

Brazil Amapá Initiative

News from the Field

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Conservation International

About Amapá State

Amapá State in Brazil is located at the north of the mouth of the Amazon River and just right on the Equator. About 70% of the state has been designated as a conservation area by law, and most of the original forests remain intact. The state takes pride in its rich biodiversity and its natural environment is the most protected in Brazil.

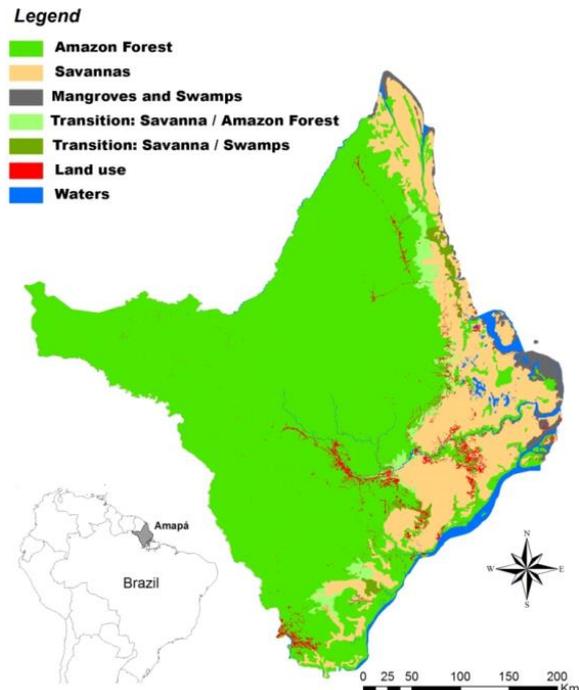
Overview of the Amapá Initiative

Nature has supported the livelihoods of the people of Amapá State for generations, providing various natural resources such as timber for infrastructure, food such as tree fruits and nuts, and essential freshwater.

To ensure that the local people can continue to benefit from this forest, community engagement in promoting sustainable use is essential.

The activities of the Amapá Initiative can be roughly divided into two parts: 1) Supporting the communities living in the surrounding areas of Amapá State Forest (2.3 million hectares) and Amapá National Forest (410,000 hectares) in their forest management and agroforestry programs; 2) Building communication networks across these communities to promote participation in Amapá's state-wide program of managing the conservation areas.

Activities underway



Amapá State map. The red portions represent the area of deforestation in the past.

To generate a greater impact from the results of the project, it is important to coordinate with the local government's measures and obtain a long-term cooperation from their agencies.

At the commencement of the project, we had many meetings with the government officials in charge of managing the conservation areas. Within the context of the communities' forest management and agroforestry efforts, opinions were collected for: reinforcement of management activities of the forests that have multi-usages in the national parks and

the state-owned forests, sustainable management of the native acai palm trees, and support for processing and marketing of timber, acai, and non-timber products such as acai and honey. Also, there were comments, such as regarding the necessity to promote participation from young people in order to enhance the sharing of conservation messages and the benefits that the conservation areas create with their wider families.



Next phase

In early 2015 we will define activity schedules and assign roles among participants.

The partnership with the government is important. Following Brazil's recent election meetings had been difficult to arrange. We have now re-established partnerships with appropriate government representatives, and these partnerships are essential to promote the project with organizations that specialize in forests, environment, biodiversity, and agriculture in Brazil.

To build on the collaborative approach of this project we are planning to further engage with universities and other institutions in the near future.



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