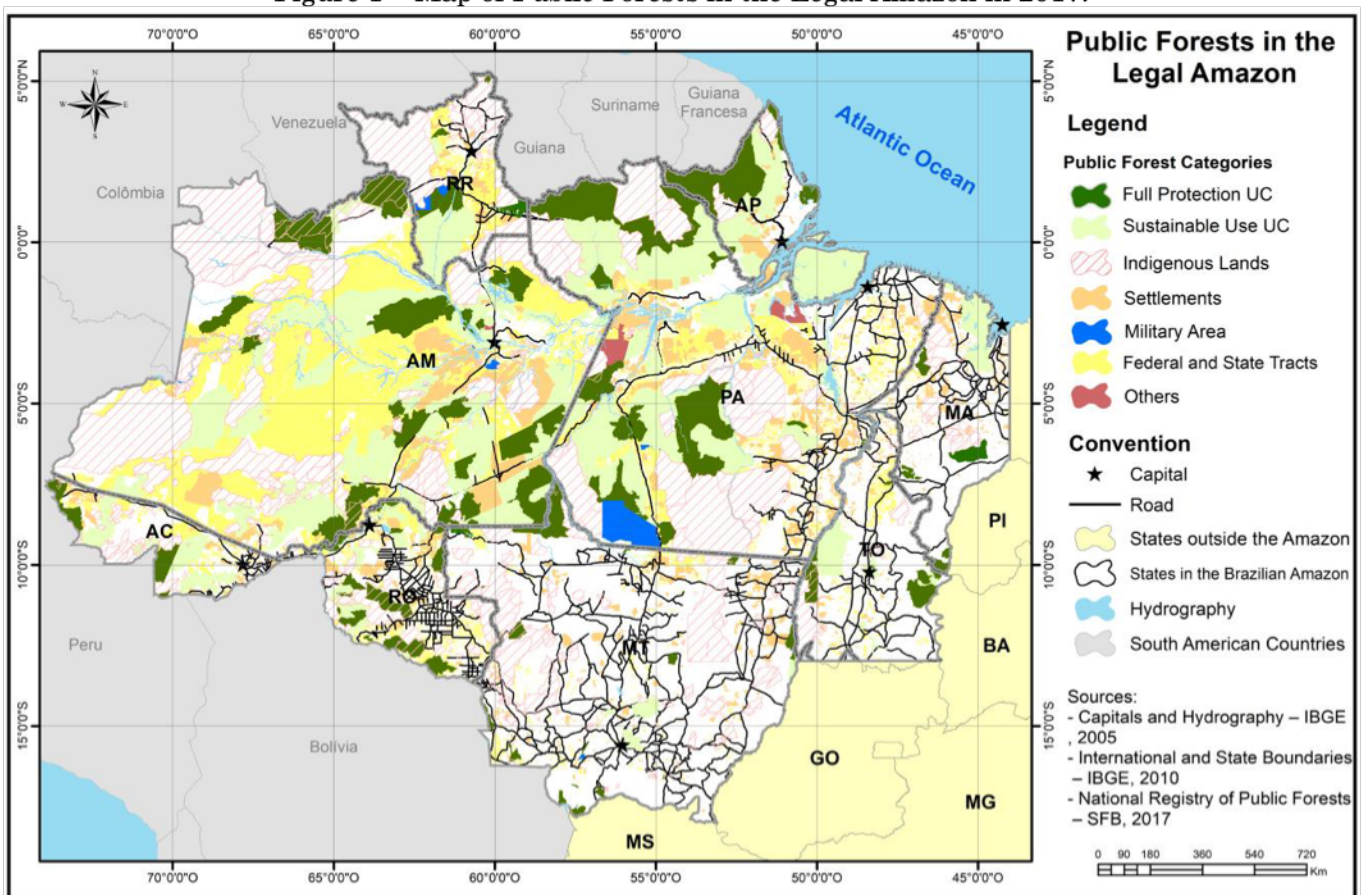


CNS PLAN AND PROPOSAL

CNS President Júlio Barbosa and his advisor Juan Carlos Carrasco Rueda will visit Finland, Sweden and Norway from 26 February to 5 March 2023 to raise awareness of the ongoing destruction of the Amazon, which the best scientists say is close to the point of no return. However, with the new Brazilian government, there is some hope for positive developments, as key ministers have committed to putting climate policy at the centre of power. So we invite our traditional allies, the Nordic governments, civil society organisations and universities, to join us in getting back to serious conservation work and to resume cooperation with the inhabitants of the Amazon forest. Our objective is to reduce deforestation in order to mitigate climate change and thereby contributing to the multiple benefits of biodiversity conservation and social well-being. To achieve this goal, we propose joint projects which would facilitate and support the creation, implementation, development and management of Extractive Reserves (resex) and other Sustainable Use Conservation Units in Brazilian Amazonia by consolidating these existing community-based protected areas and creating new extractive reserves where there is an urgent need to protect threatened forests and where there is a community-based demand.

