



PACARI NETWORK

Brazil



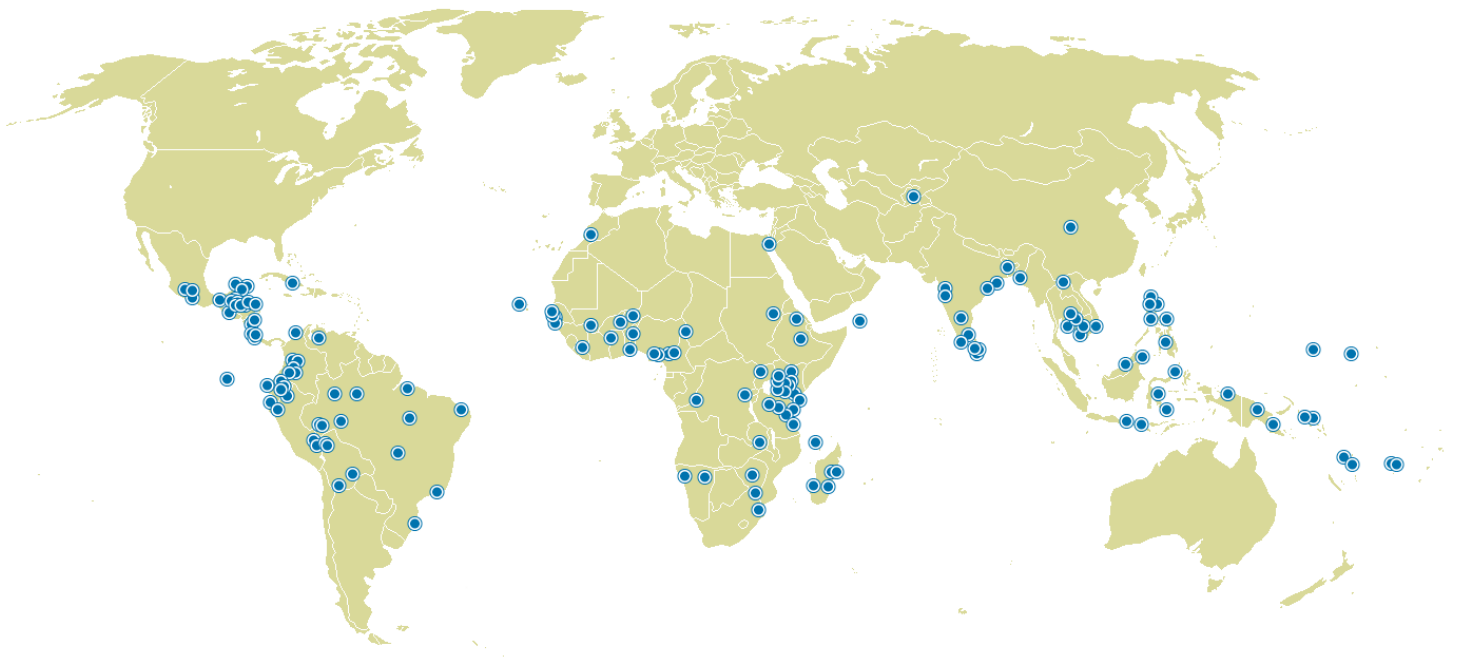
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Pacari Network brings together 47 traditional pharmacies and community-based organizations to cultivate medicinal plants, preserve traditional ecological knowledge and health traditions, and protect the biodiversity of Brazil's Cerrado biome. In the absence of comprehensive legislation recognizing traditional health practices, Pacari has mobilized medicinal plant producers and local health practitioners to develop self-regulation.

Standards have been put in place to regulate the preparation of traditional remedies, safety and sanitary conditions for plant processing, and sustainable harvesting techniques. Through its 'Pharmacopeia of People of the Cerrado', Pacari has developed a unique system of documenting traditional knowledge involving the participation of over 260 traditional health providers. The health benefits from the initiative extend to more than 3,000 people per month. Medicinal plant cultivation and the operation of small pharmacies also provide jobs and sources of income.

