



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest

A regional initiative of "*The Forests Dialogue*"

REPORT ON THE 1ST REGIONAL DIALOGUE TERESÓPOLIS - RJ /OCTOBER 19 TO 21, 2005

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BACKGROUND

In October 2003, thirty representatives of environmental organizations, the forest products industry, landowners and academia got together in Santa Cruz de Cabrália, in the eastern state of Bahia, Brazil, in order to discuss issues relating to the forestry sector and the conservation of biological diversity. This meeting was called by “The Forests Dialogue” (TFD), as part of a process for dialogue involving various international parties with interest in forest issues.

The success of the “Dialogue on Forests and Biological Diversity” in 2003 inspired three Brazilian organizations and three companies from the forestry sector – Instituto BioAtlântica (IBio), The Nature Conservancy do Brasil (TNC), Conservação Internacional do Brasil (CI), Rigesa/MeadWestvaco, Suzano Papel e Celulose and Veracel Celulose – to propose taking the Dialogue further, with the involvement of other regional players and a specific focus on developing a shared concept for the forestry sector and environmentalists regarding the conservation of the biological diversity of the Atlantic Forest. This proposal was well received by the TFD Steering Committee, which added the initiative to the TFD agenda and is giving it its backing.

Most of the forestry companies that operate in the Atlantic Forest region, and particularly those from the pulp & paper sector, develop projects for the recovery of the forest and the conservation and monitoring of the biological diversity contained within the forest remnants that they own. Nevertheless, the level of cooperation between the companies and conservationist bodies is still very limited. Both groups agree that, to ensure the survival of the Atlantic Forest, it will be necessary to broaden the scale of the effort, which means finding common agendas and establishing partnerships, so as to build the necessary scale.

In order to develop practical and economically viable activities for the conservation of the biological diversity in priority areas, as well as benefiting the business of the companies, “The Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest” was set up. This is an initiative for the integration of pulp & paper companies and conservationist bodies with operations and activities within the Atlantic Forest biome, which is considered to be one of the most important for the conservation of the Earth’s biological diversity.

The planned outcome of “The Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest”, the first stage of which is being developed during the three year period 2005-2007, is the building of this common vision, shared by the forestry companies and the environmental entities, that will bring concrete results and consequently broaden the scale of the conservation effort, yielding tangible benefits for biological diversity and for the companies that participate.

The first stage of “The Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest” envisages the holding of four gatherings, each in a different part of the Atlantic Forest. This document presents the results of the first of these gatherings.

1ST REGIONAL DIALOGUE

During the period October 19 to 21, 2005, representatives of thirteen environmental organizations and five companies from the pulp & paper sector got together in Teresópolis, situated in the mountains behind Rio de Janeiro, to participate in the 1st Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest.

During the three days of the event, these representatives of forestry companies and environmental organizations sat down together at the same table to discuss issues that are important to both groups, thereby getting under way a process of joint discussion of problems, expectations and possibilities for common action.

This first gathering of the Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest may be considered a landmark event, as it symbolizes a new phase in relations between these two groups, getting together to deal with matters of common interest in a pro-active manner, instead of trying to overcome stalemates or discuss specific problems dividing the two. As a result, we were able to conduct a brief analysis of this relationship and define priority topics to be addressed, at least during this initial phase, as well as the way in which they will be addressed.



On the first day, representatives of both groups gave presentations on matters of interest to the gathering, including the companies' experience in protecting forest remnants and restoring degraded areas, projects developed by the environmentalists, and the potential for cooperation between both groups for the conservation and restoration of the Atlantic Forest. The full presentations are available for accessing and downloading, at the following address: <http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/regionalfandb.html>

On the second and third days of the event, the participants were encouraged to identify the main impediments and obstacles (restraining factors) and the main opportunities and benefits (driving forces) affecting the development of a common line of thinking and the establishment of partnerships and cooperation between the pulp & paper companies and the environmental organizations working in the Atlantic Forest. To this end, each participant listed what they

considered to be the most important factors, and then defined the questions that should be given priority for action by The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest.

