

## **BRAZIL IS DEVELOPING NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING**

Representatives of key Brazilian government branches signed the first strategy document to tackle wildlife trafficking in Brazil. The text was agreed by all participants, who will now take it to their respective organizations for further discussion and approval.

This agreement comes from a meeting held on November 22, hosted by the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), the Public Prosecutor's Office and Freeland Brasil - a non-profit dedicated to combatting human and wildlife trafficking. Funded by USAID and the State Department, the meeting was attended by members of the National Congress, officers from IBAMA, ICMBio (Chico Mendes Institute – responsible for Federal Protected Areas in the country), Ministry of Environment, Public Prosecutors' Office, the Federal Police and representatives from two other countries. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the development of a Brazilian National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking. Global attention concerning wildlife trafficking has been increasing, since this crime poses a risk to countries' national security, compromising natural heritage and biodiversity, illegally driving financial resources and facilitating tax evasion. In addition, it has links to other organized international crimes, such as smuggling, corruption of public officials, money laundering, fraud and forgery.

Anna Tones, USAID's Environment Director, congratulated the participants for bringing together more than four Brazilian government agencies, tackling difficult issues through frank discussion and proposed next steps and stressed that "this was an important step forward for Brazil".

During the event, the U.S. and the Peruvian representatives shared their countries' experiences in implementing their national strategies, outlining their legal frameworks and how they integrated these within diverse government agencies and how this resulted in new actions by law enforcement agencies and others. On the Brazilian side, IBAMA, the primary agency responsible for enforcing environment crimes, also presented the current activities it has been conducting on this front.



Photo: Luiz Augusto Oliveira/IBAMA

Animal products apprehended during an IBAMA operation in October

Wildlife trafficking presents a risk to Brazil's economy and biodiversity conservation. A recent study estimated that it generates R\$2.5 billion (US\$ 7.6 billion) a year in Brazil. IBAMA shared that approximately 60,000 trafficked animals are confiscated each year (80% birds destined for the pet trade), and yet this represents only a small part of the total. Brazil's coordinated action to fight this crime began in 2014 with the launch of the South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN).



Photo: Archive USAID

During the meeting, participants heard about the different experiences from the US and Peru.

## FROM THE FOREST TO THE TABLE: BRAZIL NUTS VALUE CHAIN EXPLAINED



Photo: Wikicommons

The Brazilian nut tree can grow from 30 meters to 50meters.

Indigenous groups, communal extractivists, members of associations and cooperatives from Amazonas and Rondônia states, joined Protected Areas managers in the second module of the year-long training course FORMAR Castanha (TO FORM Brazil Nuts). For 10 days, they gathered in the Amazonas state municipality of Novo Airão to share best practices for producing, harvesting, storing and selling Brazil nuts.

Organized in three modules the training is the result of a partnership among Institute Chico Mendes for Biodiversity (ICMBio), the US Forest Service, the Brazilian National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) and the Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) and supported by USAID. Pacto das Águas, Operação Amazônia Nativa and Vitoria Amazônica Foundation also contribute to this unique training program.

Exchanging experiences, and mixing dynamic and hands-on practical sessions, with direct interventions in the value chains of the Brazil nuts, the FORMAR Castanha intends to transfer the knowledge necessary for participants to foster decision-making and understand all the links in the value chain. Andréia Bavaresco, Pedagogical Coordinator of IEB, explained that the course design is intended to explore the links of the Brazil nuts chain from the forest to the final consumer.

**Question: Have they talked about prospects for this year?**

**Andréia Bavaresco:** They expect a bumper crop, as they say - an exceptionally good year. Something very useful in this module was to get them to jointly analyze their costs. How much do they really spend, the labor involved, the inputs needed to get their production of the Brazil nuts. For many of them this exercise was a first. We finished the course with a new methodology of cost estimates that will be applied now. And we will develop with the US Forest Service a system to monitor those cost estimates.

