

# «Sempre Viva» flower picker communities become first Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in Brazil

Land Governance as a mean to increase resilience to climate and environmental risks

Judith Macchi, Advisor Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction



# The Brazilian Cerrado



# Sempre Viva Flower Picker Communities



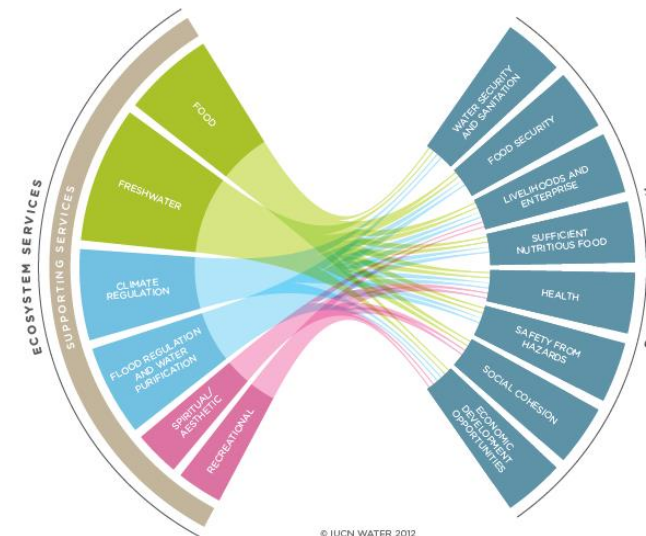
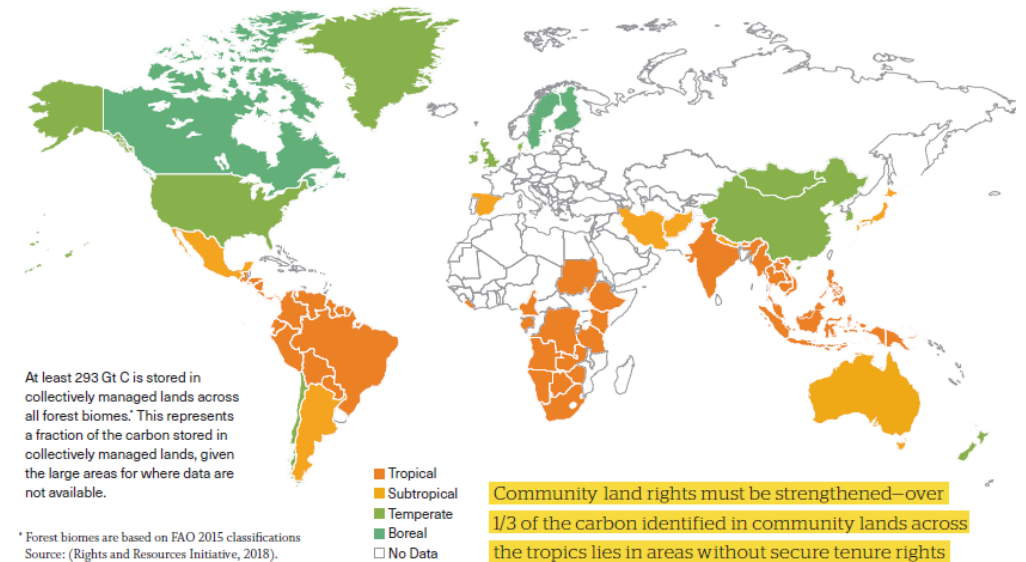
# Sempre Viva Flower Picker Communities



# Common Land Use and its potential for CCA and CCM

- «... community-based approaches to land governance and forest management is one of the most urgent and effective steps we can take for climate protection, ecosystem resilience, and the protection of vulnerable front-line defenders.» **Missing Pathways to 1.5°C, CLARA 2018**
- “Ecosystem-based adaptation harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of human communities to climate change.” **Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010**

Indigenous and community lands across 64 countries store >293 gigatonnes of carbon.



# Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System - GIAHS



**Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” (GIAHS)** are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage (FAO)

