



ECO\_CARE Fieldtrip on the Rio Negro (municipality of Novo Airão, Comunidade Tiririca)  
and academic collaboration with indigenous women,  
traditional people and Master's students

November 3-7, 2024

Locations: Municipality of Novo Airão, Comunidade Tiririca, State of Amazonas; AMARN and UFAM, Manaus, Brazil

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**Pictures** Margherita Paola Poto

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## **Summary**

This report summarises the activities undertaken by the ECO CARE team during the week of November 3 to November 4, focusing on fieldwork on the Rio Negro, specifically in the municipality of Novo Airão and the Comunidade Tiririca. Additionally, the team organised a meeting with the indigenous women of the Amarn organization and an academic activity on storytelling and emotional literacy with the Master's students of the Postgraduate Program in Law at the UFAM, emphasizing a hands-on approach to learning and mutual exchange of knowledge.

The activities were part of a broader initiative to foster meaningful partnerships and enhance educational opportunities through direct interaction with indigenous communities and academic partners. This initiative aligns with our ongoing commitment to support indigenous scholarship and integrate it within academic frameworks, thereby enriching the educational experiences of all participants.



*Figure 1 From left to right Tainá, Larissa, Patricia, Dorinethe, Giulia, Amanda, Adelson, Glaciene and Margherita on a field trip to Rio Negro, State of Amazonas.*

## **Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank: UiT The Arctic University of Norway, the Erasmus+ Global Argentina og Brazil and Hege Kristin Widnes; the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills for funding the project ECO\_CARE, (HKDIR UTF-2020/10084). We also thank all the students who contributed to the week activities and namely Amanda Teles Marques, Adelson Lima Gonçalves, Patrícia Maia de Oliveira, Tainá de Andrade Santos, Glaciene de O. Feitosa, Larissa Munhoz; Thiago Esashika Crispim, Jimmy Martins Shimizu, Rodrigo Damasceno, Aline Mendes, Félicien Bonou, Fabiana Barroso, Laiz Russo, Graziela Guedes, Fábio Cardoso, Daniel Oscar . Special thanks to Dorinethe dos Santos Bente. A video story of the workshop can be found on the ECO\_CARE Instagram page: [ECO\\_CARE youtube channel](#) (content creator: Larissa Munhoz).

## **Structure and content of the event series**

### **Strengthening collaboration between indigenous and traditional communities and academic institutions**

In the month of November 2024, the ECO\_CARE team organized a series of events in Brazil, in collaboration with indigenous and traditional communities and academic institutions, which included a field trip to the municipality of Novo Airão, visiting the Comunidade Tiririca, a morning session with the indigenous women of the organization Amarn, gathering community members from Alto Rio Negro, and a lecture followed by the student-led presentations at the UFAM.

#### **Day 1: Connection with the River, the Forest and the Human Communities**

On the first day of the field trip, the ECO\_CARE team, along with students from UFAM, traveled to the municipality of Novo Airão, on the Rio Negro. The day was filled with engaging activities in the stunning nature of the Amazon forest and its Rio Negro, in deep connection with nature and the local communities (indigenous and traditional peoples). Participants embarked on nature observations, visited the community of Tiririca, and enjoyed crossing and swimming in the river. This immersive experience allowed everyone to connect with each other and with the water, providing valuable insights and strengthening bonds among the group.



*Figure 2 Blue-and-yellow Macaw (Ara ararauna)*



*Figure 3 Scarlet Macaw (Ara Macao)*



*Figure 4 View of the Rio Negro and its riverbank*

## **Day 2: Visit to AMARN**

The second day the team was warmly welcomed by indigenous women working at the Associação das Mulheres Indígenas of the Alto Rio Negro in Manaus ([AMARN](#)). Founded on March 29, 1987, AMARN aims to provide a reference and support point for indigenous women to discuss and jointly analyze their demands, seeking solutions. Over the years, as new demands emerged, the association has continuously sought knowledge of the system without losing focus on the fight for their rights, public policies, culture, education, arts, health, and economy. For over 35 years, the AMARN indigenous women have been building networks and dialogues, with handicrafts serving as a cultural hallmark through which they fully develop their identity in each woven piece, embodying stories of life, struggle, and the experiences of many women around the world.

