Protection and sustainable management in indigenous areas of the Amazon

Initial status

Deforestation in Brazil was and still remains a major political challenge: it is of great importance to align different interests. In the Amazon region, indigenous lands hinder deforestation and greatly help protect Brazil's rainforest and its unparalleled biodiversity. When put together, the more than 400 indigenous reserves in the country represent more than 12% of the Brazilian territory, mainly in the Amazon area. In addition, indigenous reserves are used for the protection of indigenous peoples, preserving their culture and knowledge in the long term.

The situation of indigenous peoples remains difficult. Despite the broad rights guaranteed by the constitution, land conflicts between indigenous peoples and landowners has repeatedly lead to violence. Major infrastructure projects and the overlap of indigenous lands with other forms of land use often lead to conflict. With that in mind, participatory, community-based development in the first National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI), from 2008 to 2012, represented an important step in the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the sustainable management of their lands.

PNGATI's governance model is based on two levels, the first at national level and the second at a regional one, in which public and indigenous institutions apply different policies enforced.

The module named "Protection and Sustainable Management in Indigenous Areas of the Amazon: Strengthening instruments and governance bodies of the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI)" provides support to PNGATI.

PNGATI represents the political structure of all interventions for the protection and management of indigenous lands. After the consolidation and signing of the PNGATI decree, the challenge lies in implementing this policy in an integrated manner.

Title | Protection and Sustainable Management in Indigenous Areas of the Amazon
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Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country | Brazil
Partner | National Indian Foundation (Funai)
Overall Term | 06/2018 to 11/2021
Investment | EUR 2 million

Goal

The objective of the module is to strengthen the planning, monitoring and evaluation skills under the scope of implementation of the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI) so they are effective at the regional level.

Procedure

Project activities focus at the regional and local level:

At the local level, FUNAI Regional Coordination Offices and local networks are the main actors for planning, monitoring and evaluation (Local Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Networks) with regard to the enforcement of PNGATI. In the interaction with indigenous representatives, as well as with local organizations, these groups are responsible for the planning, monitoring and evaluation tasks, among others, in addition to the development of projects agreed for towards the enforcement of PNGATI.

The Brazilian rainforest is home to dozens of indigenous peoples. Compared to the rest of the country, deforestation is very small on their lands.
In the pilot regions of Medio Purus and Madeira, FUNAI’s competencies, regional coordinations and local networks for planning, monitoring and evaluation are strengthened by the Brazilian cooperation partner IIEB (Brazilian International Institute for Education) through training sessions and advisory measures.

Findings

In cooperation with the IIEB partner, capacity-building projects shall be implemented in order to provide support to actors in the process of drafting year-long labor plans. The outcomes of PNGATI’s implementation work plans are currently being evaluated so they can be presented and discussed in a webinar.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, all capacity-building modules have been held as online events. Indigenous representatives are being involved throughout the process, from design to implementation and review of capacity-building modules.

By means of an online education platform and in cooperation with the National School of Public Administration, qualification and technical capacity-development is offered for the organizational development of FUNAI regional coordinations, local authorities, indigenous organizations and members of local networks. The teaching and knowledge platform focuses on participatory approaches and culturally adapted communication skills, as well as PNGATI content.

Different forms of protection areas in the Amazon (indigenous lands and conservation units) are being drafted.