Annual Report 2017

Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Annual Report 2017

Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity

February 2018

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Foreword

Photo: USAID/Brazil archives

The Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity (PCAB) is a commitment between the people of the United States and the people of Brazil in the form of a five-year joint program for biodiversity conservation in the Brazilian Amazon. The partnership includes key institutions in both countries, as well as local communities, private companies and leaders in the field of conservation. The partnership contributes to conservation success in the Amazon through strengthening protected area management and supporting sustainable economic development.

In 2017, PCAB activities covered an area of 56 million hectares, providing direct economic benefits to more than 4,000 people and indirectly benefiting thousands. In the coming years, we would like to expand this partner network even further and increase collaboration to curb the growing threats to the world's largest tropical forest, whose area decreased by 20% in the past 50 years.

The PCAB aligns with and complements the goals of Brazil's Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program. ARPA is a highly successful tropical forest conservation program of global importance, which helped conserve 60 million hectares of the Amazon. On behalf of the people of the United States, I commend Brazil's conservation leadership and recognize the tremendous commitment this achievement represents. Collective solutions involving a wide range of stakeholders are critical to addressing the many financial, logistical, geographical and demographic challenges of the Amazon. USAID/Brazil is committed to helping identify and support the implementation of diverse solutions to overcome these challenges.

Producers in the Amazon face a number of trials. From getting products to market, to achieving a fair price. The PCAB supports strengthening value chains for forest products. We see great potential for unique, sustainably produced Amazon products with a guarantee of origin that would benefit Amazon communities and their future generations. Similarly, to expand an Amazon-based sustainable economy, we supported the launch of the Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPA) in December 2018 – a platform of private sector enterprises investing responsibly, committed to working with communities, and generating new demand for sustainable Amazon products. We believe these efforts help counter the historic and emerging threats to the sustainable use of natural resources.

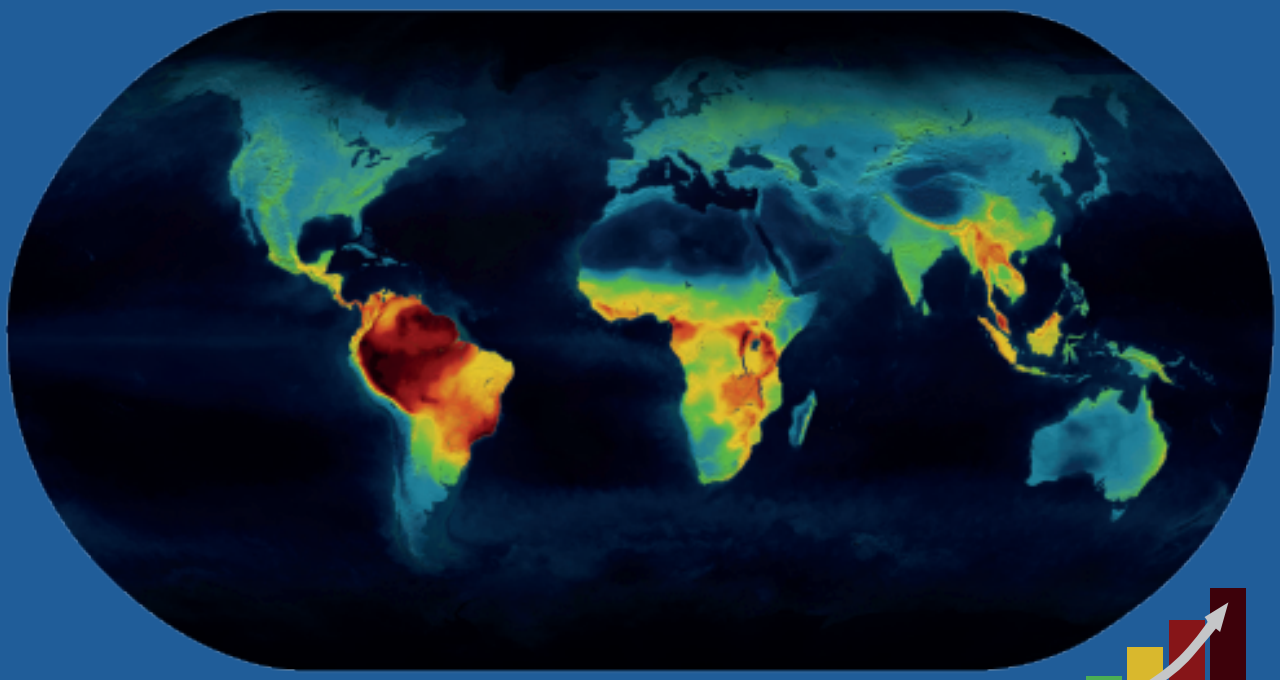
We work closely with champions and leaders within Amazon communities, and jointly with the Brazilian government, as well as many other partners, to collaboratively address these risks. On behalf of the people of the United States, it is a pleasure and an honor to partner, as we continue the fight for a sustainable future for forest peoples.

With great enthusiasm we present PCAB results from 2017 to help assess our collaborative progress and inspire confidence in our collective future vision to achieve its goals.

Michael Eddy
USAID/Brazil Country Representative

AMAZON BIODIVERSITY

The largest rainforest on Earth also contains the greatest levels of biodiversity



Map: Globaïa, Saving Species and IUCN

Levels of biodiversity

10% OF ALL SPECIES ARE FOUND IN THE AMAZON

472 MAMMALS

40,000 PLANTS

1,294 BIRDS

6,500 TREES (compared to 650 species in North America)

