# AMAZONIA-EDU

Education for the Planet's Sustainable Development

FAS

SDSN Amazonia

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1897
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA
NEW ZEALAND

15-day immersion in Manaus and Tumbira community, part of Rio Negro Sustainable Development Reserve.

Getting to know the local reality to inspire and deepen knowledge about sustainable development.

# Lab VICTORIA UNIVERSITY - FEBRUARY 2020 -

The Lab Victoria University Immersion was created in partnership with Victoria University from New Zealand, for their students from a variety of courses. It was held between February 2nd and 16th of 2020, in Manaus and Rio Negro Sustainable Development Reserve (RDS). The immersion in the Amazon happened after 2 weeks the group spent in São Paulo, exploring different sustainable development initiatives, mainly from the private sector, in partnership with INSPER (Teaching and Research Institute).

The immersion was created bringing together academic knowledge about the Amazon region with traditional knowledge of Rio Negro communities.

# PROGRAM

| | | domingo | segunda-feira | terça-feira | quarta-feira | quinta-feira | sexta-feira | Sábado | Domingo |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2-fev | 3-fev | 4-fev | 5-fev | 6-fev | 7-fev | 8-fev | 9-fev |
| lab AMAZONIA | | Welcome | Manaus | Tumbira Community | Amazon Rainforest | Biodiversity | Community Life | Food | Tourism |
| 7:30 | | Breakfast | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | Check in | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | Part 1 | Gol 1642: 11h25 - 14h15 | FAS | Boat to Tumbira | Amazon Basics | Biodiversity treck | Community Life | Casa de Farinha | Tourism as a path to forest conservation |
| 10:30 | Part 2 | | | Setting up + Getting to know Tumbira | | | | | |
| 12:30 | | Lunch | | | | | | | |
| 14:30 | Part 1 | Arriving in Manaus - Local Hostel | MUSA - Visit to Amazon Museum | Our journey and learning process | Amazon challenges | Arts and Crafts with seeds | Community themes | Merenda Workshop | Beach |
| 16:00 | Part 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 16:30 | | Check out | | | | | | | |
| 19:30 | | Dinner | | | | | | | |
| 20:30 | Night Activities | Welcome Dinner | | Night cruise | | | Movie: Eternal Amazon | | |
| 22:00 | | Sleep time | | | | | | | |

# PROGRAM

| segunda-feira | terça-feira | quarta-feira | quinta-feira | sexta-feira | sábado | domingo |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10-fev | 11-fev | 12-fev | 13-fev | 14-fev | 15-fev | 16-fev |
| **Water** | **Wood** | **Agriculture** | **Learnings from the Amazon** | **Back to Manaus** | **Manaus** | **Going home** |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Amazon Waters | Sustainable wood management | Traditional agriculture x Agroforest | Review and appreciation | Packing | Free day | Gol 1641: 04h00 - 09h05 |
| | | | | | | |
| Fishing | Medicinal Plants Workshop | Work on the land | Group work - "Learnings we are taking back home from the Amazon" | Going back to Manaus | Free day | Flight to New Zealand |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | Dinner in the center of Manaus | | |
| | | | | | | |

# PEOPLE

10 people were part of the group, between 19 and 44 years old, students from the masters and Phd programs of Victoria University. Two teachers of the University were accompanying and guiding the team.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE PROGRAM

Part of the goals of this edition was to involve as many people from the community as possible. The idea came with two main intentions:

- to be able to access as much of different local knowledge, skills and point of views in the learning process
- To bring economic value to the local services and especially to the local knowledge as a path to bring the perception of value to the community members themselves.

26 people, from 3 communities were directly involved in the activities, by teaching workshops, transporting, cookings or selling goods.

# LEARNING REFLECTIONS

During the last day of the immersion, students were guided by Victoria University teachers through a reflection process of the content of the program. They also made a presentation of their learnings during the immersion.