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KEY FACTS

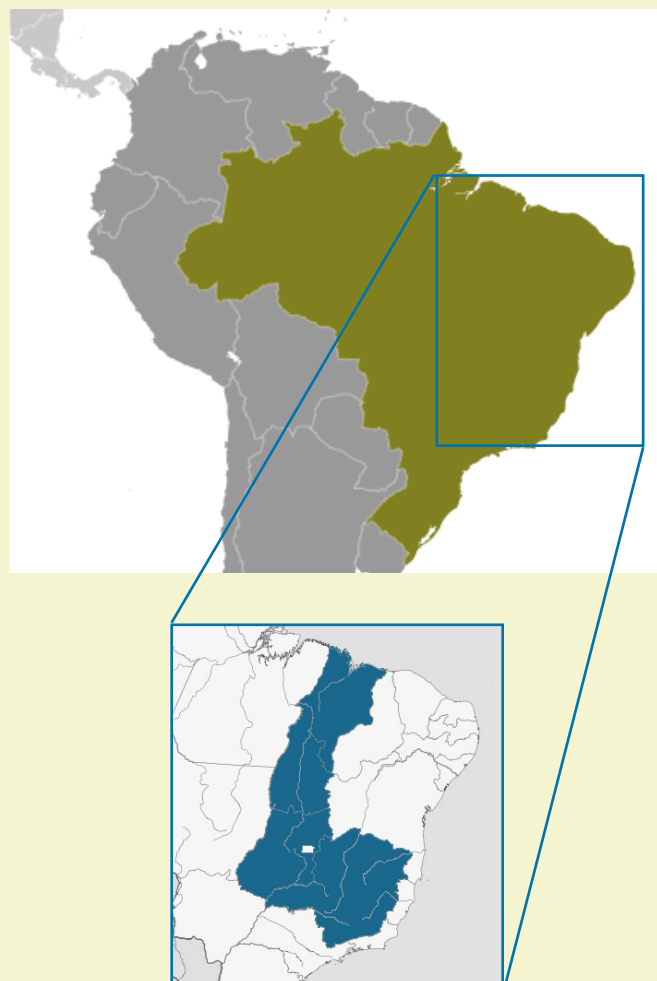
EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER: 2012

FOUNDED: 1999

LOCATION: Minas Gerais, Goiás, Tocantins and Maranhão

BENEFICIARIES: 47 community-based organizations

BIODIVERSITY: The Cerrado biome



Background and Context



The Cerrado

Located on the plateaus of Brazil's central high plains in the north-east of the country, the Cerrado is a vast tropical savannah that spans the states of Goiás, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Tocantins and Maranhão. Covering nearly 800,000 square miles, this biome covers approximately 21 per cent of Brazil's land area. The Cerrado is the world's most biologically rich savannah, home to over 10,000 species of plants, almost half of which are endemic to the Cerrado, as well as a number of endemic bird and mammal species. The Cerrado also feeds three of the major water basins in South America: the Amazon, Paraguay and São Francisco Rivers.

Despite its high level of biodiversity, the Cerrado remains one of the least protected savannahs in the world. Although in theory the Cerrado is protected to a degree by Brazil's Forest Code, this law is poorly enforced, and less than two per cent of the Cerrado is formally protected in national parks or conservation areas. Until recent decades, the Cerrado's main inhabitants were indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers who survived primarily by subsistence farming, clearing small areas of land to grow crops and raise cattle. However, the 1960s marked the beginning of the expansion of large scale commercial agriculture across the Cerrado. In the decades since then, Brazil has become one of the world's greatest producers and exporters of soybeans, much of which is grown in the Cerrado. Over the past 25 years, some 35 per cent of the Cerrado has been cleared of its native vegetation to support large-scale agricultural and livestock production, and its important biodiversity continues to be overlooked in favour of agricultural expansion.

Medicinal plants and traditional healers of the Cerrado

One group of people that does not take the Cerrado's biodiversity for granted is the *raizeiros* (and *raizeiras*) – traditional folk-healers of the Cerrado biome – who use the region's medicinal plants to prepare

home remedies for a variety of ailments and diseases. *Raizeiros'* traditional knowledge is passed down from generation to generation, and they hold detailed knowledge of local natural resources and techniques for plant collection. The traditional ethos of the *raizeiros* is to respond to the health needs of their communities, accepting small payments or products in exchange, and frequently providing their services free of charge. The knowledge and traditions of the traditional healers represent an intangible cultural heritage that deserves to be preserved along with the Cerrado biome itself. Recognising this, a civil society network was established in 1999 to preserve the biodiversity of the Cerrado by promoting the legitimacy of the traditional healers and communities that rely on its natural resources.

