one orange mat, and two straw mats.

52.727
books borrowed in 2024 —
an average of 145 per day

We delivered to libraries:
15 + 113
bookshelves reading mats

Our methodology encourages regular reading habits—and the proof is in the numbers: 90% of children ask to hear their favorite book during reading sessions. Some of the most requested titles in 2024 were:

- Bruxa Bruxa (Witch, Witch)
- O Sapo Bocarrão (The Wide-Mouthed Frog)
- O Grúfalo (The Gruffalo)
- A árvore Generosa (The Giving Tree)
- Vai embora Grande Monstro Verde (Go Away, Big Green Monster!)
- O grande Rabanete (The Giant Radish)
- Gildo
- Chapeuzinho Vermelho (Little Red Riding Hood)
- Diário de um Banana (Diary of a Wimpy Kid)
- Menino Baleia (Whale Boy)



O Menino Baleia (Whale Boy), by Lulu Lima, invites readers to dive into the sensitive world of Roger, an autistic boy. Through the metaphor of a whale living inside him, the story poetically reveals how he experiences the world, emotions, and his connections with everything around him.



Photo: Kleber Jr.

Exploring the collection in Novo Airão (AM)

4th Vaga Lume Virtual Meeting

TRAINING

MANAGEMENT

The fourth edition of our Virtual Meeting brought together volunteers from across the Brazilian Legal Amazon for a day of training and conversations about access to reading. At the heart of the program was the panel discussion “Early Childhood and the Role of Literature,” featuring award-winning authors and illustrators: Luci Sacoleira (author), Renato Moriconi (visual artist and author), and Bruna Lubambo (author).

Renovations and Accessible Furniture

STRUCTURE

Three libraries were renovated—two in Soure (Pará) and one in Santa Cruz (Maranhão)—receiving access ramps, widened doors to accommodate wheelchair users, and improved lighting to assist people with low vision.

“Improving library infrastructure is essential to ensure accessibility for everyone. A ramp helps wheelchair users and elderly people, and good lighting allows us to stay open at night. Accessibility expands both use and inclusion.”

NATHALIA FLORES - Education Manager at Vaga Lume

Network Program

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

International Exchange and REACH to FOREST

We took part in REACH to FOREST, a major international festival held between February and March 2024 at the John F. Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C., USA. We were one of the organizations invited to actively participate in the event for promoting practices aligned with the festival’s goals, such as empowering children in remote communities through reading.

Vaga Lume was represented by educator Juciara Martins Gama, from the Atodi Indigenous Community (Santarém, Pará), and 12-year-old Iarley Barbosa Trindade, from the Menino Deus community (Portel, Pará). They took part in a roundtable alongside the festival’s child ambassador, Aneeshwar Kunchala (UK), an 8-year-old passionate about the Amazon rainforest.

With additional support from the Kennedy Center, we also launched an international edition of our Network Program, a cultural exchange initiative that encourages young people to take the lead in forest protection. These exchanges began in the second

half of 2023 and continued throughout 2024. Teenagers from the Vaga Lume library in the Atodi Indigenous Community exchanged letters, videos, and gifts with students from St. Philip Westbrook School, in Warrington, England. Meanwhile, youth from Menino Deus partnered with a class from Project Create, a social organization in Washington, D.C.



Iarley Barbosa Trindade in the Menino Deus community, in Portel (PA), where he lives with his family.

Photo: Kleber Jr.

Network Program

Besides the international edition, the Network Program also built strong connections between Amazon communities and schools and social organizations in São Paulo, through virtual and in-person meetings, as well as exchanging letters and gifts. The educators involved in the program also took part in a committee that included training on climate change, broadening horizons and strengthening bonds.

Youth Engagement

The connection among peers is evident in the teenagers, who by the end of the program show greater interest in and knowledge about their exchange partners. This is also reflected in the appreciation of cultures different from their own, ensuring and reinforcing cultural exchange among all participants.

Recognition

Thanks to the Network Program, we have received the São Paulo City Hall's Human Rights and Diversity Seal for the third time. This seal honors good practices in diversity management and the promotion of human rights within companies, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations.



"I always explain the Network Program like this: it's an exchange between us here in São Paulo and children from the Legal Amazon. We exchange letters all year long, get to know different cultures and ethnicities, and live this experience through our imagination. Sometimes, for example, the letter says, 'we play in the river.' I've never been there, so it's amazing to step out of our bubble and discover a Brazil that school doesn't always show. That's why the exchange is so valuable."

MARIA EDUARDA, 16, participant in the 2024 Network Program by Fundação Tide Setúbal, São Paulo.

