MAÍSA REDD+ PROJECT

Project Summary

Document prepared by Biofílica Environmental Investments

contato@biofilica.com.br
+55 (11) 3073-0430

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Project Name	Projeto REDD+ Maísa
Project Location	Brazil, Pará State, "Low Tocantins" Region, Moju city
Project Proponents	• Biofílica Investimentos Ambientais: Plínio Ribeiro, plinio@biofílica.com.br, +55 11 3073-0430 • Maísa-Moju Agroindustrial: Márcio Pinheiro, maisa_marciopinheiro@hotmail.com, +55 91 3250-3212 • Sipasa-Seringa Industrial do Pará: Maurício Batista, ma_gbsilva@hotmail.com, +55 91 3735-2158
Auditor	• Rainforest Alliance: Campbell Moore, cmoore@ra.org, +1 (202) 903-0717 • IMAFLORA – Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola: Bruno Brazil de Souza, bruno@imaflora.org, +55 19 3429-0848
Project Start Date	May 21th 2012
Project Lifetime	30 years
GHG accounting period	From May 21th 2012 to May 21th 2042
Full validation or gap validation	Full validation
Edition of the CCB Standards	CCB Standards Second Edition
Brief Summary of Project's expected Climate, Community and Biodiversity	• "Climate": An amount of 2.023.743,8,4 tCO_2eq emissions will be prevented by project's activities, while 2.342.920,8 tCO2eq would be emitted at Project absence. On average, 67.458,1 tCO2eq yearly will be prevented by the Project activities. • "Community": Empowerment of local communities on the regional decision making process and public policies; Development of communities organizational aspects; and development of more sophisticate business chains for small scale agriculture and grazing sector through rural technical assistance and market studies. • "Biodiversity": The maintenance of the project's area forest cover will guarantee habitats protection, ecosystem balance and best practices applied on the low impact logging techniques will favor the habitats quality. Moreover the project will benefit the regional biodiversity by mitigating landscape fragmentation aspects since it will behave as an "ecological corridor or springboard" to biodiversity on the landscape level.
Gold Level criteria being used	Gold Level criteria *GL3. Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits*. Projects conserve biodiversity at sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation selected on the basis of the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) framework of vulnerability (Project Zone includes critically endangered species according with IUCN Red List).
Date and version of the PDD	December 12th 2014, version 2.0
Expected schedule of verification	First verification under CCBS two years after validation, and then ever two years during Project's lifetime.

The Project REDD+ Maísa is a result of the partnership between Biofilica Environmental Investments, Sipasa-Seringa and Maísa-Moju Agroindustrial aiming to promote forest conservation and emissions reductions from unplanned deforestation by attributing value to "standing forest" by integrating its multiple use in a sustainable fashion: the sustainable forest management with low impact logging techniques, small scale agriculture, collecting non-wood forest products and trade of environmental services credits.

Historically the region where the project is being developed in Brazil (**Figure 1**), called "Região do Baixo Tocantins", in the northwest of Pará State have been part of several land tenure conflicts between farmers, illegal loggers and squatters. Theses conflicts initiated during the 70s with a set of governmental policies and incentives, infrastructure projects and access routes. Since then a context of easy access (through the road PA-150), lack rural public policies and services, poor law enforcement and land speculation turned the region as part of the famous "Amazon Deforestation Arc", a deforestation belt moving forward to the center of the Amazon. Project's boundaries, such as Project Area (where project activities aim to generate net climate benefits) and the Project Zone or Reference Region (where project activities are implemented), can be observed on **Figure 2**.

The basic physical parameters of the Project Zone are characteristic from tropical regions with equatorial climate dynamics (hot and wet). Annual average precipitations are between 1,800 and 2,300 milimeters/year and daily averages temperatures stay between 26 and 29ºC. The rainy period occur from December to June, related with seasonal dynamics of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The project Zone is part of rivers Guamá, Capim and Moju drainage network, and the Project Area is located on Cariri River drainage influence (Moju River basin). The geological environment of the Project Area encompasses sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks and sedimentary formations, predominantly Tertiary and Cretaceous age. Stands out in this context the importance of unconsolidated sediments' Barriers Group, which present as layers of fine to coarse sand, layers of argillite and siltstone, including lenses of conglomerates and coarse sands.

