

Evaluations Management Response, Summary & Lessons Worksheet

Management Response

Evaluation name: Final Evaluation of Project Establishment of Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs) in the Brazilian Cerrado (BRA/00/G35).

Evaluation Type: Independent Final Evaluation Report

Responsible Unit for Key action: Environment and Development Unit

Key action time frame: Not applicable

Status of Key action: Not applicable (project is completed)

Issues and recommendations:

Issue:	Recommendation:	Management Response
Use of excessive resources and institutional and operational efforts on processes of ecological evaluation of the proposed RPPNs.	For future projects similar to the present, it is recommended that a diagnosis or evaluation of the selected area regarding the potential for creation of private reserves is accomplished through Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA).	Agree. However, in this project the REA was performed after identification of the RPPN during project implementation given that there were no resources for such evaluation beforehand.
Some RPPN owners had little knowledge of business plans, productive chains of their businesses and commercialization.	Training can be processed through partnerships with specialized institutions.	Agree. For this specific project, though, this issue was dealt with the expertise of the leading Executing Agency, given its insertion in the region.
In ecotourism activities, municipalities and neighboring communities need to have their institutional capacity for administration of ecotourism activities (existence and operation of Environment Councils and Tourism Councils, municipal secretaries of environment, and so on) strengthened.	To promote vocational courses associated with ecotourism services and training programs of entrepreneurs at community level, aiming at opportunities of businesses.	Partially agree. Even though this is an interesting idea, the scope of it makes it very hard to be implemented and goes far beyond the purpose of this project.
In ecotourism activities, municipalities and neighboring communities need to have their institutional capacity for administration of ecotourism activities (existence and operation of Environment Councils and Tourism Councils, municipal secretaries of environment, and so on) strengthened.	Creation, implementation and, or invigoration of the Centers of Reference of Ecotourism in the municipal districts of the areas embraced by the projects where the stakeholders will have a wide vision of the natural, historical and cultural attractive of the area, as well as of the equipments, programs and existent tourist potential.	Partially agree. Even though this is an interesting idea, the scope of it makes it very hard to be implemented and goes far beyond the purpose of this project.

Issue:	Recommendation:	Management Response
Monitoring the ecotourism and environmental activities is fundamental for RPPNs.	Mechanisms of monitoring of the environmental quality and of the impact generated by the ecotourism activities should be elaborated in the natural areas.	Agree. The project considered this issue while proposing the RPPNs but continuous monitoring is necessary after project's completion. FUNATURA's presence in the area and their relationship with local populations work as an informal monitoring mechanism to guarantee sustainability of results.
The process for obtaining the requested documentation for RPPN creation is extremely expensive and of little access for the great majority of landowners.	To promote the revision of the legal process of creation of RPPNs with clear and realistic definition of periods and steps of the process.	Agree. The project has already worked with IBAMA to revise the Normative Instruction and other procedures for RPPNs recognition.
Restriction of extractive activities in private protected areas limits its creation.	To promote the discussion about possibility of uses of RPPNs, especially, related to the extractive use of natural resources that can be important for the local economy and constitute an increment to landowners' income. Besides, the diversification of the economical activities can aid in the sustainability of the areas.	Agree. However, this goes far beyond the scope of the project.
Researches in the private protected areas are costly.	To establish partnerships with research institutions so that the scientific and technical information can support the elaboration of management plans and be maintained after project's intervention.	Agree. The project worked on this issue and formed some partnerships with universities.

Summary & Lessons learned

Summary:

The Project *Establishment of Natural Private Heritage Reserve (RPPNs) in the Brazilian Cerrado* was proposed by the non-governmental organization Fundação Pró-Natureza - FUNATURA with the main objective of contributing with the conservation of the biodiversity of the biome *Cerrado* through the support to the creation and establishment of RPPNs in the surrounding or in adjacent areas of two National Parks: *Grande Sertão Veredas* and *Chapada dos Veadeiros*, located in the States of Minas Gerais and Goiás, respectively.

The main objective of this evaluation is to assess the results achieved with the conclusion of the project, its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Please refer to attached evaluation report for further details.

Lessons learned:

- 1) The recognition of private reserves is, today, the most important strategy for the preservation of

Brazilian biodiversity. A large group of areas still in good preservation state is owned or possessed by small, medium and large-sized landowners. Even taking into account the different fragmentation levels of those areas, the vegetation mosaics still intact and their relation with important corridors for fauna and flora dispersion of the Cerrado biome justify the efforts to maintain them. There are a large number of owners that, touched by the work of Project BRA/00/G35, have contacted Funatura for support in the creation of RPPNs. The efforts undertaken by the project with the entities responsible for the creation/recognition of RPPNs within the Federal Government for the need of organizing a program for private reserves produced fundamental results for setting legal landmarks (Normative Rule n. 24, from 04/14/2004) and for the setting of a Methodological Scheme for Creating RPPN Management Plans.

- 2) From the lessons learned from the project, it is possible to realize that any conservation program of the Cerrado biome should necessarily follow four steps: mobilization, organization, information and qualification. Especially as regards mobilization, as was already reported on PIR 2004, the project accumulated great lessons. The experiences at the “Encontro dos Povos”, an innovative mobilization instrument of the project, showed that the foundations of any promising result rest on a movement that, gathers a large number of players involved in biodiversity preservation, and also is able to organize and qualify them for future actions. Throughout the organization and execution of nine (09) “Encontro dos Povos”(Community workshops), the project provided the surrounding communities of Grande Sertão Veredas and Chapada dos Veadeiros National Parks with the opportunity of finding a place for discussing ideas, doing business with native products, organizing strategies for biodiversity preservation and valuing their permanence at the land.
- 3) Also regarding the importance of recognizing RPPN to expand biodiversity preservation and the means for checking such effectiveness, the project accumulated important results. Even the smallest areas recognized as RPPN – in the project, one RPPN of 1.4 ha was recognized – presented final ecological assessment reports that showed a wealth on biodiversity, efficacy regarding protection water resources and strategic location for the maintenance of ecological corridors. The lesson learnt here is that it is not the size of the area under protection that matters most, but its position within a group that integrates a mosaic of protected areas.
- 4) The legal process for the creation of RPPNs should be held at the more local administrative level, given the length of the approval process within the federal government. Several states offer the service of recognition of RPPNs through their environmental agencies. As a matter of fact, the municipality of Cavalcante in Goiás has created a municipal mechanism for the creation of RPPNs as an indirect result of this project.
- 5) The idea of sustainability of the RPPNs is an important element for the dissemination of the idea to other landowners: to see is to believe.
- 6) Partnerships are fundamental to ensure sustainability of project’s results. The increased local and regional institutions, and the community’s participation, in the execution enabled better integration and complementarities of the results.