

**Brazil**  
**Amapá Initiative**

**News from the Field**

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**Conservation International**

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

Effective communication is an important strategy for the dissemination of knowledge and the construction of participative processes with stakeholders. To this end, we aim to construct a communication plan that contributes to the management of the Amapá Protected Areas.

Changes have recently occurred in the secretarial staff of the Amapá government. As a result, the coordination of protected areas, formerly conducted by the State Environmental Secretary (SEMA), is now conducted by the Amapá Forest Institute. We therefore need to conduct new technical meetings with this new team to design the communications plan. In November and December 2015, we are going to hire a professional communications specialist to help us in the design and implementation of this communication plan. We intend to complete this by April 2016.

**Supporting Forest Multiple Use Management and Agroecology**

Productive activities are essential to the process of local socioeconomic development. These activities, when aligned with sustainable principles, are strategic for the maintenance of ecosystems balance and, thus, human well-being. To this end, we conducted the following activities.

**Training in Processing and Manufacturing Andiroba (*Carapa guianensis*) Products**

From August 23 to 25, 2015, a total of 20 people from the Association of Agro Extractivist of Araguari River (Bom Sucesso Association), who live inside and in areas surrounding Amapá National Forest (FLONA) and Amapá State Forest (FLOTA), attended a training session in good practices in processing and manufacturing Andiroba artisanal products.

The training aimed to contribute to the sustainable use of forest products by guiding the producers in good practices that add value to community-made artisanal products using Andiroba (for example, balms, soaps, and candles). It's important to highlight that these activities contribute to the knowledge of alternative income generation through products that use resources that are available in the region and that can be produced using low-cost techniques and equipment.



Training in good practices in processing and manufacturing Andiroba products (Photos: Gracinete Marinho/ Renascer Association)

## Two Training Sessions in Agroecology

From September 21 to 23, two training sessions were held for a total of 40 families at PA Serra do Navio and at Amapá FLONA/FLOTA. The sessions covered food safety and sustainable production using agroecological practices. The goal of these sessions was to help communities understand sustainable production processes and show their advantages, opportunities and challenges.



Training sessions in sustainable agroecological practices at PA Serra do Navio (left photo) and at Amapá FLONA/FLOTA (right photo). (Photos: Simone Araújo/Amapá Forest Institute)

The subjects covered by the training were agroecology concepts, public policies, production challenges and opportunities, perspectives of food and nutrition safety using agroecology, economic viability and planning of an agroecological garden. Video presentations and group work were used to facilitate understanding by participants. Based on what they learned at the training sessions, members of the PA Serra do Navio and the Amapá FLONA/FLOTA communities wrote short proposals containing their philosophies of agroecology.

Following the training sessions, in November practical activities such as organic composting, biofertilizer usage, pest control and creation of agroecological gardens will be carried out.

## Workshop on Measuring Timber Density and Wood Residue

A pilot project in multifaceted forest use in PA Serra do Navio and Amapá FLONA/FLOTA is aimed at enabling areas for licensing of forest management and at empowering the community in the steps that compose this activity. In preparation for this pilot project, several capacity-building activities to empower the community have been planned, including courses, workshops, exchanges and discussion forums. On July 27, 2015, a workshop was held on measuring the real density of timber and the residue of wood. Fifteen community members took part.



Workshop on measurement of real density of timber and residue of wood at PA Serra do Navio and the surrounding Amapá FLOTA and FLONA (Photo: Adriana Luz/Amapá Forest Institute)

The workshop was very productive and achieved its goal in teaching the basic knowledge of timber volume calculation to participants. However, community members pointed out the necessity of further training to consolidate the acquired skills. The next training session will therefore be held in the first quarter of 2016.

## Exchanging Experiences in Sustainable Forestry Management

Exchanging information on successful cases of a particular activity is a strategic way to empower a group that is starting or wants to enhance similar activities. To this end, we held an information-exchange meeting between 17 people from PA Serra do Navio and Amapá FLOTA, community members of the Tapajós National Forest, who are conducting a project of sustainable forest management, and five technicians of the Amapá Forest Institute.

The activity inside the Tapajós FLONA is often cited as a national and international success story of local communities developing and organizing the management of timber and non-timber forest products in tropical forests.



Attendees of the experience exchange on sustainable forest management at Tapajós FLONA (Photo: Sandro Carvalho/Amapá Forest Institute)

Between August 8 and 13, members from the Mixed Cooperative of Tapajós FLONA (Coomflona) shared their experiences on sustainable forest management inside a protected area (Tapajós FLONA). The six days of meetings included visits to communities conducting sustainable management in public forests, presentations by cooperatives, discussions on the theories and practices of sustainable forest management, and lectures on trading strategies and marketing of timber and non-timber forest resources.

These activities were praised by community members and IEF technicians for their practical and easy-to-understand explanations of the benefits and challenges of forest management.

### **Final Considerations**

The project is being implemented on schedule and with active participation of the communities. We believe that the project is on its way to reaching its main goals: to contribute to the creation and implementation of public policies that promote human well-being through the maintenance of ecosystems and natural resources.

It's important to highlight that because of this project, the Government of Amapá State will create a program to promote greater coverage of the activities developed by this project, thus impacting a larger number of people that live inside and in the areas surrounding the protected areas. The program is called "Forest Governance of Amapá" (GFAP) and is mainly composed of activities of forest management and sustainable production with agroecological practices. The government is planning two meetings with civil society for the consolidation of this program. This bodes well for the success of the project. Daikin's "Forests for the Air" project has been instrumental in strengthening the Amapá Protected Areas.

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