Considering regional agents, drivers and underlining causes of deforestation and other assess, as risk analysis and leakage trends, different activities were settled in order to address unplanned deforestation in an efficient and effective way. These activities can be divided according the goals target to climate, communities and biodiversity and each of those Project's goals are:

- Climate: To generate effective emissions reductions through avoided unplanned deforestation, leakage control and mitigation of non-permanence risk.
- Community: To promote mitigation of agents and drivers of deforestation potentiating positive impacts to the surrounding communities through stakeholders' engagement, strengthening communities' organizational aspects and by promoting rural technical assistance.
- Biodiversity: To assure biodiversity conservation (on the Project Area and at the landscape level) by monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ impacts on the "Amazon Deforestation Arc" and landscape context, monitoring of threatened species and by stimulating scientific research and knowledge spreading on biodiversity matters.

Project start date is May 21th 2012 with a lifetime and a GHG accounting period of 30 years, from May 21th 2012 to May 21th 2042. Currently Maísa REDD+ Project is initializing validation and verification process under VCS and validation process under CCBS, monitoring climate activities, implementing socioeconomic and biodiversity activities and executing sustainable forest management (SFM).

The responsibilities regarding implementation of project activities and MRV (monitoring, report and verification) are the project proponents and regional partners. Project proponents are: **Biofilica Environmental Investments**, responsible for general coordination of the socioeconomic and environmental assessment, baseline studies and carbon stock, PDD (project design document) development and financing, activities implementation, project validation/verification carbon, credits trading and project co-management throughout the Project lifetime; **Maisa-Moju Agroindustrial**, responsible for responsible for Project's co-management, the land title, assurance of the right of use and propriety surveillance and monitoring; and **Sipasa-Seringa**, responsible for sustainable forest management operation, implementation of low impact logging techniques, maintenance and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Relevant partners on Project's development and implementation are: **Instituto Peabiru**, main responsible for communities and stakeholders engagement and articulation, also responsible for socioeconomic and environmental studies; **Eco-lógica Consultoria**, responsible for development of baseline studies and carbon stock; and **Amazônia Gestão Ambiental**, responsible for development of forest inventory and carbon stocks calculations.

"Climate" Activities and Expected Benefits

The region in which Maísa REDD+ Project is developed present the typical pattern of predatory exploitation of the "Deforestation Arc". It relies mostly on the lack of governmental policies, rural public services, poor law enforcement and land speculation (underlining causes). In this context small and unprivileged farmers are driven and financially incentivized by illegal loggers to invade private lands and explore unsustainably hardwood to supply (illegally) regional and national timber markets. After the invasion events the smallholder, now squatters, survive from illegal charcoal production (harvesting the rest of the forest) and small agricultural and grazing activities. Without any technical assistance the land is only productive for a couple of years what, combined with poor livelihood conditions, make then susceptible again to the influence of the illegal loggers and the invasion and deforestation cycle restarts.

Thus, main activities, designed in accordance with Project's climate goals, are: Add value to the "standing forest" by prospecting sustainable economical uses of forest and its services/products; structure a more efficient land surveillance system; carry out regular forest cover monitoring through satellite images acquisition; implementation of profitable and low carbon emission activities on leakage management areas.

Expected climate benefits, calculated by following the approved VCS Methodology VM0015 for Unplanned Deforestation are:

- **6,103 hectares** would be deforested at the Project absence;
- **2,342,920.8 tCO_2e** would be emitted at the Project absence;
- **2,023,743.8 tCO2 tCO_2e** will be prevented by Project activities, and
- An average of **67,458.1 tCO_2e yearly** will be prevented by the Project activities.

