
Belém Endemism Area

Field Dialogue –Tomé-Açu region

Co-Chairs' Summary Report

March 15 – 17, 2023, *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 in the Amazon (*Aliança pela Restauração na Amazônia*) has identified 3 million hectares in the region with high or very high opportunities for

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

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. The field dialogue in the Gurupi Mosaic region was held in November 2022, and the [summary can be seen here](#). This document summarizes the field dialogue held in the Tomé-Açu region in March 2023.

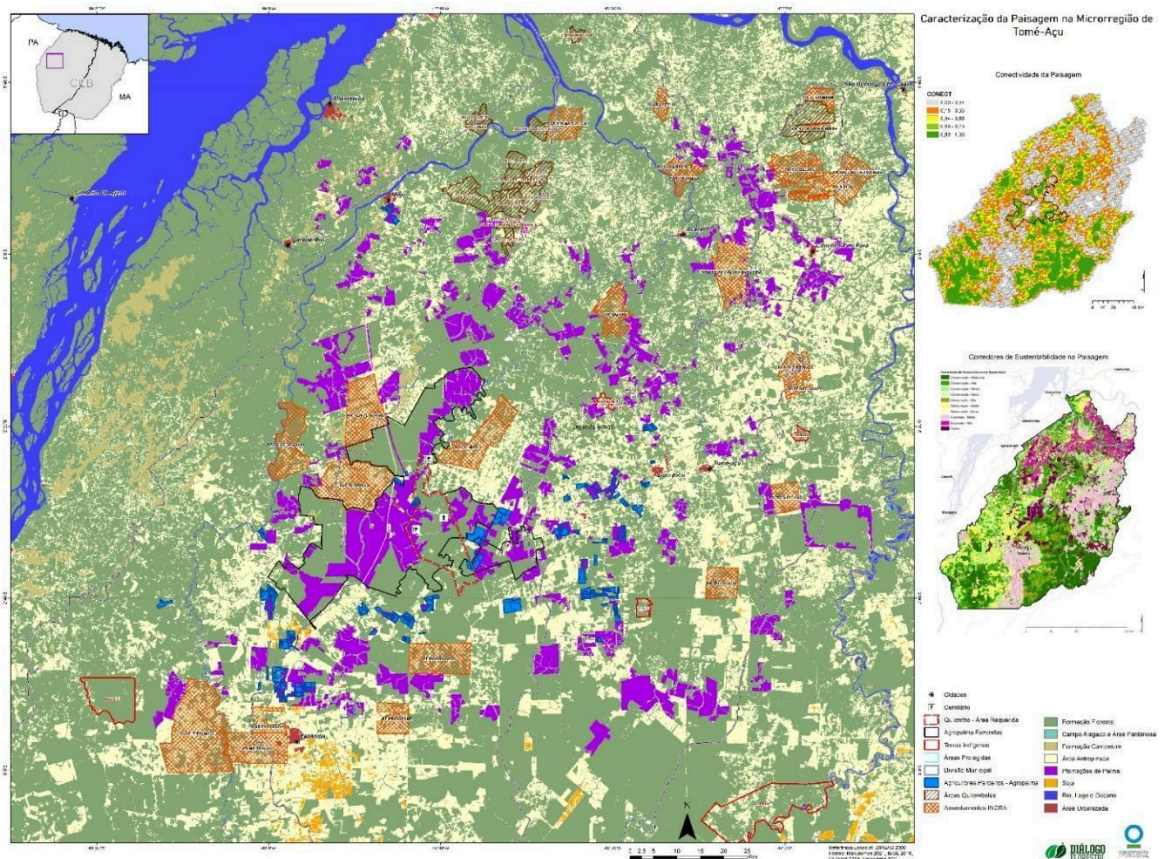
Objectives

The second stage of the Land Use Dialogue (Field Dialogue), at the Belém Endemism Area – Tomé-Açu, 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 main land uses in the region:



The main results are shown below.

Priority challenges

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, including: deficit of information and studies that would improve the proposal elaboration process and better substantiate

the debates; community and family forest management (topic that must be substantiated); discussion networks; commodities production vs. family farming and illegal activities.

As opportunities, the following were mentioned: forest recovery/restoration agenda, which covers 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; the implementation of instruments provided for in the Forest Code, such as validation of the Environmental Rural Registry, Environmental Reserve Quotas and Payments for Environmental Services; and, the opportunity to establish governance mechanisms in the territory, development of public/private policies.



