

Project Title: Amazon Portal Seeds Project

The project was executed by the Instituto Ouro Verde (IOV) in 6 municipalities as well as on the Terena Indigenous Land, all in the extreme north of the State of Mato Grosso. Working with 518 farmer families as direct beneficiaries, IOV promoted sustainable production through the recovery of degraded land and planting of 1,246 ha of Agroforestry Systems (SAFs), as well as the establishment of a cooperative to collect and market seeds. The project raised the socio-environmental awareness of beneficiaries, created a new source of family income and increased food security; it also worked to raise environmental awareness and skills of youth and to market produce to government school feeding programs. Work with Terena Indians was adversely affected by the lack of experience working with indigenous peoples; as a result, indigenous seed collectors only participated during the initial phase of the project.

Review Indicators	Alignment Review	Evaluation / Recommendations
Human Rights		
<i>Key objective: Support universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures in place to uphold human rights principles of accountability and rule of law, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination • No activities undertaken that may contribute to violations of a State’s human rights obligations and the core international human rights treaties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design included work in indigenous and non-indigenous communities • Project not directly involved with land rights although project activities related to legal compliance (CAR, PPAs) and creation of management councils prompted producers to debate and organize joint demands re land tenure rights and needs; little/no changes as project did not work with responsible land tenure agencies; project work with small farmers helped them to avoid sale of their land due to existing pressures from large and medium farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory result – Project falls short of covering key objectives of UNDP SES but the positive alignment dominates. • The project adopted a process that was inclusive of different communities and raised awareness of land tenure rights • Recommendation: The design of projects undertaken under the Amazon Fund that address issues related to CAR, PRA and PRAD should be informed by an assessment of i) pressures of land conversion, land grabbing and consolidation of land holdings in the project area, ii) potential risks and impacts of these activities for project beneficiaries and to achieving project objectives and iii) strategies to assist and/or directly support project beneficiaries to secure land tenure as a key factor in promoting long-term recovery of degraded areas and sustainable use of forest and water resources.
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment		
<i>Key objective: Promote gender equality and women’s empowerment</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity does not discriminate against women or girls or reinforce gender-based discrimination ▪ Activity designed in gender responsive manner (e.g. address both women’s and men’s needs, interests and concerns) ▪ Equitable access to opportunities, benefits, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project did not explicitly address gender issues and did not collect sex-disaggregated data for planning and monitoring purposes. ▪ Women accounted for 46% of participants who worked on seed collection and product marketing ▪ Women also participated on project management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory result – Project falls short of covering key objectives of UNDP SES but the positive alignment dominates. ▪ Despite not addressing gender specifically, the project has positive alignment in terms of women’s participation ▪ Recommendation: Recommendation: Projects

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<p>resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meaningful and equitable participation of women and men 	<p>councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In one municipality, project partner is the Peasant Women’s Movement 	<p>undertaken under the Amazon Fund should i) conduct a gender analysis to inform project design; and, for monitoring and evaluation, ii) establish a baseline with data disaggregated by sex and other relevant parameters and iii) define relevant gender and social inclusion indicators and targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In a project such as this, a gender analysis would be important to understand explicitly women’s and men’s roles, access to and control of resources and decision-making opportunities at household and community levels related to sustainable environmental management and economic use of forest resources, and to design project initiatives that are, in general, gender-responsive, that build on women’s strengths, interests and needs and that promote women’s economic empowerment and leadership opportunities.

