

## Brazil Amapá Initiative

### News from the Field

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Conservation International

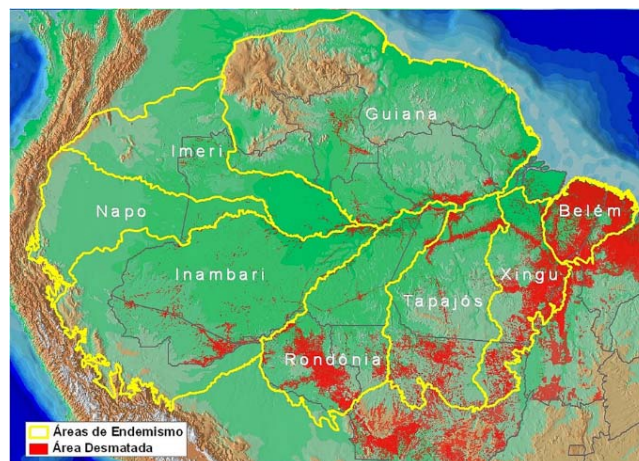
#### Supporting Communication Network to Better Manage Protected Areas

Communication is a crucial means of conveying specific information to a target audience. By informing and empowering people of things like the state's politics, plans, programs, and projects, we can achieve results and have an impact. It is therefore important to keep a record of the state government's activities and make these public.

We are currently formulating a communication strategy related to the environmental policies of the Amapá State government. Our aim is to make the various issues of the protected areas explicit in state environmental policy so that the protected areas can be better managed. Let's look at the activities we have undertaken to help create a communication strategy and environmental policy for Amapá State.

#### Seminar of the Guiana Shield Protected Areas (SAPEG)

The Guiana Shield in the northern part of South America covers five countries: Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, and part of Venezuela. In Brazil, the Guiana Shield covers part of the states of Amazonas and Pará, and the states of Roraima and Amapá. This area is covered by preserved native forests, boasts rich biodiversity, and is home to many endemic species.



Map showing the main areas of endemism in the Guiana Shield (yellow lines). In red are those areas suffering from increasing deforestation (Map: Luis Barbosa, CI-Brazil)

Amapá State has 10 million hectares of protected area. SAPEG is a seminar for discussing the present and future of land management in Amapá State. SAPEG was held on July 2 and 3, 2015 and was attended by representatives of the protected areas, the state government, and NGOs. SAPEG featured exhibits documenting experiences managing the protected areas, strategies for protecting the natural capital, and other relevant topics. In small group discussions, participants came up with proposals for designing Amapá State environmental

policies and communication strategies. They also discussed conservation of water resources and endemic species, maintenance of forests, clarification of the value of traditional knowledge and culture, and strengthening of sustainable production chains.



Some of the discussion meetings held at SAPEG (Photo: Aline Gonçalves)

### Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is crucial to charting the course of an organization and stipulating the means and finances necessary to achieve goals. From August 25 to 27, 2015, a meeting will be held to review the strategic planning for stipulating and implementing the environmental policies of Amapá State. It was attended by the Secretary of Environment of Amapá State (SEMA) and representatives of the Forestry Institute of Amapá (IEF) and the Institute of Environment and Spatial Planning (IMAP).

### Sustainable Forest Management by the Community

Having communities play the lead role in managing timber and non-timber resources is important for their socioeconomic development. It is also vital for conserving natural capital that produces ecosystem services, which are essential for human well being.

There are currently numerous trials aimed at giving this lead management role to the communities that utilize the timber and other resources of the forest. However, there still remains the major hurdle of there being no effective policies for supporting sustainable forest management by the communities. Legal frameworks and effective public services must be created.

To this end, there have been numerous meetings held since 2014 aimed at establishing networks to support forest management in the Brazilian Amazon. The role of these networks is to discuss ways for facilitating the creation and implementation of policies that promote the diverse utilization of forest resources through plans, projects, and programs. Attending these meetings have been IEF technicians, who are coordinating a forest management pilot project in a protected area in the PA Serra do Navio community around the Amapá State Forest and Amapá National Forest. Technical discussions are in progress between IEF and SEMA with the aim of establishing a network in Amapá State. One proposal is to reactivate the State Technical Chamber of Forests.

On June 16, there was a meeting in Belém, Pará State, attended by representatives from government, the private sector, and research institutes. Participants held technical discussions on strategies aimed at creating networks and ways to strengthen forest management. A follow-up meeting will be held in August to continue discussions.



At the June 16 meeting on community-based forest management  
(Photo: Josinei Garcia, CI-Brazil)

### **Workshop on Measuring Timber Density**

The pilot project underway in the protected area of PA Serra do Navio is aimed at empowering the community through the granting of forest management licenses. We will boost the capabilities of the community through numerous activities including lessons and workshops, and experience-sharing meetings.

From July 24 to 28, a workshop on measuring the real density of timber will be held. The aim is to provide the community with basic knowledge related to this topic. It is not our intention, however, to have participating families carry out all the activities learned in this workshop. Rather, our hope is that the community will be able to manage the forest resources of their own property. This concern is due to the complex historical relationship between companies who utilize the resources of the forest and the communities who live here.

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