Based on this information, working groups were formed to review these challenges and define whether they are in fact the most relevant for the context of the Tomé-Açu region. The group work results validated the following as the main challenges for the context of Tomé-Açu:

1. Commodities production vs. family farming (pressure from large farmers to develop productive activities / conflict between the oil palm production chain and traditional communities more focused on subsistence agriculture);
2. Land tenure regularization, the absence of which entails several losses;
3. Lack of information, awareness and government support for land tenure regularization and adoption of good agricultural practices;
4. Need to adapt communication, considering the low level of education in the local community;
5. Lack of dissemination of information and demonstrative/participatory surveys that encourage communities to participate in the discussions;
6. Low integration of ongoing studies in terms of exchange of information on community and family management with decision makers;
7. Poor logistics/infrastructure that hinders access to education, health, adoption of good practices, etc.;

8. Illegal activities (illegal logging and mining) and their link to the environmental degradation process;
9. Discussion networks (there are some initiatives in place, but they need to be intensified / promote exchanges / form smaller networks to share experience and knowledge) / increase the inclusion of women;
10. Implementation of CAR/PRA – restoration/regulation of environmental liabilities/lack of regulation of political instruments are not broadly discussed;
11. Qualifying technical assistance for family farming (Agroforestry Systems - AFS management and environmental regularization).



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.

1st Visit: Mr. Michinori Konagano's Property

The first field dialogue took place on the property owned by Mr. Michinori Konagano, CAMTA member who develops an Agroforestry Systems (AFS) business model producing cocoa, cupuaçu, black pepper, among other products. The project started with financing obtained for the installation of a small passion fruit production area, followed by the introduction of other crops such as cocoa, melon, black pepper and beans. The property currently has 850 ha of cultivated land, of which 230 ha are dedicated to AFS. Importantly, the cocoa produced in AFS has a higher market value. Production is sold to CAMTA with geographical indication.

Mr. Michinori highlighted the importance of research and sharing the knowledge related to the AFS experience on his property accumulated over the years. There are historical series of soil analysis, which help not only him, but other people who develop AFS to understand soil dynamics and species composition. There was a focus on soil nutrition, and establishment of a partnership to carry out soil analyzes in São Paulo. Different ways of liming, iron content and its relationship with soil compaction, fertilization with animal manure and how to balance the species considering consumption/evaporation of water, light and nutritional demands were studied and experimented. One of the tests conducted involved the planting of African mahogany to meet the demands for timber.



Embrapa's important support and the training of people in the community were highlighted, as in the case of a cooperative member who graduated in Agronomic Engineering and currently provides technical support to CAMTA members.

The importance of bees in the context of AFS was highlighted. Profits generated from the ecosystem service provided by bees in the pollination of species reach BRL thousands. Regarding the use of agrochemicals, it was mentioned that the production is not organic, but there is an aim to use the lowest possible volume of chemical products.

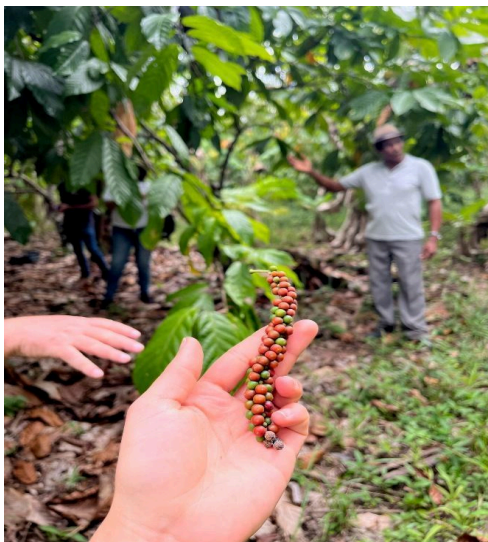
Mr. Michinori opens up his property and welcomes many people in order to share knowledge, but one of the points brought up during the field dialogue was the importance of publishing the results of experiments and accumulated experiences, with mention to the lack of a process in place to systematize experiences and disseminate the results achieved through technical assistance and rural extension (not only from Mr. Michinori, but also from other people working with AFS in the region).

Mr. Michinori highlighted the importance of creating spaces for the exchange of experiences between different generations as an opportunity for the region.