Articulação Pacari

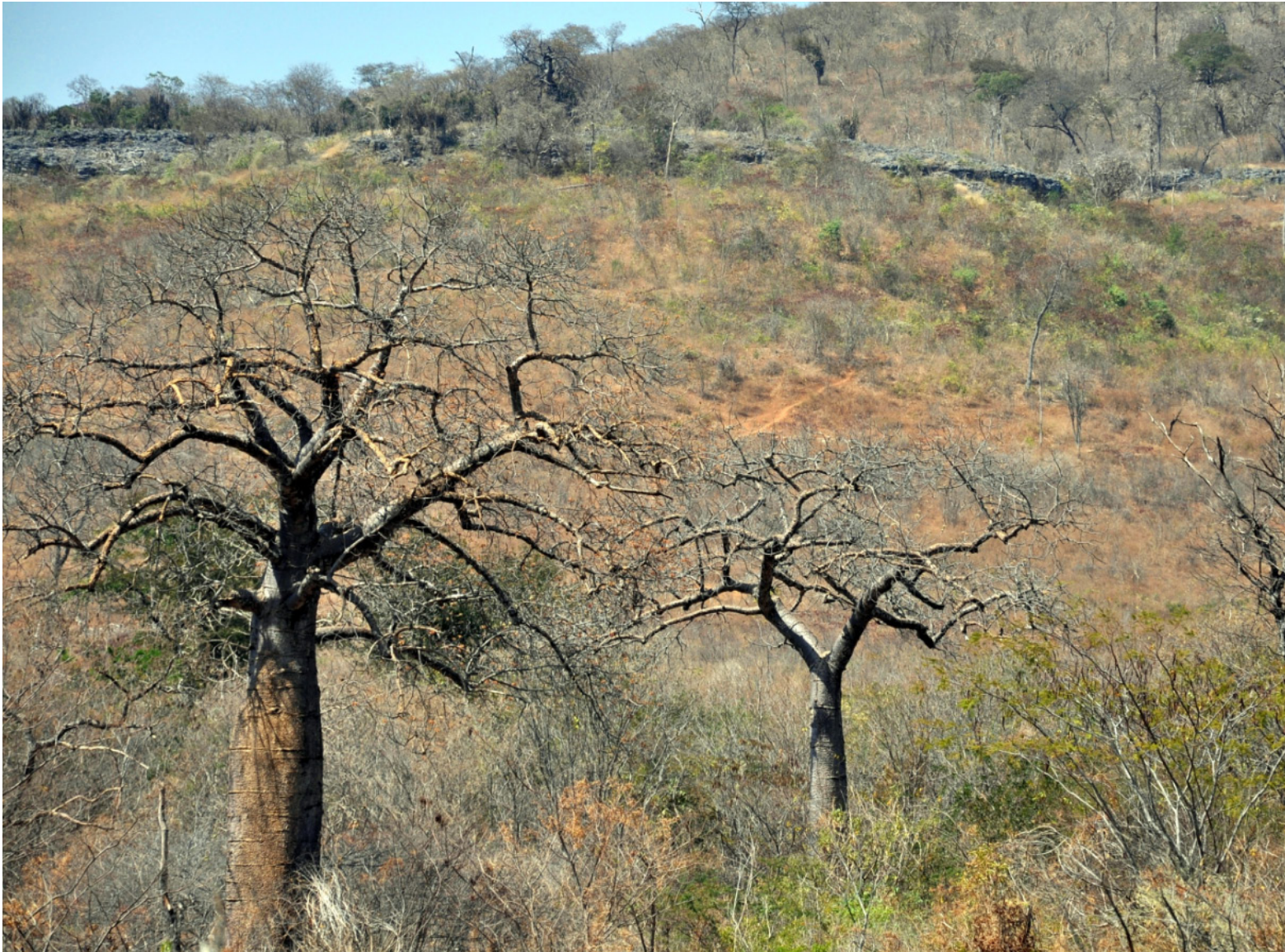
The Pacari Network (*Articulação Pacari*) was born out of participatory research carried out by two civil society networks: the Cerrado Network, which brings together more than 300 civil society organizations working for the promotion of sustainable development and conservation of the Cerrado, and the Medicinal Plants Network of South America. The aim of this collaboration was to identify opportunities for – and challenges facing – local organizations working with medicinal plants in the region. From this diagnostic beginning, the Pacari Network emerged organically as a support system for these local groups. With the help of international donors, including the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), and in partnership with relevant government ministries, the network has evolved over the past decade to fill a variety of functions: from documenting and promoting the work of traditional folk-healers, gatherers, and producers; to improving processing practices and helping producers to collectively market their products; and finally to increasing their shared bargaining power in advocating for more favourable policies and legislation concerning medicinal plants.

Today, Pacari Network brings together 47 community organizations that promote traditional medicine and the sustainable use of the Cerrado's resources, in ten regions throughout the states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, Tocantins and Maranhão. In addition to protecting native plant species used in the preparation of traditional medicines, the network has been able to influence national legislation to recognize the practice of traditional medicine, and to stem the loss of traditional knowledge that occurs when the chain of transmission between generations is broken.

The network's membership includes several social groups that are marginalized in Brazil, such as smallholder farmers, gatherers, agrarian reform settlers, women's groups, people receiving immigrant and health benefits, coconut palm workers, and community organizations representing Afro-Brazilians and indigenous peoples. Ninety per cent of the network's members are women. Training opportunities are offered to all of these social groups and community organizations, as are opportunities for participation in the management of Pacari Network.

Organizational Framework

Community organizations involved in the Pacari Network meet annually at a general assembly, where they elect 19 legal representatives (known as the Pacari Association), review the network's budget, renew membership, and evaluate past activities. In addition to the Pacari Association, the network's organizational framework includes regional organizers and a Board of Directors. In each region where the network operates there is a regional organizer whose responsibility it is to integrate local groups into regional activities and inform them of the decisions of the national network. The Board of Directors is comprised of a senior manager, a general secretary, a treasurer, an audit committee, and their substitutes, all of whom are elected for a three-year term. Four members of the board are in charge of policy formulation for the Pacari Network, while there are two executive coordination advisors who are endorsed by the general assembly. Policy coordination of the Pacari Network is currently carried out by four women, representing a women's group, agrarian reform settlers, an Afro-Brazilian community organization, and family farmers respectively.