**Q: How was the practical side of the training?**

**AB:** In the second week we had facilitators from different organizations to approach themes as credit, finance, contracts and negotiation skills with buyers. We finished what we call the “path of the nut”, all the steps in the chain.

**Q: What were the main challenges identified?**

**AB:** We've done an exhaustive diagnosis of the bottlenecks. The two main ones were the social organization for production and finance of the harvest: gasoline for the motorbikes, food and inputs like boots and knives. They end up being financed by the middle man who advances the money for them to be able to stay in the forest for gathering Brazil nuts. They need an initial capital to create their stock. We discussed lots of ways to access credit and to deal with those challenges.



Photo: Archive IEB

Participants keep in touch exchanging information in a WhatsApp group

**Q: Is there a profile for the Brazil nut collector? And do they keep in touch?**

**AB:** We have different realities. Some communities have a consolidated infrastructure of good practices and are able to dry and store the Brazil nuts in warehouses. Others are able to go one step forward and process the nuts, such as the community of the Extractive Reserve of Unini. They have a factory and sell it in boxes. And we have people selling the raw nuts, still wet from the forest, to the middle man.

The group went to visit the processing plant in Unini and talked to the community of Cooperative COOMARU, in Rio Negro. They also visited the forest where nuts are collected.

We had a great discussion about planning, analyzing capacity to deliver, traps they enter when they sign a contract they cannot fulfill and production quality. What if they promise to sell all the production of Brazil nuts and are left with none to consume throughout the year because of poor planning? It was a discussion not only about organization, planning and income generation, but also about wellbeing and consolidation of Protected Areas. But it was also fun, as we did that playing a game.

They are now very active on the Whatsapp group, discussing the first nuts coming from the forest and their selling strategies. Through the training and the exchange of experiences, their network has also been strengthened.

## TECHNOLOGY HELPS FOREST PRODUCERS TO BETTER PLAN FUTURE ORDERS

To be a supplier to a big company requires training and fulfilment of pre-arranged orders. Since 2000, the Brazilian cosmetics giant Natura - which has recently bought The Body Shop – has a line of products called Ekos, whose raw materials are supplied mainly by small farmers and extractivists based on Fair Trade, valuing of traditional knowledge and, still on a trial basis, compensation for environmental services.



Half of the ODK trainees in the course were women assistance agents and graduate students in Agroecology in the free software Open Data Kit (ODK) at the Instituto Federal of Pará, in the city of Cametá.

Açaí (*Euterpe oleracea*), patauá (*Jessenia bataua*), ucuuba (*Virola surinamensis*) and andiroba (*Carapa guianensis*) used for the Ekos shampoos, oils and other products are mainly sourced in the lower Tocantins river area, in the Northeast of the Pará state. The NGO Equipe de Conservação da Amazônia (ECAM) teamed up with Natura under the PCAB to provide a two day course at the end of October for family farmers, members of three local cooperatives, rural technical

The 29 participants learnt how to collect and organise data concerning their production. With more precise information, local producers, extension agents and cooperatives can improve their estimate output and plan accordingly for their processing and marketing.

On ODK it is possible to construct questionnaires, collect information in the field and organize the data using smartphones or tablets. According to the needs of each community it is possible to collect information about socioeconomic conditions or quantities of agricultural or forestry production, for example.

The trainees learned how to install ODK Collect on their smartphones and how to build questionnaires for gathering data, as well as how to visualize, export and share data on a web platform (ODK Aggregate). Participants were shown real-life examples of how ODK can be used to collect data and assist in decision making. ECAM will keep providing technical assistance to the participants in the future and created Whatsapp groups to facilitate communication. These tools allow them to better manage their productions over the long-term.

## QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITY DEVELOPS THEIR “LIFE PLANS” WITH DATA FROM ODK



Photo: ECAM Archives

Residents of Água Fria gathered in the first Life Plan workshop

Água Fria is a small community on the shores of the River Cuminã, a tributary of the Trombetas river in Pará state. With more than 50 residents living out of family agriculture, livestock and fishing, the village is formed of descendents of slaves who managed to escape from farms in the 18th and early 19th centuries and form the so-called quilombos. This is the first community to have finished a socioeconomic analysis of its population and a mapping of its surrounding territory among some 36 similar communities in the region of Calha Norte of the Trombetas river basin.

In October, the families engaged in a workshop ran by ECAM and supported by the Sustainable Territories program, funded by the mining company Mineração Rio Norte, which exploits bauxite in the region since the 1970's.

In the workshop they started to prepare a Life Plan: a territorial management and planning document common in traditional communities of Brazil that defines priorities involving health, education, income generation and territorial and environment management and protection. The Plan will reflect the community's understanding of its current status, its vision of where it wants to be in the future, and of the steps required to achieve this vision. To be effective, a Life Plan is usually prepared with the participation of the entire community, and it should be based on a thorough diagnosis. Critical information for these plans is often hard to get. In this case, the in-depth diagnosis was carried out by local youths using the free software ODK (for a socioeconomic survey) and Google Earth (for cultural mapping) under the New Technologies and Traditional Peoples program supported by USAID.

The workshop participants included the members of the Association of the Remnant Community of Quilombo Água Fria (ACRQAF), with technical support from the Association of Quilombola Communities in the Municipality of Oriximiná (ARQMO) and ECAM. Over the two days, local residents gained an understanding of the Life Plan and its uses, reviewed the diagnosis of their community and engaged in an exercise to define their aspirations for the future. They also defined next steps in the preparation strategic plan for the community.

## THE GUARANÁ VALUE CHAIN IN AMAZONAS GETS A BOOST

Maués, an important municipality in the Amazonas state is considered the land of guaraná – a vine native to the Amazon and known as a stimulant because of a high concentration of caffeine. The Sateré-Maués Indians were the first to cultivate the vine that became the driver of Maués' economy. One of the world's largest breweries, Brazil's AmBev has a powder extract factory there, where it produces the raw material for its guaraná soft drink. Together with the Institute of Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Amazon (IDESAM) and USAID, it created the Guaraná Alliance of Maués, with the aim of promoting sustainable development for the value chain of guaraná and for the municipality.



Photo: Eric Brosler

Woman roasting guaraná in a Maués village

The Alliance sponsored the first meeting of representatives of different links of the value chain on November 1st. Farmers, indigenous, local business leaders, local people involved in crafts using guaraná mass, representatives of the tourism sector and of the mayor's office gathered to discuss the future of the industry and created a Council of Producers and four Working Groups: Sociocultural production, Sustainable production, Tourism and Education. IDESAM is also carrying an analysis of the value chain that will be finished in December.

## TRAP CAMERA CAPTURES SHY ENDANGERED SPECIES



Photo: monitoring camera

In September, IPÊ with ICMBio and local volunteers installed 63 photographic traps in the concession areas of the National Forest Jamari, in Roraima state. The cameras stayed up for 30 days to assist in the understanding of the population

Endangered ant-eater (tamanduá bandeira), with its baby, was caught on camera.

dynamics of species in that Protected Area and forms part of the biodiversity monitoring program supported by USAID.

## COURSE IMPROVES TRAINING CAPACITY AT ICMBIO

Staff from the US National Park Service (NPS) and US Forest Service (USFS) spent 10 days with 25 ICMBio staff to increase capacity within the Brazilian government to create and implement management plans for Protected Areas. It is challenging to ensure institutional capacity building for a lengthy course like this, and to impart during this "Training of Trainers" event, the need to keep future workshops dynamic and hands-on, to

ensure maximum learning. According to Luiz Felipe de Souza, substitute director for Creation and Management of Conservation Units at ICMBio,

**“Our personnel had a lot of praise to the way the US Forest Service conducted management plan workshops. There was a lightness that we noticed and liked. As we will have to handle management plans workshops for five whole days in the future, it will be important to make them interesting and engaging.”**