The ECO\_CARE team members, along with the students, had the opportunity to learn about the history of the organization and thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the exhibition of the artisanal works crafted by the women. AMARN is actively involved in a project initiated by students from the Postgraduate Program in Law, which focuses on providing legal assistance and ensuring the effective implementation of rights for indigenous women. This collaborative project is specifically designed to assist these women in securing their pensions.



*Figure 5 The roof of the Amarn community*



*Figure 6 The handloom used by the AMARN women*

### Day 3: Lecture on Project Results and Illustrated Storytelling

On the third day, Margherita Paola Poto delivered a lecture at the Postgraduate Program in Law, Federal University of Manaus, on the theme of indigenous storytelling, ecological literacy and emotional literacy (A Story About Knowledge and Emotional Literacy). This session highlighted the innovative approaches and methodologies explored in the ECO\_CARE research, and beyond (Follow Your Heart), emphasizing the importance of narrative and emotional expression in understanding and conveying complex themes such as environmental care, emotional literacy and ecological literacy. The lecture provided participants with insights into the power of storytelling as a tool for education and engagement, particularly in the context of environmental legal studies.

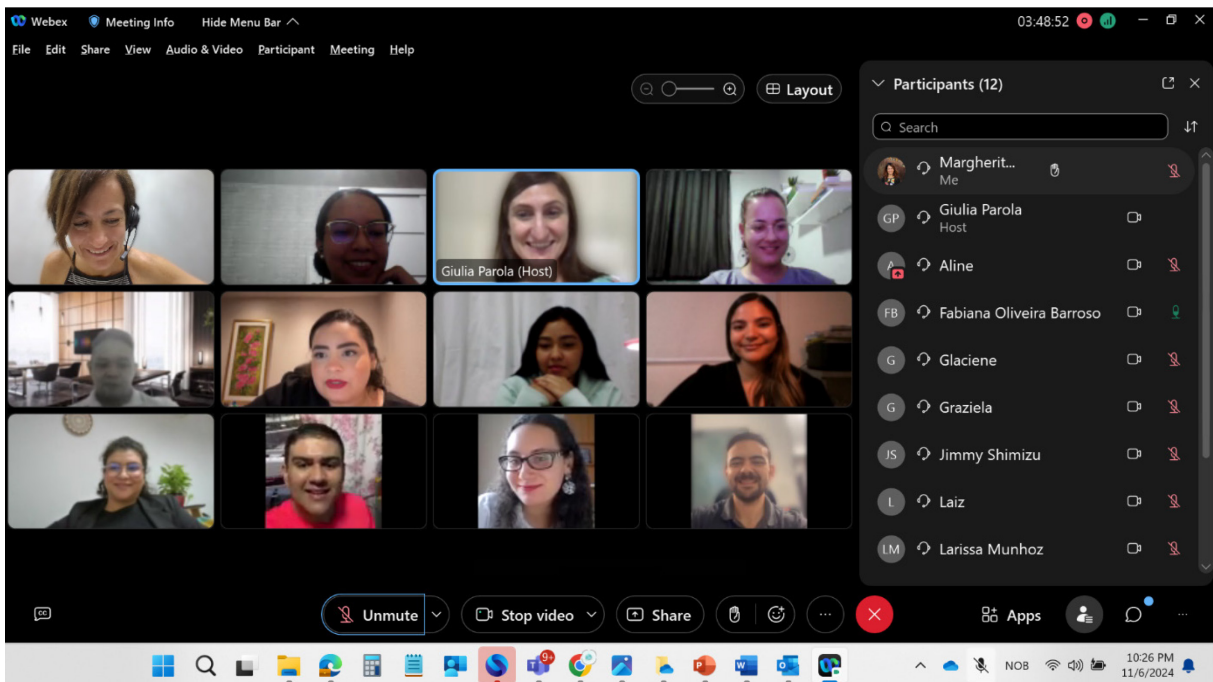


Figure 7 A screenshot of the lecture. The class was held online due to the heavy rains

