

Design and Creation of the First Specialization Course in Strategic Natural Forest Management in the Brazilian Amazon

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In the 1990's, several initiatives motivated the forest sector in the Brazilian Amazon to address tropical forest management and sustainability issues. The independent forest certification scheme FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) was one of the major drivers for combining sustainable forest management with the forest products market. During this same period, organizations were involved in research development and conducting trainings which culminated into the establishment of forest exploration models that decreased negative environmental impacts and benefitted local communities.

However, despite the significant advances in forest management, leaders are unprepared to address and fully benefit from global and multidisciplinary markets. In response to this issue, Imaflora brought together institutions and professionals to design a course to build leaders for forest management enterprises in the Amazon. After two workshops with involvement from 17 institutions, a specialized course was developed, comprised of three theoretical modules (Global and Amazon Context, Forest Management and Business) and a practical module (Reduce Impact Logging) to be presented within different Brazilian regions (Belém/PA, Manaus/AM and São Paulo /SP), totalizing 360 hours. The development of this course is an initiative of Imaflora, in association with Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ).

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