

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

**The Atlantic Rainforest
Land Use Dialogue (LUD)**
**Sustainable Landscape Planning in the
Upper Itajai Valley (PlanRan)**

25-28 APRIL 2016 – ATALANTA, SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL

By Ivone Namikawa, Miriam Prochnow, Wigold Schaffer, Chris Buss and
Amity Doolittle
Introduction

The Forests Dialogue (TFD), in partnership with the Brazilian Forest Dialogue, the Association for the Preservation of the Environment and Life (APREMAVI), the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), convened a Land Use Dialogue the Upper Itajai Valley, in the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina.

The objectives of this dialogue were to:

- ➔ Initiate the Brazilian Forest Dialogue process on sustainable management and land use planning in the Upper Itajai Valley,
- ➔ Convene representatives from different sectors to mobilize resources and exchange ideas and experiences regarding land use at the landscape level,
- ➔ Promote dialogue and relationships with government and non-government entities seeking the implementation of the Brazilian Forest Code,
- ➔ Promote the development of landscape mosaics that integrate public and private Conservation Units,
- ➔ Facilitate the engagement between NGOs, production organizations and private forestry companies seeking restoration of the landscape.



Land Use Dialogue (LUD) Yale University, New Haven, CT, U.S.

O: +1 203 432 5966 • T: @forestsdialogue • info@theforestsdialogue.org • W: www.theforestsdialogue.org

Association for the Preservation of the Environment and Life (APREMAVI), Atalanta SC, Brazil

O: +55 0xx47 3535 0119 • T: @apremavi • info@apremavi.org.br • W: www.apremavi.org.br

Forty-nine participants representing local smallholders, Brazilian and international NGOs and organizations, forestry companies, Brazilian government, and research institutions joined the dialogue (see Annex 1).

The Dialogue was co-chaired by Ivone Namikawa (Klabin), Miriam Prochnow (Brazilian Forest Dialogue), Wigold Schaffer (APREMAVI), Chris Buss (IUCN), and Amity Doolittle (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies). This Co-Chairs' summary outlines the activities of the dialogue and reports key findings.

The Upper Itajai Valley was recognized as a suitable landscape for a Land Use Dialogue as local stakeholders had identified multistakeholder engagement as a critical component towards delivering sustainable land use actions that build on the success of AMAVI's Rural Registry System and APREMAVI long history of forest restoration in the region. Stakeholders in the Atalanta municipality have been catalyzing change by bringing various stakeholders together to conserve existing forest fragments and restore degraded natural areas.

Agenda

The Dialogue was conducted over 4 days with field and plenary sessions, supported by break out group work. The field trips included visits to, and discussions with, four different local landowners' properties, a municipal natural rainforest park, a manufacturer of pine wood products and APREMAVI's seedling facilities, restoration areas, natural forests, and forested areas managed for production. See Annex 2 for full description of the field sites.



Dialogue participants at Apremavi

Some critical aspects of this landscape related to improved land use include:

- ➔ The Association of the Upper Itajai Valley Municipalities (AMAVI) has implemented their own Rural Environmental Registry system (to be integrated with the national SICAR system by the Ministry of the Environment). This system seeks to aid farmers' compliance with the forest code (see below) by delineating the current land use categories in the municipality. AMAVI's initiative focuses on mapping forest patches on local landowners' farms and prioritizes identifying and protecting springs and building corridors and connections between Legal Reserves and Permanent Protected Areas across different properties.
- ➔ The municipality of Atalanta has about 810 small rural properties. Approximately 44 percent of all rural properties have less than 10 hectares, 55 percent have between 10 and 50 hectares, and only 1 percent have between 50 and 100 hectares. Of all 810 rural properties in the city, 99 percent are already registered their properties. About 70 percent of smallholders in the region still conserve areas with native vegetation in Legal Reserves.
- ➔ A small portion of the Atlantic Rainforest is protected by private Conservation Units, areas protected above and beyond what is mandated by the Forest Code. These areas present great potential for the creation of ecological corridors, with special emphasis on the patches of mixed rainforest, deciduous forest, and high fields located in the state's western region of Santa Catarina, bordering to the north to Brazilian state of Paraná.
- ➔ Natural forests cover 32 percent of the territory in Atalanta and only 80 hectares of the Legal Reserves and Permanent Protected Areas need to be recovered, which represents less than 1 percent of the municipality's total area; 13 percent of the territory is reforested with pine and eucalyptus, representing an important source of raw material and income for local properties.