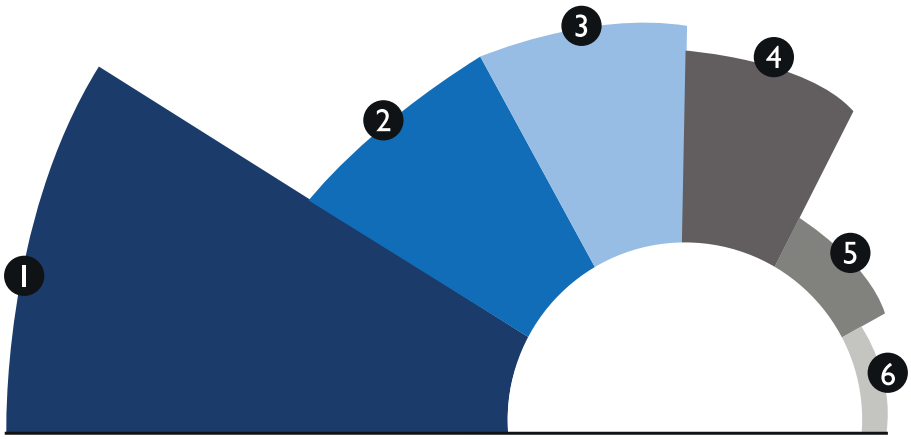
Sources: Museum Emílio Goeldi, ARPA (Brazilian Ministry of Environment), Wikipedia (US map and States area)
Infographic: Quartzo Comunicação; Design: Érica Santos

USAID BRAZIL

is USAID's first Strategic Partnership Mission

Protected Areas supported by the PCAB

1. Indigenous Lands — 57%
2. National Parks — 13%
3. Sustainable Development Reserves — 13%
4. Extractive Reserves — 12%
5. National/State Forests — 4%
6. Biological Reserves — 2%



(% of PCAB comprised by type)

The United States Agency for International Development in Brazil (USAID/Brazil) is the Agency's first Strategic Partnership Mission. The transition from traditional assistance began in 2014, recognizing Brazil had become a leader in addressing global challenges and surpassed the need for traditional development assistance. As a partner in international development, Brazil now brings expertise in poverty reduction to share and assist other countries, jointly with the United States (trilateral cooperation) in other parts of the world.

USAID/Brazil's emphasis under this new concept as a Strategic Partnership Mission is the **Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity (PCAB)**, whose main focus is biodiversity conservation in the Brazilian Amazon. The PCAB was signed by USAID/Brazil and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), which is part of Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is directed through a joint partnership with ABC, the Ministry of Environment (MMA), its Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio, in charge of managing federal conservation Protected Areas), and the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI, a foundation within the Ministry of Justice that oversees the management of Indigenous Territories). PCAB activities also align with the Government of Brazil's Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA).

Operating in Brazil for more than five decades, USAID/Brazil long served as a catalyst for partnerships with the Brazilian government, civil society, and the private sector, and continues to do so in three priority areas:

Biodiversity Conservation: Together with Brazilian government and civil society partners, USAID/Brazil supports the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in Protected Areas (Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands) in the Brazilian Amazon, with a focus on science, innovation and partnerships that strengthen conservation, management, community participation and sustainable use.

Private sector engagement: Together with companies of all sizes, USAID currently seeks to catalyze sustainable development solutions that support biodiversity conservation. Historically, USAID also worked closely with the private sector in the areas of education, professional training, income generation, and women and at-risk youth programs.

Trilateral Cooperation: USAID/Brazil partners with the Brazilian government to support priority activities in other countries, including poverty reduction and malnutrition. For example, together the two countries cooperate to improve productivity in agriculture and food security in Mozambique, Honduras and Haiti, and addressing the Fall Army Worm outbreak across Africa.

Photo: IEB archives

WHAT IS THE PCAB

Joint program with the Brazilian government for the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development in the Amazon

After close consultations with the Brazilian government on joint priorities, USAID began this program aimed at three primary objectives: (i) strengthening conservation and sustainable development in priority Protected Areas in the Amazon; (ii) supporting the implementation of the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI) in the Amazon; and (iii) advancing science, technology initiatives for innovation, and catalyzing the private sector to invest and partner to better achieve long-term Amazon conservation.

With appropriations from the US Congress for biodiversity conservation, the PCAB supports projects and programs that stand to generate models and good practices that may be replicated elsewhere. An important component of this partnership is its standardized monitoring and evaluation indicators applied across all partners, ensuring progress assessment and performance management.

The PCAB is implemented through seven main civil society partners, as well as private sector partners. These, in turn, work with a number of organizations within and without the Brazilian government. This extensive collaborative network of "implementing partners" is essential to expanding PCAB's reach and enabling the exchange of successful experiences that can be replicated or adapted. The seven direct implementing partners, which also include a substantive consortium around each, are: **US Forest Service, Institute of Ecological Research (IPÊ), International Institute of Education in Brazil (IEB), Amazon Conservation Team (ECAM), Sitawi, Natura, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)**.

