
Endogenous development in traditional communities of the Amazonian: The case study of the sustainable use of the *Heteropsis flexuosa* in the State of Amapá

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In the Amazonian, the most suitable mechanisms to the promotion of a regional development that it maintains the natural conditions of the environment and promote the necessary improvement socioeconomic of the traditional populations, they are those activities that associate management and processing of the non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Through valorization, aggregation of value, internalisation of the economical effects and the appropriation of their results for the local communities, can be obtained a development of “dentro-pra-fora” (inside/outside), designated of Endogenous Development, that it is opposed to the development de “fora-para-dentro” (outside/inside), that promote great interventions and it is delineated starting from the interests of business groups or government agents.

Through the project “Use Sustainable of the liana-titica (*Heteropsis flexuosa*)”, experimental units were implanted inside the rain forest and, on towers of 30 meters of height was studied that botanical species of the family Araceae, that it is a hemi-epiphytes and it possesses long and thin aerial roots, of which are extracted natural fibers known in Brazil as “liana-titica”.

The central objective of the project is to study the ecology of this species that there is more than one century supplies natural fibers to the industry of craft pieces of furniture, baskets and domestic utensils and it was never scientific and technologically studied. Another objective is to consolidate the social organizations of the “extrativistas” for the correct extraction, management and conservation of the fibers, obtaining with that, better values in the sale of the product and quality of life of the local populations.

The excessive exploration of the *Heteropsis* in Pará and Maranhão provoked total exhaustion of the natural regeneration and today this species is practically disappeared of the forests of those states. With the impoverishment of the forest the following step was the deforestation of the area for pasture cultivation and sale of the wood. Happily, they are promising the results obtained for the present project: with research data was elaborated one protocol “Management Sustainable of the *Heteropsis*” and, with the mobilization of the “extrativistas” was approved by Legislative Assembly of Amapá, the Law 9.065, that regulating the extraction and commercialization of *Heteropsis* and General office of Environment of Amapá edited the Normative Instruction 003, that determine procedures for licensing of the sustainable extraction of the product. Since the implantation of the project there was already an elevation of more than 200% in the price of the fibers of *Heteropsis flexuosa*.

Key-words: Endogenous development, Non-timber Forest Products – NTFPs, *Heteropsis flexuosa*.