We want to share some highlight of these reflections:

- Leadership: there are different types of leaders, people from the community and people form outside
- Community Knowledge: diversity of knowledge - formal education and life experience
- Amazon and biodiversity: important numbers for the world; more diversity than abundance, makes the territory more vulnerable
- People of Tumbira "ribeirinhos": close to Manaus - challenges and benefits; youth have a important role to continue and move forward

# LEARNING REFLECTIONS

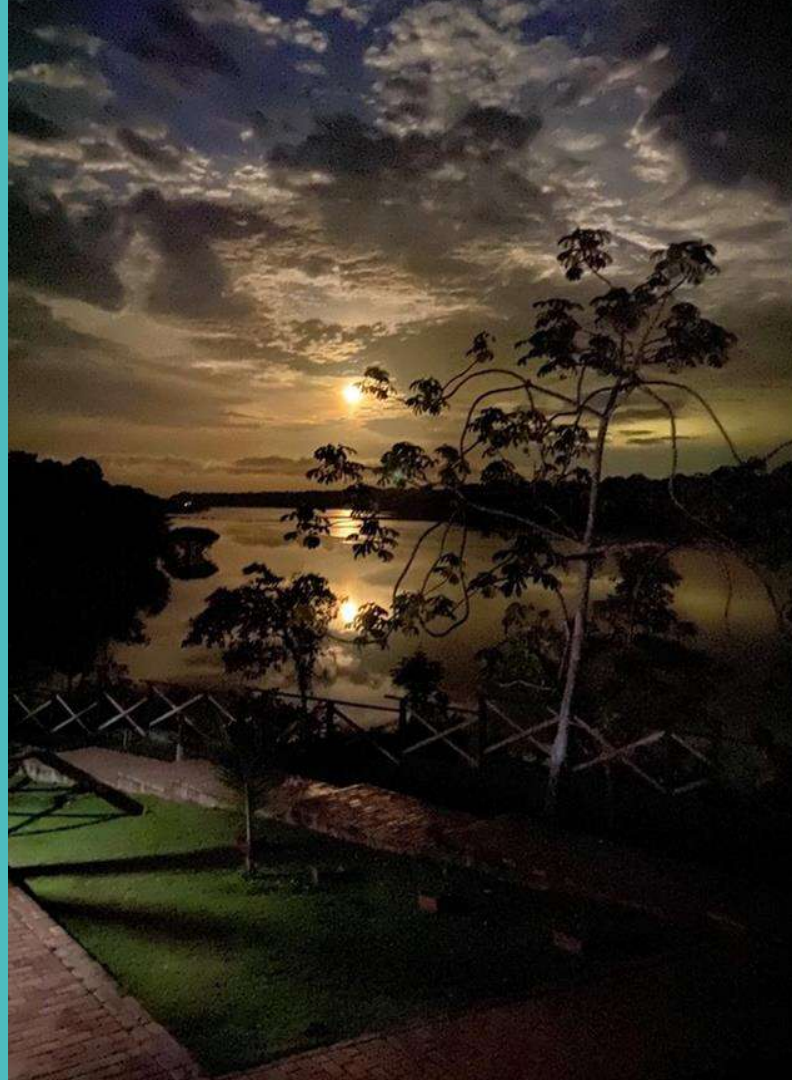
- Tourism: quality is more important than quantity; it brought not only income but changed their perspective about themselves and the place where they live
- Ethical Innovation: creativity using products from the forest - innovations should come from inside the communities, and it's important to consider that each community is unique
- Nature: is also related to spirituality and not only resources
- Economic Sustainability: people need to be economic sustainable in order to maintain the environment and promote the change - cost of sustainability; same resources can be used to do more
- Government: lack of communication between the sectors; many laws are disconnected to the local reality
- FAS and NGOs: important role with their projects and relation between communities and government
- Sustainability: easy to talk about it, but difficult to implement; connection between research, education and community

# PARTICIPANTS EVALUATION

The immersions from Lab Amazon-edu aims to be a program in constant evolution and learning.