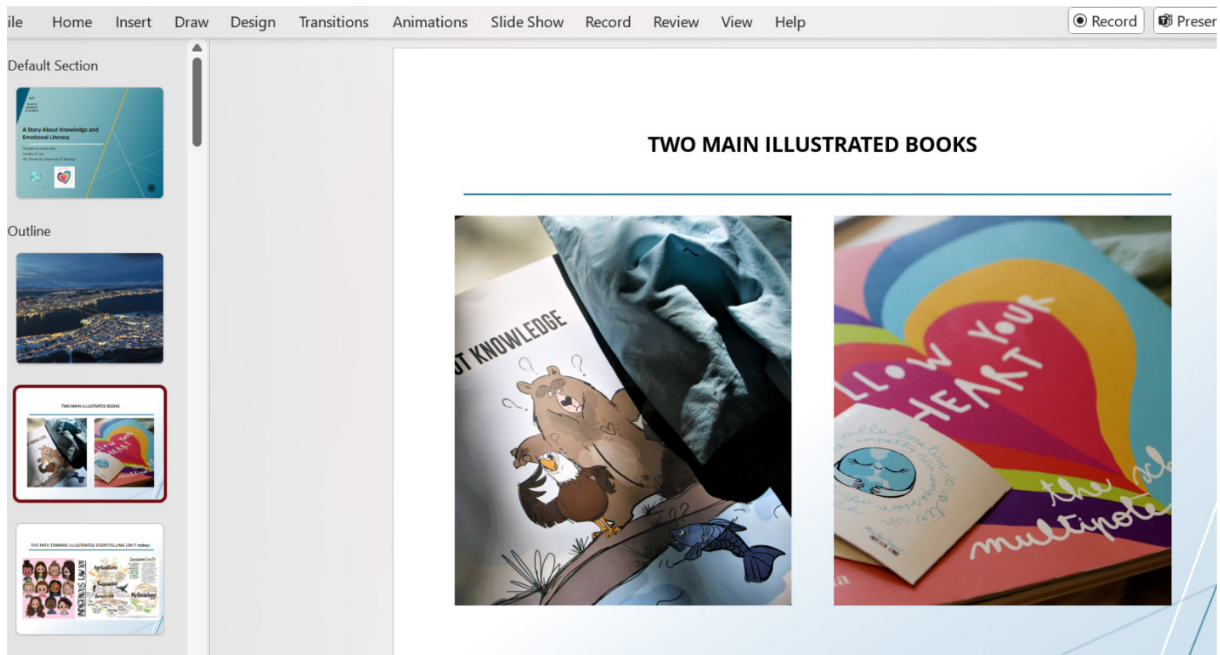


Figure 8 A snippet of the presentation on ecological and emotional literacy, UFAM, 6.11.2024