427
total adolescent participants

202
adolescents from the Amazon

225
adolescents from São Paulo

8 participating in schools and organizations

8 participating communities in the Legal Amazons



Learn more about the training week for the Network Program Educators Committee



Adolescents from Pró-Saber, in Paraisópolis, welcome educator Adélia from the Cupiúba Community in Castanhal (PA).

Photo: Laio Araújo

INSTITUTIONAL

International Partnership: HQ Digital Equality Accelerator

Vaga Lume was one of the social organizations selected worldwide to participate in HP’s Digital Equity Accelerator program. Through this initiative, we have strengthened 26 community libraries and 4 local teams across 16 cities, which now have computers and printers to support the management of activities and reading spaces.

26
communities
benefited

4
local teams,
totaling 30 kits
distributed.



See more
details about
this trip!



Click to
access

2024
Partners’
Trip Photo
Record

Vaga Lume was selected for the Digital Equity Accelerator because its work on the Amazon demonstrates the transformative power of education and access to knowledge. Their innovative approach—combining community libraries, educator training, and the celebration of local culture—perfectly aligns with HP’s mission to empower communities through technology. By partnering with Vaga Lume, HP is helping to broaden its reach, ensuring that more young people gain access to quality educational resources and opportunities to develop essential digital skills.

HP, official statement on the partnership

Partners’ Trip

We invited our supporters to visit Soure, Pará, and experience firsthand the work we’re doing there. Representatives from Alupar, ICONIC, Instituto Tecendo Infâncias, and The World Bank participated in a reading facilitator training course and enjoyed cultural presentations.

This direct immersion in the community offers a unique perspective, and we’ve seen how such experiences deepen partners’ connection and commitment to our cause.

“The partners’ trip is an amazing opportunity to witness Vaga Lume’s work and see the transformative impact on communities. It’s inspiring to see the project truly built through local leadership and collaboration.”

MARINA GIANNOTTI, Senior Sustainability
Analyst at Alupar



Photo: Kleber Jr.

CONNECTIONS THAT EMPOWER

It's no coincidence that one of Vaga Lume's core values is #ConnectionsThatEmpower. From the very beginning, our founders — Sylvia Guimarães, Laís Fleury, and Maria Teresa Meinberg — built heartfelt relationships with every volunteer, child, and young person they met over the years. Genuine connection and the collective construction of future possibilities are at the heart of who we are as an organization.

That's why we make a point of taking part in actions, campaigns, and events where we can connect with people who are actively transforming the world — whether by listening, contributing to discussions, or sharing our experiences as speakers.

Throughout the year, we took part in a range of conversations on the environment, education, literature, and the nonprofit sector. We were honored to speak at the ABCR Festival, where we highlighted the importance of creating an Activity Report like this one, and at the São Paulo edition of the Intercultural Innovation Hub, alongside fellow award-winning organizations supported by UNAOC — the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. We also took part in the Book Fair organized by Quatro Cinco Um Association and joined several events hosted by schools. In addition, we visited companies

— like Henkel — to talk to employees about the importance of expanding access to books and reading on the Amazon.

Building close, transparent, and mutually valuable relationships with our partners is a commitment we take seriously. And this dedication is reflected in the messages we receive from our sponsors and allies:

BIANCA DE RICCIO - Institutional Relations Manager



"We're proud to support organizations like Vaga Lume, which foster human and social development, transforming lives and opening new ways of seeing the world. Backing a project that believes in reading as a driver of change aligns closely with our vision for the future. Together, we can help shape the world we want to see — achieving lasting impact and making a real difference."

LUCIANA GARRONE - Marketing Manager at BB Seguros

"We know that meaningful change takes time and consistency. That's why we continue to believe in and invest in this work. Every community library created, every book shared, every story read aloud brings people closer together and opens up new horizons for the next generation. What's more, Vaga Lume has built solid, transparent governance — a clear sign of its integrity and responsibility."

MARIANA LEITE - Head of ESG at Bemol

4

THE NEXT
CHAPTERS
PRESENT
AND
FUTURE



Photo: Kleber Jr.

FINANCIAL DATA

How to Read It and Why It Matters

Our financial data reflects the statements and records compiled and organized throughout the year. They're more than just figures — they stand for the results of the collective efforts of everyone involved. These indicators demonstrate our transparency and financial health, guiding the Board of Directors, the Advisory Board, and the Finance Committee in budget planning and decision-making.