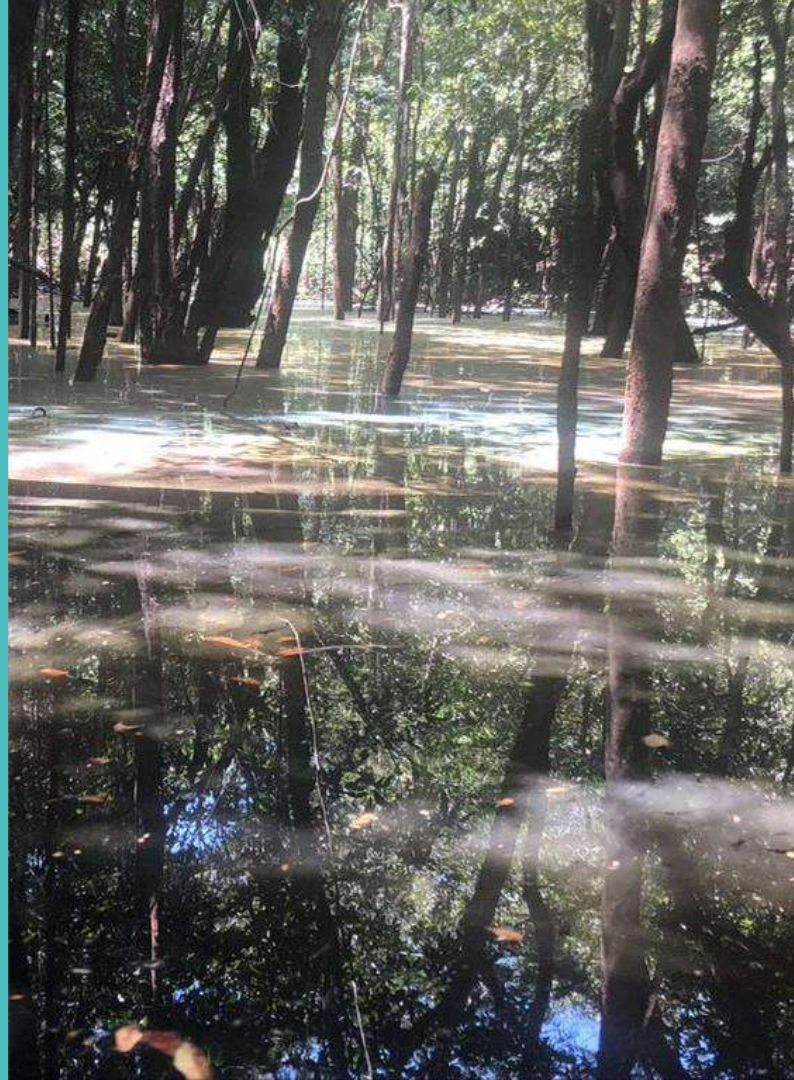
6 out of 10 participants answered an evaluation that was based on affirmations regarding different aspects of the course, to which they could Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree or strongly disagree. There was a space to further suggestions in the end.

- 66% enjoyed the process before the immersion (zoom talk and participants guide)
- 83% enjoyed the accommodation in Manaus at Local Hostel
- 100% strongly enjoyed the accommodation during the program in Tumbira NCS
- 100% strongly enjoyed transportation during the time we spent in Tumbira (speed, waiting time, security and comfort)



