

Surroundings of Pau Brasil National Park and Veracel Station

Field Dialogue - Co-Chairs' Summary Report

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Introduction

The Bahia Forest Forum (FFBA - Fórum Florestal da Bahia) is one of the [seven regional Forest Forums of the Brazilian Forests Dialogue](#) and the focal point of support for the conduction of the Land Use Dialogue in the Buffer Zone of Pau Brasil National Park (*PARNA Pau Brasil* in portuguese) and Veracel Station (*Estação Veracel* in portuguese). In 2017, the strategic planning of the FFBA was defined to guide its regional action, with "landscape" being the most relevant theme.

The landscape chosen for the Land Use Dialogue (LUD) in Bahia comprises the Buffer Zone (BZ) of the Pau Brasil National Park, an area of 71,205 hectares, which, together with the Veracel Station and its surroundings, cover a key area of crucial importance for the connectivity of significant Atlantic Forest remnants in the municipalities of Porto Seguro and Santa Cruz Cabrália, among which the Pau Brasil National Park (19,027 ha), the Private Natural Heritage Reserve (PNHR) Veracel Station (6,069 ha) as well as other PNHR's, in addition to the Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves of rural properties. The landscape is within the scope of the Mosaic of Protected Areas of the Extreme South of Bahia - MAPES (Brazilian acronym for Mosaico de Unidades de Conservação do Extremo Sul da Bahia), and the Central Corridor of the Atlantic Forest, recognized as one of the wealthiest regions in biodiversity on the planet.

The main challenge in the area highlighted above is to reconcile productive practices of the agricultural and forestry sector with the expectations of local communities to live in environments with high environmental quality, free from contamination of air, water, soil, and food by pesticides. Another critical challenge is to increase the use of nature-based solutions by farmers and companies, in order to adapt production systems to the climate change, aiming to increase the forest cover of properties with native species, and thereby adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increasing landscape connectivity, with benefits for the conservation of biodiversity in the Pau Brasil National Park, Private Natural Heritage Reserves and other essential areas for the protection and recovery of the Atlantic Forest.

For the above context, the area described was chosen as a case study for the first Bahia Land Use Dialogue. Held online on December 15 and 16, 2020, the first stage was attended by representatives of companies, civil society organizations, communities, indigenous peoples, government agencies, and educational and research institutions. From this scoping dialog, two priority challenges were defined:

¹ *Advisory group representative present at the Field Dialogue.*

1. Reconciling production and conservation in the context of agriculture and tree plantations. The challenge of environmentally appropriate production must be encouraged and made possible with Technical Assistance and Rural Extension - ATER. Particular attention should be given to the maintenance of water resources and native forest cover, dissemination and viability of the commercial chain of agroecological production, and an indication of alternatives and benefits of reducing the use of pesticides.
2. Understand and systematize the positive and negative impacts of the practices carried out in the context of the landscape in the medium and long term. Measuring and highlighting effects with monitored indicators and coordinated actions is essential.

About the Land Use Dialogue

The [Land Use Dialogue](#) (LUD) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to gather knowledge and lead processes that influence responsible business, improve governance of territories, and promote inclusive development in relevant landscapes.

The Land Use Dialogue has already had several editions worldwide, such as 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 Santa Catarina, and currently has six ongoing initiatives in Brazil.

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

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

Among the main expected outcomes are:

- Building an environment of trust between local leaders;
- Promoting multi-stakeholder engagement, including decision-makers;
- Creating an enabling environment for the creation and/or fostering of platforms led by local actors (forums, alliances, coalitions, etc.) and
- Impact on local and regional public policies.

Objectives

The second meeting of the Bahia Land Use Dialogue was a field meeting (Field Dialogue), which had as main objectives:

1. Reflect on the priority challenges and current situation in the landscape.
2. Listening to the perspective of various stakeholders through field visits.
3. Toward a common landscape vision.
4. Develop solutions and strategies.
5. Define priorities, recommendations, and the following stages.

Methodology

Using the operating principles of a Land Use Dialogue, three days of meetings were held, including facilitator presentations, field visits, group work, and plenary discussions. The primary outcomes are presented below.

