
Belém Endemism Area

Field Dialogue – Gurupi Mosaic region

Co-Chairs' Summary Report

November 08, 09 and 10, 2022, *in person meeting*

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Introduction

The Land Use Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder engagement platform created to combine knowledge and lead processes that pave the way for responsible businesses, better governance and inclusive development in key landscapes. The Land Use Dialogue is an initiative that allows the participation of multiple stakeholders, with the purpose of combining knowledge and leading processes that support responsible businesses, improve territories' governance and promote inclusive development in relevant landscapes.

The Land Use Dialogue has already held several editions around the world, including in Brazil, Ghana, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania. In Brazil, it was held in 2016 in the Alto Vale do Itajaí region, in the state of Santa Catarina, and there are six initiatives currently in progress.

The Dialogue phase comprises three stages of the initiative as a whole:

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

The main expected results include:

- Construction of an environment for dialogue between local leaders;
- Promotion of multi-stakeholder engagement, including decision makers;
- Creation of an environment conducive to the creation and/or promotion of platforms led by local actors (forums, alliances, coalitions, etc.); and
- Impact on local and regional public policies.

The landscape chosen for the Land Use Dialogue in the Amazon encompasses the Belém Endemism Area (*Centro de Endemismo Belém* - CEB), totaling 243,000 km², located in eastern Pará and western Maranhão, comprising 27 protected areas, 14 indigenous lands and 147 municipalities (62 in the state of Pará and 85 in the state of Maranhão). The Belém Endemism Area is a priority area in the Amazon due to its great importance for biological conservation, as well as for the 6 million people who live in the region. The CEB has already lost 70% of its forests and faces serious socio-economic challenges. A study coordinated by the Alliance for Restoration

¹ *Representatives of the advisory group present at the Field Dialogue.*

in the Amazon (*Aliança pela Restauração na Amazônia*) has identified 3 million hectares in the region with high or very high opportunities for restoration. CEB's environmental liability under the Brazilian Forest Code may reach 10 million hectares (Law No. 12,651/2012), 20% corresponding to Permanent Preservation Areas (PPA) and 80% to Legal Reserve (LR) areas, where it is possible to carry out restoration and generate direct socioeconomic benefits.

The great challenge in the Belém Endemism Area is to develop ways to use the valuable natural capital that still remains without destroying it, restore strategic areas for the maintenance of important ecosystem services for the region and innovate with productive activities that generate job opportunities and income for the local population. The nearly 150 municipalities in the states of Pará and Maranhão that make up this region are characterized by low Human Development Indexes (HDI) and high Inequality (Gini) Coefficients. Therefore, there are enormous challenges related to the need to develop productive activities that combine the protection and recovery of natural capital with the socioeconomic demands of the local population.

Due to the context presented above and detailed in the [concept note](#), the area described was chosen as a case study for the first Land Use Dialogue in the Amazon. Held on August 20 and 21, 2019, in Belém-PA, the first stage was attended by representatives of several companies, civil society organizations and education and research institutions. A [summary of co-leaderships](#) was generated as a result of this stage. Based on this initial dialogue, five challenges classified in terms of priority were defined:

1. Overcome the deficit of information and studies on the local reality, leading to an improved proposal elaboration process and more substantiated debates;
2. Meet the high demand for community and family forest management (a topic that must be substantiated);
3. Establish discussion networks;
4. Reconcile the conflict between commodity production and family farming;
5. Fight illegal activities.

The main opportunities include:

1. The possibility of establishing a forest recovery/restoration agenda, which includes both compliance with the Forest Code (PPA and LR) and opportunities for the development of production chains related to the recovery of native vegetation and forest management;
2. The implementation of legal instruments provided for in the Forest Code, such as validation of the Environmental Rural Registry (*Cadastro Ambiental Rural – CAR*), Environmental Reserve Quotas (*Cotas de Reserva Ambiental – CRA*) and payments for environmental services that are dependent on the resolution of land tenure conflicts;
3. The opportunity to establish governance mechanisms in the territory, development of public/private policies;

As a result of the scope stage, the Amazon Forest Forum ([Fórum Florestal da Amazônia](#)) was created in June 2021 and the Gurupi Mosaic and Tomé-Açu regions were selected for the conduction of field dialogues. This document provides a summary of the field dialogue held in the Gurupi Mosaic region in November 2022.

