

COMMUNITY LEADER WINS INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

A community leader in Pará was awarded one of the most important international environmental awards in the world for her critical role in a community-led sustainable timber project supported by the PCAB. Just before Christmas, Maria Margarida Ribeiro da Silva, from the Extractive Reserve *Verde para Sempre*, in Pará State, arrived in Germany to receive the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award, named after the late Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist.



Photo: Pilar Valbuena/ Global Landscapes Forum

Maria Margarida da Silva receives award in Bonn, Germany.

Marcos Terena, a Brazilian Indigenous leader, presented the \$20,000 award to her during the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, a conference on sustainable land use.

Margarida, as she is known at home, lives in an area characterized by rural violence, where loggers and land grabbers are rife. She has been campaigning for sustainable use and community-certified logging management for over a decade. In a statement, she shared her hopes that the award “will help to guarantee the continuity of support for the Amazon communities in their work to protect the forests for future generations”.

Under the PCAB, the NGOs *Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil* (IEB) and *Instituto Florestal Tropical* (IFT) have been working with six community associations in *Verde para Sempre* to strengthen community-certified timber production, helping to establish two new cooperatives and to strengthen a third. The cooperatives are focused on timber sales, and plan to work with non-timber forest products in the future. The Reserve has 1.3 million hectares and is one of the biggest in the Amazon.

One of the successes of the initiative has been the negotiation of fair, transparent contracts for joint timber sales by *Verde para Sempre* cooperatives and associations. Despite a lack of interest from many prospective buyers, cooperatives persevered, and eventually sparked the interest of *Belém Florestal*, a company looking for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber, produced by the Arimum community cooperative, where Margarida lives. When it learned of similar timber (non-certified, but produced with the same best practices as Arimum) offered by five other communities, and with help from partners under the PCAB, the company negotiated contracts with those communities as well, and advanced funds to all six communities to facilitate the start of operations.



Photo: Kátiuscia Fernandes

Resex Verde para Sempre.

Verde para Sempre is the first reserve in the region to carry out sustainable and certified logging successfully. A forest engineer who lives in the community oversees the work and is responsible for the licenses. During the 2017 harvest, *Belém Florestal* bought R\$ 2.5 million (USD\$833k) worth of sustainable wood from the communities. The money is shared among the 305 families and the 112 timber managers. The biggest portion of it is saved to buy the heavy and expensive equipment needed for the operation, which for now is being rented and represents 60% of the costs.

QUILOMBOLAS FROM PARÁ LEARN HOW TO BECOME “YOUTUBERS,” SHARING THEIR PERSPECTIVES FROM AMAZON-BASED FOREST COMMUNITIES WITH THE WORLD

Crossed by big rivers and home to indigenous populations and quilombola communities, descendants of escaped slaves groups, and located in the very North of Brazil in the Amazon Forest, few people know much about Oriximiná, one of the biggest municipalities in Brazil, the size of Portugal. That is about to change: In the last weekend of January, a group of 40 quilombola youth attended a YouTube video production course to help them to create a channel to show their lives and culture to the rest of the world.



Photo: ECAM Archive

Allan Portes workshop.

Organized by *Equipe de Conservação da Amazônia* (ECAM), a PCAB partner NGO, together with Google Earth Outreach and the Sustainable Territories Program, the course brought the famous “Heroes” Brazilian YouTuber Allan Portes to the north of Trombetas, to the small remote community of Jarauacá in Pará State together with a team member of YouTube/Brazil. Allan taught the youth participants representing 8 quilombola territories and almost 37 communities the basics of producing good quality videos at home. The objective of the program is to give communities the instruments they need to develop their territorial management plans, their community actions plans, and engage youth leaders and others in telling their stories. The demand for the workshop came from the youth themselves during an earlier workshop.

Ildimara dos Santos, who lives in Jarauacá, wants to share the activities of the carimbó group “Suingue dos Palmares”. Carimbó is a traditional dance from the Pará state. Besides teaching how to dance the carimbó, she wants to “show the royalty and sensuality of the dancers and the culture of the community”.

Karina dos Santos, from the Tapaia community, proposes a new YouTube channel called “Preserving our Land”. “We could observe the forest, do interviews with the elders. Not only talk about the forest, but of the culture, the dances, and the food of our region,” she noted. Allan suggested that the group share their ideas and solutions, something YouTube viewers are interested in: “You can also teach what you think the solutions to the problem could be”.

USAID/Brazil’s Director of Environment Programs, Anna Toness, highlighted the role of young people as leaders and the necessity of partnerships to take actions that allow for community empowerment. “Youth leadership is of great importance; they are the future of their communities. Giving these future leaders the necessary tools to solve challenges they are likely to face in their future, is critical.”

