

Brazil
Amapá Initiative
News from the Field (July 2019–June 2020)

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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, support the production of non-timber forestry products, and introduce ecosystem-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. In 2020, this project also began efforts to restore forests in the same region. 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.

CI continues to implement initiatives together with partners for the sustainable development of the Amazon region. This update covers the activities conducted from July 2019 to June 2020 through a partnership with the local government.

Strengthening Community Organizations

Community-led business is capable of generating socioeconomic benefits for local communities. The role of community organizations is critical to the establishment of this form of business. Toward this end, this project has worked to strengthen the Bom Sucesso Association.

However, community-based enterprises face some conflicts, which can be considered part of the process and dynamics during the maturation process. Bom Sucesso Association is no exception as it has faced some challenges in recent years. For example, a group of women who had led the organization decided to establish their own organization called Associação de Mulheres Agroextrativistas do Rio Araguari (Sementeiras da Floresta – Forest sowing Association). Although this breakdown in organization may be seen as a negative over the short-term, once these two organizations can join forces for the benefit of the local community, this arrangement will serve to further benefit the community over the medium to long term.

With its establishment, Forest Sowing Association created a logo for its products to boost competitiveness.



Logo of Forest Sowing Association

Non-Timber Forest Management

The project has made progress with the production and sale of biocosmetics and acai berry products used to make non-timber forestry products. The number of people involved in the production of biocosmetics increased from 15 to 25 and both Bom Sucesso and Sementeiras da Floresta are involved in this supply chain. Participants are taking part in capacity building courses, constructing a small factory and buying the necessary equipment and machines.



Capacity building for açai management (left), Sustainable management of andiroba (right)

There is growing demand for products derived from biodiversity that benefit society and more and more companies are looking to conclude supply agreements with the community for local products. Due to its split up, however, Bom Sucesso Association, has been unable to keep pace with demand for its products and is now in the process of reorganizing.



Products of Bom Sucesso Association

Community-led Tourism

This initiative was launched with the direct support of Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) through workshops, which, in the beginning aimed to establish a sample itinerary plan and guidelines for ecotourism in Amapá National Forest.



Community-led tourism workshop

The communities hosted tourists following a three-day itinerary, providing income for 15 families. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these community-led tourism activities have been suspended. The plan is to restart ecotourism once the pandemic has come to an end.

Forestry (Timber Production)

Last year's organizational restructuring of the Amapá state government continues to impact this initiative. The State Forest Institute of Amapá (IEF), which was the entity responsible for implementing forestry policy, and the Institute for the Environment and Territorial Planning (IMAP), responsible for environmental licensing, were both closed down. Forestry technical support has been transferred to the Institute of Rural Development of Amapá (RURAP) and licensing activities were assigned to the State Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA). For this reason, no progress has been made on both fronts.

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