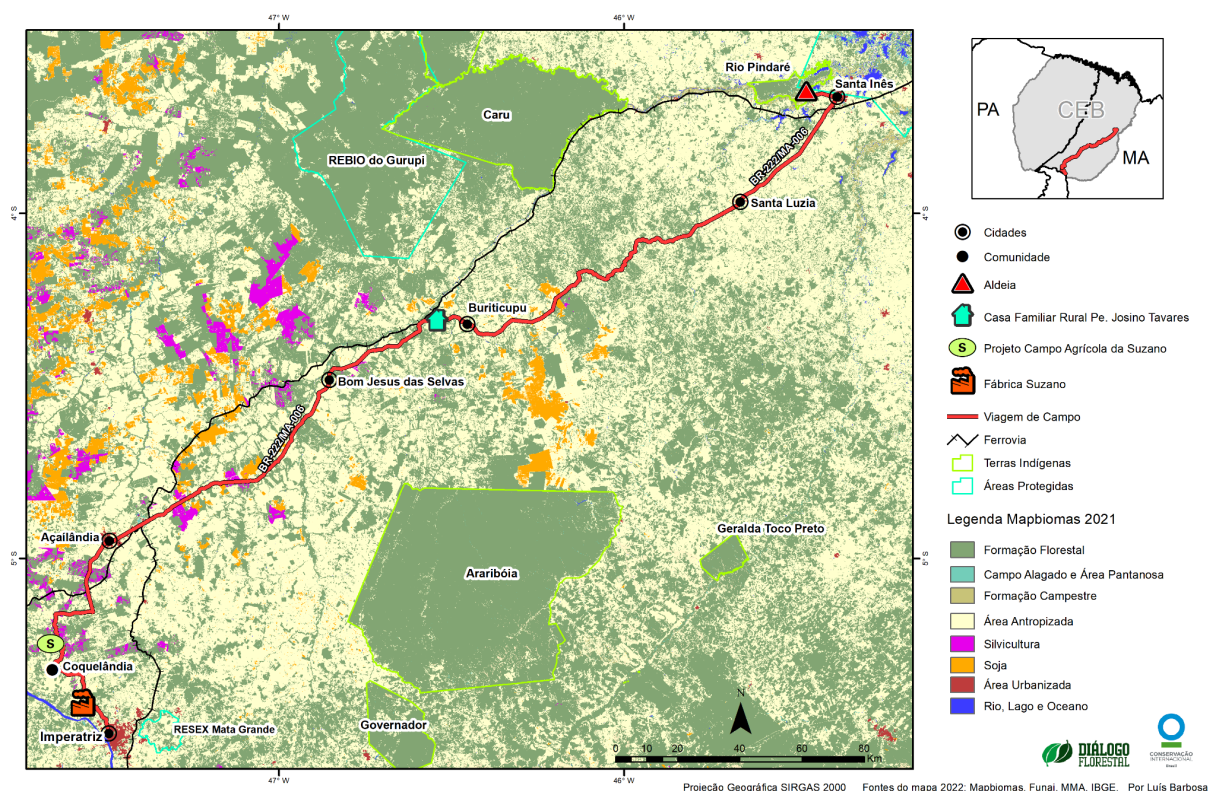
Objectives

The second stage of the Land Use Dialogue (Field Dialogue), at the Belém Endemism Area –Gurupi Mosaic, had the following main objectives:

1. Promote experiential learning through field dialogues, addressing aspects related to the challenges and opportunities envisioned;
2. Carry out conversations with landscape stakeholders to better understand the experiences associated with the focus of the dialogue.