Dialogue session at Apremavi

Field Trip Observations

Over the course of the four days the dialogue visited and discussed key issues at: four rural properties owned by local farmers; APREMAVI's seedling facilities, restoration areas, natural forests, and forested areas managed for production; the Municipality's natural rainforest park; and, the Scheller Wood company.

Key observations were identified in the plenary sessions and could be grouped as follows: existing tools and entities, farmers' perspectives, and potential leverage points.

Existing Tools and Entities

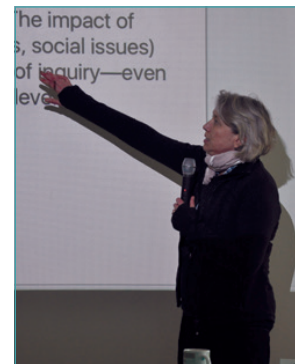
- ➔ Local NGO support is critical to advance sustainability objectives across the landscape: APREMAVI has been very influential and effective in supporting farmers' efforts at restoration.
- ➔ Local data and information are critical for discussion. Highly legible maps made by AMAVI's system provide fine grained and useful information regarding location of springs, areas that need restorations and potential corridors to connect farmers' properties.
- ➔ Important laws are in place to support forest restoration such as the Atlantic Rainforest Law and The Brazilian Forest Code.
- ➔ Federal programs like "PRONAF - National program to support family agriculture" can be valuable in supporting farmers interested in alternatives to annual crops such as tree planting.

Farmers' Perspectives

- ➔ Discussions with the local smallholders highlighted the value of their input and helps understand further their motivations and objectives for balancing trade-offs across a landscape. The farmers demonstrated or expressed:
 - A high level of awareness on the importance of protection trees around springs to ensure highest water quality,
 - A desire to move away from tobacco production for several reasons, most notably the high demand for trees for fuelwood, the over-dependence on pesticides,
 - A strong cultural desire to see their farms passed on to their children, and therefore the need to sustainably manage the land; "we have not borrowed the earth from our parents, but are preserving it for our children",



Co-chair Miriam Prochnow showing the landscape in Atalanta



Co-chair Amity Doolittle presenting results from breakout session



Co-chair Ivone Namikawa speaking at dialogue session



Edegold Schaffer showing Apremavi's property

- The need for different forms of financial safety net if they are to take risks with their livelihoods as they live on the edge financially,
- An awareness of climate change as all owners mentioned climatic events which damaged their crops,
- An understanding of good practices and the need for restoration activities to: comply with local and national laws, increase biodiversity (e.g. birds, insects, wildlife), and, protect water sources,
- The importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in their livelihood strategies. development and the potential to implement entrepreneurial experiences.
- An interest in planting native fruit trees that can produce fruit for own consumption or local markets.

Potential Leverage Points

- ➔ There is a degree of collaboration between the properties, exchange of ideas and initiatives, but this could be greatly expanded in scope,
- ➔ The farmers we met are the change makers, community leaders and spokes people for forest protection. Mobilizing other farmers will take more outreach,
- ➔ Key influencers in terms of land use decision-making include the buyers of farmers' products, such as pork processing company Pamplona.
- ➔ Scaling out from and connecting the small patches of forest for maintaining the health of soils and water, protecting native biodiversity, and providing important natural forests with the potential to mitigate climate change,
- ➔ Building partnerships: the importance of a strong local NGO such as APREMAVI who can mobilize and support farmers in their efforts to conserve and reforest their properties. For example, APREMAVI plays a critical role in building partnerships with different businesses in order to promote forest management and restoration at the landscape level. Examples of existing partnerships include: Matas Legais and Matas Sociais, with Klabin.

Plenary Discussions (and Break Out Groups)

Plenary discussions (and break out groups) focused on two key questions:

- 1 "Who needs to be engaged in the process of change?" and
- 2 What key factors influence practice across the landscape?

1 “Who needs to be engaged in the process of change?”

Representatives from the following sectors should be involved in planning processes to ensure that all aspects of land use across the landscape is considered:

- ➔ Public sector such as the various relevant governmental ministries in federal level, state environmental and rural development agencies and the extension services they provide
- ➔ Civil society including NGOs, farmers, community members and producer organizations
- ➔ Educational entities
- ➔ Corporate, private sector which strongly influences what is happening on the landscape even on smallholders’ farms.

