

# Land Governance in an Interconnected World

ANNUAL WORLD BANK CONFERENCE ON LAND AND POVERTY  
WASHINGTON DC, MARCH 19-23, 2018



## Environmental Compliance of Rural Landholdings in Regions of Economic Vulnerability - Maranhão/Brazil

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### INTRODUCTION

The creation of the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) in 2012 was a major advance in environmental management in Brazil. It is an electronic public register, mandatory for all rural properties, in order to integrate the environmental information of the rural properties and possessions.

By the end of 2017 more than 3.5 million properties were registered in the CAR.

The Brazilian Government provides free technical assistance to small landholders and traditional peoples and communities (PCT) for enrollment in the CAR. A major challenge is the access to the most isolated rural populations in a region of high economic vulnerability.

The Federal Cerrado Project, executed by the Brazilian Environmental Ministry and the Brazilian Forestry Service developed, as part of the project activities, enrollment in the CAR of 8,100 families of small landholders and PCT in the state of Maranhão, northeast of Brazil.

The present paper presents part of the results of the Project .

### MATERIALS | METHODS

- The municipalities with the largest numbers of smallholders and PCTs not yet registered in the CAR were identified;
- A publicity campaign was launched for the target audience;
- One NGO was hired to present and distribute communication material to strategic local institutions;
- A private company was hired to register the 8,100 families;
- There was a compilation of all mappings with land boundaries to compare with SICAR data and to identify the sites with the highest potential for CAR registration;
- Partnerships with local institutions such as Rural Union and city hall to invite the public to register in the CAR were built;
- The technical teams were moved to strategic points (schools, churches, community centers, associations) to serve the public;
- The registration of the limits of rural properties and traditional community territories was carried out, using GPS and digital forms through SICAR - National System of CAR;
- All the documentation available from the public was scanned and the data organized.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

British Government - DEFRA (donor), World Bank (program administrator), Brazilian Environmental Ministry (coordinator) and Brazilian Forestry Service (executor).

### RESULTS

- The development and implementation of the CAR promotion campaign for smallholders and PCT in radio, television, as well as distribution of printed material (Figure 01) was strategic, as well as the involvement and mobilization of local leaderships, city hall, cooperatives and unions;
- The selection of suitable company to carry out the service of registration in the CAR of small landholders and PCT demanded the elaboration of complex criteria for selection of good service providers for this public.



Figure 01 – Cover of the printed material

- Initially, 6 municipalities in the state of Maranhão were identified with the potential to register 5,600 CARs for smallholders (Figure 04).
- The great demand of family farmers in bordering municipalities, as well as the identification of regions with demand for PCTs, motivated the expansion of the number of municipalities and the goals of the project for the State of Maranhão, totaling 23 municipalities and 8100 families (Figure 02);
- The PCTs demonstrated a high demand for the registration of their territories in the CAR, and the majority of the assisted communities are Quilombolas (Figure 03) - traditional peoples of Brazilian culture, descendants of Africans enslaved in the XVII and XIX centuries;



Figure 03 – Quilombola community

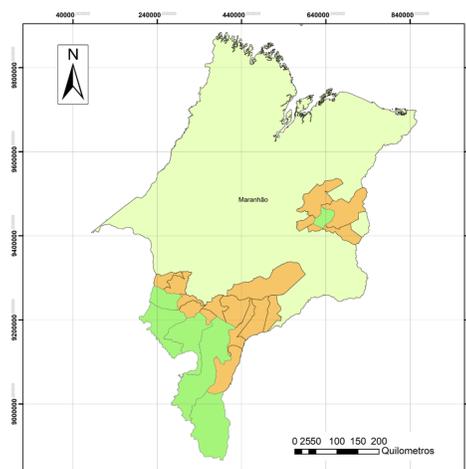


Figure 02 – Original municipalities (green) and additional municipalities (orange)

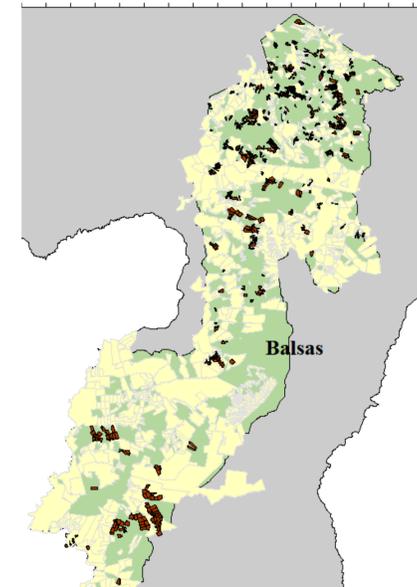


Figure 04 – Small landholder registered (black) in the Balsas, one of the six municipalities.

### CONCLUSIONS

- The Federal Cerrado project registered in the CAR lands of 8,100 families in a region of high economic vulnerability in the interior of the state of Maranhão, northeastern Brazil;
- Most of the families received for the first time a document that locates their lands and registers them in an national official system;
- The CAR has demonstrated great potential in demonstrating the breadth of the PCT territories and the great potential of biodiversity source for the supply of inputs such as seeds and seedlings for the recovery of native forests;
- The Brazilian Forest Service has trained its teams and state environmental agencies to execute new projects to execute projects and assist more than 100,000 families in the next 5 years.