

Institutional change grounded in socio-bioeconomies for leaving no one and no forest behind in Amazônia?

1 Introduction in a (Brazil) nutshell

Iterative conceptual-empirical research approach - building on intertwined problems:

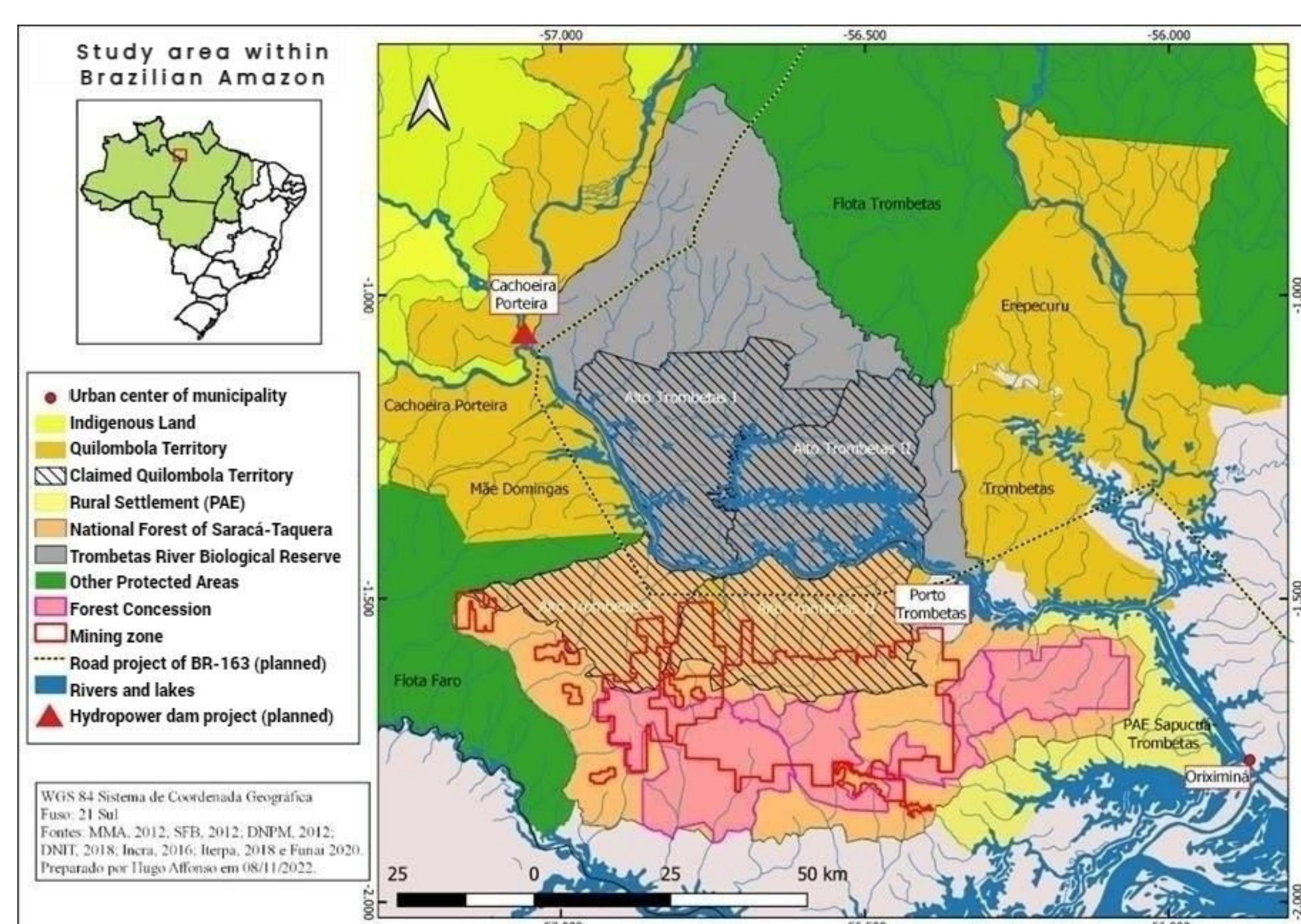
- (i) Access restrictions to livelihood-relevant resources and markets by traditional local communities in protected areas;
- (ii) A limiting institutional environment for equitable socio-bioeconomies in a context of high natural occurrence of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), low HDI and rich biodiversity in rural Amazônia, Brazil.

2 Research questions

- (i) How do institutions (re)shape natural resource and market access by Quilombolas in the protected area (PA) of the Trombetas River Biological Reserve (TRBR)? [Q1]
- (ii) How can access-implications be addressed or redressed towards equitable socio-bioeconomies? [Q2]

3 Unit of analysis

Figure 1: Map of study area with PA (TRBR) overlapping with claimed Quilombola Territory



Implications of the TRBR Term of Compromise (TC) - a formal institution written by Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) - on livelihood-relevant access to socio-biodiversity products (Brazil nuts) and markets are analyzed.

