



Acre, Brazil: Supporting Progress to accelerate change

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Alto Acre region, in Acre State, Brazil, achieved notoriety in the 1970s, when local rubber tree tappers clashed with large outside farming and ranching interests over the conversion of forests into pasture land. It was the catalyst needed for the Government of Brazil to establish Extractive Reserves managed by local communities. Since then, over 100 million hectares of forests in Brazil are under some kind of community ownership and/or management arrangement.

Acre has been developing its productive capacity in the past few years. The State government has invested in forest based processing plants and industries which have been managed by local cooperatives or by private enterprises. In the Brazilian nuts productive chain, the two processing plants implemented by the government and managed by COOP-ERACRE have already resulted in family income increasing by 20%. However, the challenge to add value locally to Acre's forest products and further increase the income of local families, needs support. The Alto Acre region became the perfect site for IUCN's *Livelihoods and Landscapes Initiative*.

FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Working in the Alto Acre region since 2007, the ultimate goal of Livelihoods and Landscapes is to ensure the quality of life of rural families by:

- Increasing the quality, value and sustainability of four community productive chains: Brazilian Nuts, natural rubber, certified wood and medicinal plants and to grow markets for these forest products
- Restoring forest landscapes through generating and sharing knowledge, signing agreements at the community level and through public policies at the regional, state and national level, that provide for environmental services compensation

“IUCN’s support in strengthening the managerial capacity of our associated cooperatives is one of most important acts of support received by the Central of Extractives Cooperatives of Acre”

Manuel Moraes, President of the Central of Cooperatives of the State of Acre.



Working with IUCN members, the Government of the State of Acre, WWF Brazil and Amazonian Workers Center (CTA), amongst other institutions, stakeholders are convening to address issues of adequate policies and good governance. Solutions that empower local communities will create sustainably managed forests and improve the livelihoods of the local communities.

“Forest management is important, because if we don’t care for the forests, how will our kids survive in the future”

Deusmar Maia, Director of the Cooperative of Community timber producers



The Geographical component for Brazil is based on the State of Acre, a strategic area for conservation, located in the Amazon South West region in the tri-national frontier between Brazil, Bolívia and Peru.

“When we plan how to use our land, we know where we want to be in 15 years and what we have to do. But we need support to be able to invest time and resources on implementing the plan?”

Francisco Melo, Pro-ambiente community agent.

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