

Brazil
Amapá Initiative
News from the Field (July 2022–June 2023)

August 2023
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.

The outcomes of CI-Brasil's previous projects have led to the start of four new ones in the region called Sustainable and Resilient Tapajós,¹ Unlocking and Leveraging Low-Emission Development,² Restaurata—forests restoration and Amapá Fund.

The Sustainable and Resilient Tapajós project started in 2018, with funding from the Amazon Fund. The main objective is the same of the Forests for the air project, to help strengthen the timber and non-timber forest supply chains through the empowerment of local traditional communities. The project focuses on the three protected forest areas of Tapajós, Trairão and Itaituba I, in the west of Pará state.

The project called Unlocking and Leveraging Low-Emission Development kicked off in June 2022, with funding from the 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

Additionally, 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

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

Iratapuru region. The fund has around 3 million dollars which will be used to support new projects in the state every year.

Activities in the Previous Year (July 2022 to June 2023)

After the various restrictions due to COVID-19, activities in the previous year (July 2022 to June 2023), the final year of the project, focused on the Association Sementeiras do Araguari.

The partners that supported the activities of the Association Sementeiras do Araguari included Iepé (Institute of Indigenous Research and Training), Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), IEPA (Institute of Studies and Research of Amapá), Mamirauá Institute, and Amapá Fund.

Activities of the Association Sementeiras do Araguari

In the previous year, the activities implemented by the Association Sementeiras do Araguari focused on non-timber forest products mainly in the biocosmetics value chain. Initiatives spanned from production to distribution and featured training, installation of a solar dryer, and participation in fairs and events to increase the value of the biocosmetic products and expand business opportunities.

A solar dryer was installed with the help of community members and the technical support of Embrapa. Going forward, this dryer will be used to accelerate the drying process of andiroba (*Copaifera langsdorffii*) seeds.



Installation of a solar dryer at Association Sementeiras do Araguari, Amapá.
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In February 2023, good practice training for mechanized extraction of copaiba oil was conducted. The training was taught by Embrapa researchers, in partnership with the Iepe Institute and support from the Amapá Fund. Participated 15 members of the Association Sementeiras do Araguari, covering a theoretical and another practical part.



Training of good practices in mechanized extraction of copaiba oil to the members of the Association Sementeiras do Araguari, Amapá.
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In August 2023, the Amazon Dialogues⁴ event took place in the city of Belém, Pará. Discussions took place on sustainable development strategies for the Amazon. The event involved participants from several sectors, such as civic groups, universities, research centers and government agencies from Brazil and other Amazonian countries. The Association Sementeiras do Araguari also had space to exhibit and market its biocosmetic products.

⁴ The Amazon Dialogues was held during the preliminary discussions for the Amazon Summit that took place in September 2023. The purpose of the event was to compile recommendations required for the sustainable development of the Amazon.



Exhibition of biocosmetics by the Association Sementeiras do Araguari during the Amazon Dialogues.
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Another highlight from the previous year was the Association Sementeiras do Araguari obtaining Amapa Seal certification for its biocosmetics. This certification ensures that all legal requirements for the production, manufacture and distribution of biocosmetics industrialization and commercialization are in compliance with the regulations of Amapa State.



Samples of the biocosmetics products produced by Associação Sementeiras do Araguari
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Copaiba soap (*Copaifera langsdorffii* Desf.) produced by pela Associação Sementeiras do Araguari
© Conservation International



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

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

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