



AmazonBai- Amapá, Brazil

Development Stage



AmazonBai is a cooperative of açai producers based in the northern Brazilian state of Amapá. Together with the support of reNature, AmazonBai wants to start a project that aims to pilot 30 hectares of regenerative agroforestry systems (RASs) in collaboration with Instituto Terroá, an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable territorial development in Brazil and EFAM (Escola Família Agroecológica do Macacoari), a local agricultural family school. The RASs will include both, cultivation of degraded areas and forest extractivism located within Permanent Preservation Areas (PPAs) of açai palm groves with over 2.900 hectares of potential regenerative agroforestry plots.



LOCATION:

Macapá, Brazil

SIZE OF PLANTED PLOT:

30 ha

SIZE OF POTENTIAL AREA:

2.900 ha

CLIENT:

AmazonBai

KEY CROP:

Açai

INDUSTRY:

Food and Beverage

GOAL:

Scaling regenerative agroforestry systems through education.

MAIN FOCUS:

Promoting sustainable açai value chains in the Amazon rainforest.

PARTNERS:

Instituto Terroá



Instituto **terroá**



Finance & Planing



200.000

Investment



Luis Fernando Iozzi
Beitum (Instituto
Terroá) & Amiraldo
Picanço (AmazonBai)

Initiator

Assignment & Impact

Number of expected beneficiaries

More than 240 community members

Development Challenge

Açaí is not just the main source of income for Amazonbai's cooperative members: it is a global commodity and a fruit of vital importance for the food security of local communities in the Amazon rainforest. The açaí harvest occurs over six months of the year, and the off-season has a significant impact on cooperative members' revenues and living conditions. In addition, the limited diversity of other food resources for both consumption and commercialization in the region (mostly watermelon, cassava, and banana) further aggravate local communities' dietary- and income dependence on the commodity. Furthermore, the traditional slash-and-burn method of land clearance used by riverine communities engaged in subsistence production leads to soil erosion and degradation as well as to biodiversity loss in forestry areas.

Intervention

The implementation of RASs in degraded areas has yielded encouraging results worldwide, both in terms of environmental recovery and income generation for farmers.

The present project aims to implement 31 RAS on degraded areas in two territories of the Amazon rainforest (Bailique Archipelago and Beira-Amazonas). One of which will be in partnership with EFAM, a local agricultural family school. Through this knowledge hub, regenerative agroforestry can be scaled to other local producers through peer-to-peer learning. reNature will play a key role in monitoring and evaluating (M&E) socio-economic and environmental milestones of the project to improve its visibility and scale.

Financial Details

reNature transition package:	€ 50k
Input (equipment, seedlings, fertilizer):	€ 30k
Logistics:	€ 40k
Administrative costs/Taxation:	€ 20k
M&E:	€ 80k

Objective

The main objective of the project is to scale the implementation of RAS among local açaí producers. A model RAS will be implemented in partnership with EFAM, which will function as the main vehicle for the diffusion of knowledge on regenerative agroforestry among local communities. In collaboration the project aims to restore degraded areas, generating income for Amazonbai's cooperative members and EFAM students as well as ensuring food security through regenerative practices that



12,000

Community
Members



73% More

Biodiversity



13% More

Soil Humidity



12 Ton More

CO2 sequestration
per ha/year

will enhance economic resilience, support biodiversity, and increase productivity. The project also involves empowering cooperative members and EFAM students for them to disseminate knowledge on regenerative agriculture and diffuse sustainable practices among their families and communities.



Inspirational Impact

AmazonBai has collaborated with Instituto Terroá and EFAM for over three years on several different projects and in conjunction with numerous partners, including a local state university, public authorities, and civil society organizations mainly to improve the açaí value chain. In addition, AmazonBai has been awarded five environmental certifications in recent years, including the FSC® system, and its members have amassed a great deal of experience with socio-environmental practices that add value to economic production. The project will therefore build upon past experiences and develop new knowledge through a highly participatory methodology, enabling beneficiaries to disseminate regenerative practices while enhancing resilience and productivity and ensuring food security.

Environmental Impact

The implementation of RAS will occur in areas of environmental degradation resulting from deforestation.

These systems will not only regenerate the areas but also significantly increase forest biodiversity, as various native tree species will be planted. Furthermore, maximizing biodiversity will contribute to soil recovery and thus help protect riparian forest zones and minimize erosion and landslides.

Social Impact

The implementation of RAS will have a tangible impact on beneficiaries and their family's lives. Relying on a transformative educational training program, the project will inspire 30 farmer families and 80 agricultural students (approx. 50% women) to learn the benefits of RASs in theory and practice. In addition, over 130 farmer families might potentially benefit from the project due to the multiplication effect among Amazonbai's cooperative members. The project will be attentive to gender equity and actively encourage the engagement of women in all of the activities developed in partnership with local actors. Furthermore, due to higher revenues, farmers will have a greater incentive to remain with their families in forest areas and replicate regenerative practices within their communities. The capacity-building and educational programs will generate medium- and long-term societal, environmental, and economic gains.

Economic Impact

Diversifying crops through RASs will leverage the commercialization of various local seasonal crops other than açaí, such as fresh fruits, fruit pulp, and oils. That will stimulate the local economy by generating income, enhancing resilience, and making it easier for producers to get access to public policies aimed at encouraging family farming, tackling food insecurity, and ensuring the provision of school meals, such as PGPM-Bio, PAA e PNAE, respectively. In addition, the project will pave the way for AmazonBai to process and market various other food



products and thereby overcome the challenges faced during the açaí off-season.

Impact Metrics

Outcome Metrics

- 1) Supporting the implementation of 31 RAS.
- 2) Restoring 30 hectares of degraded land.
- 3) Educating 30 farmer families and 80 agricultural students with agroforestry expertise.
- 4) Ensuring long-term sustainable resilience and food security.

Evaluation Methods

- 1) Data collection and preparation of technical reports.
- 2) Attendance list of capacity-building and education programs.
- 3) Audiovisual recordings of every step of the project.
- 4) Final evaluation using structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and other mixed-method approaches