Photo: USAID/ Archive

Michael Eddy, USAID/Brazil Director; Ambassador João Almino; ABC's Director; Dr. Jaidev Singh, USAID's Director for International Development Cooperation; P. Michael McKinley, U.S. Ambassador to Brazil; Jorge Dias Cabral, Portugal Ambassador.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCIES MEET IN BRAZIL

USAID/Brazil supported its partner the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to host the *International Seminar on Trilateral Cooperation: Experiences and Challenges* to mark the 30 years of ABC. The event included the participation of numerous cooperation agencies from throughout the world. USAID/Brazil provided an overview presentation of the U.S.- Brazil facilitated trilateral cooperation for food security in Mozambique and Honduras. USAID's Director for International Development Cooperation, Dr Jaidev Singh joined the Seminar from Washington, DC.

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

From 23-28 October, IPÊ (Institute of Ecological Research) held the Second Capacity Building Course on Biodiversity Monitoring in the Tumucumaque Mountains National Park and Cabo Orange, in Amapá. The 13 attendees learned the protocols to identify mammals, birds and fruit-eating butterflies, as well as security procedures. The project is supported by USAID, ICMBio, Moore Foundation and the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA).

## COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM RURAL PRODUCTION

USAID supported the International Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) entitled *Leveraging Innovations from the Global South to Support Rural Transformation*, organized by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Government of Brazil, held in Brasilia on November 20 and 21. The event brought together a wide range of high-level participants representing governments, the academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, development partners and the United Nations system. The conference included a "marketplace" where USAID/Brazil and Embrapa exhibited its trilateral cooperation experience in Mozambique. USAID's representative from the Bureau of Food Security, Meredith McCormack joined the conference from Washington, DC.



Photo: USAID/ Archive

USAID/Brazil Trilateral Cooperation Coordinator, Ana Paula Mendes (left) and Embrapa Researcher, Lenita Haber.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- 21-23, November: U.S Forest Service fire management staff met with Brazilians counterparts to share experiences and knowledge in the Integrated Fire Management Seminar. The event is part of a multi-year project of the Brazilian government with several partners for biodiversity conservation and greenhouse gas reduction on biomes affected by fires.
- 27 to 29, November: The Third Seminar on Good Practices for the Management of Protected Areas and the 1st International Forum on Partnerships for the Management of Protected Areas coordinated by ICMBio with the support of the US Forest Service will take place November 27 to November 29. Venue: Centro Internacional de Convenções do Brasil (CICB), Setor de Clubes Esportivos, Trecho 2, Conjunto 63, Lote 50, Brasília/DF.  
[More information and schedule.](#)
- 04 December : Meeting on Work Plan for the value chain of Brazilian Nuts with the objective of updating partners from the Sustainable Value Chains Project. Venue: Centro Cultural de Brasília.
- 05-06, December: The USFS will hold its Third Annual Partner meeting, bringing together diverse partners, sub-partners, and consortium members December 5-6 in Brasília. Venue: Centro Cultural de Brasília.
- **05-07, December: USAID/Brazil will officially launch the Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPAM) in Manaus, Amazonas State, with the participation of Sarah-Ann Lynch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Latin America & Caribbean Bureau; U.S. Ambassador to Brazil, P. Michael McKinley, and business leaders from the Amazon and throughout the region, plus other key biodiversity partners.**

07 December: Meeting on Work Plan for the value chain of the Pirarucu. Venue: Centro Cultural de Brasília.

## IN THE NEWS

### [GLOBAL FIRMS ACCUSED OF IMPORTING TIMBER LINKED TO AMAZON MASSACRE](#)

(The Guardian, 23/11)

Greenpeace alleges 12 companies continued to trade with Madeireira Cedroarana after its founder was accused of ordering torture and murder.

For those who have interest to see previous issues of USAID/Brazil's reports, please visit the following page:  
<https://pages.usaid.gov/brazil/bi-weekly-reports>



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