It was also noted that two other issues warrant further consideration:

- ➔ Who is holding out? How can we better engage those who are holding out? This was raised as a result of comments by the organizers who mentioned that key actors in the private sector had been invited, but did not attend. Rather than simply writing off non-attendees it was acknowledged that their presence was key and therefore it is important to develop mechanisms to engage groups or individuals who are hold outs.
- ➔ Rural-urban linkages: Participants noted that we tend to overlook the urban sector in this discussion. And while ecosystem services are important to the quality of life in urban centers, rarely do people living in urban centers fully appreciate the value of ecosystem services.
- ➔ Indigenous Peoples: Their views on cultural-environmental linkages might provide lessons.

2 What key factors influence practice across the landscape?

This question generated a more wide-ranging discussion. Participants emphasized the importance of considering scale—both temporal and spatial. Important factors were divided into socio-cultural, economic, political and environmental. Each of the factors listed below provide key opportunities, considerations or leverage points to influence landscape planning in the region:



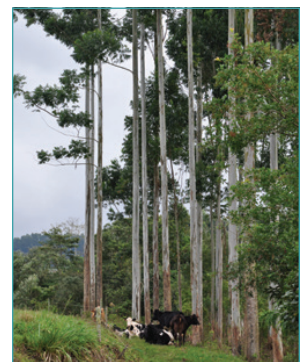
TFD's Gary Dunning at Apremavi's restoration area



Dialogue participants with local rural landowners



Landscape in Atalanta



Landscape in Atalanta

SOCIO-CULTURAL

- ➔ Media plays an important role in educating the public and the landscape. Currently when media discusses environmental issues, it inevitably focuses on Amazonia. Examples of what is happening in the Upper Itajai Valley are notably absent,
- ➔ Natural landscape is seen as unproductive and untidy with many wanting to see the landscape look like the clean and well maintained forests of Europe. This could present a cultural aversion to less managed and more diverse forested landscapes, much more common in tropical forests (Atlantic Rain Forest),
- ➔ Widespread concern over succession, not only forests succession but youth leaving the farms and working in the cities,
- ➔ Environmental education plays a critical role in educating youth who then educate their parents.

ECONOMIC

- ➔ Farmers are pressured by key stakeholders further up the supply chain—those who are buying their products,
- ➔ Big buyers can influence what is happening on properties by refusing to buy from producers who are not in compliance with Environmental Rural Registry,
- ➔ Will smallholders access to funding/loans be influenced by compliance with Environmental Rural Registry?

POLITICAL

- ➔ What is the potential impact of the Ruralists, large landholders who refuse to register their lands with the Environmental Rural Registry?
- ➔ Governmental organization and policies have a major influence on how smallholders will manage their landscape. Can a more integrative approach be fostered which would build linkages between different sectors, rather than allowing each sector to act in isolation? Having supportive people in public office was seen as imperative to building good partnerships across multiple sectors and varying stakeholders.
- ➔ Public sector support for collective action, perhaps through cooperatives and farmer's associations was needed given that farmers tend to be very individualistic.
- ➔ Will law enforcement take place?

ENVIRONMENT

- ➔ Stronger emphasis can be placed on the importance of payment for ecosystem services,

- ➔ Better understanding of rural-urban linkages should be fostered in urban areas,
- ➔ A more holistic understanding of the relationship between agricultural practices, human health and ecosystem health (eg. contagious diseases, overuse of pesticides) is needed,
- ➔ Could there be potential negative associations with increased forest cover (eg. attracting predators of livestock)?



Visiting Apremavi's areas for harvest and economic gain

Other Key Issues Raised Beyond the Two Questions

- ➔ There is a need to develop measures to monitor progress, although exactly what constitutes success and how it will be measured will require a more focused discussion,
- ➔ Dialogue processes are critical as in this case it connected, for the first time, individuals and entities who have been working separately on similar issues.
- ➔ Need to establish a permanent forum in the Upper Itajai Valley to facilitate exchange between the many groups already engaged in some level of landscape management.



Visiting Apremavi's facility for seedling production

Way Forward in the Upper Itajai Valley

While this meeting was a first step in promoting collaboration among stakeholders, identifying common interests, risks and opportunities, and building of partnerships between groups that have stakes in the Atlantic Rainforest, much work remains.

