

Brazil

Amapá Initiative

News from the Field (July 2020–June 2021)

August 2021

Conservation International

In Brazil, the "Forests for the Air" project is benefiting the conservation of two protected areas (PAs)—Amapá National Forest and Amapá State Forest. The project aims to improve the livelihoods of communities inside and around the two protected areas, while providing ecosystem services essential to people's wellbeing through the protection of natural capital.

During the three-year period from 2014 to 2017, the project helped to strengthen community organizations, to support sustainable forestry and the production of non-timber forestry products, and introduce eco-system-friendly farming techniques for self-sufficient agriculture.

New projects have also been established based on the outcomes of these initiatives. For example, the Sustainable and Resilient Tapajós project, launched in 2018 with funding from the Amazon Fund, is working to promote sustainable forestry and the production of non-timber forestry products by strengthening community organizations. Similarly, in Para State, a seed supply network has been established for reforestation with the financial assistance of a private-sector company and a project launched to reforest a total of 15 hectares. In 2019, funded by the Governor's Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF-TF), a new project was commenced called Forests for the Climate: PSA and REDD + Jurisdictional System in Amapá State, which was completed in December 2020.

The Amapá Fund is an initiative launched by CI and GCF in 2016 that aims to support the consolidation of protected areas and indigenous lands in Amapá state, especially through the development of sustainable forest supply chains, bioeconomy, governance and natural capital conservation. This year, the fund contributed \$93,000 US dollars to projects in the regions of FLOTA AMAPÁ and RDS Iratapuru. The fund has around 3 million US dollars, which will be used to support new projects every year.

CI continues to implement initiatives together with partners for the sustainable development of the Amazon region. This update covers the activities conducted from July 2020 to June 2021 through a partnership with the local government.

Strengthening community organizations

Activities were restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal protected areas were closed from March 2020 to July 2021, disabling any activity inside the areas. However, in the first half of 2021, communities gradually restarted activities.

Local organizations are essential to community-based businesses. Local organizations that play an important role in the Amapa Project include the Bom Sucesso Association and Forest Sowing Association.

The Bom Sucesso Association is working to strengthen organizational strengths and manage non-timber products through the Ecoforte Program receiving financial support from the Amazon Foundation and a foundation of banks in Brazil.

The Forest Sowing Association established in the previous reporting period has launched a new partnership with Iepé (Institute for research and training for indigenous peoples) and other and the Mamirauá Institute, both NGOs working in the Amazon region, in order to strengthen the supply chain. In the second half of 2021, the Forest Sowing Association plans to engage in the biocosmetics and community-based eco-tourism businesses with the financial assistance of these two organizations.

Additionally, the Associação Sementeiras do Araguari, coordinated with the Secretary of Health of Porto Grande for COVID-19 vaccines to be provided to all community members, with the second round of vaccinations scheduled for September 2021. This was a positive outcome brought about by the stronger community organizations resulting from the “Forests for the Air” Project.

Non-timber forest management

The non-timber forest product management activities are expected to resume gradually in the second half of 2021 and should return to normal in 2022. In September 2021, two community leaders will attend a training course, in the state of Pará, on biocosmetics.

Activities scheduled for the second half of 2021 will focus on increasing product quality, sanitary certification, infrastructure development, market channels, social entrepreneurship and business management. Besides the support of Ecoforte, Iepé and Mamirauá Institute, the activities developed by the associations can compete for resources from the Amapá Fund.

Community-led tourism

Eco-tourism has been suspended currently in consideration of the community’s health and safety since it attracts visitors from outside the area. Activities are expected to resume in the second half of 2022 in a more controlled setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mamirauá Institute and ICMBio plan to support activities for eco-tourism.

Forestry (timber production)

The impacts from the organizational restructuring of the Amapá state government has meant that these activities have yet to resume. However, ICMBio has tried to raise funds from the “Forest Management Project” financed by KfW of Germany to strengthen timber forest management. Timber management is an important issue for managing the forests of Amapá state and is included in the thematic lines of support from the Amapá Fund.

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