Goal of
25 million hectares
of Protected Areas strenghtened

Budget
US$53 million

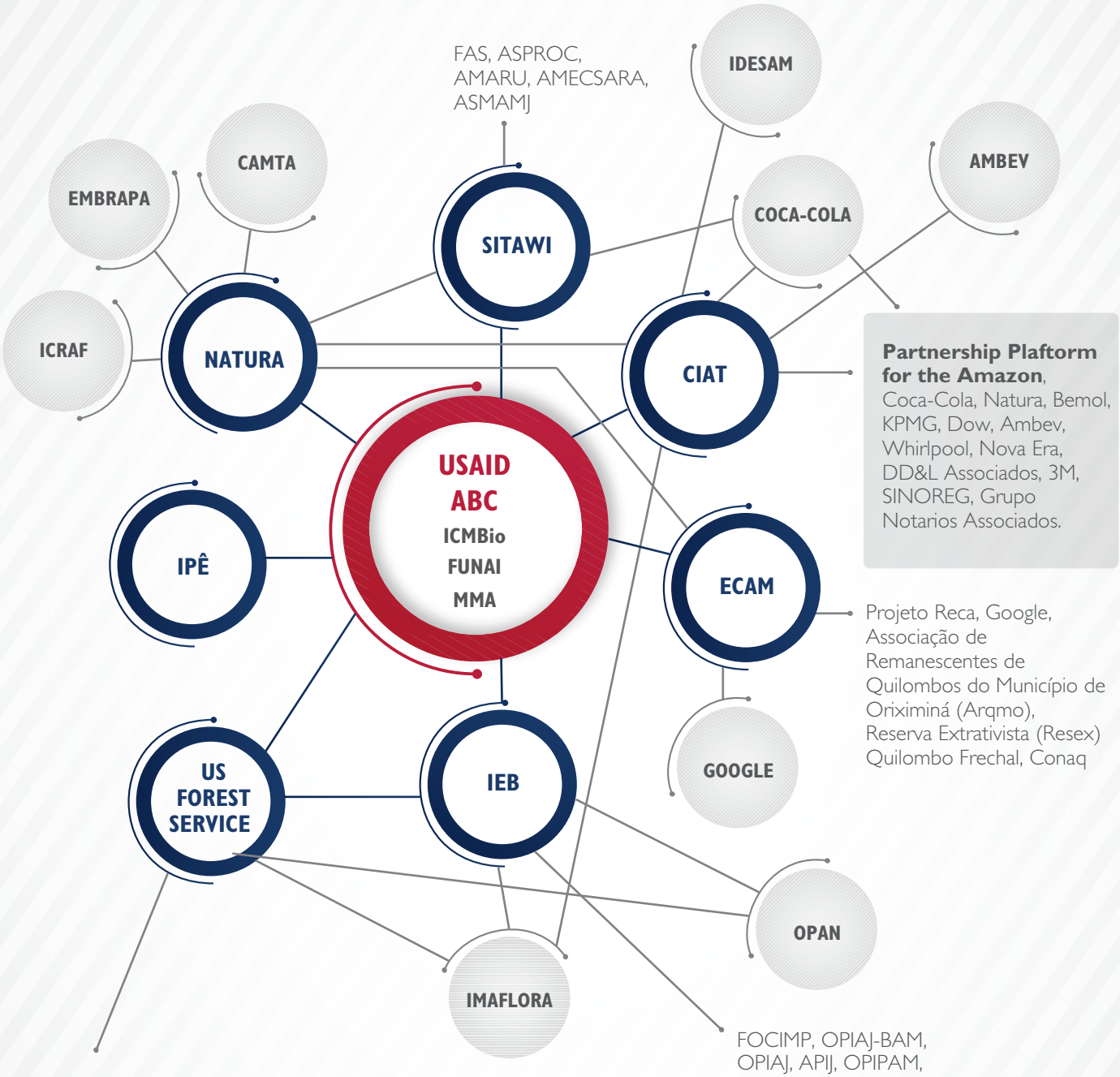
Duration
5 years

50 million tons of CO_2
emissions avoided

PCAB Partner Network

CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS



Partnership Plaftorm for the Amazon, Coca-Cola, Natura, Bemol, KPMG, Dow, Ambev, Whirlpool, Nova Era, DD&L Associados, 3M, SINOREG, Grupo Notarios Associados.

Projeto Reca, Google, Associação de Remanescentes de Quilombos do Município de Oriximiná (Arqmo), Reserva Extrativista (Resex) Quilombo Frechal, Conaq

FOCIMP, OPIAJ-BAM, OPIAJ, APIJ, OPIPAM, APITEM e APTIPRE

Pacto das Águas, Aliança da Terra, Fundação Vitória Amazônica Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa (UEPG), Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, West Virginia University University of Montana, National Park Service, Instituto Floresta Tropical, Conservation Strategy Fund, Associação Indígena Doá Txatô (Terra Indigena Rio Branco, Rondônia), Associação dos Seringueiros das RESEX Federal e Estadual do Rio Cautário (AGUAPE), Cooperativa Mista Agroextrativista Sardinha – COOPMAS, Associação dos Agropecuários de Beruri – ASSOAB, Cooperativa Mista Agroextrativista do Rio Unini – COOMARU, Associação de Produtores e Beneficiadores, Castanha do município de Amaturá - APROCAM, Cooperativa Verde de Manicoré – COVEMA, Comite de Desenvolvimento Sustentável de Porto de Moz (CDS), Associação Agroextrativista de Auatí-Paraná (AAPA), Associação dos Seringueiros do Rio Ouro Preto (ASAROP) e Associação dos Seringueiros e Agroextrativistas da RESEX Rio Ouro Preto (ASAEX)

PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT

Alignment with ARPA

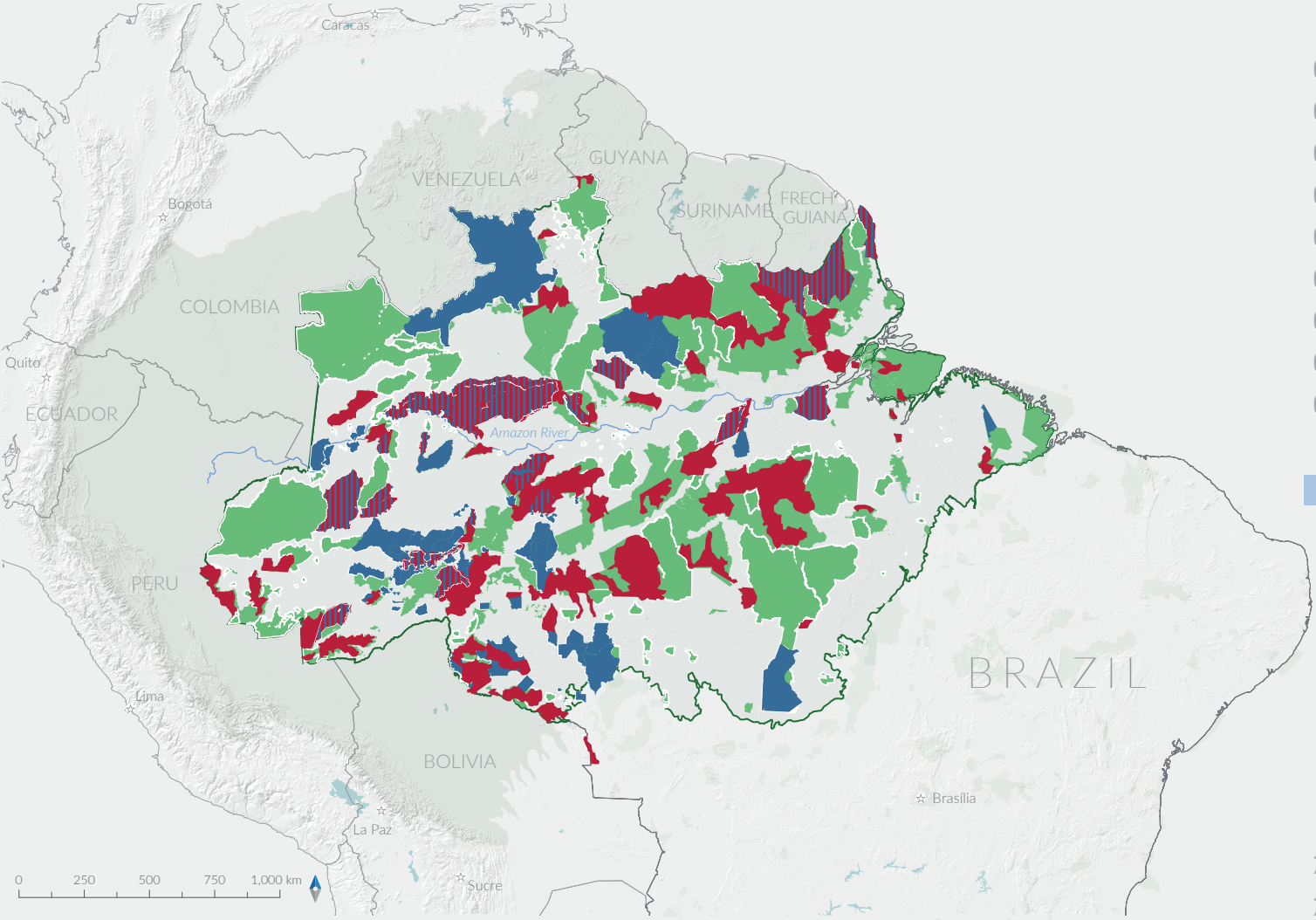
Photo: Nascimento Bassous/Wikimedia Commons

Coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, the ARPA program reached its fifteenth year of operation in 2017. A globally significant tropical forest conservation program, it encompasses 117 protected areas, corresponding to 15% of the total Brazilian Amazon or 60 million hectares.

ARPA works together with local communities and invests in creating, expanding, strengthening and maintaining Conservation Units (CUs) managed by ICMBio. Protected Areas supported by the program are prioritized for the creation of management councils involving neighboring communities; the development of management plans, research and monitoring; and the integration of community activities in the case of sustainable use CUs. ARPA directly contributes to fulfilling international commitments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. Under the latter, Brazil is committed to protecting 30% of the Amazon by 2020 and preserving 126 million hectares, including private areas and Indigenous Lands.

The PCAB is aligned with ARPA and contributes to effectively protecting these areas, supporting ARPA's implementation in priority CUs, complementing its preservation work in other categories of Protected Areas, and promoting sustainable development in places considered priority by the Brazilian government.

ALIGNMENT WITH ARPA FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

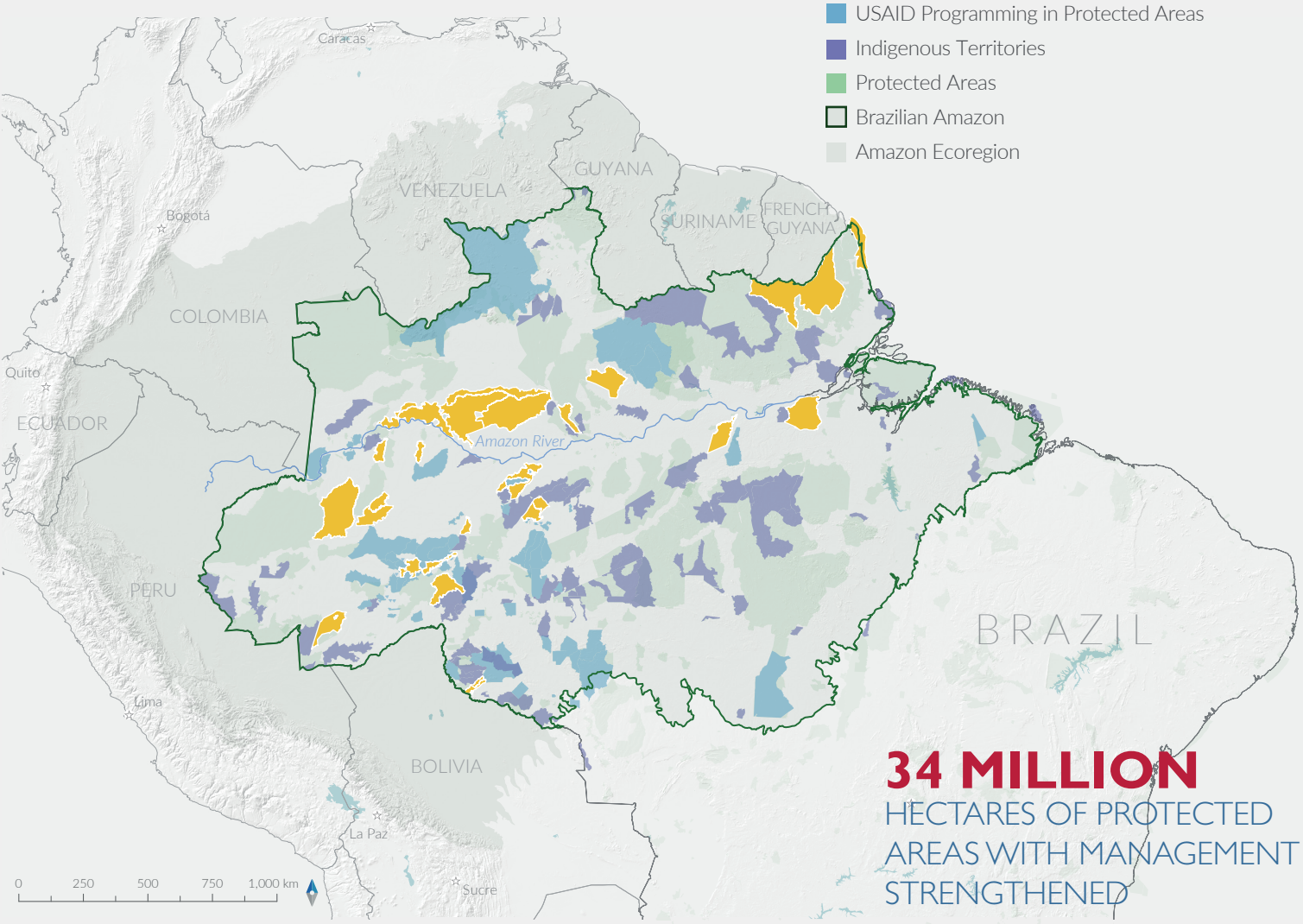


- Protected Areas supported by ARPA
- Protected Areas supported by PCAB
- Protected Areas supported by ARPA and PCAB
- Protected Areas in the Amazon

