

The assessment of impact of the environmental policy on biodiversity conservation programs in the Brazilian Amazonia: a local level approaching

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Purpose and scope of this document

The purpose of this draft is to provide information about an experimental fieldwork accomplished in Brazil from the dissertation entitled “**The assessment of impact of the environmental policy on biodiversity conservation programs in the Brazilian Amazonia: a local level approaching**”

Background and objectives

Nature through its ecosystems services provides invaluable benefits to the world and Brazilian society, with giant economic yield from its use (Constanza 2014). The diversity and abundance of natural resources existents in Brazil are the extreme importance to its economy, supporting Brazil in those big economies (Medeiros et al. 2011). Beyond of economic impact, the ecosystems services maintenance; those abundance and variety of natural resources are the supreme importance to the welfare of indigenous and traditional populations should be a concern in the formulation of local and regional public policy (TEEB 2010). Helping the conservation strategy of nature, Brazil has 18% of its continental territory cover by protected areas (CNUC 2018) guided by National System of Conservation Units (SNUC 2000). How this study aims to examine factors that might influence the quality of municipal-scale environmental governance and management in the Brazilian Amazon, we used the experimental fieldwork to carrying through our discussions around the assumptions, scientific framework and research design, which we will develop through the next semester.

Study area

Regarding all the importance of the Amazon ecosystem, I did this experimental fieldwork on June of 2018, in the Amazonas State, the largest State in Brazil, and the 9th (ninth) largest country subdivision in the world. I visited Manaus, which covers most institutions working with biodiversity conservation programs, and participatory process in Amazonas. In addition, I traveled to Unini Reserve, between Barcelos e Novo Airao, in the Amazonas State.

Briefing of results

How we already written in the previous proposal about many organizations involved in conservation programs, I focused in this fieldwork those that have been worked in a participatory context, it means involving local communities and residents to take part in their programs. I visited Manaus and Novo Airão in Amazonas State. Staff members from government and non-governmental agencies were contacted and interviewed. There I visited and carried out interviews with staff member from: 1. Environmental Agency of Amazonas State (SEMA), that is responsible by Monitoring Program of Biodiversity and Use of Natural Resources (ProBUC); 2.

Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity (ICMBio), it manages Unini Reserve; 3. Amazonica Victory Foundation (FVA) which together ICMBio are carrying out Monitoring System of Use of Natural Resources (SIMUR) since 2008 (Borges 2014); 4. Ecologic Research Institute (IPE) it has been participating in SIMUR activities in the Unini Reserve; and 5. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which is responsible for a proposal in the Lower Black River Mosaic. Also, Mamirauá Sustainable Development Institute (IDSM), which has done for many years participatory program called Fauna Monitoring System of Mamirauá (SMUF), and Pé-de-Pincha Program from Amazonas Federal University (UFAM) which is involved and working turtles management and research, both were contacted, not interviewed yet. Only Piagacu-Purus Institute (IPI), which has (had) done the Monitoring Program and Fauna Use in Sustainable Development Reserve Piagaçu-Purus (PROMUF) I am talking with old staff member, and I will continue do it after finalize the IRB process. Unfortunately, all institutions that I cited here are passing for financial hardship time. IPI is one the worse situation. Table 1 highlights seven institutions, their programs, institutional level of action, focused of the conservation program as such monitoring natural resources use (NRU) or biodiversity, and stakeholder participation

Table 1. It highlights seven institutions, their programs, institutional level of action, focused of the conservation program in monitoring natural resources use (NRU) or biodiversity, and stakeholder participation.

INSTITUTION	PROGRAM	LEVEL	NRU	BIODIVERSITY	INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS
ICMBIO	MONITORA	Federal		+++	researchers, federal environmental agency and government, Universities, financial sponsors
FVA	SIMUR	Federal	+++		Ribeirinho communities, local associations, federal environmental agency and government, NGO, financial sponsors
SEMA	ProBUC	State	+++	++	Ribeirinho communities, local associations, municipal governments, state environmental agency, Universities, research institute, Federal government, financial sponsors
IDSM	SMUF	State	++	++	Ribeirinho communities, Research Institution, financial sponsors
WCS	PMMBRN	Federal / State	++	++	Ribeirinho communities, NGO, financial sponsors
IPI	PROMUF	State	++	++	Ribeirinho communities, Research Institution, financial sponsors
UFAM	Pe-de-pincha	Federal / State	++	++	Ribeirinho communities, University, financial sponsors

Additionally, this fieldwork gave possibility to talk with local Unini Reserve Residents Association (AMORU), both president and vice president gave their contributions about the Reserve Unini management, and the participatory program, SIMUR. In all communities visited from the Unini Reserve, I talked with monitors (exception was when someone was travelling). Interview was

collected from a technician from Municipal Environmental Agency of Novo Airão. Guided the management plan of Unini Reserve, I should to present my proposal of this experimental fieldwork in front a public audience in each community. Following this rule, this proposal had permission to be conducted within the Unini Reserve. It means all communities gave their consent to.

Summary

Summing up, this grant is a spectacular helping to us students. Even I lived in Amazon for 12 years, have been gone to the field, excursion, workshops, this grant brought a learning process from the fieldwork that is essential to us students is this experimental phase:

- Considering logistical factors, climate, season, communication in country side areas, collaboration with staff members, residents, and stakeholders;
- Considering my future field, I can see more better now how my committee and I can measure more confident time to approach it;
- All people that I talked felt glad to participate in this interview, once I asked them opinions, concerns and considerations to set my future questions relate to my previous proposal submitted to SNRE/TCD. Then they want to be in board about their opinions participating in those programs and management activities;
- When we describe an approach like Ostrom principles, we can see different needs in the different level of participation and power, as in the same institution, as well in level of political position;
- Many contributions has appeared in terms of framework and insights to approach this dissertation. It is enjoyable, at the same time a huge responsibility facing academia, research and science. It means more careful to pick the best frame that consider opinions and data from the fieldwork;
- The ties within those institutions that I approached is clearer. In addition, the ties in the Reserve is more transparent now, once they pointed out some problems, gaps, and issues to be questioned.
- I think this opportunity to visit the fieldwork is fundamental, and will become this project more feasible
- All highlight the importance of participatory process involved in those programs. They pointed high participation (score 7), in the scale 0-10. All from communities, institutions recognize with positive the participatory process, monitoring and manage their natural resources, with technical and local collaboration. Then engage people, putting in charge/board in those programs is a target from everyone interviewed.
- Finally, however they pointed positive comments, considerations, their big concern from institutions (government or NGO) is financial circumstances, lack (shortage) to maintain staff members, and political barriers.