Methodology

Using the principles of operation of the Land Use Dialogue, three days of dialogues were held, which included presentations by facilitators, field visits, group work and plenary discussions. The following map, prepared by Luís Barbosa (Conservation International - CI Brasil), shows the itinerary covered during the field dialogue:



The main results are shown below.

Preliminary discussions

On the first day of the meeting, a presentation was made on the Land Use Dialogue, challenges and opportunities envisioned in the previous stage and why the landscape was selected.

The main challenges identified in the preliminary stage were presented as follows: information deficit; reconciling commodities production and family farming; competition of soy production linked to legal reserve deforestation with other land uses, in addition to illegal activities such as

land invasion in a region with low governance and weak command and control. A region characterized by low investments and attention from large projects, as well as the presence of areas that are already very fragmented. The opportunities mentioned were the following: advancing in community forest management, with a focus on non-timber forest products, restoration and governance improvement; income generation and advance in the resolution of land tenure conflicts.

Based on this information, working groups were formed to review these challenges and establish whether they were in fact the most relevant for the context of the Gurupi Mosaic region. This discussion continued during the field days and was consolidated on the final day.

Two preliminary versions of a 10-year sustainable and prosperous vision for the landscape were also prepared and consolidated in the final plenary.

Summary of field visits

Four places were selected for the field visits, allowing participants to hear the perspective of various stakeholders that operate in the region, and share their views on the topics discussed. For each visit, guiding questions were prepared to help participants connect lessons from the visits with the objectives of the land use dialogue and the challenges previously mapped.

Visit 1: Babassu coconut breakers

Guiding questions

- Is it possible to reconcile commodity production and community/family farming in the same landscape?
- Would this experience be a good model for disseminating the environmental, social and economic benefits of community production? Which points should be highlighted?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on site?

Visit summary

Collecting babassu coconut is a traditional activity, carried out for decades, mainly by women in the area where this species occurs. The fruits are used for oil extraction (soap production), cooking, energy purposes, among other uses. The bark is mainly used for charcoal. The crushed fruit is used in the production of animal feed.

A field dialogue was carried out at the coconut breakers' cooperative located in the region of Coquelândia (Maranhão state). The cooperative is home to the [Pindowa project](#), which currently encompasses around 120 families and is focused on the manufacturing of handicrafts and products derived from babassu, such as oils, soap, T-shirts, bags, among others. The project is supported by company Suzano (Imperatriz Unit), which donated the necessary equipment for the production of various artisanal products derived from babassu, offered management training, and made some of its areas available for coconut collection. Suzano allocated an area where a multiple-use sustainable forest management plan was prepared for the sustainable extraction of native babassu and acai berries, with the breakers as important allies in the use and inspection of the area. However, the company's areas are farther from the cooperative and the breakers use closer areas owned by third parties, mainly private farms. Regarding this point, it was mentioned that although there is a law that grants coconut breakers free access to the collection of babassu,

there is difficulty in accessing the palm trees inside the properties: many farmers have been blocking access and have been using poison to kill the palm trees, both illegal practices. Many lands in the region have been invaded (land grabbing), mainly for real estate speculation, where illegal felling (or poisoning) of babassu palm trees has been observed.

In fact, regarding the legislation in force that regulates babassu extraction in the state of Maranhão, the earliest instrument is State Law No. 4,734 as of 1986 (altered by State Law No. 7,824 as of 2003) which prohibits the felling of babassu palm trees (with a few exceptions) and establishes fines for noncompliance. Another important norm is Law No. 8,185 (as of November 2014) which ensures free access by babassu extractivist populations to unused state-owned lands for the conduction of this activity - but does not establish the same rule for private properties. In 2007, the Environmental Commission of the Lower House approved federal bill No. 231 (the “Free Babassu Law”) which prohibits the felling of babassu palm trees in the states of Maranhão (MA), Piauí (PI), Tocantins (TO), Pará (PA), Goiás (GO) and Mato Grosso (MT), in addition to the establishment of rules for their exploitation. However, this bill was shelved by the Lower House in January 2015.