Financial Sustainability

How We Keep Our Purpose Alive

Donations from companies and individuals are our main sources of funding. Through ongoing partnerships with supporters who believe in our mission and identify with our way of working, we ensure our financial sustainability. This process is supported by oversight from the Advisory and Fiscal Boards, which ensure that we stay aligned with our goals while maintaining our financial integrity.

Responsible financial management is one of our core values. With strong partners and a sustainable operation, we are able to look toward the future with confidence. That's why we share our financial data openly — reassuring our commitment to solid, long-term action.



Financial ABCs: Our Key Indicators and What They Mean

Balance Sheet

Shows the financial and accounting position of our organization at a specific date — in this case, the years 2024 and 2023.

Net Assets (Equity)

Represents our total wealth — the result of our assets and rights minus our obligations.

Assets

Our tangible and intangible resources that can be converted into cash — the economic foundation of our work.

Liabilities

Our financial obligations — what we owe or need to pay out.

BALANCE SHEETS

As of December 31, 2024, and 2023 (in BRL)

Assets

	Explanatory Note*	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Unrestricted funds			
Cash and cash equivalents	4a	15.242.638	15.361.004
Accounts receivable	5	15.000	21.737
Inventories		11.867	11.988
Recoverable taxes		-	374
Advances		62.546	60.253
		15.332.051	15.455.356
Restricted funds			
Cash and cash equivalents – restricted	4b	6.651.635	6.713.470
		6.651.635	6.713.470
Non-Current Assets Judicial deposit			
Judicial Deposit	22	1.275.519	
Financial investments	7	938.634	838.857
Property and equipment	6	372.692	94.893
		2.586.845	933.750
Total Assets		24.570.530	23.102.576

Liabilities and Net Assets / Equity

	Explanatory Note*	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Unrestricted funds			
Payroll liabilities	8	321.213	314.900
Tax liabilities	9	50.485	52.266
Other payables	10	41.627	25.970
		413.325	393.136
Restricted funds			
Deferred project revenues	11	6.651.635	6.709.440
		6.651.635	6.709.440
Net Assets (Equity)			
Social fund	12	4.035.610	4.827.587
Sustainability fund		11.964.390	-
Accumulated surplus		1.505.570	11.172.414
		17.505.570	16.000.001
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		24.570.530	23.102.576

* The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

INCOME STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2024, and 2023
(In Brazilian Reais)

* The accompanying notes
are an integral part of these
financial statements.

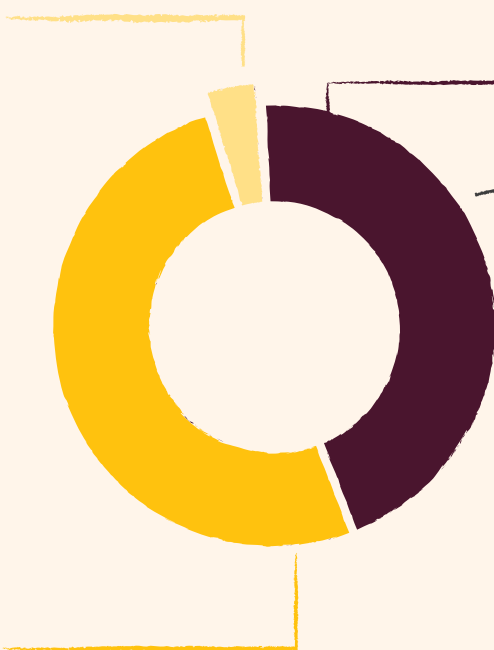
	Explanatory Note*	2024	2023
Net Operating Revenue With donor restrictions			
PRONAC Funds		4.901.910	4.428.567
Criança Esperança – Criesp	16	-	178.253
		4.901.910	4.606.820
Without donor restrictions			
Sponsorships	13	989.380	567.202
Voluntary donations	14	1.192.459	950.468
Project donations	15	441.422	11.058.947
Awards		30.000	-
Services provided		-	172.548
Product sales		840	410
(-) Taxes and levies		(79.186)	(93.195)
		2.574.915	12.656.380
Free Revenues			
Volunteers	19	1.927.620	2.441.082
Free sponsorships	19	291.499	665.134
		2.219.119	3.106.216
Total Net Operating Revenues		9.695.944	20.369.416
(-) Project costs			
Restricted operations	16	(4.901.910)	(4.606.820)
Unrestricted operations	17	(2.585.848)	(2.190.903)
Volunteer-related expenses	19	(1.927.620)	(2.441.082)
Free sponsorships	19	(291.499)	(665.134)
		(9.706.877)	(9.903.939)
(=) Gross Result		10.933	10.465.477
Net Operating (Expenses)/Revenue			
General and Administrative Expenses	18	(137.120)	(127.086)
Other Revenue	18	115.608	129.249
(=) Result Before Financial Operations		(21.512)	2.163
Financial Revenue	20	1.618.208	898.452
Financial Expenses		(80.193)	(193.678)
(=) Net Result		1.538.015	704.774
(=) Net Surplus for the Year		1.505.570	11.172.414