FACTORS RESTRICTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMPANIES AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The results relating to the main impediments and obstacles are shown below, along with the respective gravity of the issues, as defined by the participants.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The importance of biological diversity is poorly understood ▪ Potential threat of transformation into areas of secondary vegetation 	
Landscape management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept of landscape management is not practiced 	
Zoning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no economic-ecological zoning ▪ Buffer zones of protected areas are not respected ▪ Risk of uncontrolled expansion ▪ Most regions have no environmental zoning 	
Disagreements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resistance, on both sides, to shared monitoring ▪ Environmental sector fails to see the conservation opportunities provided by the forestry sector ▪ Forestry sector does not give credence to NGO capabilities ▪ Environmentalists prejudice against the forestry sector ▪ Historical antagonism between the two sectors ▪ Radical attitudes and unwillingness to work together 	
Research	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources are not being trained for scientific research into biological diversity ▪ Lack of investment in research on the Atlantic Forest 	
Communication and information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little disclosure of good practice in the relations between the forestry production and conservationist sectors ▪ Communication channels are blocked ▪ Lack of openness in the relations ▪ Lack of knowledge of ongoing action and practices ▪ Little dialogue between government, NGOs and companies 	
Public administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Companies and environmentalists have no common positive environmental agenda ▪ SISNAMA (National Environmental System) is woefully under-equipped 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coopting of political and other leaders in favor of economic interests 	

As can be seen in the above table, the items suggested by the participants were grouped according to subject area. Following the process adopted for the participants to define the importance of each of the restraining factors, we came to the conclusion that the most serious impediments and obstacles to the development of a common line of thinking and cooperation between companies and environmentalists relate to the following themes¹:

- Conservation of biological diversity, with 21% of the votes
- Communication and information, with 13% of the votes
- Zoning, with 11% of the votes
- Disagreements between the sectors, with 11% of the votes
- Sponsorship programs, with 10% of the votes



Next, we highlighted the specific problems identified by the participants within each of these themes that were considered to be the most important.

1. Problems relating to the conservation of biological diversity

- a. Limited knowledge of the economic potential of native species.
- b. Environmental services valuation is grossly underestimated.
- c. Preconceived idea that conservation is incompatible with production.
- d. Lack of understanding, on the part of forestry companies, of issues involved in the conservation of biological diversity and general ignorance of the importance of biological diversity.
- e. Newly planted areas are putting pressure on areas of secondary vegetation.
- f. Native countryside is not recognized as a natural environment, particularly in the south of Brazil.
- g. Insufficient investment by companies in the environmental area.
- h. Lack of incentives for forest restoration.

2. Problems relating to communication and information

- a. Inadequate communication with other sectors.
- b. Communication channels between the companies and environmentalists are blocked.

¹ Only those items that obtained at least 10% of the votes were taken into consideration.

- c. Lack of openness in the relations.
- d. Little regular exchange of information and the quality of the information is poor.
- e. Little dialogue between government, environmentalists and companies.
- f. Lack of awareness, on both sides, of ongoing action, operations and practices.
- g. Little disclosure of good practice in the relations between the forestry business and conservationist sectors.
- h. Information about conserving biological diversity is unavailable or hard to obtain.
- i. General misconceptions and mutual lack of understanding.

3. Problems relating to economic-ecological zoning

- a. Risk of uncontrolled expansion of tree farming programs.
- b. Buffer zones of protected areas are not being respected.
- c. No consensus over the rules, conditions and best practice for land occupation and use.
- d. Most regions where forestry operations occur have no economic-ecological zoning.
- e. Rapid expansion of the forestry sector, generating pressure and uncertainty.

4. Problems relating to the disagreements between companies and environmentalists

- a. Environmental prejudice against the forestry sector, and vice-versa.
- b. Historical antagonism between the two sectors.
- c. Forestry sector doesn't give credence to the capabilities of the environmental organizations.
- d. Radical attitudes and unwillingness to work together.
- e. Resistance, on both sides, to shared monitoring.
- f. Environmental sector fails to see the conservation opportunities offered by cooperation with the forestry sector.
- g. Conflicting socio-environmental views.

5. Problems relating to tree farming programs

- a. Lack of interest in or difficulty of certifying small and medium-sized businesses.
- b. High cost of conservation for small-scale farmers.
- c. Companies promote little environmental involvement with tree farmers.
- d. Difficulty of engaging the network of tree farmers in conservation activities.

