

Coordinated audit analyzes the conditions of Protected Areas in the Amazon

The Federal Court of Accounts (TCU) carried out, in 2013, together with the courts of accounts of nine states, an extensive audit in the Amazon's Conservation Units (UCs). Nowadays, the region has 247 units, which include

national parks, extractive reserves and national forests. The audit identified deficiencies in the management and implementation of units, as well as shortfall of financial and human resources, low levels of tourist visitation and deficiency in the handling plans.

UCs are protected spaces that seek to favor the environmental protection and sustainable use of resources. They also have the potential of economic development, employment generation and improved quality of life of populations living close



management, with proper handling plans implemented, rural regulations in process, servants and resources necessary for maintenance. 40% of the Conservation Units in the Amazon have a handling plan, a document which defines the specific plans for each unit area and its operating rules.

For the judge-rapporteur of the process, substitute minister Weder de Oliveira, “The lack of a handling plan is an obstacle practically impenetrable for reaching the purposes of the conservation units. Without establishing due zoning, rules that guide the use of each area, and rules for using natural resources, as well as establishing the definition of the physical structure necessary for managing the unit, it is really difficult to clearly and accurately measure

each conservation unit’s need for financial and human resources”.

LOW TOURISTIC IMPROVEMENT

The audit identified a low touristic improvement in UCs, since in the 18 national parks of the Amazon, there are no activities of environmental education and interpretation or of recreation and ecotourism. In order to seek a cure for the problem of tourism and lack of visibility given to the Conservation Units, ICMBio created the project “Park View”, together with Google. The action contributes to disclosing UCs, which are in the majority national parks, by providing to the user a virtual tour.

As result of the audit, TCU suggested that the Ministry of the Environment and Chico Mendes Institute (ICMBio), which are liable for UCs, prepare actions for allowing the best use of the 247 federal and state Conservation Units of the Legal Amazon. The agencies must disclose and disseminate the knowledge about the areas to society, in addition to increasing the economic use of the regions and providing conditions for them to reach the purposes intended.

The court also determined that ICMBio must prepare the management plans, aiming at the improved economic, social and environmental potential of such areas and that it must study with the Ministry of Tourism ways to implement pilot projects seeking alternatives for visitation and recreation in the conservation units of the Amazon biome.

thereto. In the Amazon, they play an important role in reducing deforestation and in decreasing greenhouse gases released.

The work, performed for one year, identified that only 4% of the conservation units in the Amazon have an efficient