2nd Visit: Mr. Manoel do Carmo's Property

The field dialogue proceeded to the Santa Luzia Community (Forquilha region), with a visit to the family property owned by Mr. Manoel do Carmo. An AFS is adopted on this property and managed by Mr. Manoel's family. He has owned the area since he was 25 years old, and currently plants tree species for cocoa shading (freijó and andiroba). The property has cupuaçu, cocoa, black pepper and African mahogany crops, as well as oil palm plantations. In the 1990s, he experimented with small-scale livestock production but did not move forward with it, subsequently diversifying his production with the adoption of the AFS model, including oil palm, Brazil nuts and andiroba. He also grows subsistence crops such as acai, squash, maroon cucumber, banana and peach palm and highlights the importance of these crops to feed his family. Mr. Manoel's motto is "plant what you eat".



The property has about 40 ha, with 10 ha used for oil palm cultivation via a partnership agreement with BBF (Brasil BioFuels) / Banco da Amazônia, 12 ha of AFS and 20 ha of native forest. He has a small fruit pulp factory where he processes fruit before selling. There is also an area planted with oil palm in a monoculture system and organic production of cupuaçu. Cupuaçu production is sold to Beraca, a company that processes the product and supplies large companies in the cosmetics sector.

With regard to environmental issues, he reports that hunting is no longer taking place in the region because

the animals that were commonly captured in the region are no longer seen. He also reports some damage caused by monkeys to cocoa beans. He has not yet had access to projects involving Payments for Environmental Services, but has heard about them.



Emater's support was mentioned as essential for the implementation of AFS on the property, and the National School Meals Program (*Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar - PNAE*) was important to support the activities carried out in the property, facilitating the sale of food items, especially acai berries.

During the Covid pandemic, he mentioned that there was no change in the work dynamics as it was a family activity, but the PNAE contract suffered an impact when schools closed. This problem was solved by the maintenance of the contract and donation of fruit pulp to the children's families.

To reconcile oil palm cultivation (which requires the use of agrochemicals) with organic cupuaçu production, he established a vegetation containment barrier separating the oil palm crop from the AFS. He understands that both models are important in their context and regrets that there is no insurance for agricultural production, especially in the context of climate change.



3rd Visit: Agropalma Partners

The last place visited was the farm owned by Mr. Marcio Hiramizu, CAMTA member and Agropalma partner. The property currently has around 150 ha of oil palm, 60 ha of acai and 200 ha of legal reserve. Native vegetation areas contribute to the existence of ecological corridors in the region. Currently managed by the Hiramizu brothers, they understand that native forests are important allies for the protection of crops, also acting as barriers against pests. Since 2012, a partnership project has been developed in the region between Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPA), Conservation International (CI-Brasil) and Agropalma. The project involves monitoring of fauna in oil palm areas, with monitoring activities carried out with partners.



The property is a reference in productivity as it was one of the pioneering areas to implement the cultivation of acai with irrigation and organic fertilization, with an exclusive shed where composting is carried out. Glyphosate is used to control weed-crop competition in a localized manner. There is interest in PES, but no project has been developed to date.

The partnership model involving oil palm cultivated and sold exclusively to Agropalma is seen as positive as it brings security to production with guaranteed purchase. During the conversation with the group, the sale price was mentioned as a potential negative point, counterbalancing the guaranteed purchase.



It was also mentioned that the planting of other species along the borders of acai crops provides shading and improves the quality of the product. There is no intention to develop AFS in the area; the focus is on improving the oil palm and acai homogeneous cultivation model with best practices. In the past, more diversified cultivation was carried out, with a predominance of pepper and cupuaçu, followed in 2005 by the partnership with Agropalma aimed at establishing the oil palm monoculture.

A point highlighted during the conversations was the importance of sharing experiences between generations within the family, as well as publishing and disseminating good practices. The transmission of knowledge between generations has been a cultural challenge in the region.



Summary of field dialogues

The field dialogues take part in a context in which, in the late 1920s, the Japanese community reached the region of Tomé-Açu. At the time, forest areas were replaced by monocultures, especially black pepper.

In 1957, black pepper production was fully established and cultivation in the region led Brazil to self-sufficiency in the production of this spice. However, there were production problems in the monoculture system, and for market reasons, agroforestry systems started to be implemented. Over time, the diversification of production for income generation gained importance in the region and large-scale agroforestry systems (AFS) were implemented, as well as family AFS in situations where food security was a concern. The importance of agroforestry gardens and concern for environmental aspects (organic production and protection of fauna) was also highlighted. The cooperative [CAMTA](#) (*Cooperativa Agrícola de Tomé-Açu*) was created, bringing together cooperative members who supply the cooperative's production; few products are purchased from outside (such as cashew and soursop). The importance of being open to new models (innovation) and discussing rural succession were highlighted.