OUR SUSTAINABILITY

BRL 23,424,073

BRL 938,634

4% Reserve Fund



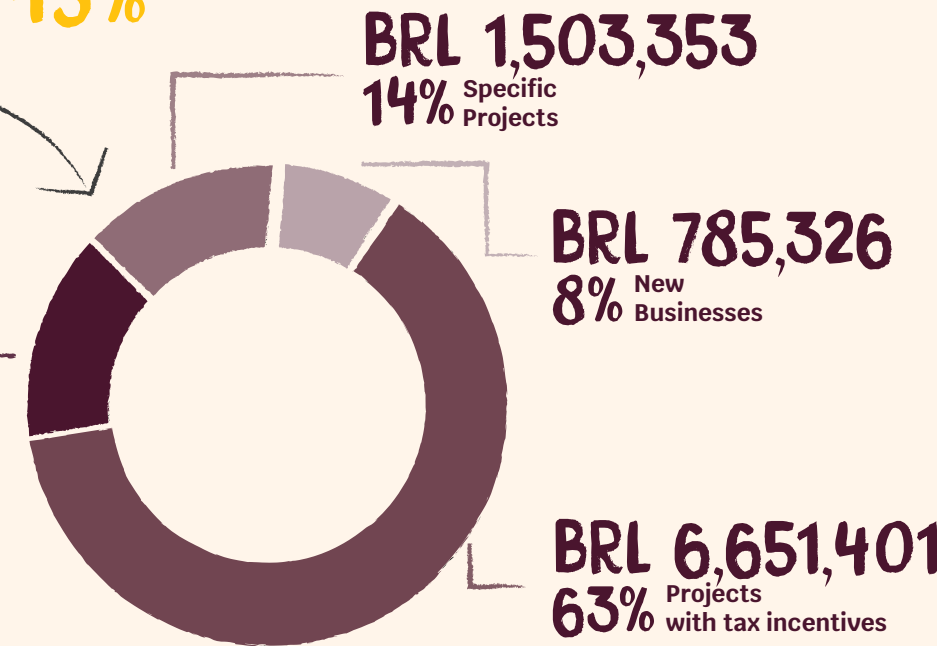
BRL 11,964,390

51% Sustainability Fund

Project Sustainability

BRL 10,521,049

45%



BRL 1,503,353

14% Specific Projects

BRL 785,326

8% New Businesses

BRL 6,651,401

63% Projects with tax incentives

BRL 1,580,969

15% Unrestricted Funds

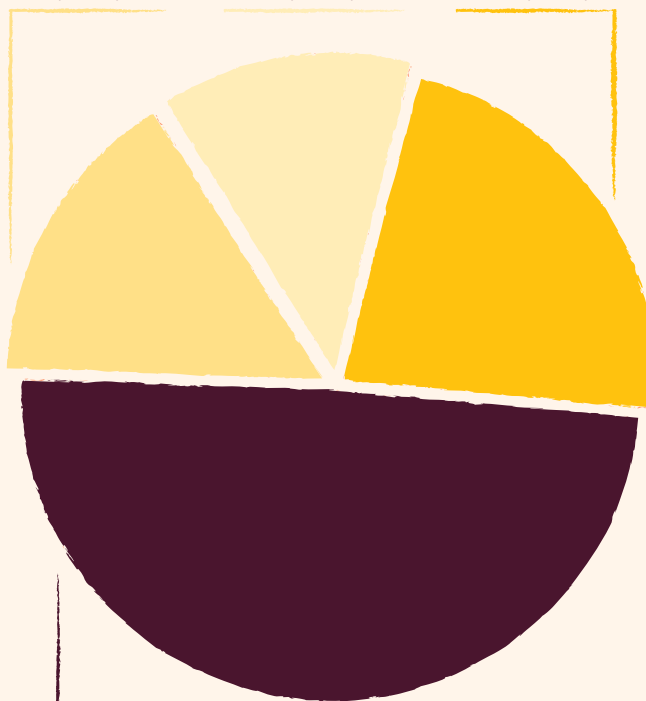
BRL 4,118,092

51% Investment in operations

Educational Activities
BRL 1,255,529

Library Infrastructure
BRL 1,043,664

Teams and Charges
BRL 1,818,900



BRL 3,963,406

49% Investment in operational support

LISTENING CLOSELY TO THE AMAZON

The Amazon, which holds a central place in the global debate on environment, sustainable development, and social justice, is also the same region whose biodiversity and ecosystems provide the planet with vital climate balance services.