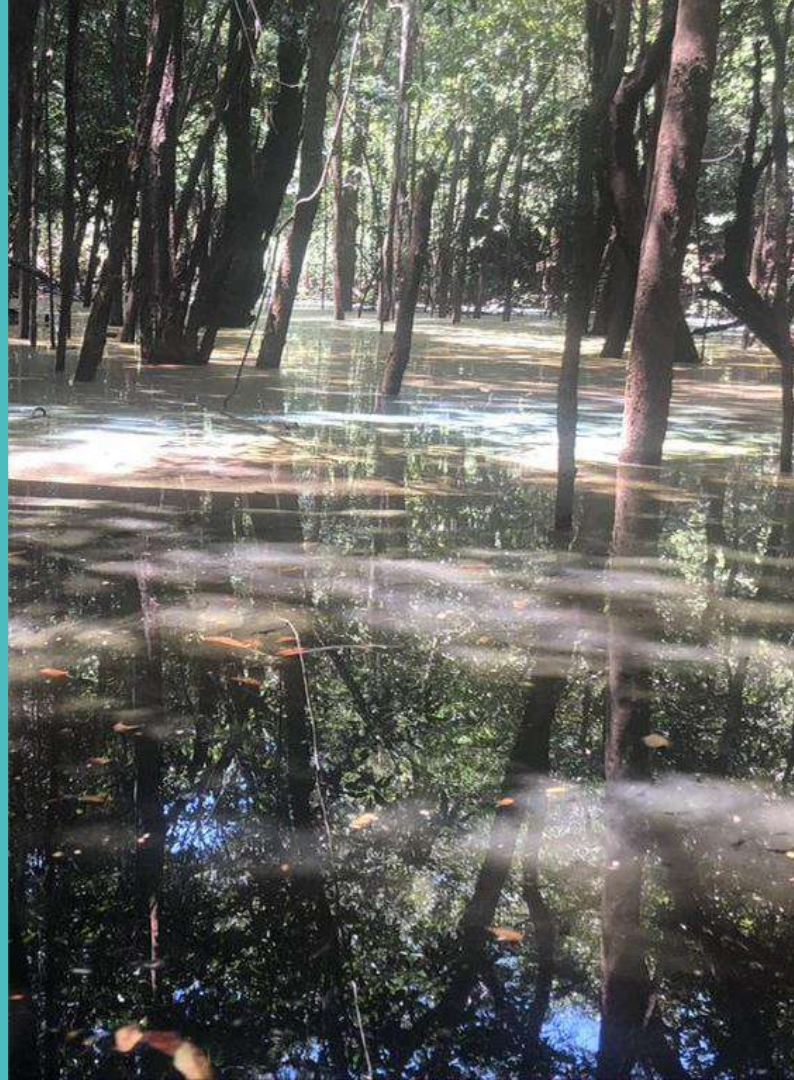
# PARTICIPANTS EVALUATION

- 83% strongly agree that the facilitation of the sessions was appropriate and helpful
- 100% strongly agree that the amount of daily activities was good
- 66% strongly agree that the number of external speakers was good
- 83% strongly agree that the quality of external speakers was good
- 83% strongly agree that the concepts and tools used during the course were appropriate
- 50% strongly agree that the range of subjects addressed was satisfactory
- 66% strongly agree that the depth with which those subjects were addressed was satisfactory
- 66% was strongly satisfied with the cleanliness and hygiene of the place where we had our meals in Tumbira
- 50% was satisfied with how laundry was taken care of in Tumbira



# PARTICIPANTS EVALUATION

- The main suggestions were:
  - An overview of the program or a packing list could have been sent earlier to the participants, to have a better idea of what to bring.
  - Food could be more varied, sometimes it was repetitive sometimes
  - Laundry could be more organized, they didn't know where it was drying
  - Towers in the bathroom would be helpful
  - More time to ask questions could be good. Go in more depth around some topics, such as agriculture.
  - Could have been good to have more external speakers invited.