Key Activities and Innovations



The three pillars of the Pacari Network's work are: promoting the sustainable collection and cultivation of medicinal plants; introducing improved, more sanitary techniques in community pharmacies; and enhancing the preservation and communication of the wealth of knowledge held by traditional healers, to ensure that it is passed on to the next generation. Specific activities of the network include participatory research, facilitating knowledge exchange between communities, building the capacity of its members, producing and recording knowledge on traditional medicine, and participating in public policy formulation.

Activities are informed by the extensive participatory research carried out at the beginning of the network's existence to identify the most pressing needs of the community-based organizations and traditional healers who rely on the Cerrado's rich biodiversity. Major concerns that were identified by this research included the perceived lack of legitimacy of the practice of traditional medicine, threats to communities' access to biodiversity, the need to protect and preserve traditional knowledge, and the need to develop income strategies adapted to the realities of the Cerrado's rural communities. Pacari Network's programming is tailored to respond to these needs and challenges.

Community pharmacies

A major element of Pacari Network's work is supporting community pharmacies to modernize their processing techniques and promote good health practices. The network currently supports 31 community pharmacies where home remedies are prepared collectively by community groups. Each community pharmacy has its own site that is open to the public. The structure usually consists of one or two rooms, a bathroom, and a garden of medicinal plants. Community pharmacies produce some 14 forms of home remedies, including tinctures, syrups, vinegar medicinal ointments, creams, soaps, pills or medicinal gums, candy or jelly medicines, medicated oils, pow-

ders and teas. About 70 different plant species are used to produce an average of 40 different medicines. Approximately 40 per cent of the plants used are endemic to the Cerrado.

Most community pharmacies are operated by women – typically a group of three to six *raizeiras*. While Pacari Network provides support for these pharmacies, they remain largely self-sustaining businesses that are individually managed by the local healers or community. In many communities, these pharmacies are the first port of call for healthcare, and remedies are sold at low cost and frequently donated to those who cannot pay. Thus they provide an essential service to the rural communities they serve. Revenue from the sale of remedies sustains the pharmacies' work.

Despite the importance of the work undertaken by these pharmacies, they operate informally and are not recognised in public laws or policies. As these pharmacies are unregulated, their legitimacy is unclear and their access to local natural resources is not protected. Pacari Network aims to improve the recognition of these pharmacies by providing training in best practices, sanitation, and management of medicinal plants. Throughout this modernization process, the traditional ethos of the *raizeiras* is maintained. Recipes and procedures have been recorded and rationalised, and recipes are still shared openly with community members in cases where the remedy is safe enough and simple enough to be made at home.

To date, one national educational course and six local educational courses of approximately 200 hours of instruction each have been provided to the *raizeiras*. One of the main results of these courses was the beginning of collective elaboration of criteria for quality control for the preparation of remedies in community pharmacies. To date, these courses have trained 249 women and 28 men, contributing to the technical and institutional strengthening of community organizations and the creation of the 'Self-Regulation of Traditional Medicine' policy guide, outlined at length below.

Self-Regulation of traditional medicine

Compliance with the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency's (AN-VISA) best manufacturing practices regulations is a costly process that is designed to benefit large pharmaceutical companies with the resources to conduct efficacy studies for their products. This is a process that most community-based groups such as the Pacari Network cannot afford.

To overcome this challenge, Pacari Network developed its own standards for ensuring sustainable harvesting and quality control of home-made drug production. This set of standards, called 'Self-Regulation of Traditional Medicine', forms the basis for a 200-hour course provided to local communities that trains them on the best way to extract herbal plants without harming the environment, and on how to improve their manufacturing process. The policy is comprised of three major safety principles.

The first safety principle sets a standard for the quality of the plants to be used in the preparation of traditional medicines. As part of the implementation of this principle, all 47 community organizations involved have adopted sustainable harvesting techniques for native plants.

The second principle calls for the adoption of best practices in the preparation of traditional medicine. The criteria for these practices were defined collaboratively between 39 community organizations, and aim to improve the structure and sanitary conditions of community pharmacies where the remedies are prepared. This is achieved through strict hygienic practices and the precise measurement and weighing of all materials used in the creation of traditional remedies.

The third principle calls for the identification of traditional medicines founded on traditional knowledge passed between generations. This principle led to the development of a unique system for recording traditional knowledge, called the 'Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado', and a book of the same name that catalogues the knowledge and remedies of some 262 healers involved in the network.

The Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado

The 'Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado' is a framework for registering and recording traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity. The system was adopted by local communities and traditional healers as a means of safeguarding their rights to access and use the Cerrado's biodiversity, and is based on field research carried out between 2001 and 2005 in the states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, Tocantins and Maranhão. A book drawn from the knowledge gathered was published in 2009, authored by 262 *raizeiras* representing community pharmacies. The book includes a wealth of information on species identification, descriptions of where plants can be found and their ecological relationships, descriptions of the parts of each plant that can be used in remedies, techniques for sustainable collection, and information on medicinal uses and toxicity.

The 'Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado' is intended as a precursor to the development of a series of people's pharmacopoeias covering different biomes. Pacari Network sees the development of its Pharmacopoeia as a political tool by which to achieve the social and political recognition of traditional medicine practiced by local communities and indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the Pharmacopoeia plays an important role in the prevention of biopiracy. Having a detailed account of the traditional medicinal uses of plants endemic to the Cerrado asserts the rights of local peoples to access and use their local biodiversity and associated knowledge, and grants a degree of protection under international intellectual property laws.

Eco-friendly cosmetic products

Pacari Network has also supported the development of production chains, based on native plants, to create marketable products and generate local jobs and income. The network now markets a range of Pacari Cerrado eco-friendly cosmetics, made from plants found in the region. Oils from the *macaúba*, *pequi*, and *gueroba* plants are cold pressed by a women-led community agribusiness in Buriti de Goiás, using raw materials sustainably gathered by farmers in the Serra Dourada region. Gueroba oil has a delicate fragrance and moisturizing properties, and is used to produce a range of body oils, moisturizing lotion, soaps and hair products.

“The importance of biodiversity is an everyday fact of life for ordinary people. As such, government officials must effectively promote the full participation of indigenous and local communities in both the processes of developing strategic plans for the conservation of biodiversity and in the application of financial resources mobilized for their implementation.”

Ms. Lourdes Cardozo Laureano, Coordinator, Pacari Network

Impacts



BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS

Since the 1960s, the Cerrado has experienced increasing environmental degradation as large swaths of forest are cleared to grow soy, raise cattle, or for eucalyptus plantations (see below.) This large-scale conversion to agriculture is devastating for the rich biodiversity of the Cerrado, and also threatens the livelihoods and traditions of communities and healers that rely on the natural resources of the Cerrado for their daily needs. As such, the preservation of the region's biodiversity and the wellbeing of its traditional communities are intricately connected. The communities involved in the Pacari Network recognise this and have taken a number of steps to ensure that their activities have minimal impact on medicinal plants in the wild.

One such step was to identify species of flora most in danger of extinction in the Cerrado so that special care could be given to these plants. Working from the comprehensive list of 264 distinct plant varieties identified in the Pharmacopoeia, Pacari Network established

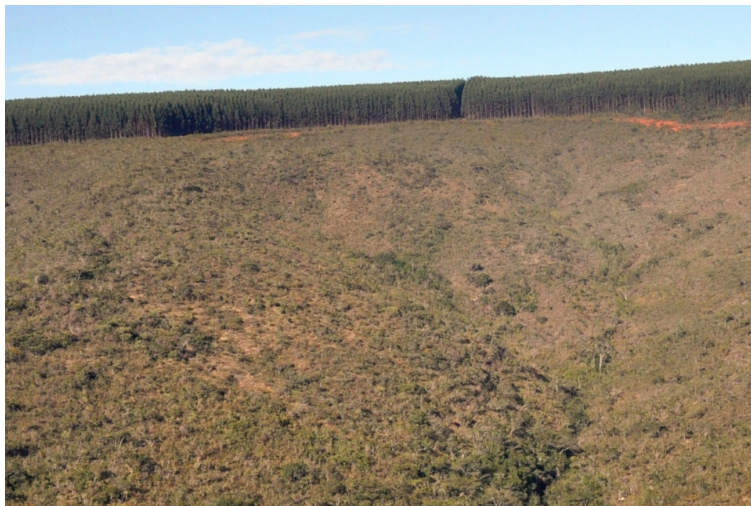
a set of criteria for identifying the ten most threatened species of flora. This set of criteria includes plants that must be uprooted upon collection and plants that are in high commercial demand. Three of the most endangered species identified were: *Echinodorus macrophyllum*, used to treat hypertension and inflammation; *Macrosyphonia velame*, whose xylopodium are used for treating inflammatory conditions; and *Peritassa campestre*, whose seed oil is used to treat flu, pain and rheumatism. Based on this identification, Pacari Network established guidelines for the monitoring and sustainable harvesting of these plants.