"Community" Activities and Expected Benefits

It has been observed a demographic increment of 4.63% per year between 2000 and 2010 and a total of 295,857 habitants on the project region. Historically the major economic activities are related with timber exploitation and production chain. Now a day, with the "maturity" of the deforestation cycle other agricultural and grazing activities, as rice, beans, cassava and corn production, are equally important and, in fact, more significant to poor and vulnerable groups livelihood maintenance. Other agricultural cultures are also gaining space on the rural areas, like banana, cocoa, coconut, black pepper and, more recently, oil palm to support national and international agroindustry.

Eight communities are engaged with Maísa REDD+ Project (**Figure 3**): Branquelândia, Alto Apeí, Ituquara, Açaizal Novo, Açaizal Centro, Flexal, Maçaranduba and Nossa Senhora do Perpétuo Socorro. They're engaged along with other relevant local and regional stakeholders, as Moju and Breu Branco Municipality (Environment and Agriculture Secretariats), State Agency of Rural Assistance (*EMATER)* and Agriculture and Grazing Cooperative of the Tucuruí Dam Surrounds (COMEL).

Aiming to mitigate the agents and drivers of deforestation the main activities to be developed on the community level are: engagement of local stakeholders in order to have better access to public policies and services, strengthening of local association and cooperatives for a better marketing access and promotion of rural technical assistance to disseminate better agricultural practices and techniques.

Those activities would enable the following benefits:

- Empowerment of local communities on the regional decision making process and public policies, assuring equal access rights of social organizations, third sector, workers union, communities and private sector;

- Development of communities organizational aspects;
- Development of more sophisticates business chains for small-scale agriculture and grazing sector through rural technical assistance and market studies.

"Biodiversity" Activities and Expected Benefits

The Project Area is located on the most threated of the Amazon Endemic Centers, the Endemic Center of Belém (ECB). ECB contains several species occurring exclusively on its area but it has already 76.4% of its forest cover already deforested or degraded due to the historical context and evolution of the "Deforestation Arc".

The forest cover is represented mostly by Dense Ombrophillus Forest types that are typical forest formation of tropical regions, characterized by humid and hot environment with a high biodiversity of species. On the project area 8 of the tree species founded are mentioned on regional and national official lists of threated species, illustrating the importance of the forest cover protection for regional and national biodiversity conservation.

Regarding the forest carbon stock, the forest inventory carried out by the project showed a total of 125.27 tons of carbon per hectare, which means 478.1 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare.

Considering the fauna inventory studies carried out by the Project on mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes and insects, on the project region 29 species founded are mentioned on official threated species lists regionally, nationally and even internationally. Between these 29, two species of monkeys (Chiropotes satanas and Cebus kaapori) are species considered as "critically endangered" on the IUCN Official Red List of Threated Species, the most important and respected endangered species list of the globe. These two monkeys only occur on the Endemic Center of Belém, on the Brazilian Amazon.

Since the project is located within a region already fragmented and suffering with enormous deforestation and degradation pressure, the main threats to the biodiversity are habitats lost, a drastic "edge effect", susceptibility of the vegetation to fire, poorer resilience power of forest fragments, genetic erosion and prejudice of ecological functions (as seed dispersion and pollination).

The main activities to biodiversity designed to deal with those threats are: to monitor and evaluate the impacts of protecting project's forest cover on the fragmented landscape context of the "Deforestation Arc"; and t develop participative and effective conservation plan to the most endangered species on the project region through partnerships with research institutions and universities.

Expected benefits coming out of those activities are: Habitats protection, due to maintenance of the project's area forest cover; ecosystem balance, assessed by regular monitoring activities; and quality of habitats protected, by low impact logging techniques applied to the SFM. Moreover the project will benefit the regional biodiversity by mitigating landscape fragmentation aspects since it will behave as an "ecological corridor or springboard" to biodiversity on the landscape level.