During the field dialogues, it was mentioned that properties containing legal reserve areas face problems involving invasions for theft of timber and hunting. It was mentioned that obtaining the Rural Environmental License (*Licença Ambiental Rural - LAR*) is still a challenge due to the extensive processing time, and the properties in the region, although already registered in the Environmental Rural Registry (*Cadastro Ambiental Rural - CAR*), are still waiting for full validation of their CAR.

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:

“Intercultural, sustainable and healthy territory, with implemented environmental adequacy public policies, existence of ecological corridors and valued forests integrated to AFS and other biodiverse and cooperative systems. Informed, participatory community with inclusive income generation, security and food sovereignty”

Which ongoing actions / projects are most relevant to the materialization of the vision for the landscape?

- Forest System Project for family farming (Emater)
- Expansion of sustainable palm in a partnership system (Grupo Agropalma)
- Sustenta Inova project for forest restoration (SEBRAE, Embrapa and CIRAD)
- Oil Palm AFS Project (Natura, CAMTA, Embrapa and producers)
- School meal program (PAA) and PNAE - Federal Government
- Acelerador - Agroforestry and ecological restoration accelerator project (CIFOR / ICRAF / TNC and Amazon)
- Biodiversity monitoring and corridor creation project (CI / Agropalma and UFPA)
- Improvement projects for acai, cupuaçu, black pepper and other species (Embrapa)
- Projects with bees and meliponines (Embrapa / CAMTA / Producers)
- Environmental monitoring project (Embrapa / CAMTA / Natura / Rural Producers)
- Training for communities and inclusion of women for empowerment and participation (Agropalma and Earthworm)
- Dissemination of the Tomé-Açu AFS, restoring degraded areas in the short and medium-term (CAMTA)
- AFS / Family farming restoration Project (IPAM)
- Tutor Vivo Project for black pepper (Emater / Embrapa / TROPOC)
- Community Nurseries (Ideflor-Bio)
- Municipal Law promoting AFS, distribution of seedlings and ATER - Municipality of Tomé-Açu
- Extension of AFS in Brazil and in the world – Mr. Michinori Konagano
- AFS Seminar (ACTA / CAMTA)
- Preparation of the area without the use of fire and AFS - mechanized patrol (Embrapa, Pentagrama and CAMTA)
- Distribution of cocoa germplasm (Ceplac)

What else needs to be done to achieve the vision for the landscape?

Moving forward in the investigation of solutions and strategies to achieve the vision for the landscape, participants listed actions that must be taken to materialize this vision. Actions were grouped by similarity, and then prioritized. The listed actions follow below, with those considered the five most important in bold.

Education

- Education and technical assistance
- Environmental education projects in schools for young people
- Creation of a rural family school with an adapted curriculum
- Project on environmental education and sustainable agriculture
- Family succession actions in local agriculture and training for young people
- Municipal environmental education program focused on fighting hunting

Land tenure regularization

- Clearer and broader land tenure regularization efforts
- Promotion of land regularization and legal security in the state of Pará's agricultural sector (state government, non-governmental organizations, companies and producers)
- Accelerator project for land tenure and environmental regularization
- Support for land tenure and environmental regularization / public policies for the agricultural sector / easier access to credit for producers

Communication

- Dissemination of environmental information in the territory of the Belém Endemism Area (CEB)
- Intergenerational communication (retention of young people; sustainability of socio-productive activities)
- Dissemination of affirmative public policies for farmers.

Public policies

- Project promoting environmental compliance
- Public policies for rural women
- Public policy for PES
- Secondary vegetation protection programs / policies
- Regularization / rules for carbon credits and PES

Promotion / economy

- Promotion of ecosystem services
- Economic appreciation of the products produced (following all the proposals discussed in this document)
- Verticalization of production

Restoration / studies

- Ecological restoration project to recover native forest fragments
- Ecological corridor project with restoration of PPA
- Water studies
- Projects that consider the analysis of river basins and focus on the recovery of riparian forests
- Knowledge about AFS, genetic materials and public policies.