Analyzing these five priority themes, one immediately notices that two of them – problems of communication and disagreements between the sectors – are directly related to the Forest Dialogue's very reason for being, since its prime objectives are to create efficient and effective

means of communication between the participants and to resolve, little by little, the historical disagreements between the two.

Another of the priority themes – not by coincidence, the one relating to aspects of the conservation of biological diversity – forms part of the very essence of this initiative, which is, after all, a dialogue for the Atlantic Forest.

Hence, we may conclude that, with regard to the obstacles and restrictions impeding the development of common agendas and cooperation between pulp & paper companies and environmental organizations, the two most sensitive themes relate to economic-ecological zoning – a fundamental planning tool for harmonizing socio-economic development and the conservation of biological diversity – and the companies' tree farming programs – which represent the sector's principal strategy for expansion, not only in the Atlantic Forest region but throughout the country.

FACTORS FAVORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMPANIES AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Having identified the greatest problems impeding the development of a common concept for the two sectors participating in The Forests Dialogue for Atlantic Forest, the participants defined the factors that represented opportunities and benefits for the relationship between companies from the pulp & paper sector and environmentalist organizations involved with this biome.

The results, showing the principal opportunities and benefits, are presented in the table below, with the degree of importance attached to each item by the participants.

Importance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Certification										
• Continuous improvements in forest management through certification (FSC, Cerflor)										
• Improvements brought about through FSC certification										
• Companies are seeking certification (eg: FSC)										
Partnerships										
• Considerable potential for establishing partnerships										
• Actions of the two sectors are complementary										
• Project partnerships involving NGOs, government bodies, universities and companies										
• NGO's know-how, allied to forestry sector's efforts and resources, can give a huge boost to conservation and restoration										
• Predisposition for working in partnership										
• It has got to the point of no return – one cannot just stand back and do nothing										
Human capital										
• Highly skilled human capital, in both sectors										
• Well trained, highly skilled technical staff provides critical mass at the companies										

Dialogue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to draw up a common agenda that plays to synergies Efficiency of The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest is replicable for other biomes Willingness to engage in dialogue is growing Forestry sector displaying willingness and concrete steps to engage in the Dialogue 	
Rural economy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to leverage wealth creation in rural areas 	
Successful experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in work related to the Atlantic Forest 	
NGOs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs' resources can make a valuable contribution to the companies' own conservation efforts Important bodies are involved in the process, such as the Ethos Institute, Avina Foundation, GEF, etc Wide ranging scope of the NGOs 	
Market	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential market for native products Market is sensitive to the issue of conservation 	
Pressure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements inducing sustainability: certification, licensing, market pressure, etc. 	
Tree farmers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for leveraging conservation through tree farmers 	
Influence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for companies to have a say in credit policy and legislative compliance Sectors have the power, together, to influence public policy The companies employ many people – a repository of advocates for disseminating the importance of conservation and biological diversity 	
Research and development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry expertise that can be extended to the planting of native species Forestry sector's capacity to perform long-term monitoring 	
Natural resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated management of reserves/landscape The companies control important forest remnants Potential to create private reserves Potential to diversify the forestry sector through incentives to plant multi-species commercial forests Substantial natural resources for augmenting the connectivity of the landscape Network of reserves of native species on company property Forestry sector influence over large areas of the Atlantic Forest: own and tree farming programs 	
Building awareness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assimilation of the concepts of social responsibility Greater environmental awareness within the companies 	

Natural recovery	
▪ Protected areas are beginning to show signs of recovery	
▪ Atlantic Forest's capacity for recovery	
Planning	
▪ Capacity for long-term planning	
▪ NGOs and companies have the agility and know-how to come up with joint solutions that they can then present to the government sector	
Environmental services	
▪ Potential for environmental services (water, carbon, etc.)	
Compliance with the legislation	
▪ Forestry sector compliance with legal issues	
▪ Slow but steady advances beyond the minimum legal requirements	

Once again, the suggested items were grouped according to subject area. Following the process adopted for the participants to define the importance of each of the driving forces, the greatest opportunities and benefits selected related to the following themes²:

- Natural resources, with 16% of the votes
- Partnerships, with 14% of the votes
- Research and development, with 12% of the votes
- Planning, with 10% of the votes

Below, we highlight the specific opportunities and benefits favoring the development of a common concept for both companies and environmentalists, as identified within each of these four themes that were considered to be the most important by the participants in the Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest.

