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**Title:** Community Forest Certification of Non-timber Forest Products – According to the perspective of two certified communities in the Brazilian Amazon.

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**Thema:** 5. Development opportunities

**Subtheme:** 5.5 Forest certification

**Abstract of the paper:** The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification is a forest management tool that aims to encourage the sustainable management of forest products considering social, economic and environmental aspects. In recent years, efforts to promote community certification as a tool for the development of rural populations focused on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), thus generating benefits and numerous challenges, including arbitrating certification standards for traditional management practices. Bearing in mind that the NTFPs represent the main source of income for thousands of families, few scientific studies have investigated the communities' perception on this matter. In light of the experience of the Rubber Tapping Associations Porto Dias and the Residents and Agro-extrativists of Remanso de Capixaba, certified by FSC- NTFPs, this study evaluated their perception regarding this process in Acre, Brazilian Amazon, as part of the Kamukaia project, by the Brazilian Corporation for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), to assess the sustainability of NTFPs in the Amazon Forest. The data were collected by structured semi-open and closed question interviews about the positive and negative aspects of certification and about gratification, perspective and credibility concerning the process. These questions were individually proposed to each representative from the 17 certified families by a single interviewer, thus ensuring the neutrality and uniformity of the research process. The answers were tabulated through the proposed models and the most positive aspect mentioned was the increase in market value of the product (35.3%). Regarding the negative aspects of certification, the problems in complying with the rules and the marketing and management of the agreements were reported as the most difficult aspects. Most respondents did not consider any negative aspect as relevant (64.7%). It was observed that 88.23% of the respondents recommend certification to other non-certified communities and that the intention to continue the process is unanimous, however they included improvements in capturing new markets. Concerning credibility, 76.47% of the respondents believe that certification can bring social benefits, 82.35% economic benefits and 94.12% have confidence in environmental benefits, as for instance the conservation of the Amazon Forest. The probability of adding value to the product and contributing towards improving the living standards of the individuals are essential for community NTFPs certification, however the incompatibility between the traditional ways and the existing certification standards put at risk the continuation of the process.

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