The PCAB’s project, carried out by ECAM, leverages a partnership with *Mineração Rio do Norte* – the biggest bauxite mine operator in Brazil, located in one of the quilombola communities, operating in the area since the 1970’s and belonging to a multinational consortium of eight mining companies, in which they established internet in the 8 territories to improve communications and territorial planning.

EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES ON VOLUNTEERING AND SHARED MANAGEMENT

In 2017, more than 2,000 volunteers provided support and time to 142 Protected Areas (PAs) managed by *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* (ICMBio). The Volunteer Program in national parks, forests and reserves started in 2009 and covers 42% of National PAs. In the Amazon, it is working in 30 PAs spread across five states: Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima e Acre.

To learn from the experience of the US Forest Service, which has organized an army of 2.8 million volunteers who have donated 123 million hours since 1972, valued at about US\$ 1.4 billion of human resources; ICMBio's staff were invited to technical visits in US Parks. Following this, In December ICMBio hosted US Forest Service Wilderness and Wild Scenic Rivers Program Manager for the Northern Region, Jimmy Gaudry, and the Director of Trail Operations of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, Jennifer Tripp, in Brazil. Jennifer is responsible for preserving, protecting and promoting a trail that crosses the West from Mexico to Canada and stretches for over 4,000 km. It can be explored by horse or by foot through Indigenous Reserves, National and State Parks, and counts on thousands of volunteers for its maintenance. These exchange visits were supported by the USFS under the PCBA.

During the international Seminar on Best Practices in Protected Areas, led by ICMBio, Jimmy Gaudry and Jennifer Tripp shared their perspectives, in the following interview:

USAID's PCAB: How does this partnership work? Sharing management best practices for public lands?

Jimmy Gaudry: The US Forest Service pretty regularly engages volunteers and partners in helping us to manage and steward a variety of resources. Everything from recreational opportunities to monitoring, to research. We see value in that, not just because it helps gets work done, but because it connects the community to the landscape that belongs to them. And it also grows a community of support in the public: support for public land, support for the agencies and support for the work we do. In this day and age that is how we operate: Through partnerships and volunteers.

Jennifer Tripp: From the partner perspective, it is really important for the volunteers to get out on the public land, to embrace it. Not all agencies and partners are so excited to have volunteers come out and being able to show that we can help them to achieve their goals and their objectives. It shows value in having the volunteers out on the projects. The agencies are more and more interested in having volunteers as resources become more and more scarce. And having volunteers helping in many ways as possible is really important. Not only looking at them as labor working on the trails, but acknowledging that they have many skills to bring to the table – communications and other skills.

Civil society in the US seems to have a say in the management of public parks and trails. How does the USFS go about achieving that?

Gaudry: We have the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates that we engage the public whenever making any management decision. By law we do that, but through partnerships we also engage on a different level. It is not just about following a process to engage the public to get their input, but about connecting with another organization that has shared values, shared mission and a desire to see the best outcome for any given resource. In my case we are talking about long distance trails. So local people are at the table helping us to develop and grow the future management of those areas not only in the NEPA context, but in the day-to-day management decisions and engagement.

Tripp: Particularly in the National Trail System, which goes back to a Congressional law that says that partners will be involved as much as possible in the management, development and maintenance of those long distance trails, which is very unique in: calling out partners and volunteers to have a place at the table with the agencies. Not everything that USFS does has that strong language requiring us to involve partners. That is a unique piece of legislation in the USA.



Photo: Pacific Crest Trail

Can you give us an example of how that works in practice?

Tripp: One example that we have is that people like to camp along the trail in places that are not appropriate. Too close to water, or not adequate surfaces. And they are finding these places because of apps that say: 'There is a great camping site, camp here'. My organization and our volunteers are finding these campsite locations on the apps, going there and evaluating. If they are not appropriate, we go to the Forest Service with the information, and if it's not a good place, we reach the app developers and ask them to remove that camp site. So, people don't go there and camp in places that would affect water or damage the area. We are doing that in partnership with the USFS.

Gaudry: This is a good example, because it is not just bureaucracy. That agency is saying: 'Hey, there is problem, we need to deal with it'. But there is actually the public voice saying "we think there is a problem, let's deal with it". In the end it makes it easier on us to implement something.

[Click here to learn more about ICMBio's Volunteer Program: \(in Portuguese\)](#)

[Click here to access the PCTA's website.](#)

USAID/BRAZIL MEETS WITH RESEARCH INNOVATION FELLOW

On January 10, 2018 USAID/Brazil Program Officer received the visit of Carolina Parks, a US researcher supported by USAID/Brazil through the Research Innovation Fellows (RIF) program, which is a program under the PCAB that promotes science and research solutions to Amazon-related issues in partnership with US universities. This program provides support to US researchers developing Masters and PhD studies in issues that impact biodiversity conservation in the Brazilian Amazon. Ms. Parks is developing her PhD dissertation in food sovereignty analysis in the Brazilian Amazon region. By definition, food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.



