

The Land Use Dialogue - Endemism Center of Belém (ECB)

Co-Chairs' Summary

August 20th and 21st, 2019

Belém - PA

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Introduction

The great challenge in the Endemism Center of Belém (ECB) is to develop ways of using the valuable natural capital, without destroying the environment, and innovate with productive activities capable of generating job opportunities and income for local population. The 140 counties that are part of Pará and Maranhão are featured by low human development indexes (HDI) and high inequality indexes (II). That is, the challenges are huge when it comes to the necessity of the development of productive activities that ally the protection and the recovery of the natural capital to the socioeconomic demands of the local population.

The ECB is the most deforested and endangered between all the other endemism centers of the Brazilian Amazon. This reality is due to the fact that this region has been one of the first to be occupied by the ancient pioneer fronts. (SILVA et al., 2005)

Besides causing biodiversity loss, factors such as wood exploration, the advance of livestock, the grains production expansion and the great incentive to monoculture resulted in deep landscape transformations, with severe implications about the region's socio productive dynamics. To these factors, it is added the action of speculators, responsible for land conflicts, that result in high

violence index, expropriation and expulsion of social groups, that start to occupy another forest area or along roads.

However, it is also one of the most endangered. Around 70% of its forests have already been destroyed or degraded, and the pressure is growing to replace the native vegetation for agriculture and extensive low-productivity livestock (ALMEIDA, 2010¹; FEARNESIDE, 2005²; SILVA et al., 2005³).

The soil use is marked by wood exploration activities; livestock, agriculture and urban areas expansion. The economic activities in expansion include industrial sectors, agricultural and mineral extraction (IBGE, 2002 apud Almeida et al. 2013)⁴. Nowadays, between all the main economic activities in the area, we have the dendê cultivation (or palm oil).

About the Land Use Dialogue

In the context presented above, the ECB was chosen as a case study for the first Amazon Land Use Dialogue. Held in Belém on August 20th and 21st, 2019, it was attended by members of companies, civil society organizations and educational and research institutions.

The Land Use Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder platform, with the purpose of gathering knowledge and leading processes that influence responsible business, improve the governance of territories and promote inclusive development in relevant landscapes.

The Land Use Dialogue has had several editions around the world, such as in Brazil, Ghana, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. In Brazil, it was held in 2016 in the Alto Vale do Itajaí region, in Santa Catarina.

¹ ALMEIDA, A.S.; VIEIRA, I.C.G. 2010. Centro de endemismo Belém: status da vegetação remanescente e desafios para a conservação da biodiversidade e restauração ecológica. *Revista de Estudos Universitários*, 36: 95-111.

² FEARNESIDE, P.M. 2005. Deforestation in Brazilian Amazonia. *Conservation Biology*, 19(3):680-688.

³ SILVA, JMC, RYLANDS, AB, FONSECA, GAB. 2005. O destino das áreas de endemismo da Amazônia. *Megadiversidade* 1(1): 2005.

⁴ ALMEIDA, A. S. et al. Cenários para a Amazônia: Área de Endemismo Belém. Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, 2013.

In the Dialogue phase, there are three stages of the initiative as a whole:

- Scoping Dialogue;
- Field dialogues and
- Wrap-up Workshop.

Among the main expected results are:

- Building an environment of trust among local leaders;
- Building engagement;
- Involvement of decision makers;
- Enabling environment for creating and / or promoting platforms led by local actors (forums, alliances, coalitions, etc.) and
- Impact on policy.

Objectives

The first meeting of the Land Use Dialogue at the Endemism Center of Belém was a scoping meeting, whose main objectives were:

1. Define key areas of agreement and disagreement (fracture lines) on land use in ECB and possible information gaps;
2. Analyze whether relevant stakeholders are present or whether someone is missing and
3. Determine whether there is a path based on dialogue for stakeholders to make significant progress towards achieving a common vision on land use in the context of ECB.

