

Amazon Fund discloses social and environmental safeguards

Principles and criteria are focused on the rights of indigenous peoples, traditional communities and family farmers

In an ongoing effort to improve communication and transparency of its operations, the Amazon Fund, on its website (www.fundoamazonia.gov.br), has disclosed an overview of the social and environmental principles and criteria used during the analysis of projects.

These principles and criteria are organized and presented in accordance with the eight principles outlined in "REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards", a collectively-developed document consolidated in 2010 by the Institute of Forest and Agricultural Management and Certification (Imaflora), an initiative to contribute subsidies to the development of public policy related to REDD+ and which involved the private sector, environmental organizations, representatives of indigenous people, traditional communities, farmers and research institutes.

The eight principles in the document are: Legal compliance; Acknowledgement and guarantee of rights; Distribution of benefits; Economic sustainability, improving standards of living and reducing poverty; Environmental conservation and remediation; Participation; Monitoring and transparency; and Governance.

Safeguards will be updated in keeping with new decisions of the Guidance Committee of the Amazon Fund (COFA), which

establishes the "Guidelines and Criteria for the application of Resources" of the Amazon Fund.

For the BNDES, the minimum safeguard required is compliance, in all projects, of the ethical and legal aspects, whether they are human, labor, fiscal or economic rights.

The potential risks and impacts from projects are assessed by teams of analysts who, together with applicants, identify and define efforts to eliminate or mitigate any of them. The result of this analysis may be a change in some aspects of the initial project, the inclusion of conditions to be met throughout stages of approval and contracting, disbursement of resources for implementation, and also the establishment of specific contractual provisions, for example, the requirement to formalize partnership agreements and consent from the people involved.

Also taken into consideration are the social and territorial particularities of the region in question, and public policies where the project is located. In each case, the aim is to comply with COFA's guidelines and criteria, especially those aimed at the Amazon Fund's priority target audience - traditional communities, settlements and family farmers, and those applicable to institutions and types of projects supported by the Fund.

Social and environmental aspects in the BNDES

In its traditional review of projects, the BNDES uses its knowledge and operational methods, taking into account various aspects involved in implementing a project. Innovation, creating jobs, work and income, the impact on the local dynamics as well as regional and environmental development, among others, are all part of this broader view in accordance with the publicly-expressed guidelines in its Environmental Policy.

In addition to direct impacts, which results from the activities developed, assessing a project should cover

the other outcomes, seeking to measure and maximize the positive externalities, also called co-benefits, and to avoid or minimize potential risks and negative impacts.

All projects submitted to the BNDES receive an environmental risk classification and, where appropriate, environmental recommendations to be complied with in the review process. When there is a significant regional impact, the projects also fall under a specific policy for their areas of influence. To learn more about the BNDES' operations, visit www.bndes.gov.br.

Amazon Fund supports eco-social projects in Mato Grosso, Tocantins and Maranhão

Within the scope of the Amazon Fund, the BNDES' board of directors approved non-reimbursable financial support, in the amount of R\$ 12.8 million, for the project put forward by the Society, Population and Nature Institute (ISPN) entitled "Small Eco-social Projects in the Amazon." Funding will be given to hold four public calls-to-bid aimed at selecting and financing



Photo: Simone Schneider/BNDES

Gathering native seeds for reforestation

low-value environmental projects focusing on family farmers, traditional people and communities in the Amazon Biome, specifically in the states of Mato Grosso, Tocantins and Maranhão.

Due for completion in 60 months, the project aims to continue the Small Eco-social Projects Program (PPP-ECOS), which, through public calls-to-bid, supports low-value

environmental projects that aim to stimulate the production potential in the communities when interacting with local ecosystems. Expected positive impacts include reducing deforestation and environmental degradation, and improving employment and income generation.

Based on its previous experiences, the ISPN will invest in strengthening networks

of society-based institutions through activities, such as capacity-building and people exchange programs. Initiatives will also be developed to manage acquired knowledge, such as the systematization of results and publication of studies in order to better qualify the social participation of beneficiaries in their contribution to formulating and implementing public policies.

Work Group discusses alternative efforts aimed at indigenous people

Initiative includes FUNAI, MMA, COIAB, FBOMS and BNDES

In the 12th meeting of the Guidance Committee of the Amazon Fund (COFA), held on December 14, 2011, a Work Group (WG) was set up to address the issue of support for indigenous people within the scope of the Amazon Fund. The WG is designed to reflect and discuss operation alternatives and models that better contemplate this audience and its organizations.

The WG will not only examine the guidelines from the National Policy on Territorial and Environmental Management on indigenous land (PNGATI), but also identify infrastructure projects and innovative models - such as the Kayapó Fund, supported by the Amazon Fund.

The WG comprises representatives from FUNAI, MMA, COIAB, FBOMS and BNDES, and may convene other entities that may contribute to discussions.

Throughout the Amazon Fund's three years of operation, COFA has created several committees to further its discussion, such as the Commission for Detailing and Structuring Projects



Photo: Fábio Maciel/BNDES

Rivers are an important part of life for indigenous people in the region

- Support for Sustainable Production Projects, which originated the Public Selection of Sustainable Production Projects by 'Umbrella' Entities (those that organize and manage several sub-projects).

For now, three meetings of the Indigenous WG have been held (April 27, May 10 and July 1). The results of this group will be presented to COFA.