1. Opportunities relating to the protection of natural resources

- a. Potential to diversify the forestry sector, through incentives to plant multi-species commercial forests.
- b. Experiments with diversified secondary growth in areas planted with eucalyptus.
- c. There are existing company forest restoration programs.
- d. The companies possess substantial natural resources that can be used to augment the connectivity of the landscape.
- e. Potential to create private natural reserves.
- f. Notarizing Legal Reserves and protect Areas of Permanent Preservation lie on company-owned land.
- g. Forestry sector influence over large areas of the Atlantic Forest, including remnants on the property of tree farmers, increases the potential for creating mosaics and corridors.

² Only those items that obtained at least 10% of the votes were taken into consideration.

- h. Integrated management of natural reserves and landscapes.
- i. There is a strong environmental agenda for protecting important ecosystems, such as the Mixed Ombrophile Forest (Forests with Araucaria).
- j. Overlapping forestry sector area of activities and large-scale programs for the conservation of biological diversity.

2. Opportunities relating to the establishment of partnerships

- a. There is a predisposition for working in partnership, due to the complementary activities of the two sectors.
- b. The know-how of the environmental organizations, allied to the forestry sector's efforts and resources, can give a huge boost to conservation and restoration.
- c. Both sectors are interested in working with rural communities.
- d. There are existing partnerships in projects involving environmentalists, government, universities and companies.
- e. It has got to the point of no return – one cannot just stand by and do nothing.
- f. Both sectors invest in conservation and restoration, so why not join forces.
- g. Companies pass on state-of-the-art technology to small-scale producers.
- h. There is a clear convergence of interests involving many issues.

3. Opportunities relating to research and development

- a. Forestry sector's capacity – know-how, technology and resources – to perform long term environmental monitoring.
- b. Company research expertise is capable of enhancing knowledge about the Atlantic Forest and can also be extended to the planting of native species.
- c. Forestry sector expertise in developing technology for native species and in forest restoration.
- d. Assimilation of technical-scientific data by both sectors.
- e. Environmental organizations have the know-how, techniques and experience to design, implement and monitor projects for the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of ecological reserves and corridors.

4. Opportunities relating to planning

- a. Both sectors have the capacity for long term planning.
- b. Environmentalists and companies have the agility and know-how to come up with joint solutions that they can then present to the government sector, above all in relation to regulation, standards and monitoring.

Based on the results of this phase of the proceedings, with the identification of the driving forces, it is clear that the environmental organizations and companies from the pulp & paper sector can indeed identify common agendas and synergies that, if adequately shaped and

organized, will yield tangible results in terms of the protection of the Atlantic Forest natural heritage and the restoration of part of the original forest cover that has been lost.

The fact that these companies own huge areas of land – including large remnants of the original native forest and areas targeted for restoration in order to form ecological corridors – is of itself an indication of the potential for future partnerships. It is no coincidence that these four themes (protection of natural resources; partnerships; research and development; and planning) were identified as the most important by the participants of the first gathering of The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest.

However, as the specific items under these themes indicate, the means need to be developed to enable the integration of the differing, but complementary, experience and know-how that has been identified, in order to be able to implement in the field cooperative action for the conservation of biological diversity and restoration of the Atlantic Forest. Up till now, the cooperation and exchange initiatives have been few, in relation to the great many similarities and synergies that exist within the two sectors.

Integrated planning, conducted on a large scale and over the long term, and involving both environmental organizations and companies – identified here as being a priority – is the key and will provide the groundwork for the ideas generated by this dialogue to mellow, take form and bear fruit in the field.

IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING AGENDAS: A SHARED VISION

Having identified and defined the relative importance of the restraining factors and driving forces influencing the development of a common concept for companies and environmentalists, the participants in this first regional gathering of The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest were divided into three groups, with each one being assigned the task of discussing and agreeing upon a strategy and means for developing effective integration and cooperation.

