

**Brazil**  
**Amapá Initiative**  
**News from the Field (July 2018–June 2019)**

**August 2019**  
**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.

This report covers activities between July 2018 and June 2019.

**Timber management in PA Serra do Navio**

A major goal of activities conducted since last year under the timber management project in PA Serra do Navio has been to obtain a relevant license. Unfortunately, the Amapá government changed its administrative structure, so the process to obtain a license had to be restarted with the state secretary of the environment (SEMA), the new government department responsible for timber management licensing.

**Non-timber products management**

Gradual success has been achieved over several years of the production and marketing of biocosmetics made from non-timber forest products. A particular standout has been the Bom Sucesso association, whose highly rated products have made them a successful case study for community forest-based businesses.

Thanks to this achievement, Bom Sucesso has been invited to exhibit their products at key congresses and trade fairs, such as the 16<sup>th</sup> Ethnobiology International Society Congress in Belém in August 2018.

**Strengthening social organization**

Social organization is the main driver for the successful development of community-based economic activities. A well functioning social organization will generative collective socioeconomic benefits in the region. To this end, this project has provided organization-strengthening support for Bom Sucesso in the form of activities such as workshops.

In 2017, the Bom Sucesso association submitted a proposal for a project under Ecoforte Extrativismo, an initiative funded by the Brazilian bank and Amazon Fund. The project was approved and Bom Sucesso received a grant for around \$150,000 over a 24-month period with the aim of continuing the production of biocosmetics and capacity-building. These

efforts have made Bom Sucesso's achievement a successful case study in community-based business.

However, there are threats to this initiative, mainly in the form of social conflicts within the association, and these have threatened to negatively impact not just the association but surrounding communities. The core group within the association responsible for producing biocosmetics has been striving to find solutions to these conflicts. Despite the direct support over the three years of the project, CI understands that the maturation of these social organizations takes longer and needs more close monitoring and mentoring to ensure success.

### **Final considerations**

Community activities in the Amazon are important for the conservation of forest, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. However, community-driven organizations are susceptible to the conflict of various interested parties, and these internal conflicts risk impacting community activities. It takes time for the organization to achieve a level of self-sustainability, and to do so they require technical and financial support from outside parties.

CI Brazil has been monitoring the initiatives supported by the project in the last 12 months as planned. However, the lack of financial resources to carry out more activities and intervene in positively influencing the initiative have weakened the project's continuity.

In order to continue CI-Brazil's contribution to sustainable development in the Amazon, a regional project was launched in Amapá state called "Forests for Climate: Jurisdictional System of PES and REDD+ in Amapá."

With the experience gained working for over fifteen years in the state of Amapá implementing projects in partnership with Daikin, CI and the local government assessed the need to build a jurisdictional system of payments for environmental services and REDD+. The state of Amapá has the largest forest cover conserved in Brazil, and building a jurisdictional system is crucial to ensuring sustainable economic development in the state.

Additionally, CI Brazil has continued to put its energy into searching for opportunities and constructing strategies that can effectively contribute to the sustainable development of the Amazon through the strengthening of governance, sustainable production, and conservation of biodiversity.

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