Photo: USAID Archive

During the meeting she explained that Brazil is one of the few LAC countries with an established food sovereignty policy, but with very weak enforcement. The policy's enforcement is impacted by other social programs developed by the Government, as well as other land use activities, such as cattle ranching, agriculture, and infrastructure. By the end of her research, Ms. Parks plans to have a GIS based mapping of food sovereignty and systems in the region, indicating policy flaws and opportunities for improvements. Ms. Parks will concentrate her research in the southern region of the State of Pará, and will work in collaboration with the Federal University of the South and Southeast of Pará (UNIFESSPA).

USAID-BRAZIL SERVES AS A MODEL FOR U.S.-CHILE TRILATERAL COOPERATION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.

USAID Brazil led a delegation of colleagues to Santiago, Chile, from January 8 to 12, to engage with high level counterparts from the Chilean Cooperation Agency (AGCID), toward developing a Strategic Framework for Trilateral Cooperation. The visit came in response to a White House directive that emerged from U.S. Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Chile in August.

The U.S. and Chile signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in 2010 and 2011, building upon the previous bilateral agreements that outlined our shared commitment to establish modes of joint cooperation to foster sustainable development in third countries, in partnership with the participation of the host nations and their governments. The MOU of 2011 signed between AGCI and USAID outlined broad categories of potential cooperation, including promoting economic growth, improving quality and access to education, enhancing citizen security, addressing social inclusion and reducing extreme poverty.

The new Strategic Framework is meant to operationalize these agreements, identifying specific areas of shared interest and priority, while defining the detailed modalities of joint design, implementation and monitoring of cooperation in third countries. The United States and Chile identified a mutual interest in strengthening and contributing to advancing the development of the Northern Triangle nations of Central America - the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras-, as focal nations for future partners of trilateral cooperation. The U.S. and Chile identified shared priority development challenges such as trade facilitation, civil service reform, public financial management, transparency, and judicial reform as areas to be addressed under this Strategic Framework.



Photo: USAID Archive

USAID and AGCID delegations pose after agreeing to broad parameters for U.S.- Chile Trilateral Cooperation Strategic Framework.

IEB ANNOUNCES 17 SMALL GRANTS TO INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES TO IMPLEMENT PNGATI

A PCAB-supported partner, the *Instituto Intemacional de Educação do Brasil* (IEB) announced its small project grant awardees this week, which are intended to help indigenous territories implement the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI). These projects were developed by indigenous groups focused on their highest priority areas and needs, and will be implemented in southern Amazonas State. Seventeen projects were awarded: five in the Rio Madeira region, and 12 in the Purus region, with projects ranging from traditional medicinal knowledge, to strengthening value chains such as the Brazil nut, to supporting surveillance. [See the list of awardees here.](#)

The project appraisal committee included representatives from IEB, *Operação Amazônia Nativa* (OPAN), *Fundação Nacional do Índio* (FUNAI), *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* (ICMBio) and the *Conselho Indigenista Missionário* (Cimi). Another round will take place in 2018 to support an additional 17 projects. During this round, IEB received 33 proposals and narrowed these down to the 17 that were awarded.

IEB's Small Grants process aims to provide financial and technical support to indigenous organizations in the southern region of the state of Amazonas for the implementation of the PNGATI, a strong legal framework that suffers from scarce financial resources for implementation and monitoring. In addition, the approach seeks to strengthen indigenous associations and cooperatives to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills to develop and manage successful projects.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- 26 -27 January: Evaluation meeting of pirarucu sustainable fishing in 2017 at Resex Auatí Paraná and General Assembly of the Association of Agriculture and Extractivism of Auati Paraná AAPA). The US Forest Service supports the institutional strengthening for AAPA, the zoning of lakes in Auatí-Paraná and the partnership with Instituto Mamirauá to build and deploy the pirarucu fish pre-processing platform in Auatí-Paraná. The expected impact of these activities is an increase in the quality of the fish produced, improve the sales price paid to the producer, improve the contracts for the sale of fish, and improve working conditions for the women who clean and process the fish.

IN THE NEWS

[SIXTY COMPANIES ARE IDENTIFIED IN ILLEGAL LOGGING SCHEME](#) (A Crítica, 19/01)

[THE ROAD](#) (The Globe and Mail, 26/01)

[PRIVATE SECTOR, NGOS AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS JOIN TO PROMOTE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AMAZONAS STATE](#) (Sitawi, 07/12)

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>

