

Brazil

Amapá Initiative

News from the Field (July 2021–June 2022)

August 2022

Conservation International

In Brazil, the “Forests Nurturing the Air” project commenced conservation activities in 2014 covering two protected areas—Amapá National Forest and Amapá State Forest. Primarily focused on communities living in and outside the protected areas, this project has strengthened community organizations, implemented a communications strategy aimed at conservation, and supported community-led activities using timber and non-timber products to ensure that the improvement of people's livelihoods is compatible with the conservation of forest ecosystems.

As the main results of its activities, the project has strengthened the capacity of community-based associations by encouraging sustainable timber management, supporting a non-timber products supply chain (andiroba, copaiba, breu, fava), and introducing eco-friendly agricultural practices called agro-ecology. In total, the project has developed 27 technical training courses between 2014 and 2017.

Activities by Community-based Associations

The federal protected areas were closed from March 2020 to July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project activities have since resumed gradually starting in the second half of 2021.

This project has worked on capacity building for community-based associations, and as part of this, Associação Sementeiras do Araguari established three new partnerships, one with Iepé (Institute for research and training for indigenous), another with Mamirauá Institute, and the third with Amapá Fund, aimed at fortifying the supply chain.

Additionally, the Associação Sementeiras do Araguari, partnered with the Secretary of Health of Porto Grande to carry out a health campaign in the Araguari river basin offering dental services, COVID-19 vaccinations, social assistance and medical services. The health campaign was carried out twice in 2021 and is scheduled to held for a third time in December 2021.

The Associação Sementeiras is building a new office near the banks of Araguari river (Picture below). This office will be used for meetings, assemblies and for biocosmetics production activities. The office will also contain a sales outlet for biocosmetics to sell to eco-tourists visiting the area.

The project's activities, which have helped in capacity building of community-based associations and the sustainable utilization of natural resources, are now being expanded into various other areas as noted above.



New office of Associação Sementeiras do Araguari under construction

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Non-Timber Products

Activities involving non-timber products were gradually resumed starting in the second half of 2021. In September 2021, two community leaders attended the training course held in the state of Pará on new organic products made from forest extracts. This course was important to improve their capacities in the production of plant-derived biocosmetics, which the project has been involved with for some time. Pictures below show examples of these products.

The next step will be to create a forest inventory, map the routes of the forest extracts used as raw material to produce biocosmetics, and develop training courses on production and management for the capacity building of social enterprises.

In addition, through a partnership with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and the Research Institute of Amapá State (IEPA), the project will perform analyses of each ingredient used in the biocosmetics.



Samples of the biocosmetics products produced by Associação Sementeiras do Araguari



Copaiba soap (*Copaifera langsdorffii* Desf.) produced by pela Associação Sementeiras do Araguari



Andiroba soap (*Carapa guianensis* Aubl.) produced by Associação Sementeiras do Araguari



Breu branco scrub soap (*Protium heptaphyllum* (Aubl.) Marchand) produced by Associação Sementeiras do Araguari

Community-led tourism

Eco tourism was significantly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic as activities were suspended in 2021. The Associação Sementeiras established a partnership with Instituto Mamirauá to strengthen community based tourism activities and reviewed a plan to restart

eco-tourism. Eco-tourism was slated to resume in 2022, but delays in negotiations with stakeholders regarding the activity plan will result in activities resuming in 2023.

The new eco-tourism route under consideration will feature a visit to the new office under construction, and the orchid greenhouse planned in the surrounding community, to enjoy interactions with local residents and contribute to improving their livelihoods through the sale of biocosmetics and local products.

Forestry (timber production)

The ICMBio approved a project valued at one million reais (US\$195K) with KfW of Germany for timber management. However, the project will begin in 2023 because of delays in contract-related administrative procedures. The project will be carried out through a technical partnership with Embrapa.

New Projects

Using the foundation built up by the project, four new projects in the region have been initiated: Sustainable and Resilient Tapajós,¹ Unlocking and Leveraging Low-Emission Development,² Restaurata—Forests Revitalization and Amapá Fund.

The Sustainable and Resilient Tapajós project started in 2018, with funding provided by the Amazon Fund. The main objective is the same as the “The Forests Nurturing the Air” project; contribute to the strengthening of the timber and non-timber forest supply chains through the empowerment of local traditional communities. The project has been expanded to the three protected areas of National Forests of Tapajós, Trairão and Itaituba I, in the west of Pará state.

The Unlocking and Leveraging Low-Emission Development project was started in June 2022 with funding from GCF-TF (Governor’s Climate and Forests Task Force). The main objective is to help the initiatives of the state of Amapá satisfy the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) and effectively utilize the mechanism of Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF).³

The Amapá Fund is an initiative launched by CI and GCF in 2022 that aims to support the consolidation of protected areas and indigenous lands in Amapá state. The fund has supported the development of supply chains for biocosmetics and Brazilian nuts in Iratapuru region. The fund has around 3 million dollars which will be used to support new projects in the state every year.

CI will continue working toward the goal of achieving a sustainable society in the Amazon.

Note: Unauthorized copying of the images and text used here is prohibited.

¹ The Tapajós River is a tributary of the Amazon River

² Unlocking and Leveraging Low-Emission Development project

³ Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF), a public-private collaborative rainforest conservation initiatives launched at the Climate Leaders Summit held in April 2021