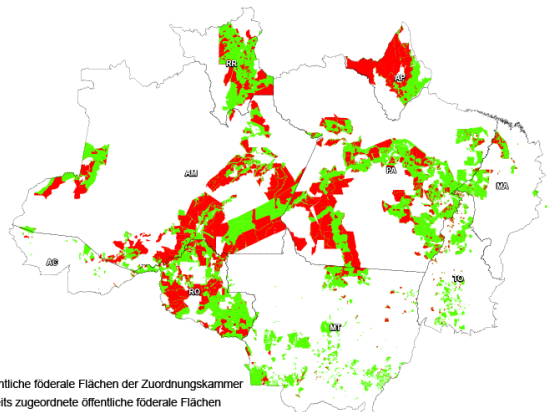


Land tenure regularization in the Amazon - Terra Legal

The Challenge

Rural smallholders as well as the indigenous population of the Amazon region are existentially threatened by heavy land conflicts. They need secure land titles in order to maintain their livelihoods, sustainably manage their land plots and protect themselves from illegal deforestation. Clarified ownership structures and juridical security are a prerequisite for a socially, economically and environmentally just development in Amazonia. The land tenure system of the Amazon region is ambiguous due to its size, settlement history and various overlapping interests. The areas along the federal highways were distributed to smallholders in the 1970s. Even though they were granted rights of use they did not obtain property rights for their land plots. The subsequent lack of clear ownership acts as an incentive for illegal land appropriation and often leads to violent land conflicts. Additionally, the lack of legal certainty creates an obstacle for the implementation of forest protection measures that require long-term planning, such as for example the establishment of nature protection areas or reserves for the indigenous population.

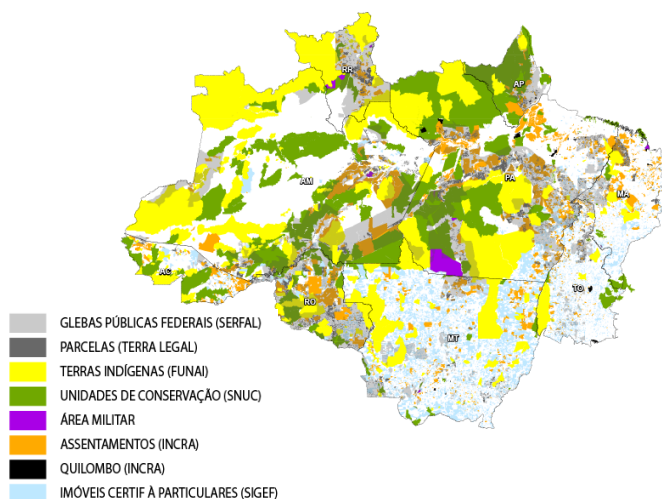
The Brazilian government has acknowledged this issue and prioritized it within its national strategies to combat deforestation. The national program "Terra Legal Amazônia", brought to life in



The areas marked in green show the 55 million hectares of federal lands that are subject to land regularization within the national program Terra Legal.

Project Name	Land tenure regularization in the Amazon – Terra Legal
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing partners	Secretaria Extraordinária de Regularização Fundiária na Amazônia Legal (SERFAL), Secretaria Especial de Agricultura Familiar e do Desenvolvimento Agrário (SEAD)/ Casa Civil
Country	Brazil
Budget	6 million Euros
Duration	12/2014 – 04/2020

2009 aims at the regularization of 55.000.000 ha of federally owned land within Amazonia, which compares to more than one and a half times the size of Germany, in order to bring its usage into legality and allocate secure land titles to family farmers. Familienbetriebe.



The map shows the land management structure of Amazonia and the lands regulated by Terra Legal. The white areas represent territory that has not been clearly regulated yet. It may include state land as well as not yet certified public lands..



The georeferenced data are sent to the online system Sigef to accelerate the process of granting titles.



Photos from Mutirão Integrado campaigns of land rights and environmental regulation in Rondônia (consultation of landowners and georeferencing instruments)

Objective

“Terra Legal Amazônia” is being supported within the framework of the Brazilian-German cooperation since 2014. The aim of the cooperation is to shape the proceedings of tenure regularization and land title allocation in a more efficient and transparent manner and to contribute to strengthening governance of land tenure. Through the clarification of land claims and improved legal security, the prerequisite for the protection and sustainable usage of the Amazonian Rainforest is created. The Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, (VGGT), agreed upon by the Committee on World Food Security of the United Nations build the orientation framework, which ensures a fair access to land and natural resources.

Methodology

The cooperation with SERFAL addresses three key outputs: (1) Optimization of the internal administrative processes of the program “Terra Legal Amazônia” through, amongst others, measures of IT development and organizational development; (2) In the three-frontiers-area of the states of Acre, Amazonas and Rondônia, the cooperation of the regional authorities with other implementation partners is strengthened; (3) The employees of SERFAL are supported to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT) involving federal, state, judicial, notarial and civil society representatives.

Furthermore, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), cooperates with different governmental and civil society actors that commit themselves to both preservation of the tropical forest and the rights of the population. Within this context GIZ promotes projects that enable rural smallholders to sustainably manage and regenerate their plots as well as market their Non-Timber-Forest-Products.

Impact

With the project’s support, the *Câmara Técnica de Destinação* (“Technical Chamber for Land Allocation”) was established; in which representatives of federal authorities decide over the allocation of federal public land, amongst others for establishing conservation areas, reserves for indigenous or traditional populations or urban usage. So far, the chamber has taken in over 60.000.000 hectare for consultation and, for example, assigned 3.509.270 hectare for nature protection areas managed by the Ministry of Environment. Additionally, the project has supported the development and deployment of the Land Management System SIGEF-*Titulação*, which is the basis for the issuance of titles and Certificates of Recognized Occupation (CRO). So far over 30.000 titles and over 8.000 CROs have been issued.

A further innovation related to tenure and environmental regularization consists in the provision of administrative steps of tenure as well as environmental regularization within the framework of decentralized regularization campaigns, the so-called Mutirões Integrados. While land claims are being processed, the registry of land plots into the environmental cadaster (*Cadastro Ambiental Rural, CAR*) is being executed, which is obligatory since 2012. The environmental cadaster captures the coverage of the natural vegetation and provides a basis for the monitoring of the terms for preservation or renaturation of forest areas.

Furthermore, a lively knowledge exchange on land governance has been established between SERFAL and Brazilian as well as German universities and research institutions.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Tropenwaldprogramm der GIZ in Brasilien Projekt Bodenrecht in Amazonien - Terra Legal SCN Quadra 1 – Bloco C Sala 1405 Ed. Brasília Trade Center 70.711-902 - Brasília/DF Brazil giz-brasilien@giz.de www.giz.de/brazil	Partner	Secretaria de Regularização Fundiária na Amazônia Legal (Serfal) Setor Policial Sul, Área especial 5, Quadra 3, Bloco J CEP: 70.610-200, Brasília/DF – Brazil		
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Published in	August 2018	Address BMZ	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500</td> <td>BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501</td> </tr> </table>	BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501
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