Figure 1 – Map of Public Forests in the Legal Amazon in 2017.



Source: Org. by Katuscia Miranda, 2018.

The conservation of the Amazon Rainforest is an urgent global issue. Brazil, which had shown impressive reduction in Amazon deforestation – of more than 80% in the period between 2004 and 2012 – has seen the course of this advance reversed in recent years. Since 2019, deforestation has seen a significant increase, and today we can see an accumulated loss of forest area of around 21%. This situation means that **the Amazonia is very close to a point of no return**. Moreover, in recent years, not only

have the constant pressure on the Amazon biome intensified, but also the threats and attacks on its traditional peoples and communities.

Who are we?

The National Council of Extractivist Populations was founded in October of 1985, during the First National Assembly of Rubbertappers, in Brasilia. Its foundation was the result of the plight of rubbertappers against land disappropriation and forest devastation. The *empates*, manifestations against loggers and land invaders, were developed by the Rural Workers Union (STR), particularly by the one located in the town of Xapuri, presided by Chico Mendes. Since 2009, after the Second Congress of Extractive Populations of the Amazon and the 8th National Assembly took place, in Belém, more than 800 extractive leaderships of nine states of the Amazon approved the change in the organization's name to National Council for Extractivist Populations and its abbreviation to CNS.

CNS is an organization of national standing which represents agroextractivist workers organized within organizations, coops or unions. Its deliberative council is formed by 27 leaderships of different agroextractivist segments from all Amazonian states. They are rubbertappers, nut harvesters, açaí collectors, Babaçu coconut mashers, Balata and Piaçaba pickers. All members of agroforest projects as well as extractors of medicinal plants and oils, among other modalities.

Currently, we represent more than 80,000 families who live on about 25 million hectares in 153 conservation units. There are 66 Federal Extractive Reserves (Resex), 47 State Resexs, 19 Sustainable Development Reserves (RDS), 21 National Forests (Flonas) and more than 50 thousand families living in 9 million hectares of Extractive Settlement Projects (PAE).

It is necessary to demonstrate that state institutions in Brazil are again aligned with a policy of zero tolerance to deforestation and environmental crimes. For this, it is necessary to resume proven effective actions, associated to the command and control capacity. The transparency of the governmental data must go hand in hand with the increase of the environmental monitoring and inspection.

We need to revoke norms that cause socio-environmental setbacks and mark the territories of traditional peoples and communities. It is necessary to guarantee the constitutional rights that have been won, by protecting territories and respecting the self-determination of indigenous peoples, quilombolas, traditional communities and family farmers. Currently, the demarcation of their lands has ceased, and there are contrary incentives towards the expansion of land grabbing. Protected areas are an effective instrument to preserve the integrity of ecosystems and associated environmental services, in addition to ensuring the rights and culture of the Amazonian populations.

To remedy this, it is essential to get back to conservation work, and put climate policy at the centre of power. The bottom line is that none of these tasks will advance for long if we do not have **a strong and effective citizens' movement to represent and protect the interests of rainforest dwellers**. We need a strong lobbying apparatus, and we need resources for that. That is why we are hoping that Nordic people and their governments, as our historical ally, would come back to fund Amazonian social movements.

Community-based protected areas (Extractive Reserves, Sustainable Development Reserves, National Forests and Extractive Settlement Projects) have had the lowest rate of deforestation in recent years compared to other public protected areas, and **Amazonia will not be protected without the action of traditional inhabitants**.

To save the Amazon, it is therefore **essential to strengthen the leadership and organisations of traditional peoples and communities**, represented in particular by the CNS. In order to preserve the forest, its defenders, the traditional peoples and communities, must be guaranteed their constitutional rights, with protection of their territories and respect for their self-determination. The forest is the Amazon's most important infrastructure.

