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Amazon Fund totals R\$ 67 million in combating and preventing forest fires

Support strengthens Fire Department's performance in Legal Amazon states

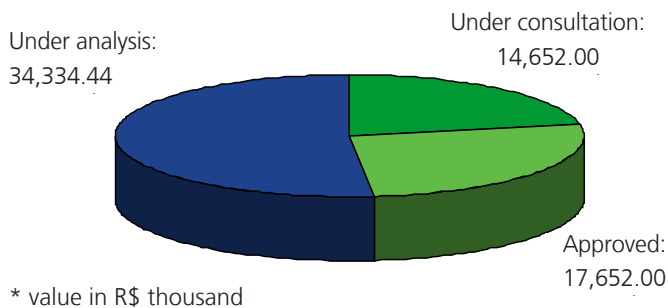
The project portfolio of the Amazon Fund includes seven projects aimed at combating and preventing forest fires, in a total amount of R\$ 67 million. These are projects aimed at strengthening military fire fighters in the states of Acre, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia and Tocantins, besides a project for the Fire Department in the Federal District, whose operations include part of the Amazon biome in south of the Northern Region.

The project in the state of Mato Grosso, contracted in January, at an amount of R\$ 12.6 million, consists of support for monitoring, prevention and combat efforts against deforestation caused by forest fires and unauthorized burn-offs in the state, involving training activities and the purchase of aircrafts, vehicles and support equipment for the Fire Department's Air and Land Operations Base, located in the city of Sinop.

The project presented by the state of Tocantins, approved in March by the BNDES' Board of Directors, in a total amount of R\$ 5 million, will emphasize the prevention of burn-offs in the Central-Northern region by strengthening the Environmental Protection Battalion, located in the municipality of Araguaína.

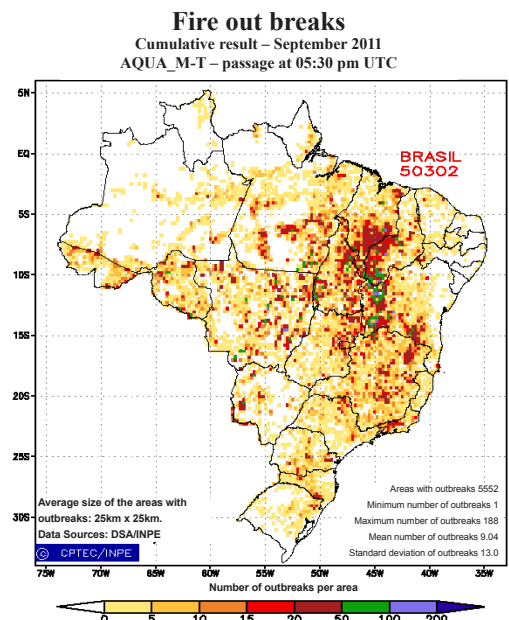
Three other firefighter corps projects, in the Legal Amazon states, are undergoing analysis at the BNDES, with support totaling R\$ 34.3 million, besides a project presented by the federal government, of R\$ 16 million, which refers to forest firefighting and prevention in the entire Amazon biome. There is also a project in the initial phase of consultation at the Bank, valued at R\$ 14.7 million.

Firefighter Corps Projects



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It is estimated that 70% of the total greenhouse gas effects (GEE) emitted by Brazil are caused by burn-offs and forest fires. In the Amazon, fire is used in farming and cattle-raising activities to prepare soil for planting, to renew pastures and to burn off timber leftover from forest exploitation. However, the use of primitive management techniques and the improper control of fires may turn small outbreaks into major fires, causing damage to ecosystems and losses for society. The danger of forest fires is even greater during the dry season due to the high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity. Many fires arise from small camping fires, spreading over extensive forest areas. The map on the right is an example of the monitoring results of fire outbreaks in Brazil, put together by the National Institute for Spatial Research (INPE).



BNDES promotes meetings in nine capital cities in the Legal Amazon to disseminate a Call-to-Bid for Sustainable Production Projects

In March and April, the BNDES, in partnership with the governments of the Amazon states and with support from the Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), is promoting a road show to disseminate the Call-to-Bid for Sustainable Production Projects as well as training sessions, launched within the scope of the Amazon Fund on February 27 and whose registration is open until July 26, 2012.

The road show will be held between March 20 and April 11 in the cities of Rio Branco (state of Acre), Macapá (state of Amapá), Manaus (state of Amazonas), Cuiabá (state of Mato Grosso), Belém (state of Pará), Porto Velho (state of Rondônia), Boa Vista (state of Roraima) and Palmas (state of Tocantins). See the map for the date of the event in each city.

The Call-to-Bid for Sustainable Production Projects is aimed at selecting proposals applying to obtain non-reimbursable financial support to develop economic activities for the sustainable use of the forest and biodiversity, in accordance with the Amazon Fund's purpose, rules and guidelines.

Meetings will be open to the general public, but focus mainly on applicant organizations, which offer support



Meetings offer answers to questions on public calls-to-bid

to sustainable production activities with traditional populations, indigenous people, family farmers and agrarian reform settlers in the Amazon Region. It is also aimed at organizations that can operate as integrating entities, that is, civil associations, co-operatives or private foundations established under civil law.

All information can be consulted on the Amazon Fund's website (www.fundoamazonia.gov.br), including the script for drafting projects and a section with frequently asked questions on the Call-to-Bid. Further doubts should be forwarded to: chamadapublicafundoamazonia@bndes.gov.br.

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