About the Bahia Forest Forum and the Land Use Dialogue (LUD) in Bahia

The Bahia Forest Forum is a permanent space for discussion on forests of a consultative and deliberative nature. Created in 2005, operating in the south of Bahia, and is represented by 20 institutions.

The Bahia Forest Forum leads the Bahia LUD planning work with support from Veracel, WRI Brazil, the Brazilian Forests Dialogue, and The Forests Dialogue.

Overview of fields visits

Three locations were selected for the field visits to allow participants to hear from multiple stakeholders with a vested interest in the region. For each visit, guiding questions were developed so participants could link the learning from the visits to the objectives of the land use dialogue.

Visit 1: Mr. Ademar's property: Example of small properties that are receiving restoration actions with support from GIZ and, in 2021, from ANAMMA Euroclima.

Guiding questions

- Can this experiment be a good model for disseminating agroecological production's environmental and economic benefits? What are the points to be highlighted?
- What are the opportunities for improvement in the practices carried out on-site?

This property, which specializes in producing Agroforestry System - SAF cacao, received support for restoration projects, but unfortunately, many restoration areas were destroyed by the Buranhém River flood in 2021. The owner spoke of the importance of raising awareness among producers, especially in the context of hunting control. Participants suggested environmental education programs, including school visit programs, which could be supported by the Bahia Forest Forum. It was also mentioned that cabruças¹ has the potential to be ecological corridors by linking forests and that this and other properties in the region could be models for spreading SAF practice and demonstration sites of how ecological corridors can be formed through SAFs/restoration.

Other topics addressed include the potential for carbon capture, the importance of having public policies well explained to producers, and the costs of restoration considering, in particular, the importance of recovering permanent preservation areas.

Visit 2: Rural settlement Santa Maria - APRUNVE (Association of Rural Producers Unidos Venceremos):

Guiding questions

- How can better engagement/leadership of communities in agricultural production generate desired transformations in landscape management?
- How is the coexistence with protected areas around the properties? Does it harm or improve production?

¹Cabruças - Traditional cocoa planting in southern Bahia followed the "mata cabrucada" system, characterized by planting cocoa under the shade of Atlantic Forest trees and has been used in the region for over 200 years. The first immigrants initially used this practice, so the cabruca system can be considered a precursor of the current agroforestry systems.

Visit summary

The rural producer in this settlement spoke of the importance of agricultural incentives and supporting farmers in parceling land within territories. The importance of local leadership was also mentioned, particularly within a context where it can be challenging to deal with people. The cultural issue also arose, especially considering the new generations of farmers who have introduced the environmental component of agricultural production and hunting awareness. Participants also highlighted the importance of appropriating technologies, disseminating good practices, and bringing technicians closer to the people in the field and government agencies. Coexistence with protected areas was cited as peaceful, with the understanding that the presence of protected areas in the surroundings does not harm production.

Visit 3: Symbiosis, a Forestry company that develops the planting of native essences.

Guiding Questions

- How can the scientific knowledge generated be used to promote sustainable land use practices?
- What are examples of reconciling production and conservation in the context of tree plantations?

Visit summary

Symbiosis is an investment company focused on the timber industry. The company controls and manages the complete cycle of the process from the selection of species, mother trees, seeds, and seedlings, formation and management of forest plantations, to the final product to the consumer. The company has its genetic research team to improve tree growth and thereby adapt management regimes to optimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The company's involvement with communities is mainly through the hiring of local people, support for schools in the region, and supporting the activities of the Pau Brasil National Park. The conservation of legal reserve areas and maintenance of permanent preservation areas on properties is an example of how to reconcile production and conservation, respecting the remnants of native vegetation and the conservation units in the region.

Discussion on challenges

The last day of discussions started with a reflection on the main challenges related to the landscape and the most striking events of the field visits, and the following two challenges were highlighted:

- 1) Increasing forest cover and consolidating the Pau Brasil National Park and Veracel Station corridor.**
- 2) The need to expand SAF areas, strengthen groups and communities in the territories, and attract initiative resources.**

Other challenges mentioned include the following:

- Climate monitoring;
- Conflicts over water use: the importance of basin committee participation;
- Advancement of CEFIR / CAR in the properties of the region;
- Certification of products;
- Recognition of the corridor was requested in 2019 from the MMA - it has not been fully

implemented, and it needs fauna passage which has not been implemented;

- Importance of ecotourism: Birdwatching, Conservation International projects with potential for expansion;
- Inclusion of youth in productive activities;
- Transportation of students to universities;
- Join efforts to consolidate the corridor - map the opportunities.