Table 1 – Numbers (absolute and percentage) for the amount of conservation units in the Brazilian Amazon by use category.

Categories of UCs	Qty	Area (km ²)	% of area in relation to total area of UCs	% of area in relation to total area of the Brazilian Amazon
Full Protection	119	469,420	36.5%	9.4%
Ecological Station (Esec)	26	120,333	9.4%	2.4%
Natural Monument (Monat)	3	327	0.0%	0.0%
State Park (PES)	43	71,033	5.5%	1.4%
National Park (Parna)	26	223,305	17.4%	4.4%
Wildlife Refuge (RVS)	5	1,107	0.1%	0.0%
Biological Reserve (Rebio)	16	53,315	4.1%	1.1%
Sustainable Use	220	817,507	63.5%	16.3%
Environmental Protection Area (Apa)	47	236,944	18.4%	4.7%
Area of Relevant Ecological Interest (Arie)	4	459	0.0%	0.0%
State Forest (FES)	19	132,588	10.3%	2.6%
Sustained Yield State Forest (FERS)	10	2,675	0.2%	0.1%
Extractive Forest (Florex)	1	10,550	0.8%	0.2%
National Forest (Flona)	34	170,777	13.3%	3.4%
Sustainable Development Reserve (RDS)	26	112,147	8.7%	2.2%
Wildlife Reserve (RFAU)	1	105	0.0%	0.0%
Extractive Reserve (Resex)	78	151,264	11.8%	3.0%
Overall Total	339	1,286,927	100.0%	25.7%

Source: Org. by authors using data from ISA (2018) and SFB (2018).

The legalisation of the social rights of extractive peoples to the territories where they have lived for generations has the direct and immediate effect of protecting and conserving the natural resources that exist there. It also represents the democratisation of access to land and the stability of future generations in the forest.

In the 1990s, new areas were created and the institutional management model was designed by the communities, based on **shared management between the communities and the state**, governed by the Collective Real Right of Use Concession Contract - CCDRU, which structures territorial governance, political autonomy and the participation of community organisations in collective decisions for the well-being of the extractivist communities.

Strategic areas are protected by communities that provide an ecosystem service to Brazilian society and the planet, and receive very little in return.

There is **an urgent need to strengthen community-based protected areas**, because during the last years of the Bolsonaro government, almost all forest conservation work was systematically dismantled, not only within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change - MMA and the Chico Mendes Institute - ICMBio, but also in the areas of family farming. At the same time, there has been systematic support for the invasion of outsiders into protected areas (the most blatant examples and the most serious consequences of which we are now witnessing, as in the case of the Yanomami).

As a result, the process of regularising the land titles of the Resexs and other sustainable use conservation units has been slow, compensation processes have not been completed, and land use concessions have not been signed. The families live on the margins of the law and without state protection, vulnerable to all kinds of pressures: deforestation, fires, invasions of public land, illegal sales of land and timber, and threats from extractivist leaders.

These more than 30 million hectares of tropical forests - in Extractive Reserves, Sustainable Development Reserves, National Forests and Extractive Settlement Projects - continue to exist only because we, the inhabitants, ensure that they do, despite efforts to destroy them. They were created in the first

place because there was an urgent need; these forests were threatened by loggers and other invaders, and only the local people could save them. These protected areas of sustainable use are buffer zones against encroachment into the heart of the Amazon rainforest, or they are the last remaining forests in their region.

But the Resexs, Flonas and PAEs are not fulfilling the potential of the objectives for which they were created, and are frustrating the expectations of their inhabitants. In order to guarantee the permanence of new generations in these areas and the existence of the forest they protect, social (health, education and technology) and productive infrastructures are needed. There is no doubt that today's adults will be the last inhabitants of the Resexs if this reality does not change. These huge forests will be lost to land grabbing and land speculation.

The current political conjuncture in Brazil is very positive in that technicians and politicians who historically began their activities with the CNS, or who have worked with the CNS throughout its political struggle, have been appointed to important positions in the current Lula government, with whom we have a good level of communication and joint work.

The new Minister of Environment and Climate Change is the legendary Marina Silva, who began her militancy in the social movements together with Chico Mendes in the rubber plantations of Xapurí-Acre. Edel Moraes, vice-president of the CNS for two terms, has been appointed undersecretary of the National Secretariat for Traditional Peoples and Communities and Sustainable Development of the MMA. Former senator and ex-governor of the state of Acre, Jorge Viana, also a historical ally of the CNS struggle, was appointed president of the Brazilian Export Agency - Apex. This is an agency linked to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which is headed by the Vice-President of the Republic, Geraldo Alkmin. Apex is basically an entity that supports the business sector both in exporting Brazilian products and in attracting international investment to Brazil.

PROPOSAL OF CNS

Our proposal is therefore to develop joint work at the Brazilian level with the various bodies mentioned above, starting with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change - MMA and the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity - ICMBio, in cooperation with the Nordic governments and NGOs. This cooperation could also include the Brazilian Export Agency - Apex and the business sector, which could include Nordic entrepreneurs interested in investing, for example, in forest restoration projects in our Unidades de Conservação de Uso Sustentável (Sustainable Use Conservation Units), always in accordance with the standards defined by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change - MMA and the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity - ICMBio.

The overall goal of the proposed project would be to reduce deforestation in order to mitigate climate change. In order to achieve this goal, the project would facilitate and support the creation, implementation, development and management of extractive reserves, sustainable development reserves, national forests and extractive settlement projects, the consolidation of existing protected areas as listed above, and the creation of new protected areas where there is an urgent need to protect threatened forests and where there is community-based demand.

This goal would be achieved by **strengthening community-based management and control of the sustainable conservation areas** listed below, by supporting the extractive communities that have been the pillar of protection for these conservation units.

First of all, these communities need to be protected, physically from outside invaders, but politically they need a strong representative lobby, the CNS network of cooperatives, associations and trade unions, which **organises, provides capacity building and institutional support to the very associations of residents and community-based organisations in protected areas throughout the Amazon region.**

DEMANDS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW EXTRACTIVE RESERVES - RESEX

hectares	ação	categoria	nome	bioMa_1	uf_1	municípios	demandante	pop_tipo
área do shape (projeção)	Ação proposta: "C"(criação)	Categoria da UC: "APA";	Nome da UC	BioMa predominate:	UF predominante	municípios abrangidos: lista por	Instituições demandantes: lista por ordem de importância (nomes dos demandantes separados por ";")	Tipo da população beneficiada (para RESEX): "tipo" (n° de famílias)
351.720	C	RESEX	Médio Iaco (Padre Paolino)	AMZ	AC	Sena	Moradores da área e CPT	seringueiros, ribeirinhos
467.549	C	RESEX	Jurupari	AMZ	AC	Feijó;	Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Feijó;	seringueiros; ribeirinhos
240.342	C	RESEX	Toma Cuidado (Baixo Acre)	AMZ	AM	Boca do		
	C	RESEX	Pauiñi	AMZ	AM	Pauiñi;	Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Pauiñi	agroextrativistas
189.514	C	RESEX	Baixo Sucunduri	AMZ	AM	Apui	União dos Povos Indígenas Mundurucu /	ribeirinhos; extrativistas
122.299	A	RESEX	Arapixi	AMZ	AM	Boca do	ICMBio – Rexex Arapixi	extrativistas
	C	RESEX	Guariba	AMZ	AM	Apui; Novo	ICMBio	ribeirinhos
219.509	C	RESEX	Rio Andirá	AMZ	AM	Barreirinha	CPT	ribeirinhos
78.503	A	RESEX	Médio Purus	AMZ	AM	Lábrea	Associação dos Trabalhadores	pescadores e extrativistas
269.077	A	RESEX	Rio Jutai	AMZ	AM	Jutai	ASPROJU	comunidade tradicional (58)
54.419	C	RESEX	Rio Novo - Iquiri	AMZ	AM	Lábrea	Associação Deus Proverá	agricultor - extrativista
292.640	M	RESEX	Rio Unjini	AMZ	AM	Barcelos;	GT de consolidação territórios da Resex Rio	pescadores e extrativistas
18.967	A	RESEX	Rio Cajari	AMZ	AP	Laranjal do	Cooperativa Mista dos Trabalhadores	castanheiros
11.806	C	RESEX	Enseada da Mata	CRD	MA	Penalva;	Associação de Moradores do Bairro Novo,	quebradeiras de coco babaçu;
	C	RESEX	Cacimba do Boi	CRD	MA	Duque	Fórum em Defesa do Baixo Parnaíba	pequenos agricultores
	C	RESEX	Chapada dos Remédios, dos Caboclos e	CRD	MA	Chapadinha	Moradores das Chapadas dos Remédios,	extrativistas de bacuri e outras
	C	RESEX	Timom	CRD	MA	Timom	Associação dos Pequenos Produtores Rurais	extrativistas
	C	RESEX	Rio Pindaré	AMZ	MA	Buiticupu	Sindicato dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura	agricultores; pescadores
87.137	C	RESEX	Amarante	CRD	MA	Amarante	Associação das Quebradeiras de Coco	quebradeiras de coco; agricultores
383.583	C	RESEX	Guariba-Roosevelt	AMZ	MT	Aripuanã;	Associação dos Seringueiros dos Rios	seringueiros
55.816	C	RESEX	Distrito de Itatupá	AMZ	PA	Gurupá	Associação dos Trabalhadores	agricultores; ribeirinhos
22.445	C	RESEX	Aruanã	AMZ	PA	Portel	AMRVB - Associação dos Ribeirinhos e	
	C	RESEX	Campos de Capanema	AMZ	PA	Capanema	Prefeitura municipal de Capanema	
24.218	C	RESEX	Acuti-Pereira	AMZ	PA	Portel	ATAA - Associação dos Trabalhadores	agroextrativista
(-) 588	CR	RESEX	Gurupá-Melgaço	AMZ	PA	Gurupá;	Demanda Interna do ICMBio (CGFUN)	
9.241	A	RESEX	Ipaú/Anilzinho	AMZ	PA	Baão	Associação dos Trabalhadores Rurais	Extrativistas
49.845	C	RESEX	Floresta Viva	AMZ	PA	Almerim	Associação dos Micro e Mini Produtores	
24.190	A	RESEX	Lago Cuniã	AMZ	RO	Porto Velho	DISAm	
12.590	C	RESEX	Preguiça	AMZ	RO	Guajará-	Associação dos Açaizeiros Agroextrativistas	açaizeiros