Key areas of agreement on land use in ECB

Among the perspectives of interested parts emerged as central elements the importance of:

- Component of socio-environmental assessment in credit granting by financial institutions, how to insert elements of land use in financing mechanisms, bringing dimensions of family production;
- Build / connect / identify value chains present in the region;
- To join efforts with the initiatives of educational institutions and companies, which can culminate in publications and scientific production that help to understand and overcome the challenges that may represent threats or valorization of the biological heritage of the area of endemism;
- Need for more prepared professionals to face the challenges;
- Consider the territorial heterogeneity within the Amazon and what consistent results are obtained in the long term and with solutions based on the different areas of knowledge;
- Face the challenge of involving different sectors, building a common vision from the beginning and considering other initiatives that already exist;
- Bring to the dialogue table and ensure the effective participation of representatives of indigenous, quilombola communities, small farmers and agroextractivists;
- Discuss the challenges and opportunities for economic development according to the optimal sustainability;
- Generate studies that support a better understanding of the value of the forest;
- Strengthen / create policies that value the forest and its products, protected territories and communities;
- Work with the property in the context of the landscape, considering the offer-demand relationship of products in an expanded and
- Integrate several social actors in the discussion of territorial planning integrated into the landscape.

The 5 most challenging themes were classified in terms of priority:

1. Deficit of information and studies that would allow the improvement of the proposition process and would qualify the debate;
2. Community and family forest management (subject that must be qualified);

3. Discussion networks;
4. Commodities x Family production and
5. Illegal activities.

Among the main opportunities were:

1. Forest restoration / restoration agenda, which includes both compliance with the Forest Code (Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves) and opportunities for the development of production chains related to the recovery of native vegetation and forest management;
2. The implementation of the instruments foreseen in the Forest Code, such as validation of the Rural Environmental Registry, Environmental Reserve Quotas and payments for environmental services and
3. The opportunity to establish governance mechanisms in the territory, construction of public / private policies.

One of the information gaps mentioned, in addition to those mentioned in the concordance session, is the need to expand the information on the Gurupi mosaic in the context of ECB.

Stakeholders

Considering the key issues and challenges to be achieved, the main sectors and public bodies that should be engaged in the processes of dialogue and discussion on land use at ECB were listed. Between them are:

- Livestock;
- Agriculture including the soy and palm oil sectors;
- Mining;
- Cosmetics companies;
- Financial sector;
- Industries in the region;
- Universities and research institutes;
- Environmental and social civil society organizations;

- Forestry sector including its value chain;
- Traditional communities, associations, cooperatives and other groups representing indigenous, quilombola communities, riverine and agroextractive workers) and
- Public authority.

The engagement process of these actors will not happen spontaneously, at least in this first moment, it is necessary to define a strategy for mobilizing and engaging new organizations and groups. An important part of this strategy is to build and maintain, through positive stimuli, an environment of trust and respect for differences.

8. Next Steps

The next steps were decided:

- Elaboration of a co-chairs document, containing a summary of the meeting and the main discussions and results obtained so far, including the key issues identified and guidelines for a path based on dialogue, so that significant progress can be made to achieve a vision common use of land in the ECB;
- Mobilization of identified stakeholders;
- Holding a new meeting, including on the agenda, among other topics, the discussion on the possible formation of a forest forum at CEB and
- Define territories for conducting field dialogue.

9. Thoughts about the meeting

In the speech that summarized the view of the co-chairs on the first day, the quality and depth of contributions were highlighted, as well as the diversity of views and opinions. The need to expand the group involved was also mentioned, either to further diversify the views or to lend greater legitimacy to the

conclusions and propositions. All the necessary ingredients for constructions, solutions and paths were considered given, and there is a possibility that this initiative can act as a catalyst for new processes of articulation and cooperation between existing initiatives.

The need to further discuss the issue of governance was cited, including non-state policies. Corporate decisions and guidelines can influence land use practices and decisions that favor or hinder the implantation of sustainable landscapes. There is a consensus on the need to expand private sector engagement. Important positions have come from leaders of companies operating in the ECB region. As examples, we have the recent public manifestations of Marcello Britto (Agropalma's CEO), Mauro Lucio (Paragominas' livestock farmer) and Walter Schalka (Suzano's CEO). However, more than verbal placements, it is necessary to implement concrete actions, materializing in companies, producers and practical associations that corroborate the propagated vision.