Source: USAID and WWF-Brazil

WHERE PCAB WORKS

48 PROTECTED AREAS

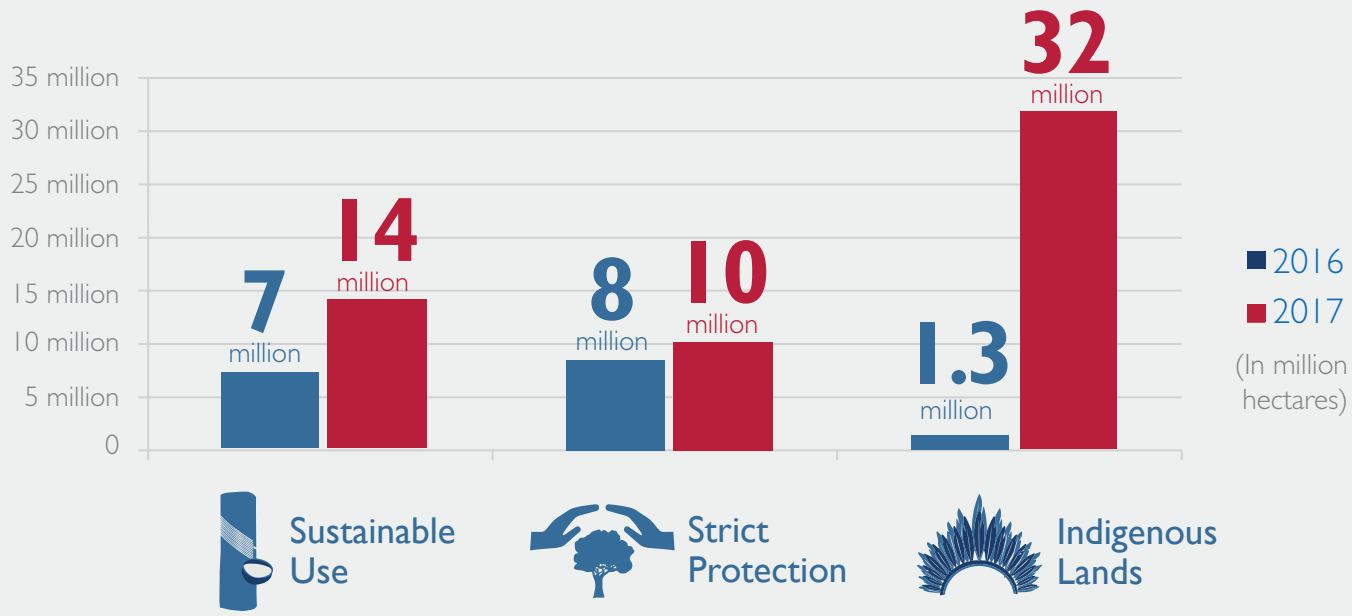


34 MILLION
HECTARES OF PROTECTED AREAS WITH MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENED

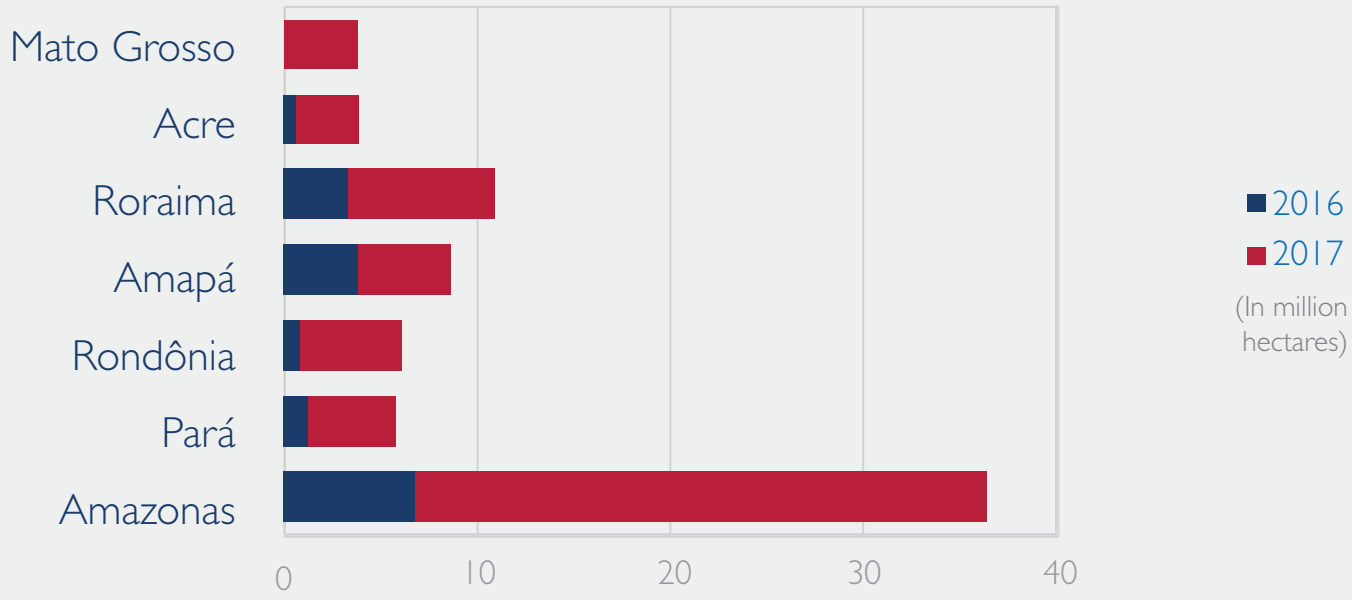
56 MILLION
HECTARES SUPPORTED

AN AREA THE SIZE OF CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK STATES TOGETHER