Social and Environmental Assessment and Management

Key objective: Potential social and environmental risks and impacts are identified, assessed and managed, and monitored

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systematic process in place to identify, assess, mitigate and manage potential social and environmental risks and impacts ▪ Assessment and management conducted in manner proportionate to significance of risks ▪ Impact mitigation measures follow mitigation hierarchy ▪ Mitigation measures monitored in manner proportionate to risks and corrective actions are taken as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project outputs include positive environmental, economic and social impacts, e.g., reforestation of degraded areas with majority native species of economic value, promotion of sustainable use of forest resources and protected water resources, establishment of cooperatives for seed production. ▪ Project also assisted National Rural Education Policy to raise environmental awareness and skills of young people for rural environmental work. ▪ However, there is no evidence that any ESIA-type assessment has been conducted for project design or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory result – Project falls short of covering key objectives of UNDP SES but the positive alignment dominates. ▪ Recommendation: The design of projects undertaken under the Amazon Fund should be informed by i) a systematic due diligence and/or assessment of potential environmental and social risks and impacts, ii) establishment of a baseline with data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, jurisdiction, ecosystem and other relevant parameters, iii) identification of project components/activities that can enhance and/or mitigate
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	implementation.	impacts and iv) relevant M&E indicators and targets.

Stakeholder Engagement

Key objective: Promote effective stakeholder engagement throughout the project-cycle

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders and engagement process identified ▪ Stakeholders, in particular project-affected groups, involved in planning, implementation, monitoring ▪ Vulnerable or disadvantaged groups identified and consulted ▪ Stakeholders views taken into account and considered in project design and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project-based Local Management Councils established to promote farmer participation, share in decision-making for planning and implementation of activities; participatory management contributed to identification of environmental and economic valuation of resources ▪ Beneficiary families showed moderate to high levels of involvement in the project ▪ Project led to creation of farmer cooperative to collect, process, store and market forest seeds ▪ However, project activities to work with indigenous community not successful (see below) ▪ Also, the state government, e.g., state environmental and extension agencies, was not directly involved in project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good level of alignment, in line with key objectives of UNDP SES, without significant shortcomings.
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Key objective: Ensure stakeholders have access to relevant and timely information

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information on project opportunities and risks disclosed in timely, accessible, appropriate manner, language, form ▪ Environmental/social reviews and assessments disclosed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project technicians met regularly with Local Management Councils ▪ Local training and exchanges conducted with beneficiaries to increase knowledge of SAFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
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Key objective: Ensure stakeholders may communicate project concerns

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders have access to effective grievance redress mechanism or process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beyond Local Management Councils, no specific grievance redress mechanism identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory result, although some negative deviation from key objectives there was alignment with UNDP SES objectives. ▪ At present, there is no Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) identified as part of Brazil National REDD+ Strategy, in Amazon Fund and/or BNDES social and environmental policies and/or for this project, but stakeholders have access to a national grievance mechanism. ▪ Recommendation: Projects undertaken under the Amazon Fund are required to adopt a FGRM (existing or new) to facilitate stakeholders and project-affected people or communities to obtain information, register complaints or grievances and resolve conflicts. The FGRM should be socially and culturally appropriate and accessible and provide opportunities and clear procedures for a tiered process that includes informal dispute resolution, an administrative quasi-judicial review and negotiation as well as referral to the courts.

Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Key objectives: Conserve biodiversity. Maintain and enhance benefits of ecosystem services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adverse impacts (direct and indirect) to natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystem services identified, assessed, mitigated and managed ▪ No conversion of natural forests ▪ No measurable adverse impacts to critical habitats ▪ Adverse impacts to other habitat types avoided, minimized and managed ▪ No reduction in endangered species ▪ No introduction of known invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project developed solutions consistent with PPCDAM and State Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation and Forest Fires ▪ Project contributed to maintaining relatively low level of deforestation overall in supported municipalities ▪ Reforestation based on at least 50% native species, in areas of permanent preservation (APPs) and in areas of family farms ▪ However, project areas with greatest proportion of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory result – Project falls short of covering key objectives of UNDP SES but the positive alignment dominates. ▪ The biodiversity achievements are tempered by the small scale of the project (number of beneficiaries, scale of marketing activities) and the project scope that did not address ongoing pressures contributing to deforestation. ▪ Recommendation: The design of projects undertaken
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	<p>natural vegetation also areas where deforestation is expanding and where most resistance to environmental and land regularization; use of fire and aerial spraying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of forest seed collection threatened/decreasing due to expansion of livestock raising, introduction of intensive grain production and construction of hydropower plants 	<p>under the Amazon Fund should be informed by i) an assessment of opportunities and risks for long-term project social, economic and environmental sustainability based on, among others, lessons learned from project such as the Amazon Portal Seeds project; and, ii) identification of strategies for initiatives to be included in the project, to be addressed through linkages to other projects that are ongoing and/or would follow on the project in question.</p>
<p><i>Key objective: Promote sustainable management of living natural resources (e.g., forestry, agriculture, livestock, fisheries)</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure sustainable resource management that protects biodiversity and ecosystem services ▪ Appropriate industry-specific sustainable resource production/management practices applied, including credible certification systems where appropriate ▪ Sustainable practices supported for small-scale producers ▪ Equitable benefit sharing arrangements reached for utilization of genetic resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project contributed to biodiversity: reforestation (>1,200 ha) with Agroforestry Systems (SAFs) with environmental and economic potential; recovery of degraded forest areas and water sources; promotion of technologies and methods for sustainable production, use and marketing of forest resources ▪ Increased use of natural seeds for reforestation of degraded areas; development of a forest seed market combines sustainable forest use with new source of family income ▪ SAFs used that contribute to increased value of forest and quality of life (thermal comfort, water quality, food security, economic value) ▪ Project raised awareness and promoted the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR), with some participants initiating process of georeferencing their properties ▪ However, public policies did not follow project efforts: existing projects financing agricultural activities do not use credit lines for environmentally oriented programs such as SAFs and the protection of APPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid

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Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
<i>Key objective: Ensure projects sensitive to climate change risks</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project components reviewed for sensitivity and vulnerability to potential climate change ▪ Social and gender risks and differentiated impacts related to climate change addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project was aligned with National Policy on Climate Change as well as PPCDAm and Forest Code. ▪ However, the project did not assess the sensitivity and vulnerability of project activities to climate change or the differential risks and impacts for different social groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory result – Project falls short of covering key objectives of UNDP SES but the positive alignment dominates. ▪ While the project outcomes will contribute to reducing GHG emissions due to deforestation, specific issues of climate change were not explicitly addressed, e.g., in context of sustainable use of forest resources and/or by different social groups ▪ Recommendation: Projects undertaken under the Amazon Fund that identify and fund local initiatives should include guidelines for addressing climate change as it affects opportunities and constraints for different social groups related to sustainable use of forest and other natural resources
<i>Key objective: Reduce project-related GHG emissions</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasible alternatives considered and adopted for reducing project-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reforestation carried out by project effectively increased carbon stocks and contributed to mitigation of emissions due to deforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
<i>Key objective: Avoid adverse health and safety impacts</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risks to communities and workers from construction and other interventions prevented or minimized and managed ▪ Measures adopted to prevent or minimize health risks and spread of infectious disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project activities did not pose any risks to communities or workers due to construction or other interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This UNDP SES does not apply in the case of this project
<i>Key objective: Respect and promote workers' rights</i>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures in place to promote non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment of workers ▪ No use of forced labor or child labor, consistent with relevant ILO conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project activities did not pose any risks to workers' rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
<i>Key objective: Provide safe and healthy working conditions</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures adopted to ensure healthy and safe working conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project activities did not pose any risks to safe and healthy working conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
Cultural Heritage		
<i>Key objective: Protect, manage, conserve cultural heritage</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural heritage protected from adverse risks and impacts ▪ Qualified experts utilized for risk management and conservation ▪ Chance find procedures in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project activities did not pose any risks to cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This UNDP SES does not apply in the case of this project
<i>Key objective: Promote equitable benefit sharing from utilization of cultural heritage</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform affected communities of rights and proceed only if good faith negotiations provide for fair and equitable benefit sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project activities did not pose any risks to cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
Displacement and Resettlement		
<i>Key objectives: Avoid adverse impacts from land or resource acquisition or restrictions on land/resource use. Minimize adverse impacts where avoidance not possible.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures in place to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate physical or economic displacement from land or resource acquisition or restrictions on land or resource use ▪ Any displacement activities carried out in fully participatory manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No physical or economic displacement occurred as a result of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This UNDP SES does not apply in the case of this project
<i>Key objective: Recognize and respect the prohibition on forced evictions</i>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No forced evictions, allowing evictions only in exceptional circumstances meeting lawful criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No physical or economic displacement occurred as a result of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibid
<p><i>Key objective: Enhance or at least restore livelihoods of all displaced persons, and improve living standards of displaced poor and other vulnerable groups</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihoods of any displaced persons enhanced or at least restored through compensation at full replacement costs and other assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No physical or economic displacement occurred as a result of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibid
<p>Indigenous Peoples</p>		
<p><i>Key objective: Recognize and foster full respect for indigenous peoples' human rights</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous peoples' rights recognized and protected No actions supported that violate indigenous peoples' rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project identified an indigenous community (Terena) among those included in project Nothing in project scope, design, outputs violates indigenous peoples' rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactory result, despite negative deviation from key objectives, there is alignment with UNDP SES. The lack of knowledge and experience of the project proponent to engage in culturally appropriate ways with the indigenous community nullified the project design and objectives in this respect. Recommendation. Projects undertaken under the Amazon Fund to work with indigenous peoples (IPs) and/or with issues of indigenous lands (ILs), indigenous systems of natural resource management and agricultural production, etc., must ensure that i) the project proponent has demonstrated knowledge of, experience and achievements working with different IP groups and relevant issues related to the management of ILs; and, ii) the design, implementation and monitoring of the project is done through a comprehensive process of active participation, informed consent, shared benefits and, preferably, partnership with relevant IP group(s).
<p><i>Key objective: Ensure projects designed in partnership with full, effective indigenous peoples' participation, and securing FPIC where IP rights, lands, resources, territories of traditional livelihoods affected</i></p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culturally appropriate meaningful participation undertaken for all activities that affect indigenous peoples ▪ Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) obtained for activities that affect the rights, interests, lands, resources, territories, traditional livelihoods of affected indigenous peoples ▪ No relocation of indigenous peoples without FPIC and only after just and fair compensation, with option of return where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project proponent and its staff did not have adequate knowledge of or experience working with indigenous communities, their culture and ways of life; as a consequence, the Terena (indigenous) community only participated in seed collection in initial phase of project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
<p><i>Key objective: Promote greater indigenous peoples' control and management of developments affecting their lands and resources, aligning with their visions and priorities</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures recognize indigenous peoples' collective rights to own, use, develop, control lands, resources, territories they have traditionally owned, occupied, otherwise used or acquired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project proponent and its staff did not have adequate knowledge of or experience working with indigenous communities, their culture and ways of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
<p><i>Key objective: Avoid adverse impacts, mitigate residual impacts, ensure just equitable benefits and opportunities in a culturally appropriate manner</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adverse impacts on indigenous peoples are avoided, and where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated ▪ Measures in place to ensure equitable benefit sharing from project activities in culturally appropriate manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project proponent and its staff did not have adequate knowledge of or experience working with indigenous communities, their culture and ways of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid
<p>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</p>		
<p><i>Key objective: Avoid/minimize adverse impacts on human health and environment from pollution</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measures in place to avoid, minimize and mitigate risks posed to human health and the environment from pollutants, wastes, and hazardous materials ▪ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches utilized to reduce reliance on synthetic pesticides. ▪ Least toxic effective pesticides utilized and pesticides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No project activities posed risks to human health or the environment due to pollutants, wastes or hazardous materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This UNDP SES does not apply in the case of this project

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handled per FAO Code of Conduct		
<i>Key objective: Promote more sustainable use of resources, including energy, land and water</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasible measures implemented to improve efficiency in consumption of inputs (e.g. raw materials, energy, water) ▪ Use of water resources does not adversely impact others or sensitive ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No project activities posed risks to efficient consumption of inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ibid