People spoke of the importance of making farmers and farm managers aware of the Law that protects babassu, and especially the importance of the species for the survival of coconut breakers. The participants suggested that dialogue is conducted directly with landowners, and, in the absence of a solution, the Public Prosecutor's Office should be involved. Another topic addressed was the coconut breakers' perception of climate change, with their conclusion that babassu has not been affected, as it is a plant naturally resistant to fire and degraded soil, and no decrease in coconut production has been observed over generations. Finally, the participants highlighted the importance of connection, the search for dialogue between the initiative and the Interstate Babassu Coconut Breakers' Movement (*Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu* - MIQCB), considering that this movement was responsible for ensuring rights for coconut breakers, with high relevance assigned to the search for dialogue between all parties involved, leading to a culture of consensus, not rupture (the Movement moved away from the Estrada do Arroz Coconut Breakers after they entered into a partnership with Suzano). The legal insecurity involved in the babassu collection activity was a highlighted point, especially due to the difficulty of access to farmers' lands in the region.

Visit 2: Suzano's Campo Agrícola Project

Guiding questions

- Is it possible to reconcile commodity production with community/family farming in the same landscape?
- Would this experience be a good model for disseminating the environmental, social and economic benefits of community production? Which points should be highlighted?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on site?

Visit summary

An area of 23 ha belonging to Suzano has been assigned for approximately 20 years through a free-lease agreement for family farming, with a 10-year lease. In this area, 42 families cultivate rice, beans and corn during the rainy season. It was informed by the company's representatives (no rural producers' representatives were present at the time of the visit) that there was an

incentive to implement agroforestry systems, but this was not well accepted by the farming families, who preferred conventional agricultural systems. Topics discussed included the importance of training in productive systems such as agroforestry, the need for experimentation/examples for the agroecological transition, which can be a good alternative for the adopted production model. Due to the fact that the farmers do not live in the area, but in an urban area, it may be important to understand whether these people actually have an agricultural vocation. Investment in agroforestry systems demands great efforts from farmers and is not advantageous when the return perspective is not long term. The initiative is commendable, but participants raised a few points for reflection: the established dependency relationship, the importance of promoting more sustainable production models through a long-term collective construction approach, and the expansion of the initiative considering the beneficiaries' aptitudes. Close to this area, an invasion has been ongoing since 2021, with the practice of deforestation in Legal Reserve areas classified as high conservation value areas. There is a legal procedure underway in state court for the repossession of these areas, however with no decision in sight.

Visit 3: Rural School Pe. Josino Tavares

Guiding questions

- How can better community involvement/leadership in agricultural production generate the desired transformations in landscape management?
- Would this experience be a good model for disseminating the environmental, social and economic benefits of community production? Which points should be highlighted?
- How can agricultural production contribute to biodiversity conservation?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on site?

Visit summary

The Rural School (*Casa Familiar Rural* - CFR) Pe. Josino Tavares has approximately 8 ha, with students from ten to twelve settlements in the region who study on an alternating basis: 10 days at the school, followed by a period at their homes. The Pedagogy of Alternation regime offered at CFR integrates high school education with a technical professional course in agriculture, focused on rural education and its specificities for an audience formed by children of farmers in the municipalities of Bom Jesus das Selvas, Bom Jardim and Buriticupu in the state of Maranhão. Students and teachers have implemented agroforestry systems in the area, cultivating pineapple, coconut, cassava, as well as poultry and pig farming. There is occurrence of deforestation in the region, and a reduction in the volume of water in the rivers has been observed. Through a project carried out on site, five springs have been recovered. The students reported that agricultural production in their homes follows conventional methods, with cattle, pig and poultry farming, in addition to slash-and-burn cultivation of rice, beans and corn. Some students also reported the difficulty of convincing their parents to adopt more sustainable management practices and implement agroforestry systems.