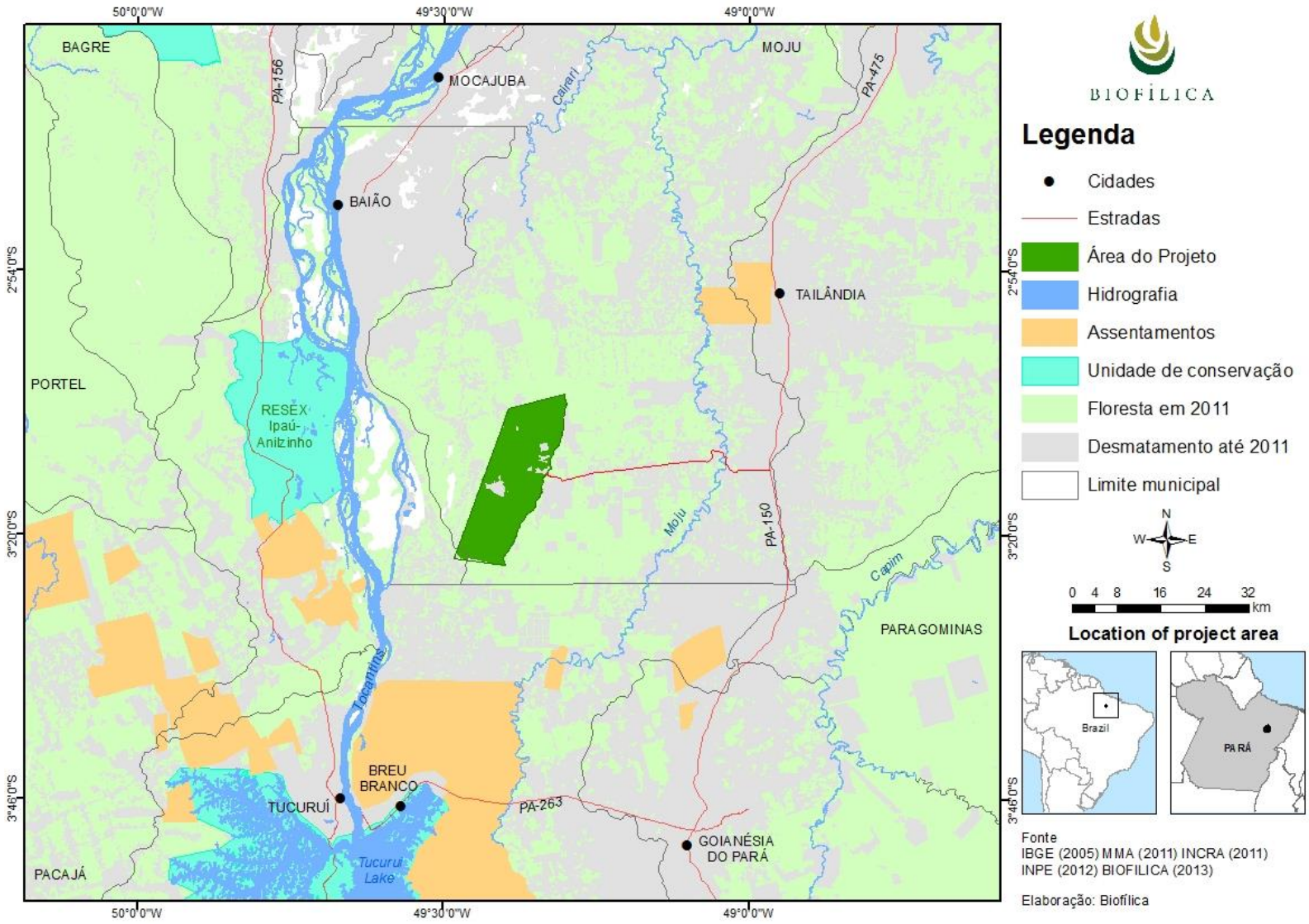

Figure 1. Project location.