This region, drawing the attention of governments, researchers, international organizations, and civil society, has few opportunities to speak for itself or make its voice heard.

But the Amazon is also made up of people—and we must ask ourselves: are we truly listening to what the peoples of the Amazon have to say? Solutions may come from outside when they cannot be found within, yet much of what is needed is already lived, conceived, and taught in Indigenous, riverside, quilombola, and extractive communities across generations. It is our responsibility

to recognize this knowledge, position ourselves as allies, and strengthen these territories by listening and valuing what already thrives within them.

That is why we believe investing in access to reading—as a means to support education and holistic development—is a strategic step to ensure these populations lead the decisions about their own lands.

By promoting access to books, we reinforce oral traditions, honor diverse identities, and encourage critical thinking. We aim to help traditional peoples not only survive but flourish—as leaders shaping the future of their communities. The Amazon is not just a global topic; it is a source of knowledge, resilience, and hope. Truly listening to it is the first step toward fair and lasting transformation.

Do the words you
read back on page 4
about the Amazon still
resonate. with you?



Photo: Kleber Jr.

SUPPORT OUR WORK AND SHARE THIS STORY WITH US!

“What amazes me most about Vaga Lume is that the libraries empower children and give them access to books. Vaga Lume has the power to transform people’s lives.”

FELIPE NASCIMENTO SILVA – Vaga Lume volunteer in Caju-Una community, Soure (PA)

Felipe represents hundreds of Vaga Lume volunteers, and you can represent a Brazil that believes in the transformative power of reading.

Don’t miss out on this story — be part of it!



DONATE

CREDITS

Collaboration

Bianca de Riccio, Bianca Fasano, Lia Jamra Tsukumo, Maia da Graça, Nathalia Flores e Sara Silas.


Sylvia Guimarães
Co-founder and President of Vaga Lume


Felipe Cincinato
Report Coordination


Writing, graphic design, and layout


Arquipélago – Strategies and cultures that transform (@o_arquipelago)

Vaga Lume

 Rua Aspicuelta, nº 678,
Vila Madalena –
São Paulo/SP

 **Impact Hub** – Avenida
Ephigênio Salles, 1299,
Sala E, Office 04, Aleixo –
Manaus/AM

 **Canto Working** – Avenida
Serzedelo Corrêa, 15,
Nazaré – Belém/PA

 55 11 97150-1662


 vagalume.org.br



Photo: Kleber Jr.

GLOSSARY

This glossary was created to help you better understand the world we at Vaga Lume are part of and to connect (without doubts) even more deeply with our cause. We gathered terms that help contextualize and clarify the reality of a region rich in every sense, and of our work.

- **Brazilian Legal Amazon:** Region covering nine states: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins. It represents about 59% of the national territory and includes not only the Amazon biome but also areas of Cerrado and Pantanal.
- **Community Library:** A reading and information access space created and maintained by the community itself. These cultural facilities promote social inclusion, encourage reading, and strengthen community bonds.
- **Extractivists:** Individuals or communities who live from the sustainable harvesting of natural resources such as fruits, seeds, latex, and nuts. In the Amazon, extractivists play a crucial role in forest conservation and maintaining traditional practices.
- **Reading Facilitation:** A practice aimed at bringing readers closer to books through interventions that stimulate interest and understanding of the works. The mediator acts as a facilitator.
- **Quilombolas:** Descendants of enslaved Africans who formed communities called quilombos as a form of resistance. Today, quilombolas keep cultural, social, and economic traditions alive, fighting for the recognition of their rights and territories.
- **Riverside dwellers:** Peoples living along riverbanks, especially in the Amazon region. Their subsistence is linked to fishing, subsistence agriculture, and extractivism. Riverside dwellers have an intrinsic relationship with the river environment, adapting to the cycles of floods and droughts.
- **Social Technology:** A set of techniques and methodologies developed in interaction with the community, aimed at solving social problems and improving living conditions. Characterized by being low cost, reusable, and adapted to local realities.
- **Theory of Change:** A planning tool that describes how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a specific context. It is used to map the paths leading to long-term goals, identifying resources, activities, and intermediate outcomes. Brazilian Legal Amazon: Region covering nine states: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins. It represents about 59% of the national territory and includes not only the Amazon biome but also areas of Cerrado and Pantanal.



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