



OPEN LETTER TO OUR PARTNERS

Dear Partners,

As you all know, the State of Amazonas is facing, for the second time, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in its public and private hospital networks. Unlike what happened earlier last year, and despite all the efforts the government undertook throughout 2020 to restructure our public health system, this second wave has hit us with colossal force, and it was impossible to foresee the level of this impact, even with all the planning and care the Government of Amazonas employed to prevent this scenario.

We know that we are not isolated from the world in this fight against the new coronavirus, both in the advances and in the setbacks, yet in these very difficult times the State of Amazonas faces a double challenge:

- The first, and most important, is to save lives and lessen the impacts of COVID-19 on our population;
- The second is to conserve our natural heritage, the Amazon Forest and its ecological resources.

In this sense, with the same strength and importance with which your institutions have supported us in the fight against deforestation and fires, and in the quest for alternatives towards sustainable

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development, we ask for your support in the midst of this emergency fight against COVID-19 in our State. The situation is dire, and our fear is that the same situation we are seeing in the capital Manaus will reach the inland of Amazonas, the traditional and indigenous populations that are in situation of greater vulnerability because of the distance and logistics involved in deploying rapid responses during this crisis.

Only a joint effort will allow us to face the pandemic, and we need to implement measures and leverage sufficient financial resources, medical material and equipment in order to overcome the emergency we face in this moment, in particular regarding **the supply and availability of oxygen and other related items.**

The world calls the Amazon Forest the “Lungs of the Earth,” even though we know that most of the oxygen produced by the forest is absorbed for its own benefit. On the other hand, the ecosystem services produced in this carbon sequestration and oxygen emission are vital in the regulation of the planetary climate. Even if we are not functionally the “Lungs of the Earth,” we are because of the ecological importance of the biome. Right now, the “Lungs of the Earth” need oxygen.

We are in dire need of medical and hospital supplies, medical oxygen and resources for the logistical support in order for these

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materials to be delivered as quickly as possible in the proportion and speed that Amazonas needs.

For additional information, please contact the Secretary of the State for the Environment, Mr. Eduardo Costa Taveira, by email at gabinete@sema.am.gov.br and by phone at +55 92 91225990.

Sincerely,

WILSON MIRANDA LIMA
Governor of the State of Amazonas