Protecting the Amazon in Brazil

Eleven years ago in the Belterra area of the Brazilian Amazon, 23 indigenous communities came together to form the Cooperativa Mista Flona Tapajos (COOMFLONA). Instead of cutting down the forest and using the land for farming or other short-term gains, they pledged to make a sustainable living by using the forest they depend on responsibly but efficiently, saving it for generations to come. More than 1,000 families are now involved. COOMFLONA originated from the Support Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Amazon (PROMANEJO).

Benefits of FSC certification

In 2013 COOMFLONA obtained their FSC certification. This has brought the communities several benefits. It has increased their awareness of the need to take care of both the people and the species – plants and animals – around them. They actively monitor the wildlife and plants in the forest and protect endangered species, so that their forestry activities do not have a negative impact on them. Workers also use safety equipment to reduce accidents.

There have also been social benefits. Being an FSC-certified cooperative has given the communities a common cause that everyone can work towards, which has strengthened the inhabitants’ sense of community.
Looking for partners

The lush forest in which they work contains a plethora of different tree species, ranging from Ipe and Cumaru to lesser-known species such as Macaranduba and Fava Amargosa. Their wood is sold on the local market, but the cooperative is looking for more interest in their wide array of FSC-certified wood. A few companies have already shown their interest, but the cooperative are looking for more partners. Currently, round wood and twigs are sold. Twigs are sold through a furniture industry that works in the quarry community.

FACTS

Certificate Holder
Cooperativa Mista Flona Tapajos

Certificate code
RA-FM/COC-006712

Size of certified area
9,142 hectares

Tree species
Angelim Pedra, Cedro Vermelho, Cedrorana, Cuiarana, Cumaru, Cupiuba, Fava Amargosa, Fava Timborana, Freijo, Cinza, Garapeira, Goiabao, Ipe Amarelo, Ipe Roxo, Itauba, Jarana, Jatoba, Jutai, Mirim, Macaranduba, Muiracatiara Quarauba, Sapucaia, Sucupira Amarela, Tatajuba, Tauari

Products:
- Roundwood
- Twigs

Volume produced in 2014:
37,342.846 m³

Approved to yield:
42,797.662 m³ annually

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cooperativa Mista Flona Tapajos
Av. Magalhães Barata, 2283,
CEP: 68030-700 Santarem-Pará

Contact person: Ângelo Chaves
Phone: (93) 3523 9475
E-mail: coomflona@hotmail.com
achaves.natural@gmail.com