Others:

- Creation of an ecological forum integrating rural and urban communities
- Environmental and agricultural adaptation implementation projects
- Monitoring of rural workers' health

Subsequently, the identified actions were prioritized, with the five considered most important ranked below (in order of importance):

- 1. Family succession actions in local agriculture and training for young people**
- 2. Promotion of land tenure regularization and legal security in the state of Pará's agricultural sector (state government, NGOs, companies and producers)**
- 3. Public policies for rural women**

4. Ecological restoration project to recover native forest fragments
5. Project to support environmental compliance

Open discussion about next steps and ways for participants to take the collaboration forward

Participants were able to share actions to be taken after the dialogue:

- Share lessons learned with the community, look for solutions to problems and not give up;
- Continue talking, engage decision makers in the implementation of the vision for the landscape;
- Field dialogue materializes what was elaborated during the scope dialogue. The result brings an interesting perspective due to the ongoing actions and the actions defined as priorities to achieve the vision for the landscape. The creation of the Fórum Florestal da Amazônia was a very important result, and all organizations are invited to participate;
- Work to reverse the Belém Endemism Area's critical deforestation condition in the context of the Amazon.

General coordination and facilitation carried out by Fernanda Rodrigues (Brazilian Forests Dialogue) with support from Alexandra Rose Desjardins Weyerhaeuser (who provided the photos to illustrate this document) and Ismini Ethridge (The Forests Dialogue).

Financial support



Field Dialogue Schedule

March 15

8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Travel from Belém to Tomé-Açu

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Lunch at Restaurante Saito in Quatro Bocas (R. Japão, 329)

2:00 pm - 5:40 pm: Welcome, general alignment, challenges and vision for the landscape (Location: ACTA - Associação Cultural e Fomento Agrícola de Tomé-Açu. Av. Dionísio Bentes - Quatro Bocas):

- Introduction of Land Use Dialogue, challenges and opportunities envisioned in the previous stage and why the landscape was selected;
- Discussion on the main challenges identified;
- Initial construction of the vision for a sustainable and prosperous landscape in 10 years.

7:00 pm: Dinner for field dialogue participants.

March 16

8:40 am: Departure for field dialogues, with visits planned to business and family Agroforestry Systems (AFS) and oil palm plantations. Different modalities of productive arrangements, such as partnerships and associations, will also be discussed. During the first day, guiding questions will be defined to guide conversations at the field dialogue locations.

5:00 pm: Return to Tomé-Açu;

7:00 pm: Dinner.

March 17

Address: ACTA - Associação Cultural e Fomento Agrícola de Tomé-Açu. (Av. Dionísio Bentes - Quatro Bocas)

9:00 am: Creation of vision for the landscape; solutions and strategies for achieving this vision; priorities and recommendations; next steps.

1:00 pm: Lunch

2:00 pm: Return to Belém.

6:00 pm: Estimated time of arrival in Belém.

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 The Forests Dialogue.

List of Participants²

| Participant* | Institution |
|------------------------------|---|
| Alexandra Weyerhaeuser | The Forests Dialogue (TFD) |
| Amadeu Carneiro Madalena | Associação Amavu |
| Andreia Cristina Brito Pinto | Imazon |
| Antônio Jorge B. Correa | Agropalma |
| Bruno Caragiu Guajajara | Pindaré IL |
| Denys Pereira | Suzano S.A. |
| Fernanda Rodrigues | Diálogo Florestal / Fórum Florestal da Amazônia |
| Gisele Odete de Sousa | Natura |
| Ismini Ethridge | The Forests Dialogue (TFD) |
| Jailson Takamatsu | CIFOR - ICRAF |
| Joecemara Avelino da Rocha | Rural School Pe. Josimo |
| John William Moon | Humana Traduções |

² Participation in the field dialogue is of an individual nature, and participants do not necessarily represent the vision of the organizations with which they are connected.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Lilian Vendrametto | Conservation International |
| Luís Barbosa | Conservation International |
| Márcio Siqueira Moura | CAMTA |
| Marcos Paulo Mamoré Fernandes | Emater |
| Marlúcia Martins | Museu Goeldi |
| Maxiely Scaramussa Bergamin | Nativa Carbono |
| Mery Helen Cristine da Silva Moraes | CIFOR - ICRAF |
| Michinori Konagano | CAMTA / Rural producer |
| Milton Kanashiro | Embrapa Amazônia Oriental |
| Oswaldo Kato | Embrapa Amazônia Oriental |
| Pedro Paulo Furtado de Lima | Rural producer / Associação da Soledade |
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| Wanderson dos S. Lopes | UFRA - Parauapebas |
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