

# AMAZONIA-EDU

Education for the Planet's Sustainable Development





*lab*

**AMAZONIA**

AMAZONIA · E D U · O R G



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.

A top-down photograph showing several hands of different skin tones reaching into a large, brown, woven basket. The basket is filled with small, yellow, irregularly shaped particles, possibly seeds or wood shavings. The hands are positioned around the perimeter of the basket, with fingers spread, as if sifting or sorting the contents. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the basket and the color of the particles. In the top right corner, there is a small logo for 'Lab AMAZONIA' with a stylized 'A' icon.

# 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
		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 trek	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
<b>Water</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Learnings from the Amazon</b>	<b>Back to Manaus</b>	<b>Manaus</b>	<b>Going home</b>
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:

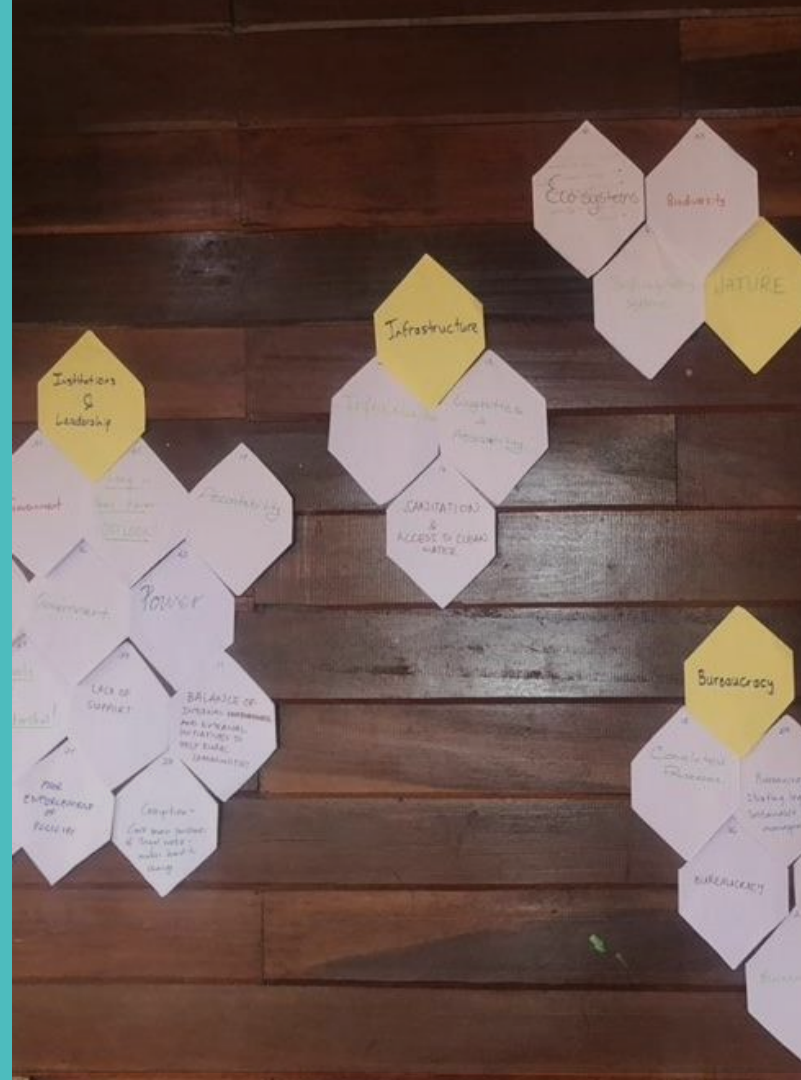
- Leadership: there are different types of leaders, people from the community and people from outside
- Community Knowledge: diversity of knowledge - formal education and life experience
- Amazon and biodiversity: important numbers for the world; more diversity than abundance, makes the territory more 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.