4 Methods

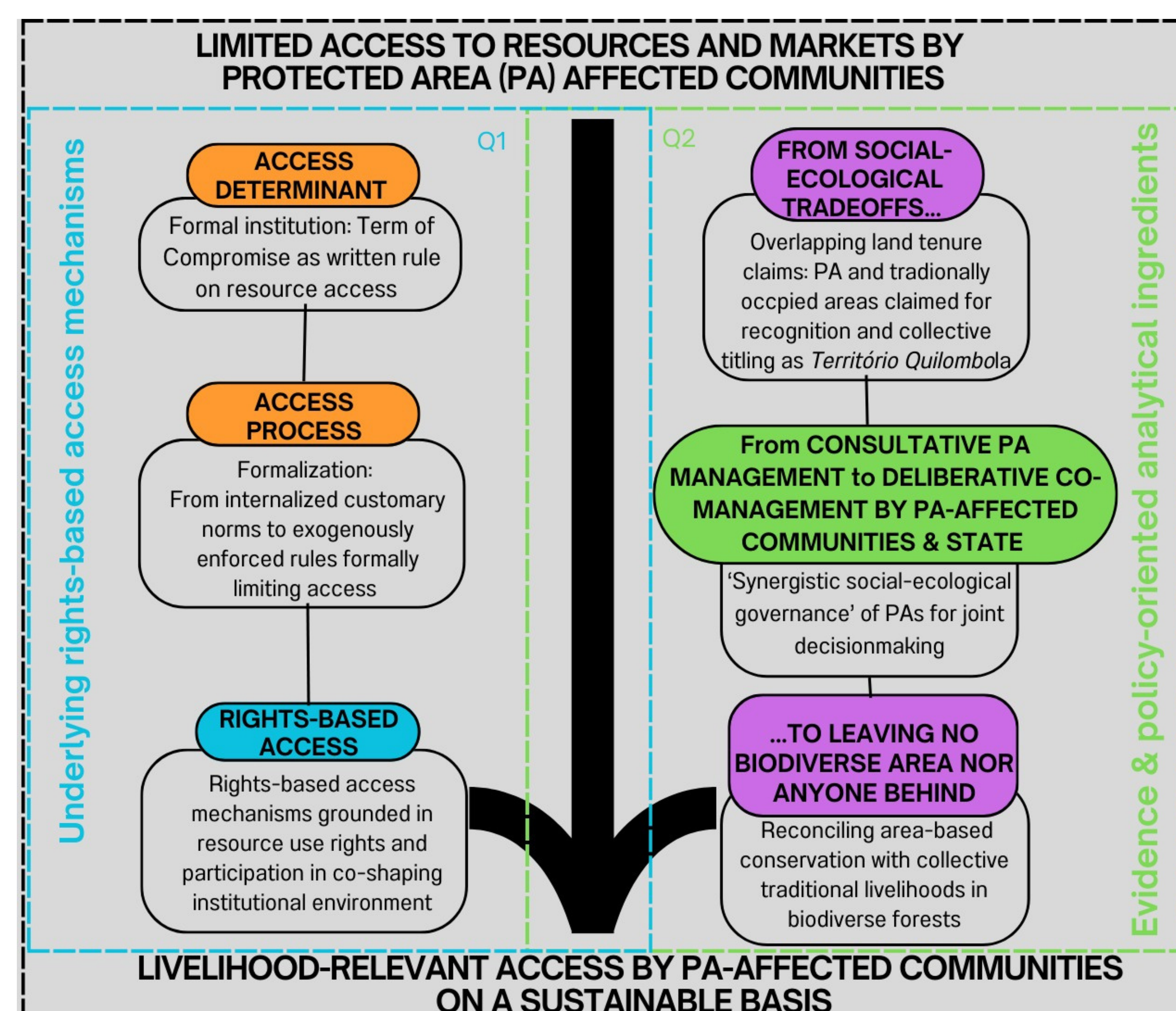
- (i) Semi-structured interviews (n=96) focusing on NTFP gatherers and key informants;
- (ii) Observation and focus-group interviews for data triangulation. Analytical framework combining access theory, institutions and property-rights scholarship.

5 Findings from analysis

- (i) TC (2012) overwrites institutionalized norms of Quilombola communities, which regulated livelihood-relevant access long before TRBR establishment (1979).
- (ii) TC formalizes Brazil-nut use but also unintentionally contributes to an oligopsonic market structure, restricts resource and market access, and limits Quilombolas' socio-bioeconomy benefits.

5.1 Framing –insights –responses

Figure 2: Framework of ingredients for navigating social-ecological tradeoffs around protected areas



5.2 Wrapping up –policy options

- (i) Recognize collective land tenure and customary institutions in territories overlapping with TRBR;
- (ii) Inclusive co-management of protected areas and the TC with Quilombola communities;
- (iii) Locally adapt the TC while co-creating an enabling institutional environment for sustainable socio-biodiversity product use and equitable market access;
- (iv) Strengthen inclusive grievance mechanisms for PA-affected rightsholders;
- (v) Policy outlook: Brazil's National Bioeconomy Development Plan (2026), with its socio-bioeconomy focus, offers an entry point for uptake of case-based learnings; and
- (vi) Informing Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other in Rio Convention processes, and spaces for participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities leading local socio-bioeconomies towards co-shaping decision-making for Rio synergies.