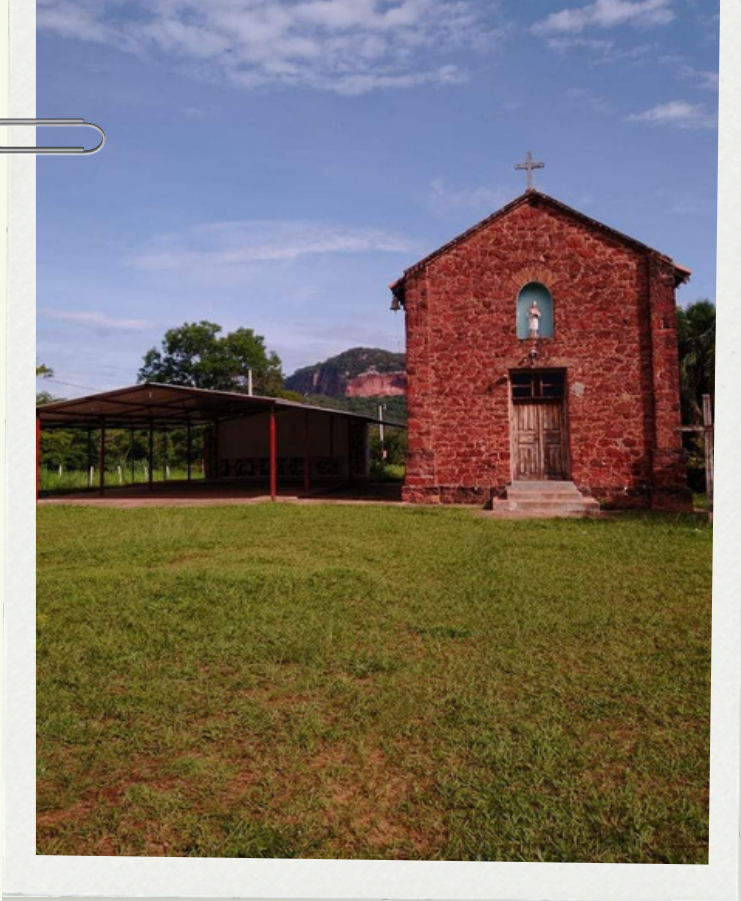




LIMÃO VERDE VILLAGE • SWEETNES OF HONEY FLOWER DO CERRADO • 2023

# MOPÓ TIVEKÓ



Pictures: Personal archive

# “ Abstract

Teacher Valdevino Aruak kopenoty | Terena People  
Yvoty Medina | Guarani People

Nakeieié!

This is Teacher Valdevino speaking, I belong to the Xomonó Terenoe people, I work as an educator at the school in my community.

For around 5 years I have been working in the intensification of the handling of native stingless bees, Jatai (in Portuguese) or “Xuli Xuli” (in the Terena language) with support from my partner Yvoty, we propose the Mopó Itiveko project, which means "The honey house" in the Terena language.

The project aims to strengthen and amplify the activities that are already being developed by the teachers, enhancing both environmental and cultural regeneration systems, through the concept of "etnopolinization of tomorrow", consolidating the indigenous school education.

In an autonomous and efficient manner, we will expand the implementation of traditional colony accommodation ecosystem, and work on the production of a Kopenoty Syrup. This recipe has been followed for generations, and is part of the historical and cultural heritage that I received from my parents, to whom I dedicate this dream that is now becoming possible.

It is fair to highlight the positive impact that the bee ecosystem has on the quality of food production, organically, without the use of pesticides. During the project checking period, it was confirmed that there was an increase in fruit production and in the community's crops, as well as the appearance and color of food were enhanced in an excellent way.



I felt excited and motivated when I saw that the proposal talks about Regeneration, as this is an interactive word. It can refer to material and immaterial elements that support an ecosystem. In this proposal, we will approach the term in a dynamic dimension, by focusing on a relevant and unusual theme for the entire planet, which is environmental preservation, through changing the perspective of the model of society.

We took the liberty of taking advantage of the concept of Regeneration, so that this project can also include a counterpart from and for the community, aiming to ethno-pollinate the concept of the environment. Thus, refuting that obsolete notion that refers only to “nature”, an arbitrary concept fed by Westernism, and that the human being is ‘made’ to destroy nature.

A notion that we indigenous peoples consider prepotent and disconnected, as it attempts to separate human and nature, ignoring lived reality and positioning the 'modern' Western subject in the face of an illusion that they have some control over nature, cosmos and universe . And, especially, because they are “human” and part of a category that is “different and superior” to nature, they presume that they are above the gods of the universe.

However, returning to the ramifications of using the concept of regeneration, in a broader sense, we are interested in the intertwining that this expression encompasses, which I am now learning about with Rede Meli, through the support campaign Pollinating Regeneration!



Fotos: Acervo Pessoal

## Ethno-pollinating the concept of environment

*Mopó Itiveko, in the  
Terena mother  
language, means:  
"honey house".*

Therefore, our proposal adds a specific reference, offering an original concept of society, economy and nature, which aims to focus on the importance of discussing indigenous traditional knowledge in the environmental preservation of the "Pantanal Complex" biome, known for being the largest floodplain of the planet. Lands that the Arawak Terena people ancestrally inhabit.

The project will mainly benefit young people and students from the Pascoal Leite Dias Indigenous State School, as well as women, children and elders from the Limão Verde Indigenous Land, Xomonó Terena, Pantanal - Brazil.

### Environmental regeneration

Through the practice of cultivating native stingless bees, known as Jatai (in Portuguese), or "xuli xuli" (in Terena).