TYPES OF PROTECTED AREAS SUPPORTED BY PCAB



PCAB PROTECTED AREAS BY STATE



Source: USAID/Brasil

Infographic: Quartzo Comunicação / Design: Érica Santos

Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity

THEORY OF CHANGE

Impact Level Results Expected

Final impact

Long-term outcomes

Protected Areas strengthened and fulfilling their functions

Community well being and socioeconomic conditions improved

Medium-term outcomes

Protected Areas management improved

Sustainable value chains developed and strengthened

Community participation and capacities increased

New partnerships, technology, innovation and science advanced

Source: USAID/Brazil

Infographic: Quartzo Comunicação / Design: Érica Santos

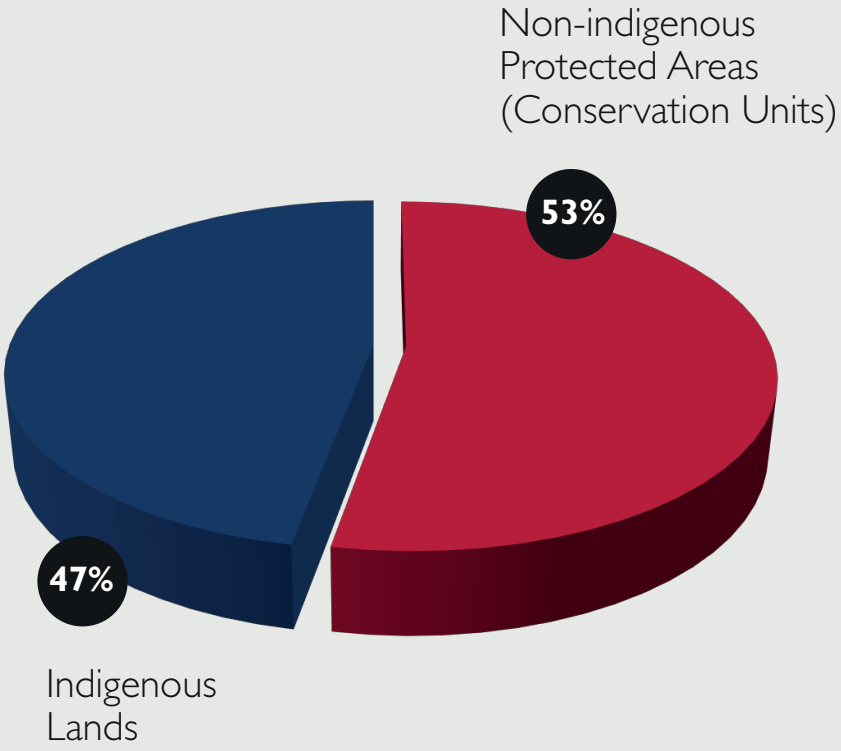
Results

During 2017, the PCAB's consortium of partnerships:

Strenghtened
33.8 million hectares
in Protected Areas with high biodiversity

Of those,
10.3 million hectares
had verified improvement in biophysical conditions

Of all supported areas
47% are Indigenous Lands



1.4 THOUSAND PEOPLE RECEIVED TRAINING AND 80% ARE APPLYING WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED

26 GROUPS OR ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVED CAPACITY BUILDING AND 61% ARE USING THE NEWLY GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS

4.208 INDIVIDUALS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVED ECONOMIC BENEFITS LINKED TO PCAB ACTIVITIES

US$906 IN INCREASED PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS IN CONSERVATION

Strengthened Protected Areas

In 2017, five projects focused directly on the consolidation of Protected Areas, including the different types of Conservation Units and also Indigenous Lands.

Several studies have shown that, among the many categories of Protected Areas in Brazil, illegal deforestation is least likely on Indigenous Lands and thus they play a vital role in the conservation of biodiversity[1]. One of the components of the PCAB aims exactly at supporting the implementation of the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI) and its Integrated Implementation Plan with targets during 2016-2019, which prioritize areas such as governance, participation of indigenous peoples and land protection. The latter prioritize areas such as governance, participation of indigenous peoples and land protection. During 2017, the International Institute of Education in Brazil (IEB) trained 444 indigenous people with a view to strengthening the implementation of the PNGATI in 15 Indigenous Lands. IEB supported seven indigenous organizations, training them to develop or to update strategic plans and to identify needs for the implementation of their respective management plans.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) promoted training courses, seminars and exchange programs for protected area managers and technical staff in areas such as public use planning and the implementation of interpretation, tourism and monitoring programs for National Park and Forest visitation. It also supported the adoption, by the ICMBio, of the United States National Parks Services *Foundation Methodology*, which was first applied in four UCs in the Amazon with a view to demonstrating how it can lead to saving time and resources. During 2017, the USFS trained 680 people to strenghten the management of Protected Areas.

The Ecological Research Institute (IPÊ), supported by ARPA, carries out the participatory monitoring of biodiversity in 16 Protected Areas in the Amazon. This directly supports ICMBio's development and implementation of a National Biodiversity Monitoring Program, a monitoring process that strengthens local people's engagement in biodiversity conservation and overall management of Brazil's Protected Areas. Related efforts include the work of ECAM and Google to train members of local associations to use digital mapping tools to improve territorial management.

[1] Christoph Nolte, Arun Agrawal, Kirsten Silvius, Britaldo Soares-Filho. "Governance regime and location influence avoided deforestation success of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon," PNAS Mar 15, 2013. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.12147861l0 http://ipam.org.br/bibliotecas/desmatamento-em-terras-indigenas-na-amazonia-ate-2016/

MONITORING AT ANAVILHANAS NATIONAL PARK. THE PARK WAS CREATED TO PRESERVE THE FLUVIAL ARCHIPELAGO IN THE NORTHEAST OF THE AMAZONAS STATE

Photo: USFS archives

Socio-economic Improvements

Fostering productive value chains in the Amazon is another important PCAB component, implemented by four Partners.

