

Good Living Amazon (pre-project)



28 January 2018

1 A species choice

Good Living Amazon is an alternative paradigm project. It is seeded in the small Afro-Indigenous community of Cabelo Seco, first settlement of Marabá City, between the threatened Itacaiúnas and Tocantins Rivers, Pará State. This region of the Brazilian Amazon has the greatest biodiversity and concentration of iron ore and drinking water in the world. But it also has the world's highest statistic for murdered activists and contains the most violent cities (genocide of black youth and extreme abuse of women), with the worst high school education in Brazil.

Scientists warn that deforestation, to industrialize the Amazon, is drying up its *flying rivers* that irrigate all biomes in the world. Indigenous and rural resistance still exists, but the vast majority of people are too vulnerable to question this multiple violence. We invite you, your projects and your networks to strengthen the Amazon so that together we can transform this extreme threat of ecocide into a sustainable future.

2 Performance as advocacy

The *Transformance Institute* chose to seed this project in Marabá, based on almost 20 years of eco-pedagogic projects in the region. Since 2008, our flagship *Rivers of Meeting project* has enabled excluded youth from Cabelo Seco to revive their roots and dying community through performance to protect their River Tocantins and all the rivers of the Amazon from industrialization.

Through international collaborations and forums, in partnership with social movements, local institutions and networks, the Brazilian Network of Arteducators, International Drama/Theatre Educational Association and World Social Forum, performance became advocacy. Our youth became art educators, media speakers, and project coordinators of a collectively created eco-pedagogy. When the mobile phone stole their time, motivation and health, we developed the *Rivers of Creativity project*. The phone became a resource to transform the future.



3 Civil society leads

Funded by Brazil's Ministries of Culture, Education and Justice until 2015, by UNICEF UNESCO and the EU, *Transformance* projects shaped the creation of Marabá's eco-pedagogic schools policy. The federal government claims such projects even influenced its January 2018 decision to cancel all hydroelectric dams planned for the Amazon. But in 2017, it cut all social funding, removed the social sciences from high school education, opened the Amazon to unregulated industrialization, and is now privatising energy. With the prospect of decades of cruel austerity, we must create sustainable networks of community collaboration and exchange our resources.

4 Glocal vision: resilience to sustainable collaboration

The indigenous Latin American concept of *good living*, rooted in community practice of an integral education, health, security and food sovereignty, sustained by a culture of care for *mother earth*, resonates today as a contemporary post-capitalist ideal of life beyond a violent and corrupt paradigm of predatory development.

Good Living Amazon aims to transform Marabá into the first Brazilian city sustained by its own solar energy grid through a network of international collaborations. The project proposes an international solidarity contribution of 40,000 solar panels, in exchange for Amazonian knowledges and local community pledges to leave intact its rivers, forests, minerals and aquifers, to preserve its biome.

5 Partnership: culture, education and energy for sustainability

Partners in Marabá and the Pará state capital of Belém include the Federal and State Universities of Pará, Military Police, Education, Environment and Health Secretariats, Association of Entrepreneurs, Marabá City Council, *Goeldi Museum*, and Pará State Legislative Assembly. *Transformance Institute* partners eco-pedagogic networks in Brazil (including leading Amazonian scientists), and in 60 countries across the world.

6 Methodology: creative advocacy for sustainable communities

This international, inter-institutional vision is to be achieved through a network of eco-pedagogic, artistic and cultural economic partnerships over a five-year period (2018-23). It will be advocated through performances throughout the world in collaboration with our young arts educators in Cabelo Seco. This advocacy will inspire the emergence of other networks and *good living* cities, and attract partners to develop the community-based solar energy grid in Marabá.

7 Community solar energy: Phase 1 - Research & international articulation (2018)



Marabá's solar power needs and potential are being scaled and costed by the *Amazon Solar Company*, skilled young graduates of the renowned *Research and Development of Energy Alternatives Studies Group (GEDAE)* based in the Federal University of Pará.

GEDAE designed our solar-powered bike-radio in 2014. *Amazon Solar* installed the first four community solar panels to power Cabelo Seco's *Community University of the Rivers* in December 2017.



The company will train electrical engineering students from the Federal University of South & Southeast of Pará, Pará State University and unemployed youth from Old Marabá, to form a professional solar energy cooperative.

Phase 2: Install 1000 solar panels in Old Marabá (2019)

Amazon Solar will collaborate with the Secretariats of Education, Environment and Security, and the Association of Entrepreneurs to install 1000 solar panels. These will power the city's oldest kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, hospital, health centre, library, old people's home, and military police headquarters, as well as the Municipal City Council, and Cabelo Seco's *House of Rivers*, in Old Marabá.

Phase 3: Install 39,000 solar panels across Marabá (2020-23)

GEDAE-Marabá will install solar panels in Marabá's 200 public schools, 4 hospitals, numerous health-centres, cultural centres, libraries, and community police units, supported by Citizenship Micro-Credit Facilities.



Your solidarity contributions

We invite you to write to the Marabá, Pará and Federal governments to invite them to partner this world project.

We invite you to link with our arts educators in Cabelo Seco, through creative residencies, performance exchanges, and performance making (in schools, forums, parliaments, and digital platforms), to advocate for a *Good Living Amazon*.

We invite you to donate funds or solar panels to install 40,000 solar panels by 2023 in Marabá, as a vital contribution to a *Good Living Amazon*.

Our *AfroRaiz Collective* of young arteducators thanks you for reading this pre-project and looks forward to collaborating with you. Please visit the bilingual sites (below) or write to me for more detailed information and/or to receive the relevant Marabá, Pará and Federal government emails.

Dan Baron Cohen
International Coordinator
Community University of the Rivers
email danbaronmst@hotmail.com



Rua Quintino Bocaiúva, 238 – Marabá Pioneira – Marabá/ PA – CEP 68500-030.
Amazônia – Brasil (fone: 91-98847 0521)

redeabra.org.br/idea2010 - riosdecriatividade.com - riosdeencontro.wordpress.com