Participants identified several key issues that need attention in order to take the LUD processes in the Upper Itajai Valley to the next level:

- ➔ The need for a permanent forum in the Upper Itajai Valley to facilitate exchange between the many entities already engaged in some level of landscape management.
- ➔ Use of the word landscape was seen as problematic by some participants. To many this word means a focus on the aesthetics. It was proposed that there might be value in creating demonstration sites, a living lab that farmers could visit, that would demonstrate the concept and help influence change.
- ➔ Participants noted the absence of two key stakeholders: agribusiness and indigenous peoples. More work is needed to bring private companies into discussion with local communities.



Field visit to Scheller Madeiras



Waterfall at the Municipal Natural Park of the Atlantic Rainforest

- ➔ Farmer-to farmer collaboration and exchange of knowledge was seen to be critical to landscape level planning, yet time and money are two major constraints for achieving this.
- ➔ There is a need to design instruments to monitor progress that results from the dialogue.

Next Steps to be Taken by the Brazilian Forest Dialogue

- ➔ **July 2016** – First meeting of a monitoring group created from the dialogue with local organizations aiming to articulate further activities of the Brazil LUD.
- ➔ **July 2016** – LUD event at the Committee of Forestry (COFO) meeting in Rome.
- ➔ **September 2016** – LUD side event at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Hawaii.
- ➔ **November 2016** – Workshop to discuss 2030/50 scenarios for the Upper Itajai Valley.
- ➔ **December 2016** – Exchanging information and findings from this dialogue to groups in other landscapes at risk in Brazil.

Key Challenges to be Addressed in Future Dialogues

Regarding future dialogues, it was pointed out that physical positioning is everything. Where you hold the dialogue and what landscapes the participants see will greatly impact the experience. Additionally, future discussion needs to address key challenges that are common to the landscape approach but remain as fracture lines that need unpacking, such as:

- ➔ How can we integrate public and private needs into the landscape and foster public-private partnerships?
- ➔ How can we reconcile the sometimes-competing objectives of economic development and environmental sustainability?
- ➔ How do we move across institutional boundaries that traditionally hinder integration?
- ➔ How do we measure success (or failure) and define whether a landscape is being managed “sustainably”?

Final Reflection

While there is a growing body of research on the landscape approach, there is still a lack of real-world examples of how it can lead to tangible improvements on the ground. One of the factors hindering better impact on the ground, particularly in terms of addressing deforestation and land-use change, is the lack of constructive dialogue as the basis for exploring and reconciling stakeholder perspectives. Continuing with the LUD initiative to fill this void future dialogue in Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda, DRC, Chile, Laos, and India will help to develop real-world examples.

Appendix 1 – Participants List

Diomir Allberton
 Oscar Artaza
 Robson Avi
 James Bampton
 Osni Barbosa
 Valmir Batista
 Thiago Belote Silva
 Randes Bispo da Silva
 Chris Buss
 Sirlene Ceola
 Ana Paula Coelho
 Janaina Corrêa
 Ademir de Moraes
 Amity Doolittle
 Gary Dunning
 Taís Fontanive
 Juliane Garcia K. Justen
 Ariana Hammes
 Grasiela Hoffmann
 Xiaoting Hou Jones
 Antônio Carlos Koerich
 Skip Krasny
 Lauro Krunwald
 Vanessa Mafra
 Diogo Martins
 Michelle Mendlewicz
 Beto Mesquita
 Kathia Monteiro
 Miguel Moraes
 Edio Mouta
 Gabriel Murara
 Ivone Namikawa
 Luana Oliveira
 Juarez Pedroso
 Antonio Pesenti
 Tarcisio Polastri
 Miriam Prochnow
 Milton Pukall
 Maria Dalce Ricas
 João Paulo Roberti
 Maria Luiza S. Francisco
 Edegold Schaffer

Secretário de Agricultura de Atalanta
 Fórum Florestal Sul e Extremo Sul da Bahia
 Unidavi
 RECOFTC
 Proprietário Rural
 Amavi
 Ibio
 Fastwat traduções
 IUCN
 Apremavi
 Rio do Sul
 Epagri
 Proprietário Rural
 Yale University
 TFD
 Apremavi
 Epagri
 Apremavi
 Apremavi
 IIED
 Proprietário Rural
 Kimberly-Clark
 Epagri
 Uniasselvi
 Amavi
 TFD
 Conservação Internacional
 Instituto Augusto Carneiro
 UICN
 Amavi
 Amavi
 Klabin
 Coalizão Brasil Clima, Florestas e Agricultura
 Afubra
 Proprietário Rural
 Prefeitura
 Apremavi
 Apremavi
 Amda
 Afubra
 Apremavi
 Apremavi