The challenge of establishing connectivity between two essential conservation units, which are the source and target of the transit of individuals and gene flow mainly of endangered species such as primates, harpy eagles, and other birds, etc., was also mentioned.

Forming a common view of the landscape

After working in groups to form a shared vision of a sustainable and prosperous landscape in 10 years, consensus was reached on the following shared landscape vision:

"In 10 years, we hope to have the conservation units connected with the flow of fauna and flora, including areas of conservation of native vegetation and sustainable production, with all the owners engaged in forming the corridor in peaceful coexistence."

Solutions, strategies, and priorities

To realize this landscape vision, participants thought of relevant actions that could be carried out. After a voting process, the participants chose the following three actions as the highest priority (we mention in brackets the organizations present that can support in this sense):

- 1) Encourage the implementation of an environmental education program in the ecological corridor area. (IPEF/ESALQ, IPÊ, SMMA PORTO SEGURO, MDPS, VERACEL, CIPPA)
- 2) Foster the benefits and chain of restoration through Payment for Environmental Services - PES, carbon, and capacity building. (IPÊ, SMMA PORTO SEGURO, MDPS, CI, PACTO, VERACEL)
- 3) Engaging owners in all processes (training) (IPÊ, MDPS, SMMA PORTO SEGURO)

In addition to these three priority actions, the following actions were mentioned as necessary (we mention in brackets the organizations present that can support their realization):

- Stimulate the adoption of conservation agricultural practices (ICMBIO, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Fisheries (IPEF/ESALQ)
- Encourage restoration of areas beyond the legal requirement
- Stimulate the creation of other Protected Areas (SMMA PORTO SEGURO)
- Promote eco-tourism (SMMA PORTO SEGURO, CI, VERACEL, CIPPA)
- Recognize the up-to-date land mesh (ICMBIO)
- Elaborate and discuss possible land use scenarios (ICMBIO, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Fisheries)
- Analyze possible interferences for implementation (safety, Pindorama expansion) (VERACEL)
- Seek recognition from the Municipality of the corridor
- Include the corridor theme as an agenda in the PARNA Pau Brasil council, and promote fundraising (MDPS)
- Take into account the relevant legislation (environmental adequacy, Environmental

Regularization Program - PRA: Programa de Regularização Ambiental in Portuguese, etc.) (SMMA PORTO SEGURO)

- Extend the corridor to other protected areas
- Support for family farming and the disposal of production (IPEF/ESALQ, SMMA PORTO SEGURO)
- Foster socio-economic monitoring and impact research (miscellaneous research) (VERACEL, CI, PACTO)
- Associativism and cooperative (seed networking)
- Sustainable production and consumer market engagement and certification (IPEF/ESALQ, VERACEL, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Fisheries)
- Communication and dissemination (PACTO, VERACEL);
- Involve major buyers of agricultural products as well as unions and associations of rural producers (mainly cattle ranchers) to assist in mobilizing areas for compliance with the law on the protection of native vegetation and others.

Sources and funding

To enable each of the priority actions, participants suggested the following sources of funding:

| Priority Action | Sources of Funding |
|--|--|
| 1) Stimulate the implementation of an environmental education program in the ecological corridor area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP via ICMBio • Veracel's Environmental Education Program • National Environmental Education Policy tax incentive program • Municipal budget (direct environmental fines to environmental education) • Conversion of fines (via Term of Commitment or Conduct adjustment Term) • Conversion of penalty (fines) - via environmental police • FASB • FAPESP and CNPQ – via universities/research institutes |
| 2) Fostering the benefits and chain of restoration (PES - carbon, capacity building) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FASB • Government calls for tenders (MMA, MAPA, BNDES – Climate Fund) • Civil Society Organizations: CI, WWF, SOS Mata Atlântica, Boticário Foundation, WRI, IPÊ, TNC, FUNBIO • Private sector: ReGreen, Mombak, significant landowners in the region |
| 3) Engagement of owners in all processes (capacity building) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FASB • Government calls for tenders (MMA, MAPA, BNDES – Climate Fund) • Civil Society Organizations: CI, WWF, SOS Mata Atlântica, Boticário Foundation, WRI, IPÊ, TNC, FUNBIO • Private sector: ReGreen, Mombak, significant landowners in the region • Large buyers from the region's supply chains |

