



Ecological Corridor connecting PARNA Pau Brasil and Estação Veracel

Scoping Dialogue – Co-Chairs' Summary Report

15 and 16 December 2020

Online

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Introduction

The Bahia Forest Forum (FFBA - Fórum Florestal da Bahia) is one of the [five regional forums of the Forests](#) in Brazil and a focal supporting point for the conduction of the Land Use Dialogue in the Buffer Zone of PARNA Pau Brasil and Estação Veracel. In 2017 FFBA strategic planning was defined with the aim of guiding its regional action, and “the landscape” was the most relevant theme.

The landscape chosen for the Land Use Dialogue in the State of Bahia encompasses the Buffer Zone of Pau Brasil National Park, an area of 71,205 hectares, which along with Estação Veracel and its surroundings, encompasses a key area for the connection of great Mata Atlantica remainings in the cities of Porto Seguro and Santa Cruz Cabralia, among which we may include Pau Brasil National Park (19,000 ha), Private Natural Heritage Reserve (PNHR) Estação Veracel (6,069 ha) as well as other PNHR's, besides Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves in rural properties. The landscape within the reach of the Mosaic of Conservation Units in the Extreme South of the State of Bahia – MAPES (Mosaico de Unidades de Conservação do Extremo Sul da Bahia), and Mata Atlântica Central Corridor¹acknowledged as one of planet's richest regions in biodiversity².

The main challenge in the area highlighted above is reconciling production practices of the agriculture, livestock and forests sectors with local communities' expectations to live in high quality environments, free from air, water, ground and food contamination by pesticides.

² Pinto, L.P. O Corredor Central da Mata Atlântica: avanços na visão e na escala de conservação da biodiversidade no bioma. IN: Lamas, I.R., Crepaldi, M.O. e Mesquista, C.A.B (orgs.). Uma rede no corredor: memórias da Rede de Gestores das Unidades de Conservação do Corredor Central da Mata Atlântica. Belo Horizonte: Conservação Internacional, 2015. 156p.

Another challenge is increasing the use of nature-based solutions by farmers and companies, in order to adapt the production systems to climate changes, aiming to increase the forests coverage of the properties with native species, and, therefore, adaptation to climate change and reduction of greenhouse gases emission, increasing the connectivity of the landscape with benefits for conservation of the biodiversity in Pau Brasil National Park, Private Natural Heritage Reserves and other important areas for protection and recovery of Mata Atlântica.

For the context presented above, the area described was chosen as the case study for the first Land Use Dialogue of the state of Bahia. It was held online on December 15-16, 2020. The first phase had the participation of representatives of companies, civil society organizations, communities, indigenous people, governmental bodies and learning and research institutions.

About the Land Use Dialogue

The [Land Use Dialogue is a platform](#) with multi-stakeholder participation, with the aim of collecting knowledge and leading processes that influence responsible business, improve governance of territories and promote the inclusive development in relevant landscapes.

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

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

- Scope Dialogue;
- Field Dialogues and
- Conclusion Workshop.

Then main expected results include:

- Building of a reliability environment among local leaders;
- Promoting engagement of multiple stakeholders, including decision makers;
- Creating an environment favorable to the creation and/or development of platforms led by local actors (forums, alliances, coalition, etc.) and
- Having an impact on local and regional public policies.

Objectives

The first meeting of the Land Use Dialogue in the state of Bahia was a scoping meeting (Scoping Dialogue), which had the following main goals:

1. Collecting information on the convergence and cooperation (synergies) points among sectors and land uses in landscape and fracture lines / disagreements among stakeholders;
2. Identifying priorities for the creation of sustainable landscapes;
3. Identifying other key actors that need to take part in the Land Use Dialogue platform

Methodology

Using the operation principles of a Land Use Dialogue, we had two morning meetings with group work as well as plenary discussions. The main results are presented below.

Main challenges

The following challenges were mentioned, as were arranged according to the context in the landscape of interest:

Challenges considered convergence and cooperation points among sectors and current land uses:

1. Communication / publication of key information in different formats, considering diverse public and media;
2. Major involvement of the communities in the management of the landscape/ inclusion of social actors and corresponding empirical knowledge;
3. Promoting environment education as transversal subject and in different formats/ environmental education with communities;
4. Understanding levels of genetic diversity and maintenance of biodiversity;
5. Bringing science to support the application of existing knowledge;
6. Publicizing environmental and economic benefits of the agroecological production/ reducing the use of pesticides.