Also emphasized the importance of strengthening what is happening in the area, with the Land Use Dialogue acting as an enabling and qualified environment for the construction of alternatives. Once the value and role of the initiative are recognized, it will be important to think about how to subsidize the process, so that the work is long-term.

In the end, there was a consensus on the need and feasibility of a Land Use Dialogue initiative, as a way to address the region's challenges. Several opportunities for collaboration were recorded, as well as possible locations for the next meetings and partners to be invited.

Meeting Agenda

August 20, 2019, Tuesday

08: 30 a.m. Registration and delivery of name tags

09:00 a.m. Welcome, presentations and programming overview - co-chairs

09:45 a.m. The international Land Use Dialogue initiative - Liz Felker (The Forests Dialogue)

10:00 a.m. Scope dialogue in the context of the Land Use Dialogue and operating principles -
Fernanda Rodrigues (Brazilian Forests Dialogue)

10:15 a.m. Questions and answers

10:25 a.m. Endemism Center of Belém – Bruno Coutinho (Conservation International)

11:00 a.m. Coffee break

10:30 a.m. Plenary discussion: land use at ECB and the perspectives of interested parts:

- Private sector;
- Education and Research;
- Communities;
- Civil Society Organizations;
- Government.

12:10 p.m. Working in Groups: What are the key issues / challenges and opportunities for land use in ECB from the perspective of stakeholders

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Feedback from groups and discussions

3:00 p.m. Prioritizing challenges

3:30 p.m. Coffee break

4:00 p.m. Are there information gaps to address the identified priority challenges and opportunities?

5:00 p.m. Closing of the day

7:00 p.m. Confraternization: dinner at the restaurant Remanso do Bosque.

August 21, 2019, Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Reflection of Day 1 discussions (co-chairs)

9:30 a.m. Group Discussion (questions to be decided during the Plenary Discussion, which may include):

1. What potential is there for common efforts among stakeholders to address these fracture lines?
2. What institutional and technical incentives are needed to promote sustainable land use?
3. How can we best engage relevant stakeholders in thinking about land use in CEB?
4. How investors and companies can obtain sufficient security to avoid risks and generate benefits?

10:30 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m. Feedback from group discussions

12:00 p.m. Next steps: is there a path for dialogue?

- Collaboration opportunities
- Possible locations and field dialogue partners
- Synergies with other processes that address similar problems

1:00 p.m. Closing and lunch.

Acknowledgements

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List of participants

Alexandre Nagota - Biopalma

Bianca Silvestre - Instituto Brasileiro de Mineração (IBRAM)

Beto Mesquita - BVRio

Bruno Coutinho - Conservação Internacional Brasil

Daniel da Costa Francez - Instituto de Desenvolvimento Florestal e da Biodiversidade do Estado do Pará (Ideflor-bio)

Diogo Bardal - International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Fernanda Rodrigues - Diálogo Florestal

Iaci Penteado- Conservação Internacional Brasil - base Belém

Ieda Fernandes - Associação Brasileira de Produtores de Óleo De Palma (ABRAPALMA)

Ivone Namikawa - Klabin e The Forests Dialogue (TFD)

Karoline Marques - Conservação Internacional Brasil

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Liz Felker - The Forests Dialogue (TFD)

Luis Barbosa - Conservação Internacional Brasil

Marcelo Pereira - Suzano S.A.

Marcos Silva - Observatório do Manejo Florestal Comunitário e Familiar

Marlucia Martins - Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi

Mauro Armelin - Amigos da Terra Amazônia Brasileira

Milton Kanashiro - Embrapa Amazônia Oriental

Pedro Burnier - Amigos da Terra Amazônia Brasileira

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Thiara Fernandes - Instituto Peabirú