

Brazil
Amapá Initiative
News from the Field (July 2017 – June 2018)

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Conservation International

In Brazil, the “Forests for the Air” project contributes to the preservation of two protected areas (PAs)—Amapá National Forest and Amapá State Forest. The activities of this project are aimed at improving the livelihoods of families living inside and around the two protected areas, while also protecting natural capital and, consequently, the provision of environmental services essential to people’s well-being.

Capacity building through collection of native species’ seeds

A course in native forest seed production was carried out in April 2018 on the upper Araguari River, where Amapá Flona and Flota are located. The seeds of the Amazon forest are used as raw material for biocosmetics. This course helped the 15 participating members of the Bom Sucesso Association in considering how the sale of native species’ seeds is a way for the community to earn income.

The course covered topics such as phenology of the region main species, seed collection planning, delineation of the collection areas, mapping of matrices trees, collection techniques, transportation, seed drying and storage, seed quality control, cost quantification, and organization of seedling production.

Training course on canopy seed collection techniques

Seed collection requires that people climb the trees. However, most of the climbers in the Amazon lack the appropriate techniques and equipment and thus face risk of injury. It is therefore crucial that they acquire the proper skills to climb and collect seeds safely.

To this end, in March 2018, 10 members of the Bom Sucesso Association took a training course on the theoretical and practical aspects of tree-climbing and seed-collection techniques. The theoretical aspects of the course addressed seed collector assignments and responsibilities, collector security, equipment used in the seed collection, equipment storage, tree canopy evaluation, and evaluation of the presence of fauna in the tree canopy. This was followed by practice focused on assembling and using equipment, and techniques for climbing palm trees and other types of trees.

Workshop for the timber market

In May 2018, CI Brazil and its partners held a five-day workshop for 13 people from PA Serra do Navio. The workshop looked at strategies toward implementing fair business in the timber market, including identifying what items need to be adjusted in the management plan for sustainable timber business that is required in order to receive a license from the Institute of Territorial and Environmental Planning of Amapá.

Exchange on non-timber products

From November 13 to 20, 2017, an exchange event was held at Rio Cajari EXtractivist Reserve for thirty community members from the Bom Sucesso Association and PA Serra do Navio. The main goal was to share experiences among communities on the management and processing of non-timber products.

Exchange on agroecology

From February 28 to March 5, 2018, we carried out two exchanges, in the Fazendinha District and the Itaubal Municipality, in which 25 members of the Bom Sucesso Association and PA Serra do Navio observed outstanding examples of agroecology practices. Through these events, the communities of the Araguari River and PA Serra do Navio were able to experience the positive aspects of environmentally friendly family agriculture.

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