Co-chair Wigold Schaffer in the field



Dialogue session at Apremavi

Annex 1 – Participants List (cont'd)

Edinho Schaffer	Apremavi
Wigold Schaffer	Apremavi
Rubens Scheller	Scheler Madeiras
Urbano Schmitt Jr	Apremavi
Valburga Schneider	Apremavi
Maurício Talebi Gomes	Associação Pró-Muriqui
Neimar Francisco Willmann	Cravil

Annex 2 – Description of Field Sites

Environmental Center Jardim das Florestas and Apremavi's facility for Seedling Production

Apremavi is a non-profit organization, established in 1987, that focuses on environmental preservation. Their work includes environmental education, biodiversity conservation, landscape and property planning, fighting climate change, creating conservation units, encouraging organic agriculture and the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the Atlantic Rainforest.

The Environmental Center Jardim das Florestas, created in 2013, hosts courses, seminars and different events organized by Apremavi and partner institutions. This center also supports Apremavi's internship program.

It has a native species seedling production facility that can produce one million seedlings per year. These seedlings are used in the restoration of degraded areas, especially in springs and riparian forests. The seedling production facility has already produced over eight million seedlings, planted by Apremavi and partners.

Restoration of the Atlantic Rainforest is one of Apremavi's key activities. Over thirty years, Apremavi has supported the restoration of thousands of hectares of degraded areas. During the visit we will see some of these restored areas with different methodologies and recovery stages, including plantations of native species for economic gain.

Natural Municipal Park of the Atlantic Rainforest

This is a conservation unit of the municipality of Atalanta, created in 2000. Its area covers fifty-four hectares, preserving an important fragment of the Atlantic Rainforest, which houses different species of fauna and flora threatened with extinction. Until the 1960s, there was a sawmill and a manioc flower industry in part of the park's area. Such constructions were renovated becoming a museum and a visitor center, which also houses the Municipal Environmental and Tourism Secretary. Apremavi manages the park in partnership with the municipal government.

Following the Lontra Trail we arrive at the Perau do Gropp waterfall, which constitutes one of the

main park attractions, with forty-one meters of free waterfall in the middle of beautiful surrounding vegetation. This trail also goes behind the Córrego Caçador Waterfall, which has approximately eighteen meters. The park is one of the main ecotourism features in the region, receiving around four thousand visits annually.

Scheller Madeiras

Established in 1983 by Miguel Scheller Filho, the Sheller Ind. e Com. de Madeiras Ltda, manufactures reels for wires and cables, using exclusively pine wood in its production process. They sell their products for the internal and external markets in different countries: United States, Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

For these activities, they cultivate and maintain five hundred and fifty hectares of reforested areas. Moreover, they own two hundred and seventy eight hectares of native forests.

Rural Properties

The municipality of Atalanta is formed by approximately seven hundred and ninety small rural properties. Ninety eight percent of the properties have less than fifty hectares and only two percent has between fifty and one hundred hectares. During the dialogue we will visit four rural properties next to Ribeirão Matilde and Chapada do Ribeirão (the numbers presented were rounded to make the description easier).

Property of Antonio Carlos e Zenita Koerich

This property has twenty-two hectares, twelve hectares used for agricultural purposes. Five hectares are covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: corn, soy, bean, and onion plantations, and pig, fish and sheep farming.

Property of Antonio e Osnilda Pezenti

This property covers twenty six hectares, sixteen hectares used for agricultural purposes, three hectares of reforested areas, and four hectares covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: wheat, soy and onion plantations. Additionally, they have corn, sweet potato, manioc, milk production and pig and chicken farming. They have restored Permanent Protection Areas.

Property of Osni e Lurdes Barbosa

This property covers twenty-eight hectares, seven of which are planted with soy and wheat, and the rest with corn, bean, sweet potatoes, and manioc for livelihoods. They planted thousands of native species seedlings for restoration of degraded areas and for the plantation of native fruits for the integrated production of chicken.

Property of Ademir e Nilva de Moraes

This property covers seventeen hectares, six of which are used for agricultural purposes, two hectares are reforested, four hectares with pasture, and four hectares covered by native vegetation. Their main activities are: livestock farming, calves and heifers, and corn plantation for the production of beans and silage. They have restored Permanent Protected Areas.