Urban and environmental potential in the Amazon frontier: proposal of urban requalification of the Canaã dos Carajás municipality

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The Major Projects created by the federal government in the second half of the twentieth century significantly affected the structuring of numerous Amazonian cities. In declaring the occupation and the integration of the Amazon with the rest of the country, it was led to the creation of new urban centers and the transformation of the existing ones. The great demand of required workforce has generated various population bumps, because the urban area grew at a much faster pace than the supply infrastructure in these cities. The implementation of new mining projects and power supply still provoke high rates of growth in the municipalities of Pará's southeastern.

From 2000 to 2010, the region had municipalities with population growth higher than 100%. Among them, we highlight here the city of Cannã dos Carajás, which grew almost 150% (with its urban population increased 1065.57% between 2000 and 2014) and is expected to continue growing over the next decade. However, the population grew, but the income remains concentrated: in urban areas, only 6.4% of the population receives more than three minimum wages. This is worse when verified in the rural population of the municipality where only 1.7% of the population are in this three minimum wages income range (IBGE, 2010; URBISAMAZONIA, 2014). Faced with this expectation, new housing developments have been deployed in the city indiscriminately, without the evaluation of planners and environmental technicians, these factors generate a context that gives rise to structural damage in terms of deployment, security, displacement and accessibility and whose consequences are already notable demographically and environmentally.

This work, therefore, aims to analyze the physical conditions and explore the ecological potential (of urban-environmental interests) of an Amazon frontier town, in order to raise the necessary knowledge to direct the actions of operation and integration. Canaã dos Carajás, because it is a municipality still young, its urban space is not saturated, despite the high rates of population growth. The performance of the developers in the urban expansion caused a spreading core intensely and without regulation, causing a very low density of 24.8 inhabitants/ha. That being said, the urban area of the municipality is more extensive than the needs of the population, but with the lack of skilled technicians and efficient urban regulations, the route became disjointed and with different parameters in each land plot. The connection between different lots do not respect a process of alignment, that way the city appears to be constituted by small urban fragments that do not interact with each other.

Despite this urban setting, the city offers most of its intra-urban watercourses with preserved margins, potential massive green on the outskirts of the urban area allow you to control its growth. The occupation of the hills within the perimeter is still recent, allowing actions to control future degradations and local regeneration, its network is disjointed, but it is large in much of the road extension, and low local density allows requalification. The urban area still has much potential to qualify the space and to promote the integration with the rest of the municipal territory of Canaã. Observing the municipality as a whole, a wide area belongs to the Unit of Conservation of Carajás National Forest. There is also the presence of large areas of ranchers farms, and the existence of green mass is common in the city, such as the small villages that depend on the supply of consumables from the urban core and shelter a large number of construction mining workers of the site. That being said, the available urban-environmental resources give competence to significant improvements. Currently, the entire county is under interest, research or ore extraction. While there is mining construction happening on site, there are investments and jobs in the city, and these resources should be invested in order to make the municipality independent of the private sector and to develop a well-designed urban planning.

Long-term, this situation can come to institute a backdrop of political and economic asymmetries and irreversible losses. Being the result of an arising case of

neglect of management, lack of monitoring and studies of the area, as well as the lack of public policies for the improvement and regulation of urban areas, as has occurred in different proportions in other border cities such as Parauapebas, Marabá, among others. The mining projects started within the municipality since 2000 (previously being in the Sierra de Carajás, in the municipal territory of Parauapebas), causing high rates of population growth and the out-of-control expansion of the urban fabric by the management. It becomes visible, therefore how the excessive and poor growth, the locators' action and the explicit spatial segregation and discontinuity of the urban fabric caused by population explosion from major projects are established due to lack of guidelines and indicators. Resulting, that way, in the city's inability to structure itself to suit the new demographic situation and uphold this impending expansion. Because it is an area of national interest, where the licenses of use and extraction of ore are carried out by spheres above the local levels, municipal management ends up being subjected to decisions of state and federal government that impact on its operation and municipal distribution, with its planning always limited by external decisions.

Canaã is still in a threshold position that despite the speed of these processes, their effects still can be learned and controlled, and the ownership ratio of urban space by the population can be gained. There is still the possibility to protect, save and provide better city use conditions, leaving to municipal, state and federal managers to reconcile all federal entities in order to generate an appropriate regional planning and resources intended for urban improvement. In addition, it is visible that the demands made in these cases are historically insufficient, and that local governments do not always provide investment profile compatible with the social demands or that are at least minimally reasonable to perform the necessary infrastructure.

Our proposal aims to show the possibility of integrating urban and environmental management of the municipality through actions that promote the quality of urban life through the conservation and interaction of the population with the existing natural surroundings. Using urban indicators that demonstrate the needs and regional shortcomings and that can guide strategies and guidelines as well as a best use of the space, having the population as the protagonist. Making it possible, urban and environmental potentials that envisage the recognition and appropriation of users with

their environment in the various qualities - not only economic - of an Amazonian frontier town.

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