

## LAND USE DIALOGUE IN THE AMAZON

Center of Endemism | Belém

### Concept Note<sup>1</sup>

The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) is a multi-stakeholder platform to gather knowledge and lead processes to enable responsible business, better governance and inclusive development in landscapes.

#### **Key challenge:**

The biggest challenge for the *Centro de Endemismo Belém (CEB)*'s region is to find effective ways to use the natural capital to create jobs and income for the local communities, without harming the environment. The fact that approximately 140 municipalities located in Pará and Maranhão present low Human Development Indexes (HDI) and high Inequality Indexes (Gini), emphasizes the importance of developing economic activities that are able to harmonize the protection and recovery of the natural capital.

The different typed of property registrations and the diversity of notaries that manage them<sup>2</sup> make the task of building a reliable land network an enormous challenge in Brazil. There are countless overlaps within and between official registers, which makes integration and objective knowledge of the country's real land situation difficult. Therefore, it makes it more challenging to manage a territory that is unknown.

#### **About the Land Use Dialogue:**

The Land Use Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at gathering knowledge and designing processes to enable responsible business, better governance and inclusive development across landscapes. The Land Use Dialogue has worked around the world in countries such as Brazil, Ghana, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. In Brazil, it started in 2016 in the Alto Vale do Itajaí region, in Santa Catarina.

The initiative is divided into three stages:

- Scoping Dialogue
- Field dialogues
- Workshop wrap-up

Some of the main results achieved are:

- Trust among leaders;
- Next phase of engagement;
- Meetings with decision makers;
- Coalitions, such as the creation of platforms led by local actors;
- Impact on politics.

The first scoping dialogue was held in Belém on August 20 and 21, 2019, as part of the Land Use Dialogue initiative, aiming at:

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information from Conservation International (CI).

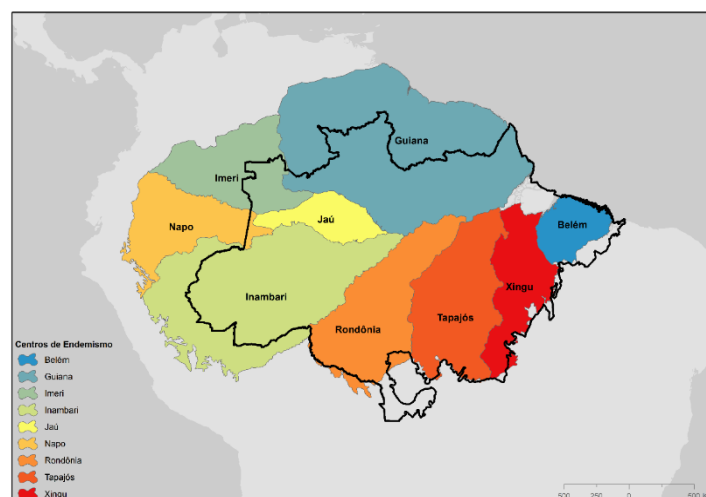
<sup>2</sup> REYDON, B. F.; FERNANDES, V. B.; SIQUEIRA, G. P. (2018). Brazil's land registry based on official georeferenced information available to civil society. IMAFLORA - Land Governance. Campinas - São Paulo.

- Defining key *fracture lines* and information gaps on CEB's land use;
- Analyzing whether relevant stakeholders were present;
- Determining whether stakeholders could engage in a dialogue to achieve a sharing vision for CEB's landscape.

### Context:

The forests, rivers, wetlands and savannas of the Amazon contain countless species, provide fresh water that supply cities, ensure food production, contain carbon stocks that mitigate global climate change, reduce the impacts of severe flooding and provide natural sources of food, fuel and raw materials for rural communities and traditional populations.

Several papers<sup>3</sup> have delineated phytogeographic domains based on the distribution of terrestrial vertebrates in eight large territories: Guyana, Imerí, Napo, Inambari, Rondônia, Tapajós, Xingu and Belém (figure 1). This work has recently been updated based on a detailed biogeographic analysis of the avifauna of Central Amazonia, west of the Rio Negro<sup>4</sup>. This is the region where the Jaú National Park is located and the center of Jaú endemism is inserted as a reference biogeographic unit in the biome<sup>5</sup>.



**Figure 1** - Centres of Endemism in the Amazon based on the distribution of terrestrial vertebrates. Source: (SILVA et al., unpublished).

According to ALMEIDA and VIEIRA<sup>6</sup> "the CEB is located in the physiographic area of eastern Pará and western Maranhão. It contains 243,000 km<sup>2</sup> which include 27 protected areas (Conservation Units), 14 indigenous lands and 147 municipalities (62 in the State of Pará and 85 in Maranhão)".

<sup>3</sup> SILVA, JMC, RYLANDS, AB, FONSECA, GAB. 2005. The fate of areas of endemism in the Amazon. *Megadiversity* 1(1): 2005.

