CALL FOR PAPERS

PUBLIC POLICIES, SOCIAL MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND FOREST BUSINESS IN THE AMAZON

Guest editors

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Discussions regarding the imperative need for natural resource management and development in the Amazon have gained prominence since Eco-92 in Rio de Janeiro. More than 30 years later, there is still a quest for concrete, sustainable development alternatives (Homma et al., 2020) that extend beyond the mining and agro-export models, which have significant environmental impacts (Loureiro, 2012).

One common theme that has emerged is that the Amazon should not be seen as a homogeneous region; instead, it consists of several distinct territories (Vieira, 2015). As a result, numerous development options have arisen, including the social management of natural resources (Mesquita, 2014; Vasconcellos et al., 2018), bioeconomy models (Costa et al., 2021; Nobre & Nobre, 2019), and social impact businesses focused on the forest (Abramovay, 2019; Espada, 2015).

Indeed, in the Amazon, local production chains and arrangements operate at the intersection of economic, social, and environmental interests, creating economic, social, public, and environmental value (Comini, 2022). Various productive organizations are either part of or separate from these chains and arrangements.

It is believed that practices of social management of natural resources (Barbosa et al., 2016; Vasconcellos et al., 2018) and/or grassroots management of natural resources and bioeconomic development alternatives (Vasconcellos & Vasconcellos, 2007) have always existed. However, with the aggravation of climate issues, it is increasingly apparent that the region, the country, and the planet need the forest to remain alive to sustain humanity and simultaneously reduce economic poverty, address wealth distribution, and promote social and environmental justice. This requires, among other aspects, the strengthening of interorganizational arrangements, counting on the cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations, companies, and communities. The forest-based businesses the Amazon needs have been organized to address socio-environmental issues efficiently and obtain sustainability through market



mechanisms (Comini, 2022)

Despite academic progress in generating knowledge about natural resource management and the analysis of forest utilization for economic development in the region, gaps still exist in understanding the structure of local organizations and how they innovate, propose, and implement bioeconomic alternatives centered on collective arrangements and small family businesses that primarily drive local development. Against this backdrop, the following question is posed: Is it possible to design an integrated approach to the Amazon that considers the ethical, political, economic, and ecological aspects of natural resource management, with a focus on social participation and sustainability? This is the central problem guiding the debate this special issue seeks to put forward. The questions below are closely related to the theme of this CFP:

- How have state policies supported social management, collective and family-based bioeconomy, and the establishment of social impact businesses in the Amazon region?
- What types of businesses have emerged in the Amazon, particularly in the context of forest utilization and generating economic wealth for local communities?
- How do bioeconomy and social businesses based on natural resources interact with the territories and contribute to local development?
- What is the interplay between national policies and bioeconomy and social businesses based on natural resources?
- How have arrangements and networks of bioeconomy and social businesses based on natural resources been organized and managed, connecting small producers with other stakeholders, including businesses, civil society, and government?
- What progress has been made, and what challenges exist in the governance of networks and production arrangements rooted in bioeconomy and social businesses based on natural resources?
- How does the social management of natural resources fit into the process of regulating relationships between socioeconomic and sociocultural systems and the biophysical environment?

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