As main challenges, the lack of lines of credit for family farming and technical assistance in the region were cited, as well as resources for the survival of the CFR, which currently receives about BRL 5.00 per day per student for all meals. The use of agrochemicals on soy farms with aerial dispersion negatively impacts community production and damage to health and the environment has been reported. It has also been reported that the Biological Reserve area has been gradually decreasing due to invasions and deforestation that occur in the region. Mention was made on the importance of the students' role, particularly in the context of the diversity of settlements from

which they come, in the dissemination of knowledge related to agroecological techniques and low-impact production to their parents and family members. However, it was said that the settlers receive no help, encouragement, or technical assistance. The implementation of the Environmental Rural Registry and the Environmental Regularization Program, provided for in the Forest Code, was pointed out as an important instrument for land tenure regularization and promotion of forest restoration in the region, but municipalities do not have the structure to support CAR validation, among other issues. Climate change was also addressed, and people said that they clearly notice its effects, such as rivers drying up, with less fish and decreasing water levels.

When discussing a vision for the landscape ten years from now, the students pointed out that projects that generate profits while helping to conserve the environment are essential, with balance between the economic and the sustainable aspects, for example through a trees and bananas consortium.

“My vision for the future is the presence of projects in the region that combine the preservation of the environment with the generation of profit for the communities” - Ana Clara Conceição Silva, 18 years old, student at CFR Pe. Josino Tavares, resident of Centro dos Farias Settlement / Buriticupu.

“In the future I would like to see consortiums of trees and bananas, generating income and conserving the environment” - Lucas Machado da Silva, 18 years old, student at CFR Pe. Josino Tavares, resident of Brejinho dos Três Poderes Settlement, Bom Jardim.

Currently, there are two projects related to the work carried out at the school on the Nature Invest crowdfunding platform: one project addresses [Viable Agricultural Practices, Preservation and Conservation of Creole Seeds](#), to [promote the reuse of organic waste for composting](#), and another addresses the [Production of Food Without the Use of Fire and Implementation of AFS](#). The power of this educational model was mentioned, as well as the possibility of other units replicating the same model, considering the distances that students must travel to access education in the region. However, fundraising is a recurring demand, reflecting a lack of resources and institutional support. There was talk of the importance of establishing training in agroecology through projects that provide a technological package, of the priority and role of the CFR in providing scale for forest restoration, in addition to promoting payment for environmental services in the region.

Visit 4: Pindaré Indigenous Land

Guiding questions

- Which activities are carried out in the context of the Indigenous Land?
- Is there occurrence of land invasion and illegal activities?
- How is the coexistence with productive areas surrounding the Indigenous Land?
- What are the good practices / projects carried out that can serve as examples for other regions?
- Is there a lack of information / data to promote best practices and generate more opportunities?

Visit summary

With about 15,000 ha and 1,700 inhabitants, the Pindaré Indigenous Land had some of its areas leased to farmers in the region in the past, with high deforestation rates observed in the territory, resulting in the conversion of close to the entire territory.

Over the past 30 years, the area has suffered pressure from the surrounding municipalities, becoming isolated and surrounded by conflicts, such as the dispute over a lake (Lake Bolívia) pertaining to the indigenous land with neighboring landowners, in addition to invasions and the occurrence of fires every year, recently reaching half of its area. Importantly, the area's inhabitants expressed their need for recognition, protection and respect for their land.

To fight the occurrence of fires and protect the vegetation remnants and areas undergoing restoration, an indigenous fire brigade was created, and training provided by IBAMA (*prevfogo*) to indigenous people who act as volunteer brigade members, despite the current lack of resources for the brigade (different from the past, when resources were available).