Field Dialogue Agenda

August 08th

6 p.m. Welcome. Objectives and agenda of the field dialogue, a recap of priority challenges and current situation in the landscape;
7 p.m. Dinner.

August 08th

8 a.m. Exit to field dialogues
8:30 a.m. Small properties that are receiving restoration actions with support from GIZ and, in 2021, from ANAMMA Euroclima
10 a.m. Visit the headquarters of PARNA Pau Brasil
11 a.m. Rural Settlement Santa Maria (Aprunve - Association of Rural Producers Unidos Venceremos), neighbor of Parna Pau Brasil
12 p.m. Meal at Aprunve
1 p.m. Departure from Aprunve to Symbiosis
2 p.m. Symbiosis, the forestry company that develops the planting of native essences
4:30 p.m. Return to Porto Seguro

August 10th

8 a.m. Departure to Veracel Station
9 a.m. Forming a common view of the landscape
10 a.m. Solutions and strategies
11 a.m. Priorities and recommendations
12 p.m. Highlights & next steps
1 p.m. Lunch at the Veracel Station
2 p.m. Return to Porto Seguro

Fernanda Rodrigues (Brazilian Forests Dialogue), Victória Rizo (Bahia Forest Forum), and Thibault Vermeulen (The Forests Dialogue) facilitated the event.

Support



WRI BRASIL

Participants List

| Name | Institution |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ademar Ramos | Rural Owner - Arerá Farm |
| Alessandra Buonavoglia Costa Pinto | UFSB - Federal University of Southern Bahia - NUPPEA |
| Alison Silva Santos | Porto Seguro Defense Movement - MDPS |
| Aluane Silva Ferreira | Porto Seguro's Environment Secretariat |
| Beatriz Ribeiro | ICMBio (Parna Pau Brasil) |
| Carielli Souza | Natureza Bela Environmental Group |
| Carolina Alves Barreto | Pataxó Institute of Ethnotourism of the Pataxó Reserve of the Jaqueira |
| Danilo Sette | Porto Seguro Defense Movement - MDPS |
| Elenilda Barbosa Braga | Municipal Secretary of Agriculture of Porto Seguro |
| Érica Munaro | Institute of Ecological Research /IPE |
| Eriosvaldo Renovato Dias | Municipal Secretary of Agriculture of Porto Seguro |
| Fernanda Rodrigues | Forest Dialogue |
| Francisco Tercilio | ASPEX |
| Ivana Lamas | GIZ - TerraMar Project |
| José Francisco de Azevedo Júnior | Natureza Bela Environmental Group |
| Ludimila Grechi Campostrini | Veracel |
| Ludmila Pugliese | CI-Brazil |
| Marcia Marcial | Bahia Forest Forum |
| Márcio Braga | FASB / NGP-TA |
| Maria Otávia Crepaldi | ESCAS / IPÊ |
| Maria Regina Oliveira Damasceno | Veracel |
| Marina Faria do Amaral (Chefe) | Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio)/PARNA Pau Brasil |
| Mário Sérgio Santana Cruz | ESALQ / USP |
| Matheus Mathuza | Porto Seguro's Environment Secretariat |
| Ronilson Rodrigues da Silva | Rural Producers Association Unidos Venceremos (APRUNVE) |
| Sabrina Weber | Institute of Ecological Research - IPÊ |
| Tenente Marçal | Independent Environmental Protection Police Company - CIPPA |
| Thibault Vermeulen | The Forests Dialogue (TFD) |
| Victoria Rizo | Bahia Forest Forum |
| Virgínia Londe de Camargos | Veracel |