This work of strengthening community organisations is extremely important and requires specific resources, since the ministries themselves do not have the capacity to organise work to strengthen community organisations, and even less resources to reach the grassroots organisations in the forest.

At a strategic level, the proposed project, to be implemented in all Brazilian states of the Amazon, would respond to the main needs in the areas of health, education, communication and infrastructure in the different conservation units mentioned above. In order for communities to fulfil their role as custodians of the rainforest, they need basic services; communities need education, health, clean water, sanitation and communication tools. It is also important to **ensure that the state fulfils its role of protecting the territories and guarantees the implementation of public policies** that ensure social well-being and sustainability for present and future generations. All this requires a strong representative network to lobby, negotiate and monitor the interests of local forest communities.

We propose that all this work of defining priorities be carried out jointly with the Regional Coordination of the Amazon Biome of the Chico Mendes Institute - ICMBio (which has its headquarters in Santarém-PA and regional offices for the different Amazonian states). The central idea is that there should be **co-management of the project between the social organisations of the conservation units and those of ICMBio in the Amazon.**

The area is vast, the subject is complex, but there is a good amount of information that will allow us to define priorities between the current government and civil society, given that the current government has all the socio-environmental conditions to carry out this joint work, and there is a consensus that for these changes to take place we must resume policies related to the prevention and control of deforestation and the removal of invaders from protected areas.

It is therefore urgent to resume the demarcation of traditional peoples' and communities' lands and the allocation of public lands to traditional peoples and communities. We need to implement a socio-environmental and land regularisation plan for all extractive reserves and other sustainable conservation units, as well as public policies for the development of socio-biodiversity and the forest economy.

Forest communities need social and environmental public policies at all levels: education, energy, internet, infrastructure, health, culture and technological knowledge.

Besides curbing the actions that contribute to the destruction of the Amazon, it is necessary to **promote sustainable productive activities**, showing that the forest is worth more standing than cut down. In this sense, it is essential to stimulate the development of inclusive value chains through training, access to credit and the expansion of commercialization mechanisms. Furthermore, the combination of different products and services associated with sociobiodiversity is essential for the recognition and adequate remuneration of the contributions provided by the forest. Thus, it is necessary to implement mechanisms such as benefit sharing and payment for environmental services, in addition to promoting tax incentives.

The proposed area of operation would be Legal Amazonia is divided into two parts: Western Amazonia, comprising the States of Amazonas, Acre, Rondonia and Roraima, and Eastern Amazonia, comprising the States of Pará, Maranhão, Amapá, Tocantins and Mato Grosso.