

Birding Uakari Lodge in Brazil's Mamirauá reserve

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Birding at Uakari Lodge in the Mamirauá reserve of Amazonas, Brazil, is an exciting way to experience Amazonian flooded forest.

The Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável de Mamirauá (Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve), near Tefé in the Brazilian state of Amazonas, was established following efforts by a group of researchers, including José Márcio Corrêa Ayres, seeking to protect the (White) Bald-headed Uakari *Cacajao calvus calvus* (Fig. 2), an endemic and globally Vulnerable monkey of the middle Rio Solimões region. Aware of the intense connection between nature and humans, the researchers realised that effectively protecting this part of the Amazon (and its star primate) would require new community-based models of natural-resource management that combined the sustainable use of resources, with the needs of biodiversity and local

populations. Their awareness led to the creation of Brazil's first 'Sustainable Development Reserve'.

Located in the heart of the Amazon and covering 1.124 million hectares, primarily comprises *várzea* (seasonally inundated floodplain forest); no protected area holds more *várzea*. At Mamirauá the water level varies by ten metres across the year: the entire reserve gets flooded between May and July (Figs. 3–4), while the driest months are from September to November. An estimated 11,000 people live in Mamirauá. Many riverine communities use resources in a sustainable manner and operate within resource-management programmes such as fishing, forest management, agriculture and community-based tourism.

All photographs are taken in the Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável de Mamirauá, Amazonas, Brazil. Unless otherwise specified, all are taken by the author.

1 Aerial view of Uakari Lodge (João Paulo Borges Pedro).