### Cultural regeneration

Formation of a network of Pantanal indigenous beekeepers, which we are conceptualizing here as: Ethno Pollinators.

## Context and challenges

The biggest challenges of sustaining a project like this, within the village, is the lack of support, as there are no sectorized policies that include Brazil's indigenous peoples. The lines of public policy promotion also ignore our existence. Likewise, the national education project will still take some time to decolonize education practices with an emphasis on cultural assimilation, a legacy of colonization's legacy of epistemicide. In this sense, the project intends to act against the policy of neglect that we have been facing as indigenous peoples.



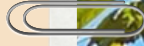
PICTURES: PERSONAL ARCHIVE

## Location

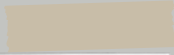
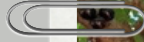
The Arawak Terena people, ancestrally inhabit the territory of the flooded plains of Pantanal Sul, which ended up located in the federative unit of Brazil, henceforth, the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, after the division of territory created by the 'conquest' of the colonies, which came to give state to the Brazilian country.

Currently, our community survives with more than 2 thousand people in an area of 5 thousand hectares. Limão Verde I.T. is one of the communities, as well as several others, fragmented by territorial and colonial occupation. Our land was demarcated and approved in 2011 and is currently at risk of having its process annulled due to the legal thesis called "Marco Temporal".

Segundo fontes do ISA, os aspectos da Fitofisionomia, corresponde ao Tipo de Vegetation Cover (%), Savanna 13.71, Savanna-Seasonal Forest Contact 86.29; Hydrographic Basin: Miranda; Biome: Cerrado. Unfortunately, it is confirmed by the ISA description that there are advances in mining processes in the region, which represents a serious threat to the environment, as well as the indigenous peoples living in this I.T.



Pictures: Personal Archive



Pictures:  
Personal  
Archive



## Beneficiaries

The project will mainly benefit young people and students from the Pascoal Leite Dias Indigenous State School, as well as women, children and elders (around 50 families) from the Limão Verde Indigenous Territory, Pantanal - Brazil.

The goal is to integrate youth and elders to face challenges together, under the traditional proposal of exchange between traditional and modern knowledge.

## Team and Partners

Vavá Terena: Technical responsible for the activities.

Yvoty Medina: Activities communications.



# Calendar and Activities

Activity	Week														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Maintenance and enlargement of meliponaries															
Conversation circles: Living Project															
Participation: Agroforestry systems workshop															
Agroecology workshops															
Making of the traditional syrup Kopenoty															

**Maintenance and Expansion of the Meliponary:** The project will begin to spread bee boxes throughout the area of the João Dias stream, whose source is protected by the ancestors of the Serra da Bodoquena, in order to set up the honey trail, an area for visits from community and tourists.

**Conversation Circles (Experience):** We will hold meetings involving different generations to share knowledge.

**Workshop on Agroforestry Systems:** A Terena representative will participate in the Workshop on Agroforestry Systems between the 14th and 16th of September, in the Araribóia Indigenous Territory. This will be a moment of exchange between different indigenous communities.

**Agroecological Workshops:** We will hold practical workshops on agroecology topics with young people to multiply knowledge in agroforestry systems, meliponiculture, etc.

**Production of traditional Kopenoty syrup:** With the meliponaries established, we will strengthen the production of local traditional products, such as Kopenoty syrup.

## Specific Goals

1. Expand the traditional ecosystem for accommodating native bee colonies, preserving ancestral handling practices and encouraging an increase in the population of these bees in the region.
2. Develop moments of exchange between young people and elders of the Terena people.
3. Develop the production of Kopenoty Syrup in accordance with the local cultural tradition, contributing to the sustainability of the community and the preservation of historical and cultural heritage.
4. Integrate traditional knowledge about bees and pollination into the educational activities of the community school, promoting ecological awareness among Terena youth.
5. Establish partnerships with other native bee keepers present in the Meli Network to promote the dissemination of sustainable bee handling practices and share knowledge about the importance of bees in local biodiversity.
6. Promote the appreciation of local culture, raising awareness among the community and society in general about the importance of preserving traditions and indigenous knowledge in the contemporary context.
7. Train community members in native bee handling techniques, ensuring the continuity of traditional practices and adaptation to current needs.

## General Goal

Strengthen the Terena people, especially the community, through the sustainable handling of native Jatai (Xuli Xuli) bees, promoting environmental and cultural regeneration, and improving indigenous school education, focusing on the concept of "ethnopollinators of tomorrow".

## Costs and Project Investment

Costs					
	Description	Unit. Value	Units	Subtotal BRL	Subtotal €
1	Circular Saw	500	1	500	100
2	Tico Tico Saw	200	1	200	40
3	Drill	400	1	400	80
5	Android Portable Projector	500	1	500	100
6	CGR / MAB offset	2100	1	2100	420
7	Gasoline for local travel: base mobilization (Liters)	6	60	342	68,4
8	Daily allowance for ethnoforester when managing the Mel Flor do Cerrado trails	100	5	500	100
9	Daily rate for ethnoforester to make personalized boxes Xuli Xuli	60	5	300	60
10	Daily rate for agroecology technician and/or known knowledge in ethnoforestry management (elder, technician, ethnoagronomist)	100	5	500	100
11	Vehicle maintenance for team articulation	458	1	458	91,6
12	Indigenous designer service to create the visual identity of the syrup	2500	1	2500	500
13	Acquisition of packaging for the presentation of Kopenoty Syrup		100		0
14	Publicity material: Labels, Banner, T-shirts, Business card	300	1	300	60
15	Travel/Transportation to participate in events aimed at promoting the product at regional organic fairs	3	200	600	120
<b>Total</b>				<b>9200</b>	<b>1840</b>