Aside from promoting the sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants, Pacari Network seeks to protect other natural resources used to make cosmetics. With Pacari's support, two communities have developed and implemented pilot environmental management plans for the protected reserves that house their communities, sustainably managing a total of 120 acres within protected areas of the Cerrado. Other community organizations have focussed on the sustainable harvesting of native palm tree oil (*gueroba*, or *Syagrus oleracea* Becc.) for use in cosmetic products that are sold as fair trade products. In 2010-2011, palm fruits were sustainably harvested from 18 properties belonging to farmers owning approximately 20 hectares of land each, incentivizing the preservation of agro-biodiversity throughout a total area of 360 hectares in the region. The promotion of community pharmacies, each with their own medicinal plant garden, also reduces the volume of plants that must be harvested from the wild.

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

Women and marginalized groups

The promotion of traditional medicine is an effective way of supporting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalized communities and indigenous peoples, often the main holders of traditional knowledge. In this context, Pacari Network brings together community organizations representing four indigenous peoples (the Xakri-





abá, Patacho, Arana and Pankararu), and three Afro-Brazilian groups from the communities of Cedro, Buracão and Jenipapo. The training opportunities offered to community organizations, and the opportunities for participation in the management of Pacari Network are extended equally to these social groups.

Pacari Network is approximately 90 per cent women, many of whom benefit from employment opportunities in the community pharmacies. Those wishing to become involved in the community pharmacies are required to undergo 200 hours of class to learn best practices in the use and management of medicinal plants of the Cerrado. These courses, based on the 'Self-Regulation of Traditional Medicine' guidelines set by Pacari Network, have trained 249 women and 28 men to date.

The development of the 'Popular Pharmacopoeia of the Cerrado' was another important training area for women, using the methodology of popular research, whereby 262 representatives (60 per cent of whom were women) conducted field research, generating a collective registry of traditional knowledge. The resulting book was written using the feminine '*raizeiras*' rather than the more usual '*raizeiros*', in recognition of the majority contribution of women to the project.

Healthcare, employment and income

Community pharmacies involved in the Pacari Network produce and market an average of 40 different types of traditional remedies. These pharmacies function as self-sustaining businesses that generate jobs and income for around five women each, totalling over 120 women across the network. Their work benefits an average of 7,300 individuals per month through community healthcare and provision of traditional medicinal herbal remedies. As these remedies are fre-

quently sold at low cost or donated to those who cannot afford to pay, the community pharmacies represent an invaluable alternative to costly prescription drugs for poor community members.

In addition to medicines, some community organizations involved in Pacari Network have used their traditional knowledge to contribute to the network's line of natural cosmetics. The production of soaps, oils and body lotions derived from gueroba oil has become a source of employment and income for a number of women in various Cerrado communities, while still taking special care to preserve the biodiversity of the region. The first round of production was undertaken in 2008, using raw materials collected in 2007: 3,250 kg of the fruit generated 104 litres of oil, which was used to produce four hundred 200 ml bottles of lotion. By 2012, the volume of gueroba harvested had increased to 15.5 tons, generating revenues of around USD 1,260 per month from cosmetics sales.

The Pacari Network arranged the official registry of the brand and acquired the necessary equipment for extracting gueroba oil, and actively encourages the women involved to experiment and develop new products. These cosmetics are currently being sold in markets around the region of Serra Dourada, Goiás, as well as online. The 2010-2011 palm harvest generated an average income of around USD 50 for 97 individuals, mainly women, involved in various stages of the production cycle. Those harvesting the coconuts might expect to earn around USD 85, while those involved in cracking the coconuts earn USD 70. Overall in 2010-2011, the average income per family, per crop, was USD 150. While this is still relatively low, the income is greatly appreciated by harvesters, especially as the crop generates income during the dry season, when the main livelihood activity of milk production does not generate any income. The network is also in the process of developing new marketing strategies

with Cerrado Central, a partner organization that aims to help reach new markets, in particular for Fair Trade products.

POLICY IMPACTS

Two major challenges faced by Pacari Network's members are the marginalization of their work due to the lack of any national law recognizing the practice of traditional medicine, and the degradation of the Cerrado biome, leaving local communities without access to native plants for the preparation of their traditional remedies. To address these challenges, Pacari Network actively campaigns for the recognition of the traditional medicine practices of rural communities and indigenous peoples. The hope is that this will overcome both challenges: that in achieving recognition of these practices, the rights of healers and communities to their local natural resources will be recognized and safeguarded, which in turn will encourage the sustainable management of these resources. As it stands, the current Brazilian policy for herbal medicine products is focused mainly on exotic plants. The government has made little effort to date to promote the use of native Brazilian plants, side-lining community-based initiatives like those represented by Pacari Network.

Members of Pacari Network make a great effort to participate in the development and implementation of Brazilian public policies related to local communities and to the conservation of the Cerrado, and particularly in trying to achieve a convergence of interests, as these policies tend to be handled in a fragmented manner by different ministries of the federal government. Pacari Network actively encourages the participation of its members in the public policy sphere, providing updates on policy developments, preparing proposals, and identifying community leaders to participate in forums.

