

Public Consultation Process to Create Protected Areas – the State Forests in Pará, Brazilian Amazon

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The State Government of Pará, Imaflora and Imazon conducted a public consultation process to create three State Forests in 2006, which incorporates approximately 7.4 million hectares in the north of Para in the Brazilian Amazon. The main objective of this process was to involve local stakeholders and strengthen the relationship between government agencies and local stakeholders, especially with the communities that live within and around these forests.

The process consisted of three steps. First, we identified stakeholders. Second, we met with the stakeholders individually to provide information and get feedback about the proposal of the three State Forests. Finally, we facilitated public meetings with all the stakeholders to present the synthesis of the previous meetings and discuss the final proposal of three State Forests. The most important contribution to the proposal was the identification and exclusion of the Quilombolas' territories (african descendents' territories).

This process significantly improved the proposal in addressing technical aspects, guaranteed transparency of the process, and helped to solve conflicts, which would be harder to address after the creation of the three State Forests.

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