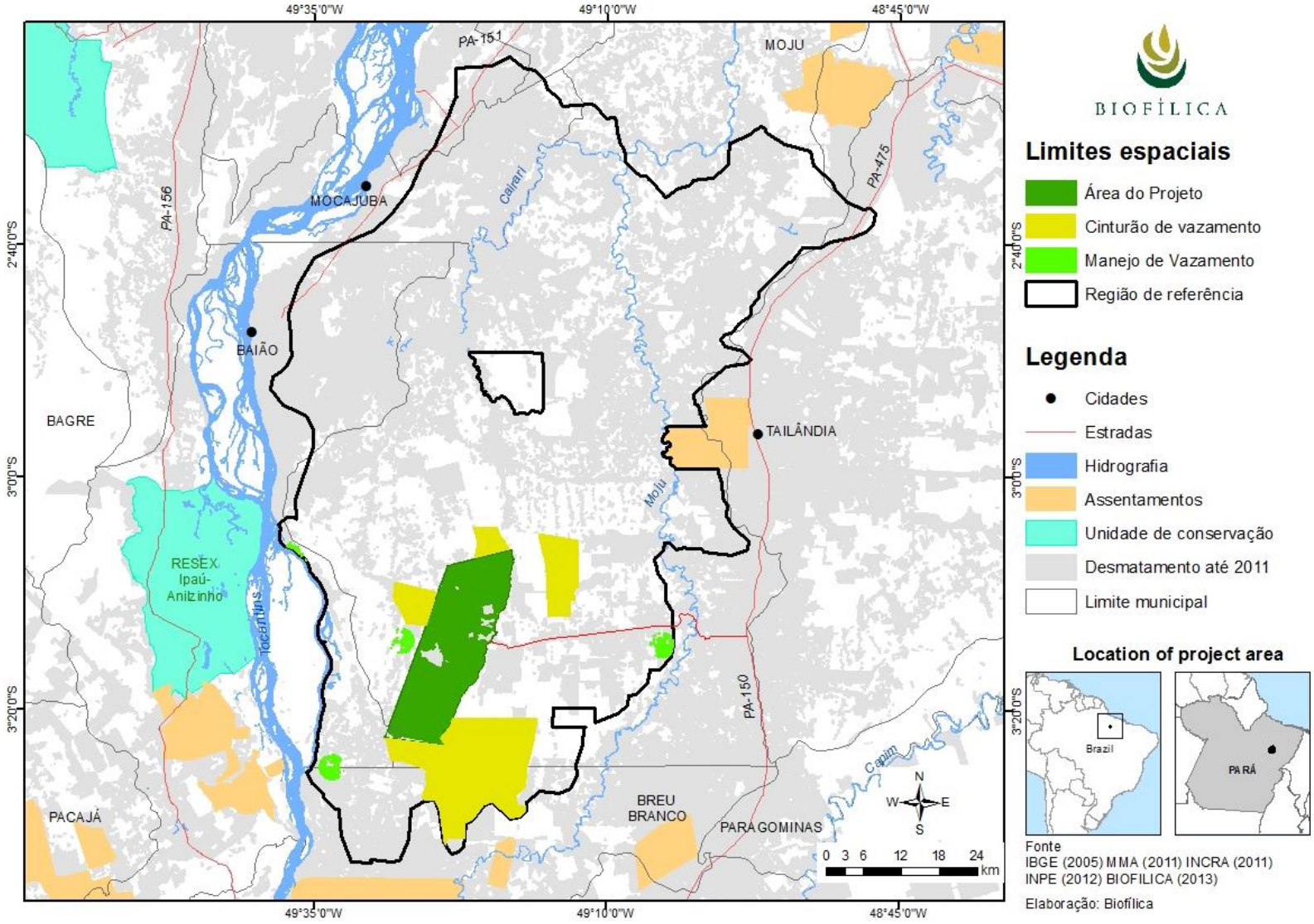

Figure 2. Project Boundaries.