To facilitate the work of the groups, the themes identified in the two preceding stages as being of special strategic importance were organized into nine major topic areas, with each group being responsible for discussing and developing proposals for three of these topics, as shown below:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network of partnerships, involving government and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree farming programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public policy and incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic-ecological zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental services valuation

Organized into small working groups, the participants discussed the possibilities of joint action by the companies and environmental organizations, taking into consideration the local

communities and government bodies, as well as society as a whole. They each then presented to the other participants their proposals for integrated action to promote the conservation and restoration of the Atlantic Forest, as follows:

Group 1

Action proposed by the group under the topic “network of partnerships, involving government and society”

Local level

- Invest in social capital, treating the local community as an asset of the undertaking.
- Strengthen local organizations.
- Chart, train and develop local forums and organizations.
- Organize a system for communication and relations with the local communities (eg: IDB advisory council, external auditing, etc.).

Government level

- Train public authorities in environmental management.
- Prepare and release data on wood consumption in each of the Atlantic Forest states.
- Educate the consumer.

Partnerships

- Network organized according to subject(s) of interest.
- Partners committed to forming local networks.
- Partnerships for specific projects.

Action proposed by the group under the topic “information and communication”

- Exchange of experience, with visits on-site –forestry operations and NGO initiatives.
- Organize and document the initiatives of the NGOs, companies and local communities (lessons learned, action plans, etc.).
- Hold workshops for exchanging ideas and developing proposals relating to subjects of common interest.
- Gather together and define concepts and terminology.



Action proposed by the group under the topic “planning and agenda”

- Environmentalists and companies should get together to encourage the setting up of associations for the recovery of the Atlantic Forest.
- Establish means for the exchange of know-how and techniques for the multiple use of planted forest (exotic and native species).
- Suggested keys for the development of a positive agenda for environmentalists and companies from the pulp & paper sector:
 - Economic-ecological zoning
 - Management, conservation and restoration of watersheds
 - Environmental monitoring, especially of water, energy, ecological corridors and means of production

Group 2

Action proposed by the group under the theme “research and development”

- Encourage applied research into native species, for their economic use and for restoration in priority conservation areas and company zones of influence.
- Encourage the monitoring of the fauna (comparing key and/or endangered species, for example), through partnerships between the sectors, and promote forums and workshops for the exchanging of information and experience.
- Identify areas of interest for recreating the connections between fragments of native forest (ecological corridors).

Action proposed by the group under the topic “forest management”

- Promote the exchange of information to facilitate the adoption and assimilation of the concept of landscape management within the companies’ planning.
- Promote the exchange of experience between environmentalists and companies, through workshops, with the aim of building up a catalogue of successful initiatives in forest production and the multiple uses of forest resources.
- Seek deeper understanding of the technical and operational options, particularly in relation to minimizing the problems caused by the spread of pine species (*Pinus spp*) in areas of native cover, through partnerships and integrated activities involving environmentalists, companies and research institutes.



Action proposed by the group under the topic “economic-ecological zoning”

- Economic-ecological zoning should be recognized as a strategically important tool that is fundamental to the advancement of the partnerships and the dialogue itself.
- Environmentalists and companies should collaborate in drawing up and implementing plans for the management of the protected areas located within the companies’ areas of influence.
- While the economic-ecological zoning in any given region where the companies operate is awaiting completion (it is, after all, a government responsibility), formal agreements governing the use and occupation of the land should be drawn up and monitored.

Group 3

Action proposed by the group under the topic “tree farming programs”

- Adopt a pro-active approach.
- Promote training in planning the use of a property.
- Develop contractual clauses to induce conservation, such as linking the size of the notarizing of Legal Reserve to the size of the area allowed for cultivation.
- Engage in joint action, particularly with regard to public policy, as in the licensing, at the municipal level, of independent tree plantations and small or medium-scale tree farmers.
- Come up with strategies for the training of municipal licensing bodies.
- Provide incentives and guidance for the management of Legal Reserves.
- Determine the kind of benefits that could be enjoyed in return for protecting Legal Reserves.
- Encourage the planting of multi-species forests.
- Establish multiple-unit Legal Reserves, when the minimum modules determined by the law cannot be attained.
- The establishment of Legal Reserves must not become a bureaucratic process. The areas should be determined as a result of planning aimed at forming corridors and larger blocks by connecting with neighboring forest fragments.

Action proposed by the group under the topic “public policy and incentives”

- The companies and environmentalists should present a common policy agenda for the sector to the candidates in the 2006 presidential elections.