Challenges that are fracture lines/disagreement points concerning current land use practices:

7. Lack of knowledge of legislation/ state legislation not favoring sustainable systems;
8. Lack of knowledge of forests components and their benefits;
9. Depletion and decrease of water resources;
10. Impacts of dam breaks with siltation of rivers;
11. Pig farming in river sides.
12. Overfishing with the use of chemicals, mainly freshwater shrimp, causing mortality of fish and other water organisms;
13. Existence of predatory hunting, jeopardizing the flow of animals in the area of the corridor;
14. Involving local populations and leaders present in the area to change behavior, conciliating conservation and agricultural production in properties, fighting environmental crimes;

The following challenges for a sustainable landscape were listed:

15. Highlighting ecosystems as promoters of life quality in rural communities;
16. Monitoring implementation of PMMA with climate lens;
17. Integrating production chains / stable production chains with expected returns;
18. Conciliating production and conservation/ conciliating production and conservation in the context of planted forests/ environmentally proper agricultural production;
19. Trying to generate profits by using land sustainably

20. Understanding and classifying positive and negative impacts of practices held in the medium and long term on the landscape;
21. Understanding and characterizing market supply and demand of sustainable products;
22. Organizing forms of monitoring/ coordinated action / defining indicators since the beginning of the work;
23. Identifying potential species that can be used for ecosystem services, such as carbon credits;
24. Enabling technical support and rural extension (ATER);
25. Implementing silvopastoral systems/ Integration Crops, Livestock and Forests.

Other challenges mentioned:

26. Several bodies and institutions superimpose efforts and weaken their capacity to optimize human and financial resources available and to potentialize and consolidate results;
27. Access and engagement of land holders to alternatives for better types of land use;
28. Autonomy of communities depending on ATER.

After these 28 points were prioritized during the working group and to consolidate priorities , two challenges were defined:

1. Conciliating production and conservation in the context of agriculture and tree planting. There is a challenge of proper environmental production, which shall be encouraged and enabled with ATER. Special attention shall be given to the maintenance of water resources and coverage of native forests, promotion and enabling of agroecological production commercial chain and indication of alternatives and benefits for the reduction of the use of pesticides;
2. Understanding and systematizing positive and negative impacts of practices held in the context of average and long terms. It is important to measure and highlight the impacts by monitoring with indicators and coordinated actions.

The following challenges were also listed as priorities:

- Applying science with the existing knowledge;
- Different communication for diverse public;
- Major community involvement/ inclusion of social actors and corresponding empirical knowledge/ integrating actors in a process of collective construction;
- Lack of knowledge of legislation/ state legislation does not favor sustainable systems;
- Implementation of public policies ³ that stimulate and favor sustainable projects.

³ An example of PMMA, which is a public policy that promotes and organizes sustainable practices. Mainly in the integration process, which brought a list suggested actions. Access the integrated integration worksheet here: <https://1drv.ms/x/s!AvUlxIDb93XokIdIzCs9cqWUZziFKw?e=ouuuOq>

Existing information and information gaps

Information available:

- Independent monitoring of Forests Coverage in the Northern Basins of the Extreme South of the state of Bahia⁴;
- Communities' inventories;
- Collection of environmental perception of communities by a Political and Pedagogical Project for Environmental Education at Pau Brasil National Park;
- Public Consultation on Environmental Perception held by Projeto ANAMMA Euroclima⁵, in the municipalities of Porto Seguro and Santa Cruz Cabrália;
- Management plans of UCs: PARNA Pau Brasil and RPPN Estação Veracel;
- City Plans for Conservation and Recovery of Mata Atlântica (PMMA)⁶ in Porto Seguro and Santa Cruz Cabrália bringing risk analysis and potential risks of climate change and adaptation measures based on ecosystems (AbE);
- Agroecology projects in rural settlements, coordinated by ESALQ/USP and UFSB;
- Projects of native vegetation recovery;
- Information of a Rural Environmental Registry (Cadastro Ambiental Rural) – CAR/SEFIR;
- Study on the chain value of native vegetation recovery in the area of MAPES – MMA/GIZ/Agroicone;
- Study on initiatives of agroforest in Bahia, held by Agroicone⁷.