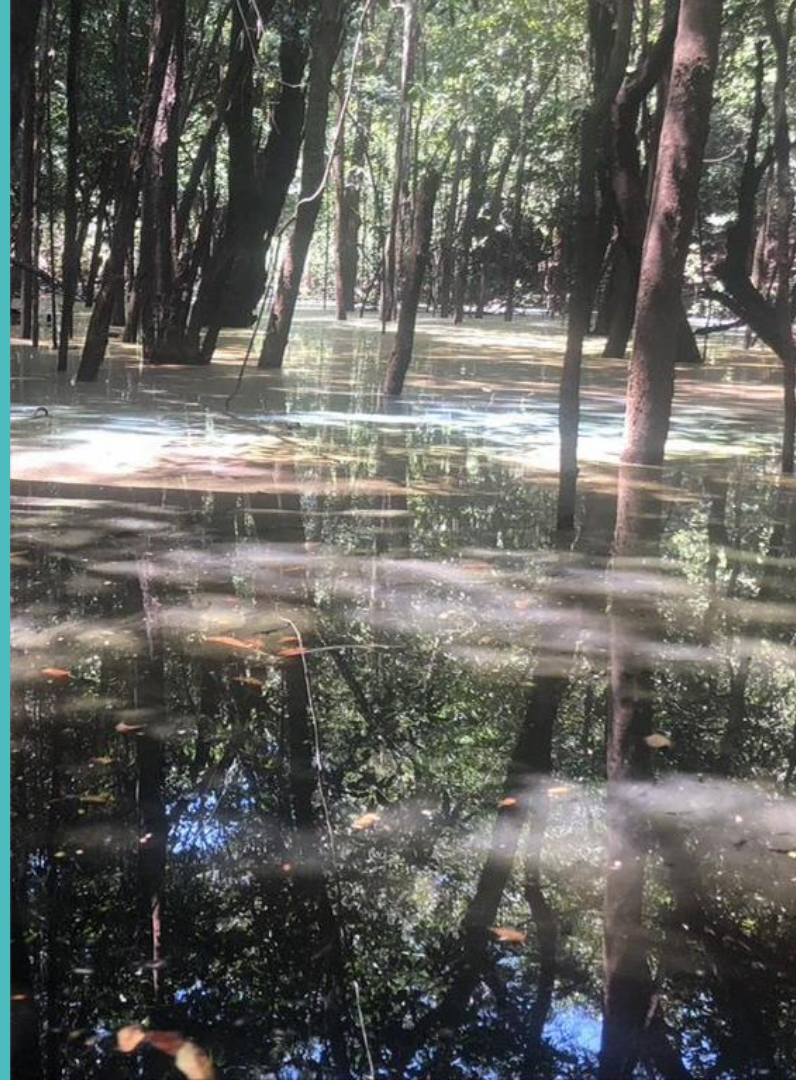
- 66% enjoyed the process before the immersion (zoom talk and participants guide)
- 83% enjoyed the accommodation in Manaus at Local Hostel
- 100% strongly enjoyed the accommodation during the program in Tumbira NCS
- 100% strongly enjoyed transportation during the time we spent in Tumbira (speed, waiting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



# PARTICIPANTS EVALUATION



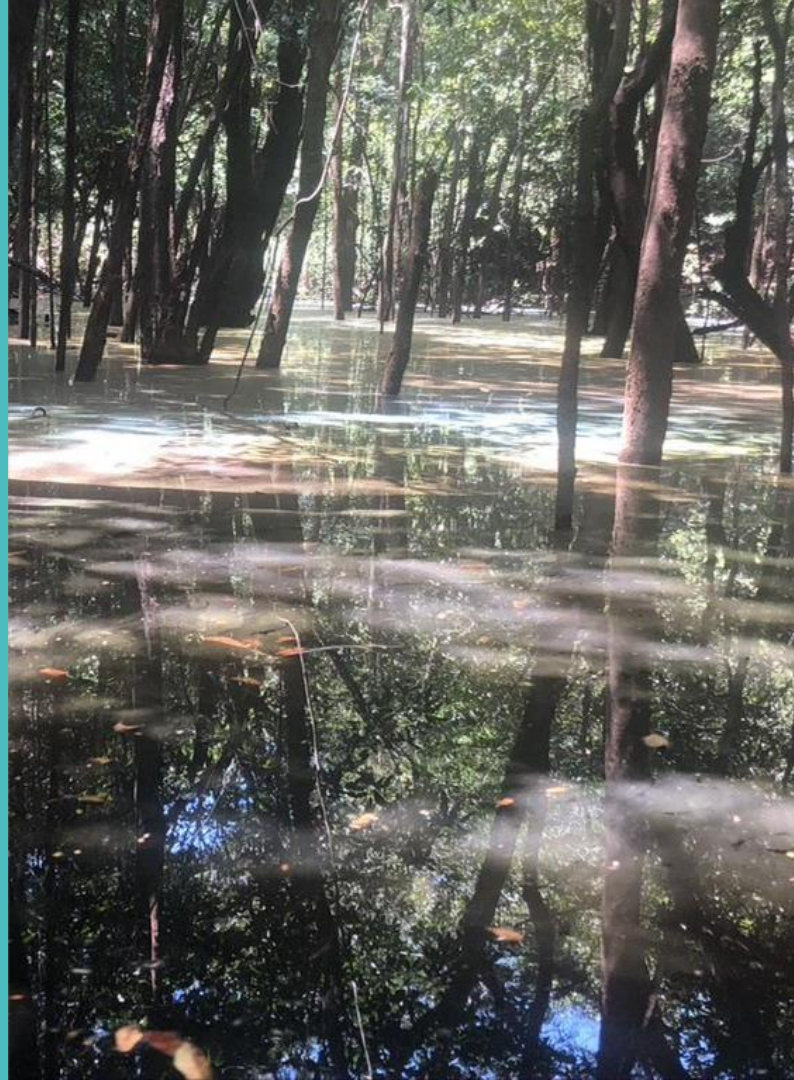
- 83% strongly agree that the facilitation of the sessions was appropriate and helpful
- 100% strongly agree that the amount of daily activities was good
- 66% strongly agree that the number of external speakers was good
- 83% strongly agree that the quality of external speakers was good
- 83% strongly 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 for 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.

# AMAZONIA-EDU

Education for the Planet's Sustainable Development