<sup>4</sup> BORGES, S. H. (2007). Biogeographical analysis of the avifauna of the western region of the lower Rio Negro, Brazilian Amazon.

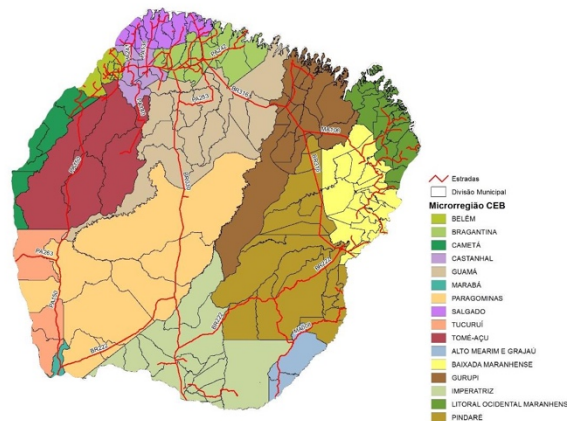
<sup>5</sup> BORGES, S. H. & SILVA, J. M. C. 2012. A New Area of Endemism for Amazonian Birds in the Rio Negro Basin. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 124(1):15-23.

<sup>6</sup> ALMEIDA, A.S.; VIEIRA, I.C.G. 2010. Centro de endemismo Belém: status da vegetação remanescente e desafios para a conservação da biodiversidade e restauração ecológica. *Revista de Estudos Universitários*, 36: 95-111.

The CEB figures as the most deforested and threatened site in the region, given its early occupation by pioneer fronts<sup>7</sup>. Activities such as logging, cattle ranching, grain production, as well as the strong incentive for monoculture, result in great biodiversity losses and deforestation. These lands are also targeted by real estate speculation, which is responsible for high rates of land conflicts, violence, and expropriation of groups that occupy areas along roads<sup>8</sup>.

Approximately 70%<sup>9</sup> CEB's forests have already been deforested or degraded, and there is an increasing pressure for conversion of forests into pastures for extensive farming and livestock<sup>10</sup>. Currently, land use is dominated by logging, livestock, agriculture and expansion of urban areas. Expanding economic activities include industrial sectors, agriculture and mineral extraction<sup>11</sup>

As observed in Figure 2, the CEB, which was previously focused on the Microregion of Tomé- Açú, was delimited by Conservation International. This delimitation meets the needs to expand the boundaries of the map to the southwest of Maranhão due to the inclusion of the Gurupi Mosaic.



**Figure 2** - CEB and Political-Administrative Division - Microregions and Municipalities (IBGE, 2017)<sup>12</sup>

According to the delimitation showed in Figure 2, it covers approximately 243,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is equivalent to 24 million hectares. It is located between the right bank of the Tocantins River and the left banks of the Pindaré and Mearim Rivers, in the state of Pará. It is one of the richest regions in biodiversity in the Amazon biome, with important fragments of the Dense Rainforest of the Lowlands.

<sup>7</sup> SILVA, JMC, RYLANDS, AB, FONSECA, GAB. 2005. O destino das áreas de endemismo da Amazônia. *Megadiversidade* 1(1): 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Cenários para a Amazônia: Área de Endemismo Belém. Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, 2013.

<sup>9</sup> Considering the 2013 data from the Global Forest Watch (HANSEN, 2013) with a spatial resolution of 1 Km<sup>2</sup>, CEB presented about 80% of the territory deforested and considering data from PRODES (INPE, 2014) with a resolution of 60m was about 65% in area deforested in 2014.

<sup>10</sup> ALMEIDA, A.S.; VIEIRA, I.C.G. 2010. Centro de endemismo Belém: status da vegetação remanescente e desafios para a conservação da biodiversidade e restauração ecológica. *Revista de Estudos Universitários*, 36: 95-111; FEARNSSIDE, P.M. 2005. Deforestation in Brazilian Amazonia. *Conservation Biology*, 19(3):680-688; SILVA, JMC, RYLANDS, AB, FONSECA, GAB. 2005. O destino das áreas de endemismo da Amazônia. *Megadiversidade* 1(1): 2005

<sup>11</sup> Cenários para a Amazônia: Área de Endemismo Belém. Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Shapefiles kindly provided by the Goeldi Museum.

### Expected results:

The LUD is expected to

- Serve as an initial foray to understand the current situation and reflect about land use in the CEB region
- Provide space for listening, learning and sharing a wide range of knowledge and experiences
- Not yet aim at finding solutions, but focus on key issues and opportunities for progress
- Produce co-chairs summary to disseminate the key issues identified, the decisions as to whether there is a path based on dialogue so that there is significant progress towards achieving a common vision on land use in the context of CEB.

### Partners:

