

São Félix do Xingu Green Development Program, Brazil



October, 2013

Photo Credit: Haroldo Palo, Jr

Deforestation in the eight million hectares of São Félix do Xingu Municipality has been reduced by 75%, from the 1999-2008 average.



Program Description

Brazil's São Félix do Xingu Green Development Program is developing a model for sustainable, low-carbon development across an 8.4 million hectare political jurisdiction in the Amazon—an area the size of Portugal. This program seeks to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, restore degraded lands, improve management and governance on Indigenous lands, and create better living conditions and economic opportunities across the municipality.

São Félix do Xingu was among the first entries on the Brazilian government's "black list" of municipalities with the highest deforestation rates, resulting in:

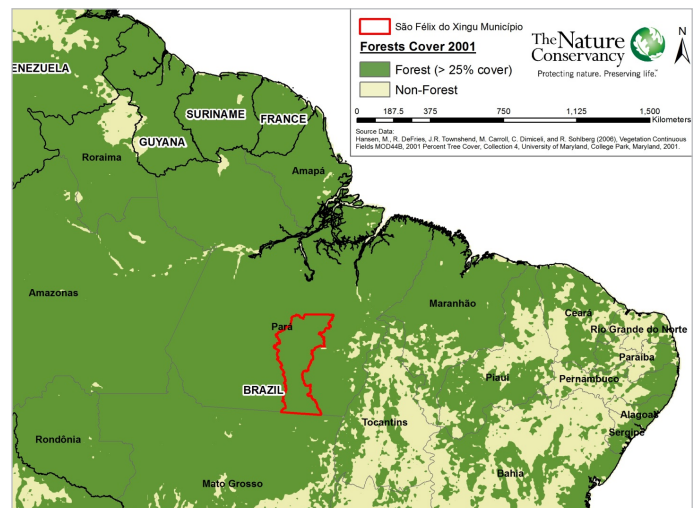
- an embargo on the sale of goods produced on illegally deforested areas and
- reduced access to credit lines for farmers.

In 2011, more than 40 local institutions signed a Pact for Ending Illegal Deforestation in São Félix do Xingu, in part to find ways to get the municipality off the black list and increase access to credit for local farmers.



Photo Credit: Erin Myers Madeira

São Félix do Xingu, Pará State, Brazil Amazon



The Conservancy's role in this effort is to bring the key stakeholders together to establish common goals to reduce deforestation; facilitate the creation of the Pact for Ending Illegal Deforestation and the associated Commission to support low-carbon development activities in the municipality; provide technical support for efforts such as intensifying cattle ranching; help farmers to introduce higher-profit, more sustainable crops like cacao and agro forestry; and help farmers register their lands in the rural environmental registry—the first step toward legal compliance and access to credit.



Key Partners and Supporters

Brazilian government: Federal, State, and Municipal agencies

NGOs: TNC, Rural Family Home (CFR), Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), International Institute for Education of Brazil

São Félix do Xingu Stakeholder groups: Association

of Family Farmers of Alto Xingu (ADAFAX), Rural Workers Union, Rural Ranchers' Union

Corporate partners: Marfrig, Cargill, Walmart

Other funders include: Government of Norway, UK Prosperity Fund, Amazon Fund (BNDES), USAID, Vale Fund, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

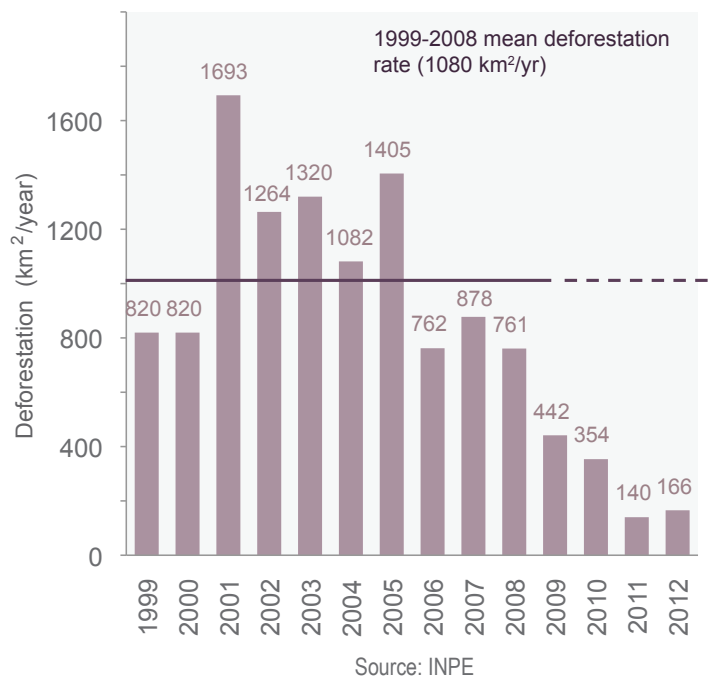


Key Results to Date

- Deforestation and associated carbon emissions in the municipality of São Félix do Xingu have dropped 75% percent - from the 1999-2008 average of 108,000 hectares per year to the 2009-2012 average of 27,500 hectares per year.
- TNC completed mapping and registry of 87% of the eligible lands in the pilot area; the Ministry of Environment will complete the remaining 13%. (São Félix has therefore satisfied the requirement that 80% of eligible lands be registered in CAR before it can be removed from the blacklist.)
- A Pact for the End of Illegal Deforestation was signed in São Félix do Xingu in August 2011 by more than 40 entities--local, state and national governments; producer's unions; community associations; NGOs; and others. A Commission of 22 entities was created to oversee the implementation of the Pact, and it meets at least every two months to coordinate the land registration process, deforestation monitoring and reporting, and sustainable development activities.
- The São Félix do Xingu Green Fund has been designed to invest in sustainable development

activities in the municipality including best practices in agriculture and ranching, improved land use planning, and supporting Indigenous communities to implement Territorial and Environmental Management Plans.

Deforestation in São Félix do Xingu Municipality



Opportunities for the Future

- The São Félix do Xingu Green Fund will be launched in 2014.
- Robust climate, social, and environmental measures are being developed to guide program planning.
- TNC is launching a responsible beef supply chain project with Marfrig, Walmart, and local ranchers to

promote sustainable intensification and to enable responsible and transparent sourcing of beef.

- In partnership with Cargill, TNC is developing sustainable cacao with 100 local farmers.
- Lessons from São Félix do Xingu are being integrated into policies of the state and national governments, including the Pará State Green Municipalities Program.