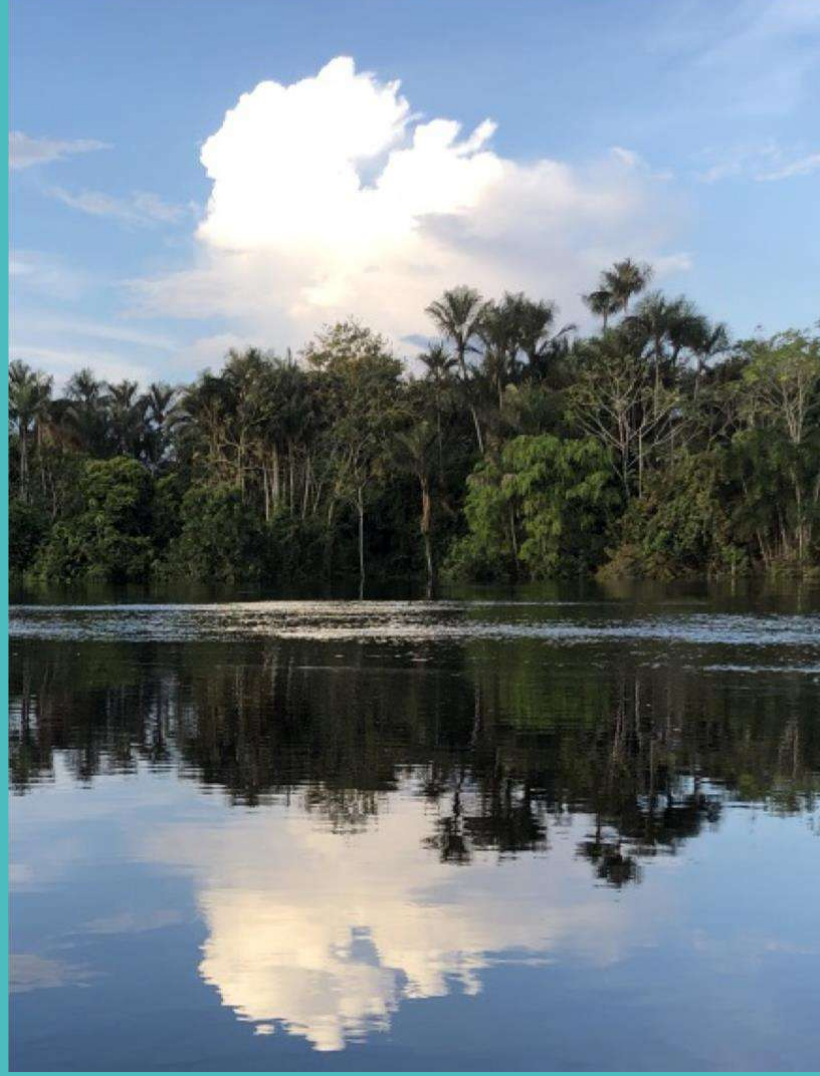


# TEAM REFLECTIONS

The immersions from Lab Amazon-edu aims to be a program in constant evolution and learning.

With this intentions we want to share some reflections from the team:

- The teachers who came from Victoria University were very important to guide the group through the learning reflections and connect the local learning to their backgrounds
- Students from Victoria University were really involved and brought great questions and reflections.
- More people from different communities were involved in the activities and they could feel more the impacts of the course, meeting everyone and exchange knowledge
- We need to have more and higher quality life jackets, security is crucial.
- The program design was perceived by the team as the best so far: we could go throw different aspects and themes with quality time to all the activities, in a gradual learning curve.
- To develop the program in daily themes showed once again to work well
- Temperature really interferes in the group capacity. The best option is to start the afternoons at 2:30 or 3pm, with more light activities.



# NEXT STEPS

As part of their evaluation process for Victoria University each one of the students is going to write an essay related to one of the themes they had learned during the Amazon immersion.

Besides, Victoria University team shared their intention of running the program again with a different group of students.

# THANK YOU

Together with us lots of people and institutions made this immersion happens. For all of them we want to say Thank you! In special for Victoria University, in the person of Flavia Donadelli and Arun Elias, for trusting and making everything happen.

We deeply thank our partners:

- Tumbira community, Santa Helena do Ingles community and Carão community or hosting, taking care of the group and sharing their knowledge with us.
- Local Hostel, that has been a partner of Amazon-Edu for many years.
- Roberto and all his team from Pousada Garrido, who always gives all the support, with logistics and preparing the best food for us every day.
- Liane Lima (from FAS), Mario Cohn-Haft, Rita Mesquita and Dayse Ferreira (from Inpa) who shared their technical and experiential knowledge with us.
- All of our teachers from the communities Tumbira and Santa Helena do Inglês: Vilson, João Vitor, Roberto, Manoel, Giovane, Shirlene, Luana, Paty, Regina, Dona Isabel, Dona Maria, Marineuza, Tarcilo, Toti, Dora, Seu Pedro e Romerito, Seu Demetrio e Dona Pequena, Dona Socorro e Seu Zé, and everyone from the community who shared their knowledge and experiences with us.

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