

**Brazil
Amapá Initiative**

News from the Field

**January 2015
Conservation International**

Training in Gathering Seeds from the Forest

One-week training sessions were held in November and December to teach participants how to gather different varieties of wild tree seeds and process and store them. Taking part were 30 residents living around the Amapá National Forest and the Amapá State Forest. Training such as this is important in helping the community earn extra income through alternative methods. This can contribute to reducing the wildlife poaching and illegal logging taking place in the protected areas.



Training in gathering seeds: classroom and practical learning

Practice in Driving Motorboats

Motorboat driving lessons were held with a view to starting an ecotourism business in the Amapá National Forest. Thirty local residents took part. Through this training, participants could earn a motorboat license and thus legally operate a motorboat. This is the first step in having locals set

up an ecotourism business. Other training is planned to support the realization of ecotourism in the Amapá National Forest. Ecotourism will allow the community to earn extra income.

Meeting Held to Discuss National Rural Housing Programme

In the Amazon region of Brazil, outside financial and technical support is indispensable to communities making a living by combining small-scale farming, livestock raising, and harvesting of wild forest products. However, the actual change must be implemented by community members themselves. That's why it's important to empower them.

We held a meeting with residents living around the Amapá National Forest and the Amapá State Forest to discuss how they would take advantage of the Brazilian government's National Rural Housing Programme. The aim of this program for small-scale farms is to reduce the cost of loans for building houses. At the meeting, farmers heard directly from government representatives and were able to ease their concerns about utilizing this program. This meeting was part of our efforts to boost the organizational strength of the community in the hopes of improving the quality of life of residents.



Meeting on rural housing measures in Amapá State

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