Often small-scale, forest-based producer groups in the Amazon lack the necessary social organization to access markets effectively, or their production chains are not well structured for commercialization. The lack of transport and infrastructure, and the current role of many intermediaries, add to the challenges. PCAB supports several value chains, including Brazil nuts, açaí and essential oils, in addition to pirarucu fishery management and community forest management. In 2017, the USFS economically benefited 3,614 individuals through its value-chain work. For example, with support from USFS and its local network of partners, six communities within the Verde para Sempre Extractive Reserve in the Amazon negotiated contracts to sell sustainably managed – and in one case, certified timber. The communities earned US$147,000, with more than half of the operation led by local women. IEB delivered the Formar Castanha Training Program for extractive communities in two Amazon states to raise the production quality and improve market access. IEB also trained 275 indigenous people in agroforestry systems, pirarucu managed fishing, Brazil nuts and essential oils. The ECAM/Google public-private partnership provided digital tools needed to connect products to market, supporting the Origens Brasil® project.

Goal of strengthening

25 million hectares

of Protected Areas

Photo: IFT arquives

ACAÍ GATHERING IN THE AMAZON FOREST

Photos: IFT Archives

TIMBER FROM OF EXTRACTIVE RESERVE 'VERDE PARA SEMPRE'

Photos: IFT Archives

Sustainable

PIRARUCU

Fishing

Indigenous fishermen share successful project for managing a threatened fish

Pirarucu (Arapaima gigas), the largest freshwater fish in the Amazon, is threatened. Known for its reddish color, and considered a delicacy, Pirarucu can reach 10 feet in length and weigh more than 330 pounds. Unsustainable fishing has dramatically reduced stocks, leading to a ban on pirarucu fishing; however it is widely considered a fish with high potential commercial value in the Amazon. Currently, the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) authorizes harvest only for fishery management projects.

Since 2016, USAID has supported the development of fishery management value chains as part of its strategy to implement the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI). In October 2017, USAID/Brazil funded an exchange program that brought together Kaxinauá indigenous people and fishermen from the state of Acre, and Deni and Kanamari indigenous people from the Xeruã River. These groups observed and learned from the pirarucu fishery management project of the Paumari indigenous group in the Tapauá River, in the south of the state of Amazonas.

The Amazon's Arc of Deforestation faces strong pressure on several fronts for decades, including major infrastructure projects such as roads and hydroelectric power plants, mining and illegal deforestation driven by high value commercial timber, and land clearing for pasture. Local communities need alternative means of subsistence, such as the sustainable pirarucu management, which adds value to the standing forest. Fish management is an effective way

to generate income and also conserve biodiversity. The joint project with the Native Amazon Operation (OPAN) was so successful it won a sustainability award, which was proudly accepted by a Paumari chief.

The fish can be salted, and its soft white meat is much appreciated for its taste and the high-quality protein it provides. Floodplain lakes are the natural habitat of pirarucu fish, and the Paumaris are well known for their fishing skills in this type of lake. They monitored the growing number of fish for five years, until it was nearly 10 times higher than in the first measurement. Only then, in 2013, did they start fishing again. The Paumaris started sharing their newly gained knowledge in 2017.

Over four days, the visiting indigenous peoples improved their fishing techniques by working with their Paumari hosts to measure, weigh and clean pirarucu. They also learned about the best size for fishing nets and how to mend them.

In addition to OPAN, IEB and the Federation of Indigenous Organizations and Communities of the Médio Purus (FOCIMP's) are partners in the *pirarucu* management project.

According to Antônio Santos, FOCIMP Executive Secretary and a member of the Apurinã indigenous group, this type of exchange with communities that are taking their first steps in *pirarucu* management is vital for conservation and for ensuring abundant food supply for indigenous peoples: "Our work will expand to other fish. Tucunaré, pacu, surubim. We can sell our excess fish to buy milk, sugar and eat well."

"Some people claim that indigenous peoples do not produce anything. We will show them that we are producing and using forest resources," he pointed out in reference to the Paumaris management initiatives, as well as extractive forest activities. "We are not destroying the forest; we are using its resources. When the forest stands, indigenous people are stronger. Without the forests, indigenous people cannot survive," he added

pirá = fish
urucum = red
(Tupi language)

The Paumaris' managed fishing efforts produced 16 tons of fish in 2017, which were sold with the support of the Cooperative and delivered to the Manaus port. Eighty individuals received a share of the profits for their involvement in monitoring needed to ensure sustainable fishing.

Photo: Adriano Gambarini/OPAN

Cross-Sector Partnerships, Technology and Innovation

Private sector engagement is a critical component of PCAB's work. The Amazon's great wealth of natural resources, together with the difficulties of monitoring its vast area, have historically resulted in models of extraction-based economic development that externalized environme ntal degradation and impacts on forest peoples.

Facilitating private sector leadership in the region's economy is essential to create the basis for a new, demand-driven model for sustainable development. As the largest continuous tropical forest in the world, the Amazon is much more than the sea of trees observed from above. It has major cities, such as Manaus (2.1 million people) and Belém (1.4 million)[1] and the 27 million Brazilians living throughout the Amazon have lower per capita income, formal education levels and life expectancy than the national average. The Human Develoment Inder (HDI) of the North region is low – second only to Brazil's Northeast region, when considering the country's five major regions. Only the Northern region is has a lower HDI.

The private sector seeks raw materials and the expansion of business opportunities in the Amazon, in addition to depending on its social capital. Conserving standing forest hinges on how much value the people living in the forest assign to it. That, in turn, depends on expanding a model for demand-driven sustainability where the conservation of the Amazon forest and its biodiversity is critical to private sector supply chains, human capital, social license and innovation opportunities.

