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Multi-scale participatory scenario methods as a tool of local population empowerment: case studies in the Brazilian Amazonia

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We are investigating how multi-scale participatory scenario methods can contribute to the process of consolidation of the mosaic of diverse territorial units which constitute the Brazilian Amazonia nowadays. Today, indigenous lands, conservation units and settlements represent more than 60% of the Amazonia. Such units were created with distinct goals, including: biodiversity conservation; to act as a physical barrier to the deforestation frontier; to assure the territory to indigenous and traditional population; as an answer to land reform demands; to provide resources to the forestry sector in Brazil. The future of the region, in terms of social development and greenhouse emissions, depends a great deal on the long term maintenance and sustainability of such units, intrinsically linked to - and dependent on - the future of the their population. We will discuss the results of two case studies at different types of units, a PAE (type of federal settlement with collective land tenure regime, aiming mostly at assuring territory for traditional populations, which live in the area for centuries) and a PA (a conventional type of settlement, in which land parcels are individual, and population are land reform beneficiaries who came from other places). We choose PAE Lago Grande and PA Moju for this end, both located in Santarém. Pará State. PA Moiu is still an on-going work, but we have completed the PAE Lago Grande study. Results at PAE Lago Grande show the potential of the proposed methodology as tool to support discussion about a desirable sustainable future among government, civil society and communities, promoting the visibility and empowering of local populations. The comparison of both case studies also sheds light on the heterogeneity of such units, and the different institutional arrangements which act upon them, and also in the potential for replication the methodology at different units and contexts.