Pacari Network is a member of the National Policy Committee for Medicinal Plants and Herbal Medicines, in which it represents the Cerrado biome. The group has contributed significantly to policies established by the Committee, successfully lobbying for the inclusion of a guideline that aims to "increase the promotion and recognition of popular practices in the use of medicinal plants and home remedies". Pacari Network is also a member of the National Policy Commission for Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities, where it advocates for ensuring access to health services that match the sociocultural characteristics of local communities. Additionally, the group participated in the National Commission on the Plan for a Sustainable Cerrado, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, and contributed to drafting the Sustainable Cerrado Programme, which implements policies for the sustainable use of medicinal plants.

Through its own work too, Pacari Network is developing a legal framework with the goal of formulating specific legislation to govern the use of popular and traditional medicinal plants. The central focus of this framework is ensuring local communities' customary rights to practice the traditional medicine of the Cerrado are protected. Pacari is also campaigning for the formal recognition of the trade of the *raizeiras* of the Cerrado as an element of "intangible cultural heritage" under Brazilian law. To this end, Pacari has developed a 'Protection Plan' which aims to foster a partnership between government

and communities to protect this element of cultural heritage. Key elements of the plan include:

1. Support for the transfer of knowledge to younger generations through the creation of the 'People's University of the Cerrado'. Work towards this has already begun through the provision of extensive training to traditional healers.
2. Development of specific legislation for the use of popular and traditional medicinal plants.
3. Recognition of traditional healers' and *raizeiras*' right to self-determination.
4. Continued development of the 'Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado'.
5. The inclusion of home remedies in the local market and through direct sales by *raizeiras*.
6. Strengthening of self-organization of the Cerrado *raizeiras* and healers.
7. Adoption of effective action to preserve the Cerrado biome through its sustainable use.
8. Protection of the collective rights of *raizeiras* and their traditional knowledge associated with the use of the biodiversity of the Cerrado.
9. Demarcation of areas for the community collection of medicinal plants (i.e. extractive reserves for *raizeiras*.)

The Pharmacopoeia is also a tool for influencing policy, as it has been used to drive forward the social recognition of traditional medicine practiced by local communities and indigenous peoples. The Pharmacopoeia was recognized by the Ministry of the Environment as a technical tool for the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in Brazil; the book includes a foreword by the Secretary for Biodiversity and Forests at the Ministry of the Environment.

The group has also done much to increase the visibility of Cerrado art, and filed an application requesting that the "Art of the Cerrado" be recognized as part of Brazil's "Cultural Heritage of a Spiritual Nature" at the Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage of the Ministry of Culture. The goal was to ensure the preservation of the art of healing itself, further helping to maintain the continuity of the transfer of traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity.

Pacari Network also believes it is important to be informed about relevant international agreements to strengthen its policy involvement. In this context, the network was represented as a member of the Brazilian delegation to the Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, 2010. Pacari Network also requested accreditation as an advisory organization to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Spiritual Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Pacari Network intends to ask that the "Art of Healers" be included in UNESCO's Urgent Safeguarding List and that the 'Popular Pharmacopoeia of the Cerrado' be named as a "Good Safeguarding Practice". Receiving the Equator Prize 2012, meanwhile, provided great visibility for Pacari Network's work at the international level and has had beneficial repercussions for Pacari's work, especially in contributing to public policy formulation.

Sustainability and Replication



SUSTAINABILITY

Since its inception in 1999, Pacari Network has received support from a number of organizations and government agencies to carry out activities such as meetings, exchanges, courses, and research, and to produce publications. The main sustainability strategy of the group relies on decentralization and preserving the autonomy of the community organizations that comprise it. This way, even if there is not enough funding for a collective project, individual community organizations continue to exist and may carry out projects and exchanges among themselves. For example, the community pharmacies represented in the Pacari Network continue to function as individual, self-sustaining businesses. The continued provision of capacity building in various fields is critical to ensuring this, however. The autonomy of these community organizations is evident in their individual abilities to create and market their traditional medicines. Ten of these community organizations have taken the initiative in raising their own funds to manage projects, which has improved both their capacity for production and their visibility, and has given them the opportunity to share their knowledge with other groups.



Pacari Network aims to further expand its sustainability strategies by developing products under the label 'Pacari Cerrado Eco-Products' that would be well-suited to the Fair Trade market. One such example of this is their line of palm oil-based cosmetics. This strategy is being developed in partnership with the Central Cooperative of the Cerrado, and Pacari Network hopes to soon expand the marketing of these products and involve more community organizations.

REPLICATION

Pacari Network seeks to expand its work and messaging to communities working in other biomes outside the Cerrado that are also working to preserve traditional knowledge and advocating for their right to practice traditional medicine. This ambition was reflected in the creation of a national network, formed during the People's Summit alongside the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, called the 'Biomes Medical Network.' This network is comprised of five community-based initiatives representing five different biomes of Brazil: the Cerrado savannah, the Pantanal wetlands, the Atlantic Forest, the Caatinga shrubland, and the Pampas plains. The primary goals of this network are as follows: to influence public policies to ensure the customary rights of local communities to practice traditional medicine; to advocate for specific legislation on the use of traditional medicinal plants; to achieve legal recognition of traditional remedies as valid community health practices; and to record the traditional uses of medicinal plants in the form of popular pharmacopoeias. The plan is for each biome to formulate its own pharmacopoeia, modelled after Pacari's Cerrado example.