A 2014 study[2] shows that the Legal Amazon (the administrative region comprised of all the states in the North and part of the state of Maranhão, in the Northeast) covers 60% of Brazil's total area, but only accounts for 8% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. In view of this reality, USAID/Brazil believes that it is crucial to encourage private sector leadership to ensure the conservation of natural resources and drive socially and environmentally sustainable development. The partnerships that have already been established include major

13,000
people
benefited from private sector partnership investments

[1] Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)
[2] Imazon, "Eleições 2014: Oportunidades e Desafios para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável", in http://bit.ly/2pxyiAW

THE PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOR THE AMAZON

In December 2017, with coordination support from USAID, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in partnership with the Institute for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Amazon (IDESAM) mobilized 97 large, medium and small enterprises operating in the region to launch the Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPA). The platform fosters and shares best practices related to sustainable development. PPA plans to begin funding start-ups for sustainable enterprises in the region from 2018 onwards.

Photo: IDESAM arquives

corporations, such as Google Earth, Natura, Coca-Cola Brasil and Ambev.

The PPA will leverage USAID/Brazil's on-going private sector engagements, such as its partnership with Coca-Cola Brazil, Natura, local associations, federal and state government agencies responsible for the two Médio Juruá Sustainable Use Protected Areas in the Amazon to implement an ambitious project to improve socio-economic conditions, structure production chains and agroforestry systems, and foster entrepreneurship among the communities that sell forest products to those companies.

Natura, the largest cosmetic company in Brazil and one of the largest in the world, continues its research to produce palm oil under Agroforestry Systems (SAF). The SAF Dendê project, in partnership with USAID, in Pará, is showing that palm oil under this diversified system generates equal or more economic benefits, as as well as social and environmental benefits, competing with large monocultures of palm oil, which threaten rainforests in many parts of the world.

ECAM, together with Google Earth Outreach, has given *quilombola* communities access to new technology and tools that enable carrying out their own censuses (ODK), mapping their own territories with forest and farming areas (Google Earth), and avoid traveling several hours (or even days) by boat to show the world their reality and their challenges: young *quilombolas* from Calha Norte, along the Trombetas River, are learning to create YouTube channels and produce high-quality content through the project.

Also supported by ECAM, the Origens Brasil® initiative by Imaflora, a highly regarded Brazilian certifying agency, has increased its offer of QR Code traceable forest products to 241, thus ensuring transparency for companies and consumers, as well as better prices for producers.

Applied Technology

Technology helps quilombola communities in the Amazon to protect their land and plan their future

Oriximiná is the fourth largest municipality in Brazil. With an area of 41,000 sq. miles, its territory is bigger than Portugal. In the extreme north of the Amazon Forest, near the border with Guyana and Suriname, a wide forest strip offered shelter to runaway slaves escaping from cocoa, sugarcane and cattle farms in the south of the state between the 18th and 19th centuries. In groups, those slaves sailed the placid waters of the Trombetas River – a tributary of the Amazonas – and were helped by indigenous groups to cross the rapids that start where the Trombetas reaches the West of the state of Pará. These rapids served as a barrier to the Portuguese expeditions sent to recapture the fugitive slaves.

Similar communities were formed all over the country. In Pará, they were named *mocambos*, whereas in the rest of Brazil they were called quilombos. Official data show that 20% of all Brazilian quilombos are located in the North region. The rights of the *quilombolas* (i.e., the descendants of the original quilombo communities) to their lands were only recognized by the 1988 Constitution, which was enacted after the end of the military regime.

Claudinete Colé de Souza was born in Boa Vista, a riverside community of 280 families living very close to Porto

Photo: Anna Mendes/Agência Pública

Photo: ECAM arquives

Trombetas, a town founded in the 1970s to house the workers of what was to become one of the largest bauxite mines in the world. Traditionally, those families relied on hunting, fishing, gathering and selling Brazil nuts for their subsistence. "We stopped planting manioc and making manioc flour; most of the people living in Boa Vista today work in the mines, or as cleaners and gardeners", she says.

Two years ago, Claudinete became the first woman elected as Coordinator of the Association of Communities Remaining from the Oriximiná Quilombos (ARQMO). Her dream is to improve the quality of living for the *quilombolas* living in the Amazon. Not everyone in Boa Vista and other communities has access to drinking water and sanitation, and over 70% of the *quilombolas* live in extreme poverty.

Boa Vista was the first quilombo in Brazil to be granted its title deeds in 1990. It was followed by others in the region, but four communities are still awaiting their recognition. When USAID established a partnership with Google Outreach and Brazilian NGO Amazon Conservation Team (ECAM) under the New Technologies and Traditional Communities project, the Oriximiná quilombolas were given access to several tools to develop community management plans based on methodologies used to implement territorial management policies in indigenous territories. Quilombolas receive training on the use of smartphones, the development of questionnaires and the use of Google Earth as a tool to help them address issues important to their communities.

"We used Google Earth to map our land, and Open Data Kit (ODK), another freeware, to carry out a detailed analysis of the social and economic situation of the Oriximiná *quilombola* communities. We are now conductinga census with questions we consider important. And we are mapping our fishing and farming areas", explains Claudinete. This process may help to expedite the issuance of title deeds and ensure people's rights.

She cannot hide her pride when she says that, "for the first time ever, we have been able to go to the field ourselves, talk with people, ask questions, hear their stories, and transfer all that information to our maps. Over the years, researchers would come and go, but we never learned about the results of their studies. Now we own all this information".

With the support of USAID, young *quilombolas* are being trained by ECAM in partnership with Google and YouTube to create their own channels and show their culture to the rest of the world, thus helping to preserve the memory of their elders, who still remember the time when they lived apart from the rest of the world.

The first socio-economic analysis was carried out at the end of last year, with data on water, sanitation, and education. Claudinete is now getting ready to lead a participatory process to create a community management plan, called their *Plano de Vida* in Portuguese: "Through these reports, we will be able to identify the most serious issues, which communities need more help, and which families are the most vulnerable. We will also be able to access public policies without having to rely on mayors or the governor for assistance. We are now learning to draft our own projects to seek available funding", she adds. ■

Photo: ECAM arquives

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