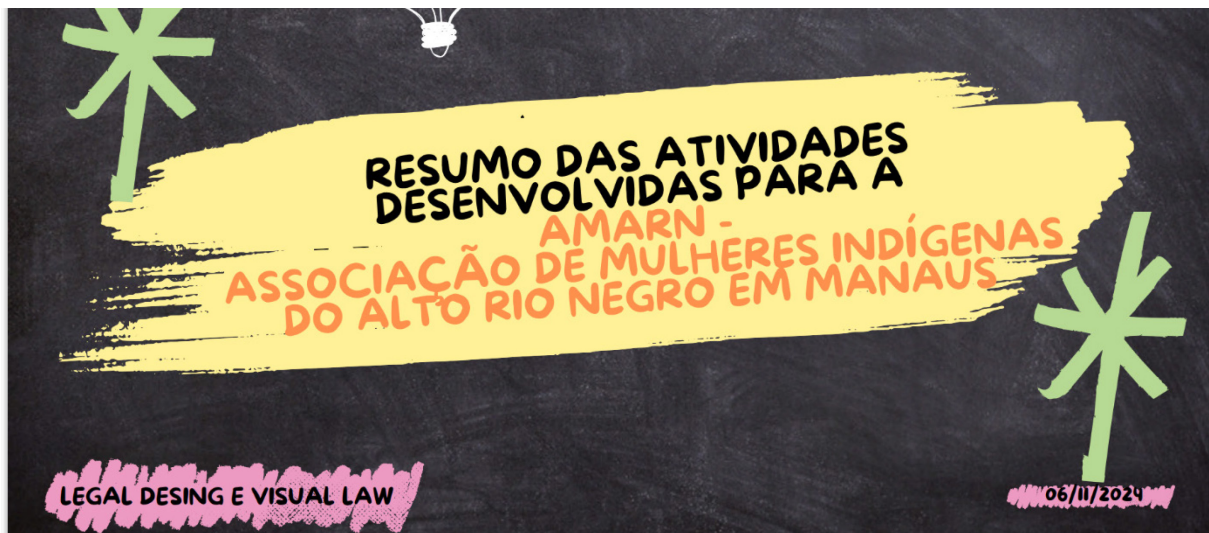


Figure 9 The co-created project cover developed by the group working with AMARN

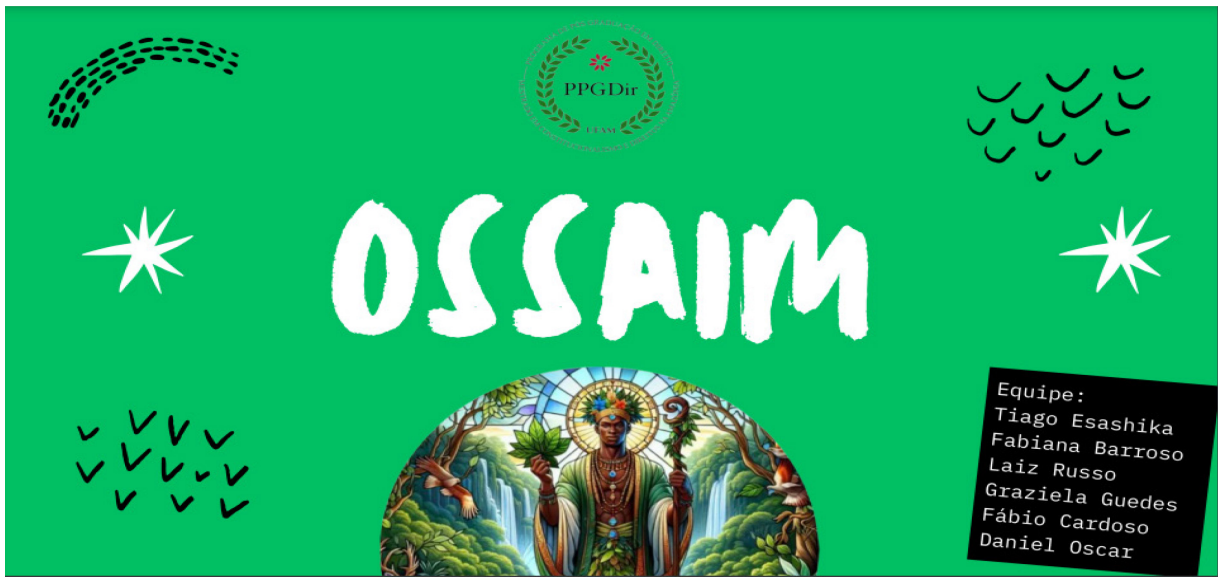


Figure 10 Project cover of the group working with the Quilombo people

Members of two working groups presented their ongoing projects, which are conducted in collaboration with the Quilombo community and the AMARN indigenous women, both located in Manaus. Graziela and Jimmy detailed the planning stages of these group projects and discussed the prospects for future implementation in close partnership with the two organizations. These projects, which are outcomes of teachings on Legal Design and Visual Law by Prof. Giulia Parola, align with the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. They aim to provide effective and practical solutions to legal challenges faced by the two communities. The presenters, participants, and the ECO\_CARE project coordinators concurred that these projects are crucial for enabling the effective protection of human rights and fostering participation that embodies the values of empathy, compassion, and care, which are central to our ECO\_CARE research and education initiatives.

### **Collaboration Outcomes**

1. Participants engaged in immersive learning activities in connection with nature and with each other.
2. Cooperation was achieved between the students community in Manaus and the ECO\_CARE team, with future prospects of strengthening research and education through exchange programs.

### **Ways forward and the next steps**

In conclusion, the week of activities from November 3-7, 2024, marked a significant step in strengthening the collaboration in research and education between Norway and Brazil. Engaging with the communities of the State of Amazonas, as well as students from UFAM,



this initiative has laid a robust foundation for future educational and research exchanges. Looking ahead, we anticipate a sustained and fruitful partnership between UFAM, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and the indigenous and traditional communities in Amazonas. This collaboration is expected to enrich both educational and research endeavors, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of legal orders and knowledge systems. During the week, several promising ideas were discussed to further strengthen this partnership. These include ideas for the ECO\_CARE final conference, the organization of future seminars, and the development of co-authored publications. These initiatives are expected to enhance the visibility and impact of our collaborative efforts, ensuring that the bridge between Norwegian and Brazilian academic and community spheres not only remains strong but continues to grow in innovative and meaningful ways.

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### Websites

[The ECO CARE Project](#)

[ECO CARE Instagram profile](#)

[Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway](#)

[Ocean Incubator Network](#)

[Follow Your Heart](#)

[AMARN](#)