

Brazil Amapá Initiative

News from the Field

**April 2015
Conventional International**

New Amapá State Government

The recent Amapá State election saw a new government being voted in. The past quarter was a crucial time for us at CI-Brazil to stabilize our relationship with the new government, which believes that our project is making an important contribution to the state's environmental policies.

Supporting Community Networks

Protected areas represent a global strategy for the preservation of biodiversity and its ecosystem services. Amapá is one of the best preserved states in Brazil, with about 70% of the territory protected by law in forms such as protected areas and indigenous lands. Despite its status as a protected area, however, actually implementing this protection is no easy matter.

One strategy to preserve the protected areas is to improve communication methods among stakeholders. Such communication methods are indispensable for integrated management among governments, citizens, and the business sector for the sake of conserving the natural capital and ensuring its sustainable use.



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The Araguari River flows through Amapá National Forest and the Amapá State Forest

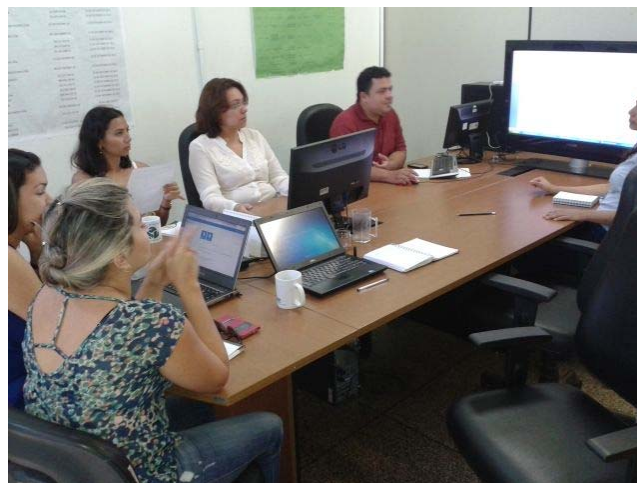
We have had numerous meetings with the State Environment Secretary with regards to the management improvement plan for the Amapá State forest, which adopts communication tools. As a result, we will assist with the running of a workshop aimed at coming up with communication and strategic plans for the Amapá State forest. Taking part in the workshop will be representatives of Pará and other Brazilian states, as well as countries of the Guiana Shield such as French Guiana and Suriname. The workshop will open with the launching of a trust fund—a partnership between Conservation International, Amapá State government,

and the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)—that will support the financial sustainability of the protected areas.

Support for Forest Management and Agroecology

We believe that sustainable use of forests and sustainable agricultural production are important to the protection of Amapá State’s natural capital. In making use of Amapá State’s forests, it is crucial that we sustainably manage both the timber and non-timber products. In the area of agricultural production, the adopted agroecology approach involves the sustainable production of food by using no chemical fertilizers and by allowing ecosystems to fully contribute with their natural advantages. The adoption of agroecology will also prevent water pollution and soil degradation.

This past quarter, Conservation International held a number of meetings with organizations that manage Amapá National Forest and Amapá State forest. At these meetings, participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting forest use and agroecology in two protected areas. Based on agreements made at the meetings, field activities resumed in communities in Amapá National Forest and Amapá State forest in April 2015. Plans are being made for training and technical assistance towards sustainable production and marketing. We believe these efforts will contribute to raising income levels and securing food supplies in the communities.



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Participants discuss diversity of forest utilization and agroecology

Looking Ahead

We have been developing the project in close cooperation with the Amapá State government in order to support policies aimed at sustainable use of nature’s bounty. This strategy will go a long way towards widening the scope of the project and increasing its impact. And the involvement of the state government will dramatically increase the chances for continuity of future activities even after those currently in planning are completed.

We believe that the project has so far been a success. Although activities have moved at a somewhat slower pace since the transition to a new government in January 2015, this was something we expected. With the new administration up and running, we expect things to pick up over the next few months.

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