Pacari Network also makes an effort to promote knowledge exchange through meetings and workshops at the local, regional, and international levels. One such event, the Fourth Annual Meeting of Midwives and Healers of the Cerrado, was attended by some 500 people. The network also frequently presents its work at government

and civil society events. For instance, it recently participated in a National Meeting for Dialogue and Convergence of Agroecology, Environmental Health and Justice, at which more than 300 family farmers were present. The Pacari Network's community pharmacies, meanwhile, are regularly visited by other community groups, schools, universities and NGOs; four of these pharmacies recently received visits from representatives from the Uruguayan Centre for Suitable Technologies (CEUTA).

PARTNERS

The Pacari Network has partnered with a number of organizations working in the Cerrado biome, including:

- The Institute for Society, Population and Nature (ISPN) (national host institution for the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP)): Pacari Network has had several community projects approved by the SGP, and received a grant of USD 50,000 to help fund its work. This grant was essential for strengthening linkages among the various community organizations that form the network. Several of these community groups have used these funds to implement small, independently managed projects related to the traditional use and sustainable management of medicinal plants native to the Cerrado, as well as to conduct research and for product development in their community pharmacies. Pacari Network provided these community organizations with guidance and technical advice. The ISPN also provides advice and support to the Pacari Network's 'Self-Regulation of Traditional Medicine' policy project.
- The Lutheran Foundation of Diakonia (FLD): FLD is an entity linked to the Evangelical Lutheran Church that works in community development, supporting groups and projects throughout Brazil. FLD supports the Pacari Network through a project focussed on institutional strengthening.
- The Central Cooperative of the Cerrado: This cooperative of community organizations assists communities in gaining access to the Fair Trade market. Currently the cooperative is assisting 35 community organizations to develop income-generating activities from the sustainable use of biodiversity of the Cerrado. Products include foods, crafts, cosmetics and vegetable oils.
- Ecumenical Coordination of Services (CES): CES is a cooperative entity that operates throughout Brazil supporting community organizations that work in community development, Fair Trade, the sustainable use of biodiversity, education of children and youth, and social entrepreneurship. CES supported the Pacari Network in two projects that aided in the creation and publication of the 'Pharmacopoeia of the People of the Cerrado'.
- The Secretariat of Family Agriculture of the Ministry of Agrarian Development (SAF/MDA): The Secretariat of Family Agriculture supports the Pacari Network's gueroba venture, used in the manufacture of cosmetics and other natural products.
- The Association of Small Farmers and Assistance to Minors in Turmalina (APLAMT): This association provides technical, logistical and managerial support for projects being carried out by the community organizations represented by Pacari Network.
- Cerrado Network: This civil society was instrumental in the creation of the Pacari Network, which in turn continues to play an active role within it (Pacari was recently elected to a vice-coordinator role within the Cerrado Network.) The network brings together civil society organizations working for the promotion of sustainable development and conservation of the Cerrado. More than 300 organizations are represented, including rural workers, gatherers, indigenous peoples, *quilombolas*, *raizeiros*, coconut breakers, and fishermen, among others. The diversity of its membership is undoubtedly the network's greatest asset.
- In 2002, Pacari Network was given critical support by the Network of Medicinal Plants of the Southern Cone (or Cone Sul, the geographic region composed of the southernmost areas of South America) supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Other networks Pacari has worked with include the Exchange Network for Alternative Technologies (Rede de Intercâmbio de Tecnologias Alternativas) based in Belo Horizonte, and the Medicinal Plants Network of South America. A partnership is currently being developed with The Green House, a Brasília-based NGO that manages public funds for projects carried out with the federal government.

“Policy makers in Brazil must act responsibly and ethically to safeguard the immense cultural and environmental heritage of our country, especially with regard to legislation relating to protected areas, and guaranteeing the right to free, prior and informed consent, so that the country may become worthy of exercising leadership in the field of biodiversity conservation and open dialogue with the public about the strategic plan for biodiversity”

Ms. Lourdes Cardozo Laureano, Coordinator, Pacari Network

FURTHER REFERENCE

- Pacari Network website: <http://www.pacari.org.br/>
- 'Pharmacopeia of the People of the Cerrado': <http://www.pacari.org.br/farmacopeia-popular-do-cerrado/livro-farmacopeia-popular-do-cerrado/>
- Pacari Network. Magical moisturizing beauty products made from Gueroba. Produced with the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme and progreso network. <http://www.biodiversity-products.com/media/documents/products/84f4c0b298e54508200e58aaec7b49d8.pdf>

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