

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Apuí, Brazil

A local plan to reduce deforestation and mitigate climate change

STORY IN SHORT: The municipality of Apuí is taking the forefront in the Amazon region by pledging to reduce emissions from deforestation and restore degraded areas within the municipality. The proposal will be part of the „Plano Municipal de Redução do Desmatamento e Mitigação das Mudanças Climáticas“ (Municipal Plan for Deforestation Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation), which is under development by the city. The first step has been taken through the Project “Apuí Mais Verde” (Apuí Greener), developed in partnership with the NGO Idesam, which aims to reforest about 1,500 hectares of native forests and prevent deforestation of 3,600 hectares, reducing emissions by 2.33 million tonnes of CO₂e.

Local policy to reduce CO₂ emissions

Since 2008, the current mayor, with the support of Idesam (Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas), has been trying to combat deforestation and to implement other measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The first step was to launch several campaigns to increase local environmental awareness, stressing the importance of reducing consumption of water and electricity. Among other initiatives, the council has already reduced energy consumption by introducing eco-bulbs and installing solar lights in schools. It is estimated that the latest initiative itself will generate an annual reduction of 280 tCO₂e of emissions.



Apuí's natural landscape
© City of Apuí

Integrating local industry and energy policy

The next step is to change the energy matrix from one that burns diesel fuel to one that burns renewable biomass or biodiesel. Preliminary studies have shown that burning waste wood from local sawmills in the city could reduce emissions by about 31 tCO₂e per day and save 73% in annual costs. Another option is the production of biodiesel from babaçu tree oil. The babaçu is a palm tree abundant in Apuí's natural ecosystem. The production of biodiesel could also generate income and additional products such as animal feed and fertilizer.

Reforestation and more efficient livestock grazing

In 2009, the city of Apuí and Idesam launched the Project Apuí Greener (Apuí Mais Verde). This project aims to prevent the deforestation of about 3,600 acres and restore another 1,500 hectares of waterside forests in rural areas within the next 30 years. This would generate a total reduction of approximately 2.33 million tCO₂e by 2040. This initiative intends to demonstrate the potential for modifying the community's behaviour as a preparation for committing to the Zero Deforestation Pact.

Promoting reforestation at the local policy level

Apuí's Mayor Marcos Maciel states: "The city government has been working on environmental education policies as well as popular participation in policy decisions for reduction of deforestation and further collaboration on the creation of new conservation areas and Extractive Settlement Projects."



The partnership between Apuí and Idesam also extends to research and the implementation of rotational grazing livestock, since the high density of livestock in the city (about 0.6 head per ha) is contributing to deforestation, and therefore GHG emissions. It is estimated that by implementing such systems it could increase the city's livestock production by 200%, without needing to deforest areas.

Apuí Mais Verde (Apuí Greener)

The project aims to encourage the restoration of 1,500 ha of waterside areas (Areas of Permanent Protection) that are degraded or unproductive as pasture. The project involves farmers and ranchers from Apuí for the recovery of water and improvement of soil quality and the reduction of carbon emissions from deforestation. Producers are invited to participate voluntarily in the project, choosing an area of at least 5 ha of their property to be restored. The project provides technical assistance and seedlings, and at the same time requires that producers do not cut down more trees on their properties. In addition, the project will establish a central nursery and support the development of small nurseries for seedling production in Apuí.

The project provides an annual payment to producers replanting their forests. Currently, there are about 1,000 hectares of land planned for reforestation, representing 150 producers who voluntarily have enrolled in this project. The next step is to georeference the properties and the areas to be restored and look for investors in the voluntary carbon market. Idesam is supporting the city with technical studies and with the documentation of project design, and will be responsible for technical assistance and monitoring.

Involvement in international initiatives

In November 2008, the city of Apuí signed a commitment with the state government to combat deforestation, which included a municipal plan to combat and control deforestation. The program is being developed through a partnership with the City of Apuí and the Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM), which has comprehensive knowledge of working with climate change issues and forest conservation, and is the technical advisor and coordinator of the program. Apuí joined ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in 2009. The new member is a strategic city for the Roadmap Project.



Apuí is located in the Amazonian rainforest of Brazil

City profile & contacts

Apuí occupies an area of approximately 5 million hectares in the southeast of Amazonas State. The Trans-Amazon Highway runs through the city, and Apuí has the largest settlement project in Latin America (690,000 ha), in which occurs more than 70% of deforestation in the municipality. It has the second largest cattle herd and 90% of the city's area is used for livestock. It is the municipality with the fourth-highest deforestation rate in the state.

Name: Mariano C. Cenamo; Marcos Maciel

Department: Idesam; Municipality of Apuí

Email: mariano@idesam.org.br; missodois@hotmail.com

Website: www.idesam.org.br; www.meioambienteapui.spaceblog.com.br



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap

E-mail: climate-roadmap@iclei.org

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