Information gaps:

- Market for products from family agriculture;
- Ecology of road to verify the Transposition of BR 367, which is inserted in the corridor for safe crossing of animals within the ecological corridor;
- Climate and hydrology variables line base – milestone of Ecological Corridor PARNA Pau Brasil - PNHHR Estação Veracel;
- Spatial distribution of the agricultural production;
- Sand mining clandestine activities;
- Studies on the effectiveness of the Ecological Corridor PARNA Pau Brasil - RPPN Estação Veracel - PARNA Monte Pascoal - PARNA Pau Brasil;
- Studies interacting with the urban area;

⁴ https://monitoramentobahia.dialogoflorestal.org.br/?_ga=2.119752840.1027090186.1632145158-1186146137.1625683951

⁵ Public Consultation on Environmental Perception of Santa Cruz Cabrália: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AvUlxIDb93Xokop_eqLtl16aObirdA?e=aFLOTH

⁶ The integration worksheet brings Eba measures for the 10 municipalities that have PMMA, see here: <https://1drv.ms/x/s!AvUlxIDb93XokldzCs9cqWUZziFKw?e=ounuOq>

⁷ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h79qG9Rzbydo8wyRV4dZt9wAw-A-ImCp1fcTniipR90/viewform?edit_requested=true

- Programs of Transversal Environmental Education
- Genetic diversity and maintenance of biodiversity;
- Studies on the potential of initiatives on carbon credits;
- Integration of public policies;
- Investigating new economic models for income alternatives for local populations considering bioeconomy;
- Forms to revitalize cocoa-cabruca.

Stakeholders and how to engage them

Considering the key issues and the challenges to be reached, the group considered the following should be engaged in the processes of dialogue and discussion on land use (names and positions are to be defined):

- Economists and managers;
- Landholders;
- Agricultural technicians;
- Teachers and researchers;
- Mayor and city council members;
- Local organizations;
- Public authority.

The process of engagement of those actors will not happen spontaneously. Furthermore, at least in this first phase, a strategy should be defined to raise awareness, mobilize, and engage new organizations and groups. In order to better engage, the following strategies were suggested:

- Promotion of an organized and formal dialogue between PARNA Pau Brasil and landholders; Communication in different formats directed towards diverse actors, especially via WhatsApp;
- Presentation and dissemination of good practices;
- Measurement of possible benefits and their connection to the stakeholders and affected parties of the landscape;
- Performance of theater play/ poetry/ juggler/ candy and music festivals.

One point that was particularly highlighted was the importance for the initiative not to let anyone behind, considering the importance of inclusion and collective construction.

Reflection of the event

- From which point of view are the products ecological? We should not consider our “place of speech” as single and supreme;

- Education and Research: difficulty of engagement in the elaboration of indicators. Could the methodology be wrong? People shouldn't be taking up too much speech space, need to take contributions from community;
- Are we bringing knowledge to the community? Exchange information is key. We should consider other points of view and build together;
- It is important to conserve in order to produce. It is difficult to reconcile sometimes conflicting goals. Productivity improvement should be considered (PFNM, bee pastures, etc.);
- How can we strengthen ecological agriculture in the Buffer Zone when it is known that showing the importance of resources there is higher incidence of environmental crimes?
- Importance of knowing where we want to go;
- Forming links within and across sectors;
- Water is a priority;
- Native forests are also a priority;
- Study and dialogue with the community on subsistence hunting. How can we conduct a debate with the whole community so it understands its importance?;
- Important to develop the vision of the landscape;
- Urban sprawl that lacks proper regulatory standards
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Possible places to hold field dialogues

During the plenary meeting we brainstormed a list of possible places to hold the field dialogues, which will be the next phase of our work. The following were mentioned as possible places to hold these field dialogues, in order to work on the priority challenges identified:

- Environment City Councils;
- Rural Settlement Santa Maria (Aprunve – Associação de Produtores Rurais Unidos Venceremos – Rural Producers Association), neighbor of Parna Pau Brasil;
- Indigenous Village Meio da Mata;
- Small rural properties receiving restoration support with support of GIZ and, in 2021 of ANAMMA Euroclima+;
- Demonstration areas of Project Mata Atlântica in the Ecological Corridor PARNA Pau Brasil - PNHR Estação Veracel;
- Property Fazenda Bom Sossego, neighbor of PNHR Estação Veracel;
- Visiting PARNA Pau Brasil head office;
- Symbiosis, forest company that develops native essence crops;
- Agropecuária Laffranchi, agricultural and livestock company neighbor of PARNA Pau Brasil (they are part of PARNA Board);
- Aspex (make contact to think together);
- Grupo Lembrance (coffee production/ PNHR).

Next steps

- Elaborating a document of the co-chairs (this document) with a summary of the meeting and the main discussions and results obtained so far, including the key issues identified and the guidelines to a path based on dialogue, so that there is meaningful progress to reach a mutual vision on the land use;
- Defining territories to hold the field dialogues;
- Raising awareness and mobilizing identified stakeholders;
- Promoting field dialogues.

Meeting agenda

15 December 2020

09:00 Welcome, presentations and general view of the program – Márcio Braga and Fernanda Rodrigues.