A group of indigenous women (forest warriors) was formed and started a process of dialogue inside and outside the Indigenous Land, addressing topics such as health and the environment. There is a lack of dialogue with landowners and surrounding settlers, especially in a region characterized by scarce action by government agencies and low presence of civil society organizations. The importance of restoration integrated with traditional knowledge was also discussed; however, there is a lack of technical support for implementation and monitoring. There are partnerships in place between institutions/organizations and the Indigenous Land, but it is necessary to expand their activities and presence in the region, as well as expand projects that are managed by indigenous peoples, including transparency mechanisms.

Indigenous people's lives are frequently under threat in the region. [Dozens of murders of indigenous people are reported in Maranhão](#), especially in this area of the Gurupi Mosaic, with impunity of perpetrators in most cases and no efforts to end the wave of violence and impunity.

The importance of valuing local work was highlighted, with training provided to indigenous people in their work activities. The importance of union and joint work between indigenous peoples was also highlighted; projects take time to unfold, which calls for cooperation between different indigenous peoples. In large part, the challenges are shared among the different indigenous peoples of the region, thus, solutions built together with indigenous peoples considering principles of free, prior and informed consent must be expanded in the region.

Main challenges

The last day of discussions began with a reflection on the main challenges related to the landscape and the most remarkable aspects observed in the field visits. The region's main challenges were consolidated as follows:

1. Fight against illegal activities and associated public policies (including territorial security, restoration and access to water) / illegal logging, mining, sport hunting and fire / Legal insecurity involving land tenure, invasions of territories/land
2. Forest restoration with a focus on income generation / with an ecological and economic perspective (attention to quality and certification of seedling production) aimed at forest management (consider the demand for restoration arising from the Forest Code)
3. Organization of information and studies that would lead to improvements in the proposal elaboration process and more substantiated debates / Flow of information and studies that would lead to improvements in the proposal elaboration process and more substantiated debates / traditional knowledge;
4. Discussion networks – create flow mechanisms between different actors / need to be reinforced

5. Commodity production vs family farming – lack of public policy aimed at food security (cassava chain, fruit trees, etc.);
6. Protection of people's lives / Threat to leaders.

In summary, the group lists legal uncertainty and illegality, the lack of protection of people and territories and forest degradation as the main challenges.

Creation of a common vision for the landscape

After working in groups to create a common vision for a sustainable and prosperous landscape over 10 years, consensus was reached on the following common vision for the landscape:

“Protected, strengthened and legally regularized territories, where corridors are established in the process of restoration with agroecological agriculture and cultural appreciation”

Solutions, strategies and priorities

The participants thought of relevant actions or strategies that could be undertaken to materialize this vision for the landscape. They wrote down what they thought was most relevant and subsequently voted on the options, with each participant choosing three actions. The following actions obtained the highest number of votes, being considered as priorities:

- 1) Financing (credit, Payment for Environmental Services, other resources)
- 2) Forest restoration;
- 3) Ensure legal compliance.

In addition to these three priority actions, the following actions were mentioned as important:

- Education, training, capacity building, awareness raising
- Legal, physical and food security
- Ensure legal compliance
- Forest restoration plans and agroecological management based on traditional knowledge
- ATER (Technical Assistance and Rural Extension)
- Information for grassroots organizations
- Gather information on what is being done
- Strengthen monitoring
- Organizational strengthening and focus on the autonomy of indigenous peoples and traditional communities
- Improve communication between stakeholders in the territory
- Union of all parties who share the same goals
- Continuation of existing initiatives, strengthening and articulating actions inside and outside the territory
- Involve the MPF, INCRA, ITERMA and ITERPA in dialogues
- Public policies for territorial development based on family farming
- Support rural schools in the restoration approach
- Support restoration plans and policies at state and municipal levels
- Discuss implementation of PES in the region
- Value the standing forest (increase the opportunity cost)
- Strengthen protection and knowledge sharing networks

- Expand the economic use of degraded areas with low-carbon economic models
- Support women's initiatives as dialogue builders
- Guarantee the sovereignty of established territories
- Concrete actions to prevent violence in the region
- Projects with different actors for practical applications (financial resources and visibility)

General coordination and facilitation performed by Fernanda Rodrigues (Brazilian Forests Dialogue) and Maria Carolina Oliva Brasil (Brazilian Forests Dialogue).