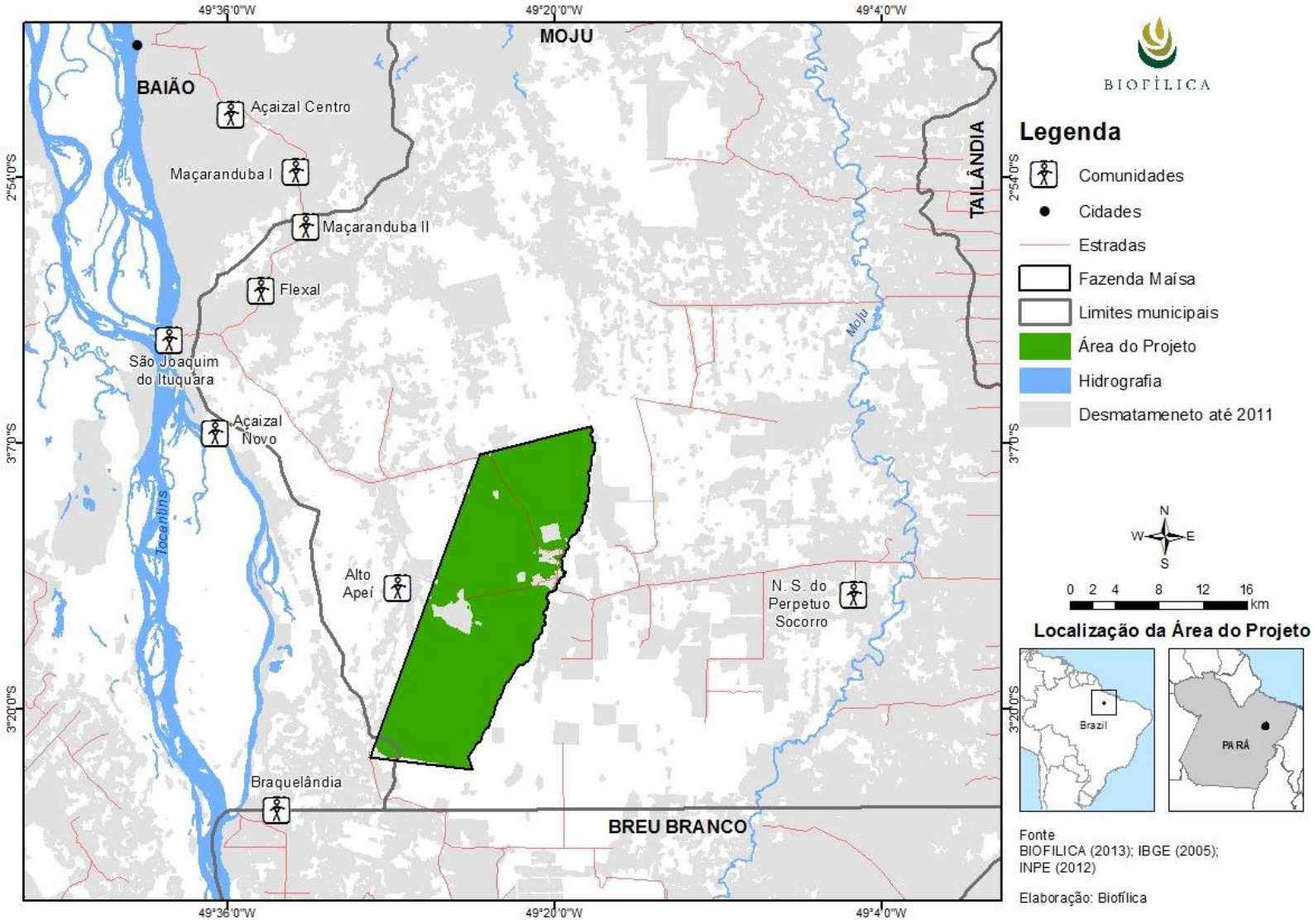

Figure 3. Communities engaged.