09:30 Presentation of the concept note elaborated – Beatriz Lisboa.

09:45 Discussion in groups: perspectives of stakeholders and affected parties – Márcio Braga, group division and facilitation:

- Communities - Lucas and Marcos Lemos;
- Production Sector – Virginia and Priscila;
- Learning and Research – Elfany and Marcia;
- Civil society organization – Sueli and Márcio;
- Governmental Bodies – Beatriz and Mateus.

10:35 Feedback for group discussions and prioritization of challenges - Facilitators.

11:05 Questions and answers and identification of key issues for group discussion – João Augusti.

11:50 Closing of 1st day – Márcio Braga.

16 December 2020

9:00 Reflection on the discussions of Day 1 (Mariana Gianiaki and Miguel Calmon).

9:20 Group discussions – Márcio Braga.

1. Which issues identified on day 1 are possible to be addressed via dialogue?
2. Who shall be involved?
3. How to better engage stakeholders?

09:30 Groups discussions.

10:10 Reflection on the group discussions and prioritization of challenges – Reporting representative of each group.

10:40 Plenary Discussion: initiative from now on, including possible field dialogues and next steps expected (action plan) – Fernanda Rodrigues.

11:40 Closing of the event – Fernanda Rodrigues and Márcio Braga.

Acknowledgement

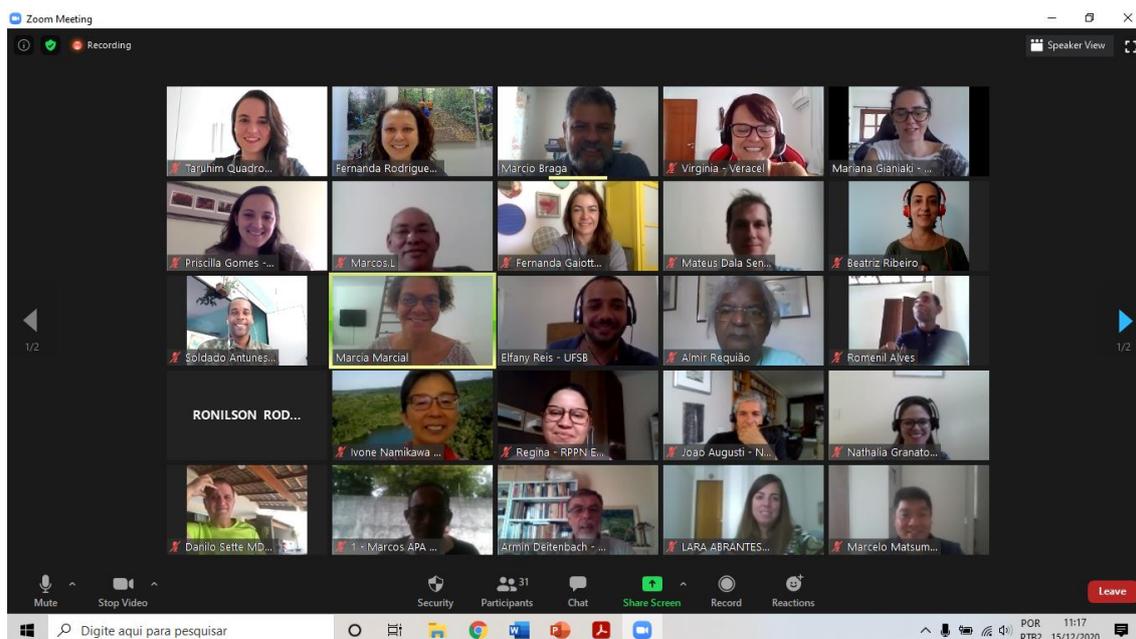
Held by the Brazilian Forests Dialogue, Bahia Forest Forum and The Forests Dialogue, the meeting co-chairs were Mariana Gianiaki (Associação Nacional de Municípios e Meio Ambiente – ANAMMA), Beatriz Ribeiro (Instituto Chico Mendes de Biodiversidade – ICMBio), Danilo Sette (Movimento de Defesa de Porto Seguro - MDPS), Prof. Elfany Reis do Nascimento Lopes (Universidade Federal do Sul da Bahia - UFSB), Lucas Santos (Grupo Ambiental Natureza Bela), Armin Deitenbach (GIZ), João Augusti (Augreen Consulting/NGPTA), Marcelo Matsumoto (WRI) and Virgínia Camargos (Veracel). Facilitation was attributed to Fernanda Rodrigues (Brazilian Forests Dialogue) and Márcio Braga (Bahia Forest Forum).

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