Support



Field Dialogue Schedule

November 08

4:30 pm - 7:20 pm: Hotel Ibis Imperatriz.

- Introduction of the Land Use Dialogue, challenges and opportunities envisioned in the previous stage and why the landscape was selected;
- Discussion on the main challenges identified;
- Construction of vision for a sustainable and prosperous landscape in 10 years.
- 7:20 pm Suzano holds a parallel session to present its 2030 Biodiversity Goal, the Amazon ecological corridor and the 2030 territorial and social development goal.

8:20 pm: Dinner attended by field dialogue participants.

November 09

7:00 am: Departure for field dialogues: Visit to babassu coconut breakers in Cidelândia and acai berry collectors. Guiding questions:

- Is it possible to reconcile commodity production with community/family farming in the same landscape?
- Would this experience be a good model for disseminating the environmental, social and economic benefits of community production? Which points should be highlighted?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on site?

11:30 am: Lunch in Açailândia

12:30 pm: Departure for field dialogues: Bom Jesus das Selvas. Conversation with settlers at the Rural School. Guiding questions:

- How can better community involvement/leadership in agricultural production generate the desired transformations in landscape management?

- Would this experience be a good model for disseminating the environmental, social and economic benefits of community production? Which points should be highlighted?
- How can agricultural production contribute to biodiversity conservation?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on site?

8:00 pm: Dinner and overnight stay in Santa Inês

November 10

07:30 am: Departure for field dialogues: Pindaré Indigenous Land. Guiding questions:

- Which activities are carried out in the context of the Indigenous Land?
- Is there occurrence of land invasion and illegal activities?
- How is the coexistence with productive areas surrounding the Indigenous Land?
- What are the good practices / projects carried out that can serve as example for other regions?
- Is there a lack of information / data to promote best practices and generate more opportunities?

10:00 am: Santa Inês: creation of a vision for the landscape; solutions and strategies for achieving this vision; priorities and recommendations; next steps.

12:30 pm: Closing

1:00 pm: Lunch and transfer in two vans, one returning to Imperatriz and the other going to São Luís.

This field dialogue was carried out by Brazilian Forests Dialogue, Amazônia Forest Forum and The Forests Dialogue with financial support from Agropalma, Conservation International (CI-Brasil), Brazilian Forests Dialogue, Suzano and WRI Brasil.

List of Participants

Participant *	Institution
Arlete Viana dos Santos Guajajara	Maimumy Association / Pindaré Indigenous Land
Bruno Guajajara	Pindaré Indigenous Land
Claudia Lopes	Museu Goeldi
Danielle Celentano	Consultant
Diego de Souza Carrara	Suzano S.A
Denys Serrão Pereira	Suzano S.A
Fernanda Rodrigues	Brazilian Forests Dialogue
Gilvânia Ferreira da Silva	MST
Luis Barbosa	Conservation International - CI Brasil
Maria Carolina Oliva Brasil	Brazilian Forests Dialogue

Marlucia B. Martins	Museu Goeldi
Paloma Cariilli Ribeiro da Silva	Agropalma
Imaira Marinho Souza	Arariboia Indigenous Land
Paulo Guajajara	CCOCALITIA
Tarcísio Feitosa	CLUA / RAN
Thiara Fernandes e Silva	Instituto Peabirú
Ywatãrixã Ka'apor	Ka'apor Association - Ka'apor Indigenous Land

* We would like to thank the participation of the coconut breakers from Pindowa, who welcomed us in Coquelândia; the Suzano team (Imperatriz unit) who participated in the dialogue during the visit to the company's area; Maria da Luz Sousa Estácio, students from CFR Pe. Josino Tavares (about 30 students), as well as representatives of the municipal government, teachers and indigenous people from the Pindaré Indigenous Land who welcomed us and participated in the dialogue. We are very grateful.

Photos