Actions proposed by the group under the topic “environmental services valuation”

- Implement studies and mechanisms that demonstrate the importance of the protected areas.
- Seek the full commitment of the public environmental bodies in situations requiring regulation, evaluation and control.
- Promote the joint preparation of projects, through partnerships (involving environmental organizations, universities and companies), taking all the social, cultural and economic factors into consideration.

DETERMINING THE PRIORITY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Following the presentation of the proposals developed by the three groups with regard to the nine topic areas that had been identified, the participants were then asked to define which of these, in their opinion, should be considered a priority to be taken further by the companies and environmental organizations involved in The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest. The results are shown in the table below.

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Network of Partnerships										
• Organize a system for communication and relations with the local communities (eg: IDB advisory council, external auditing)										
• Strengthen local organizations										
• Invest in social capital, treating the local community as an asset of the undertaking										
• Chart, train and develop local forums and organizations										
• Train public authorities in environmental management										
• Partners committed to forming local networks										
• Establish partnerships for specific projects										
Knowledge and experience										
• Exchange experience, with on-site visits										
• Organize and document the initiatives of the NGOs, companies and local communities (lessons learned, action plans)										
• Hold workshops on subjects of common interest										
Planning and Agenda										
• Set up associations for forest recovery, supported by NGOs and companies										
• Monitoring of water, energy, ecological corridors and forest production										
Zoning										
• Ecological-economic zoning, as a strategically important tool, should receive the unconditional support of the sectors represented in this Dialogue										
• Joint efforts should be made to draw up and implement management plans protected areas within the companies' areas of influence										
Research and Development										
• Encourage applied research into native species, for their economic use and the restoration of priority conservation areas and company zones of influence										

Forest Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the exchange of experience between NGOs and companies, through workshops, with the aim of building up a catalogue of successful initiatives in multi-use production Promote the exchange of information to facilitate the assimilation of the concept of landscape management within the companies Seek deeper understanding of the technical and operational options to minimize the spread of pine in areas of native cover, through partnerships (NGOs, companies and research institutes) 	
Tree farming programs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentives and guidance for the managing of Legal Reserves Contractual clause linking the Legal Reserve to the planted area (%) Adopt a pro-active approach: promote preparation/training for the planned use of the property Encourage multi-species commercial forests Joint action regarding public policy: licensing at the municipal level for independent, small and medium-scale tree farmers Legal Reserve projects should yield some kind of benefit Establish multi-unit Legal Reserves when the minimum modules cannot be achieved Legal Reserves must not be reduced to a bureaucratic process 	
Environmental services valuation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning: joint preparation of projects through partnerships (NGOs, universities, companies), taking the social, cultural and economic factors into consideration Give due importance to the environmental services in conservation areas Commitment from the environmental regulatory body: regulation and assessment 	

Having counted the votes, it could be seen that there was not an enormous difference in the degree of importance attached to many of the topic areas considered to be a priority by the participants. Using the same criterion applied to the restraining factors and driving forces (considering only those that obtained at least 10% of the votes), the following results were obtained:

- Tree farming programs, with 25% of the votes
- Environmental services valuation, with 18% of the votes
- Information and communication, with 14% of the votes
- Network of partnerships, economic-ecological zoning and forest management, each with 11% of the votes

Next, the participants were asked to reflect upon these six major topic areas that had been identified as having the greatest priority, so as to be able to conclude this first regional gathering by determining a clear direction and focus, not only for the action following up this Forests Dialogue, but also for the next gatherings.

The ensuing debate led the participants to conclude that the priority attributed to the topic areas “environmental services valuation” and “information and communication” most truly reflected the spirit of the Forest Dialogue, in seeking to promote a general appreciation of the value of the Atlantic Forest biome and the adoption of strategies to augment the opportunities for exchange between the sectors involved in this initiative. Hence, the consensus was that these two items in fact represented strategies that should permeate and serve as a foundation for the entire process of dialogue and cooperation that is getting under way with this first regional gathering.

The participants who were present in the final session of the event decided that The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest should focus its activities on just two, or at most three topic areas, and that these central themes should be developed within the context of the importance of the biome and the integration of the knowledge, experience and other assets pertaining to the pulp & paper industrial sector and the environmental third sector.

CENTRAL THEMES OF THE FOREST DIALOGUE FOR THE ATLANTIC FOREST

Based on the analysis, debates and conclusions arising from the three days of the event, it was decided that the integrated activities would get under way by giving priority to two central themes, for which specific working groups were set up, in addition to the attention devoted to the Forest Dialogue’s network of relationships, the responsibility for which fell to the initiative’s coordinating group, comprising representatives of three companies and three environmental organizations.



