



## The Sustainable Use of Amazonian Seeds : Brazil

Organic certified oils from Amazonian seeds

### Project description

The partnership, consisting of 26 employees, has fostered environmental conservation and social development since 2007. This is achieved by transferring technologies and by training the local community in Amazonian seeds.



### Business model

The partnership initiated the exploitation of under-utilised natural resources, which the local public authorities considered to be waste.

The products generated by the local community are organic certified oils, extracted from Ucuuba and Andiroba seeds, and handcrafted candles.

Beraca, one the funding partners, buys the oils and sells them to the cosmetic industry, the main client being L'Occitane.

### Scaling up activities

- Develop a training division to produce Andiroba and Ucuuba candles
- Develop training to produce candle holders as initiated by Carlos Amaral, an indigenous Marajoara artist
- Build the Coopemaflima headquarters
- Train the cooperative to work with other non-timber materials
- Seek other partners.

### Immediate needs

- Support with building the cooperative's headquarters
- Assistance with informing the community about the social and environmental impacts
- Assistance with educating the communities about entrepreneurship.



# SEED Awards 2009

for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

## WINNER

### Partnership

- **Coopemaflima** produces Andiroba and Ucuuba oils and handcrafted candles.
- **Beraca** transfers technology to cooperatives, and increases sales to major customers such as L'Occitane.
- **L'Occitane Foundation** buys andiroba oil which is traceable and of high quality.



### Social, environmental and economic impacts

**Social impact:** Led by women, the initiative creates social inclusion, provides skills training for the community and promotes gender equality while preserving local knowledge about the use of plants.

**Environmental impact:** The initiative helps to preserve 10,000 Andiroba trees in the Marajó Island

and 5,000ha of native forest. Beraca, together with the other partners, improves the community's social and environmental awareness.

**Economic impact:** The partnership provides an alternative source of income and thus resources which enable children to be sent to school.

### Contact

**André Sabará**

Email: [andre.sabara@beraca.com](mailto:andre.sabara@beraca.com)

[www.beraca.com](http://www.beraca.com)

### SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



### About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: [www.seedinit.org](http://www.seedinit.org)

### SEED Secretariat

[info@seedinit.org](mailto:info@seedinit.org)