

REDD PILOT PROJECT

São Félix do Xingu, Brazil

Demonstrating that a REDD program built together with governments, private sector, landowners, local communities, and NGOs can reduce deforestation and degradation, create wealth at the local and regional scale, and mitigate global climate change.

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The State Government of Pará and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are developing a large-scale forest carbon pilot project in close collaboration with several local partners. This initiative is part of common strategy of demonstrating the

effectiveness of forest conservation as a way to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. The project will be implemented in São Félix do Xingu (SFX) municipality, which covers 8.4 million hectares in the Amazonian 'arc of deforestation,' the most active land-use frontier in the world, accounting for nearly half of all tropical forest loss during 2000-2005.

A preliminary study demonstrated that the project has the potential to **prevent deforestation of approximately 0.8 million hectares in the next ten years, equivalent to a reduction in emissions of 440 million tons of CO₂e.**

An in-depth scoping process—conducted with government, private sector and non-profit partners—concluded that high-quality forest still remains in the pilot area, that there is federal, state and municipal government support for enforcing existing environmental laws and finding ways to value standing forests, and that there is strong private sector interest in sustainable beef.

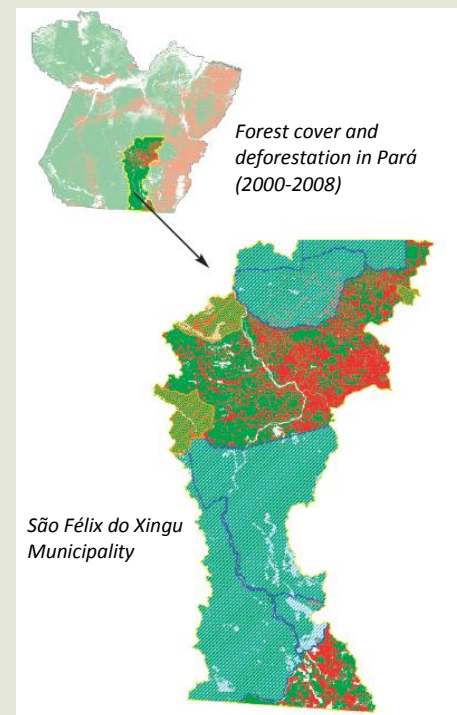
BACKGROUND

Strong support has been building for a large-scale, government-led forest carbon program in São Félix do Xingu. The municipality is number two on the Brazilian government's list of the 43 highest-deforesting municipalities in the country, and has been under significant pressure to change its ways.

There have been high-profile crackdowns on illegal land clearing and public exposés of slaughterhouses purchasing illegally-sourced cattle, and credit is being squeezed for producers who cannot prove their supply is legal. Meanwhile, elected officials and local citizens alike see the imperative to put São Félix do Xingu on a more sustainable path that will help mitigate the risks of climate change while contributing to economic development and becoming a model for sustainable production and conservation in the Amazon.

SÃO FÉLIX DO XINGU MUNICIPALITY

- Total area: 8.4 million hectares, roughly the size of Panama;
- 1.5 million hectares (19 percent) of original forest cover lost (88,000 hectares in 2007 alone);
- High threat: 2001-2007 deforestation averaged 1.7 percent per year;
- 6 million hectare of remaining forest;
- 53 percent indigenous lands and 6 percent protected areas.



Source: IBGE/INPE

- Protected areas
- Indigenous lands
- Remaining forest
- Deforestation

In July 2009, the municipality signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement an environmental registry system for private lands in São Félix do Xingu, as a first step to achieving compliance with Brazil's Forest Code. Signatories included the Environment Secretary of Para State (SEMA-PA), the leader of the local cattle ranchers' union, representatives from one of the largest meat processing companies and The Nature Conservancy.

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PROGRAM

Realizing the need to protect the rain forests of the Amazon, which not only harbor a great diversity of life but supply the rains that quench its cities and agricultural fields, Brazil's national government has pledged to reduce its deforestation rate by 80 percent by 2020. A critical element of the national plan to achieve this goal is supporting large-scale efforts by states and municipalities to reduce deforestation within their borders.

Projects that span geo-political scales such as municipalities can make a significant contribution to sustainable forest use across Brazil, as they provide a microcosm of the challenges at the national level. By bringing together leading experts from Brazil and international circles to discuss carbon accounting and payment for environmental services in the Amazon, for example, pilot projects can help develop innovative technical and policy solutions that can be shared nationally and globally. The engagement of a broad range of stakeholders and partners in the pilots and related policy work ensures that lessons learned will inform both Brazil's position and those of indigenous peoples in international policy forums.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE

The developing world will soon emit more greenhouse gases than industrialized nations. The fight against climate change cannot be won without the full participation of these developing countries. Just as industrialized nations have been given the power under the Kyoto Protocol to earn valuable carbon credits and financial incentives to curb their factory emissions, developing countries like Brazil must be allowed to get financial incentives for reducing carbon produced by their biggest source—forest destruction and degradation. By involving multiple stakeholders in large-scale, government-level, integrated REDD programs on the front lines of deforestation, these REDD demonstration programs in Pará can provide concrete examples for international climate change policymakers for how REDD can work in practice.

MORE INFORMATION

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PROPOSED PLAN FOR REDD IN SÃO FÉLIX DO XINGU

The proposed municipal-level REDD program would include the following key components:

Conservation and emissions reduction programs:

- Provide tools to help ranch owners and the beef industry comply with existing environmental laws;
- Improve ranching practices (e.g., increase cattle intensity and pasture management);
- Bolster environmental planning and enforcement capacity of local and state government agencies;
- Support alternative livelihoods to ranching for small farmers such as cocoa and milk production;
- Restore the commercial value of these once mahogany-rich forests;
- Develop mechanisms to pay for environmental services from forest reserves on private lands;
- Strengthen the management and protection of public protected areas and indigenous lands.

Carbon accounting: Develop scientific methods for carbon monitoring and accounting that consider reductions in deforestation and degradation, gains from reforestation, and maintenance of standing forests, and that are compatible with emerging thinking about national and international standards..

Benefit sharing: Raise significant donor and investor finance to create meaningful financial incentives targeted at the range of local stakeholders for achieving emissions reductions and sustainable practices.



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