A working group was set up for each of the themes defined as having the greatest priority, with coordinators responsible for drawing up a proposed timetable, to be presented to the other participants and discussed at the 2nd meeting of the Dialogue. The working groups for the topic areas to be given priority by the Forests Dialogue, and their respective coordinators, are as follows:

Tree farming programs

Working Group

- Carlos Alberto Mesquita (Instituto BioAtlântica) – coordinator
- Deuseles Firme (Cenibra)
- Fernando Veiga (The Nature Conservancy)
- Rui Rocha (Instituto Floresta Viva)

Economic-Ecological Zoning

Working Group

- João Augusti (Suzano Papel e Celulose) – coordinator
- Oscar Artaza (Associação Flora Brasil)
- Miriam Prochnow (Apremavi)

The following members were selected for the coordinating group – which is also the working group responsible for setting up the partnership contact network:

- André Guimarães - Instituto BioAtlântica
- João Augusti – Suzano Papel e Celulose
- Luiz Paulo Pinto – Conservação Internacional
- Cristina Moreno – Veracel Celulose
- Miguel Calmon – The Nature Conservancy
- Marco Antônio Brito – Rigesa/MeadWestvaco

NEXT STEPS

At the end of the event, the participants defined a series of activities, as a follow up to this first gathering, that would carry The Forest Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest through to the second event, scheduled for May 2006.

Task	Deadline
Set up a computer network of contacts (via YahooGroup)	Oct. 20, 2005
Facilitator's report on the 1st meeting of the Dialogue	Oct. 30, 2005
Coordinating group's final report on the 1st meeting of the Dialogue	Dec. 24, 2005
Working Group Action Plan (draft version)	January 2006
Working Group Action Plan (final version)	March 2006
2nd meeting of the Dialogue	May 2006

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about The Forests Dialogue for the Atlantic Forest and the first regional gathering – including the presentations – as well as news from The Forests Dialogue (TDF), can be found at the website:

<http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/biodiversity.html>

THE PARTICIPANTS

Name	Company or Environmental organization
Amy Skoczlas Cole	IBio - Instituto BioAtlântica
Ana Carolina Baker Botelho	Fundação Biodiversitas (Biodiversitas Foundation)
André Guimarães	IBio - Instituto BioAtlântica
Andréa Leite	IBio - Instituto BioAtlântica
Beto Mesquita	IBio - Instituto BioAtlântica
Cristina Moreno	Veracel Celulose S.A.
Denise Marçal Rambaldi	Conselho da Reserva da Biosfera/ Associação Mico-Leão Dourado (Biosphere Reserve Council/Golden Lion Tamarin Association)
Deusdedet “Detinha” Alle Son	Ipema - Instituto de Pesquisas da Mata Atlântica (Atlantic Forest Research Institute)
Deuseles João Firme	Cenibra - Celulose Nipo-Brasileira
Fernando Veiga	TNC - The Nature Conservancy
Gary Dunning	TFD - The Forests Dialogue
Heloísa Helena Oliveira	TNC - The Nature Conservancy
João Carlos Augusti	Suzano Papel e Celulose S.A.
José Maria Donatti	Aracruz Celulose S.A.
Kathia Vasconcelos Monteiro	Amigos da Terra (Friends of Earth)
Luiz Antonio Cornacchioni	Suzano Papel e Celulose S.A.
Luiz Paulo Pinto	CI - Conservação Internacional – Brasil
Marco Antonio Brito	Rigesa / MeadWestvaco Brasil
Mario Cesar Mantovani	Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica (SOS Atlantic Forest Foundation)
Marisa Camargo	Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
Miguel Calmon	TNC - The Nature Conservancy

Miriam Prochnow	Apremavi
Oscar Artaza	Flora Brasil
Paulo Henrique Groke Jr.	Instituto Ecofuturo
Roberto Rezende	Facilitator
Rui Rocha	Instituto Floresta Viva (Living Forest Institute)
Sandro Coneglian	SPVS - Sociedade de Pesquisa em Vida Selvagem e Educação Ambiental (Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education)
Vandi Garlet	Veracel Celulose S.A.