<http://www.fao.org/giahs/en/>



# Biodiversity Inventory of the Serra do Espinhaço



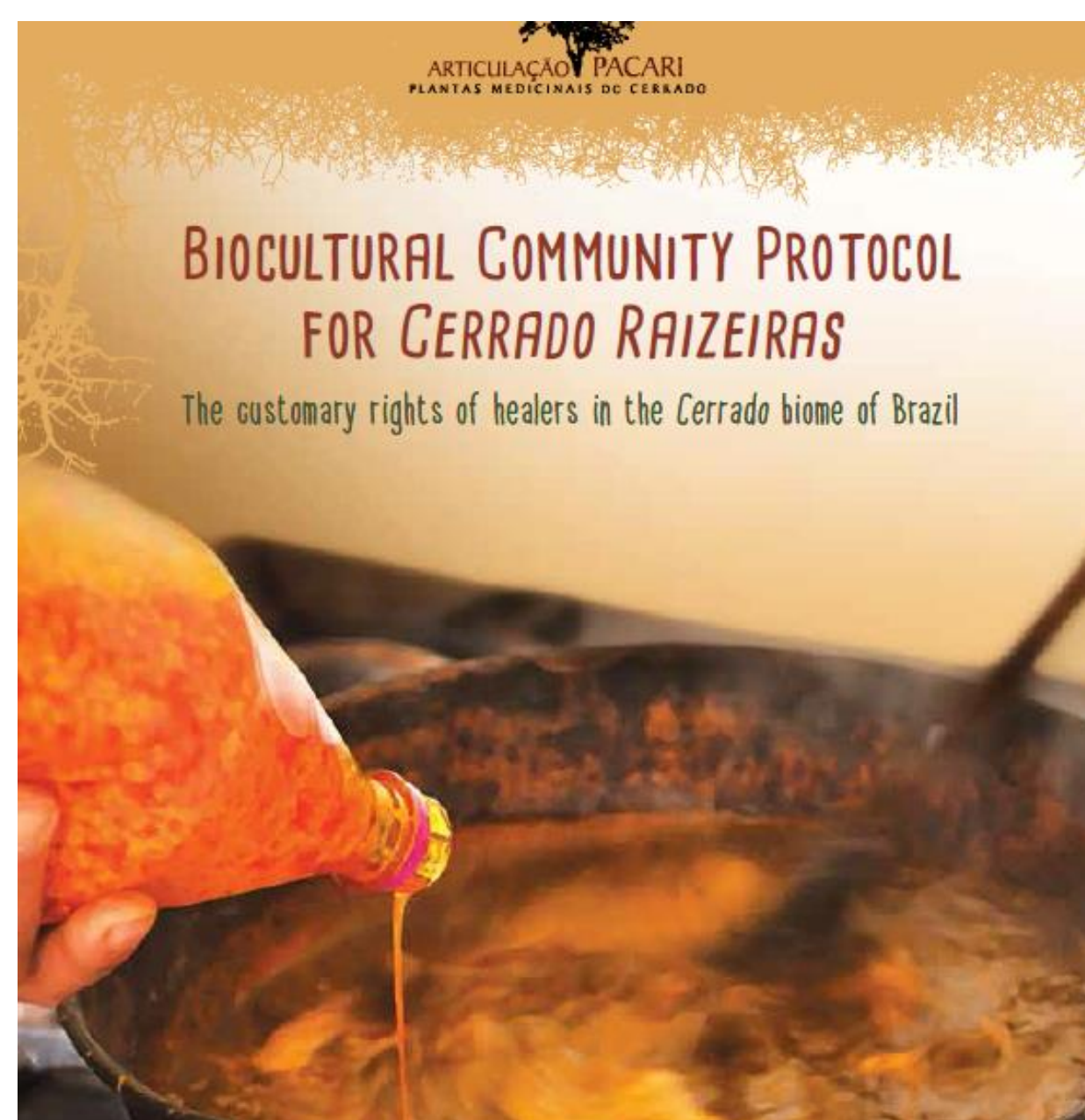
**240 species of dry flowers (endemics) and fruits – major part for exportation (EU, USA and Asia/Japan) – 58 municipalities involved**



**At least 78 cultivated species (polyculture, rotation and food and nutritional security) and 83 medicinal species**

# Biocultural Community Protocol

- A definition of the community, its leadership and decision making processes
- A description of community-based natural resource management systems, knowledge, innovations, and practices
- Ways of life, including the links between culture, spirituality, and customary laws and values;
- Rights, responsibilities, and duties of the community according to customary, national, and international law;
- Conditions set out by the community for granting access to their lands, resources and knowledge, such as procedures for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in line with the Nagoya Protocol of the CBD;





## Lessons Learnt

- GIAHS process facilitated by HEKS has enormously strengthened the communities' identities and their understanding of their role, responsibilities and rights as a safeguard for the resilience of an ecosystem, which is of importance not only to them, but to the country as a whole
- The interest of the FAO to give an international label to the flower picker communities has increased their visibility and recognition; this might offer opportunities for the civil society to continue their work on sensitive issues like land governance and environmental protection even in times of shrinking space in Brazil
- The GIAHS process promotes knowledge management and transfer (between generations and regions) by documenting traditional agricultural management practices and their evolution taking into account the importance of maintaining the resilience of the ecosystem
- With the GIAHS process, HEKS facilitated a multi-stakeholder dialogue (from local to international level) around the importance of conservation and sustainable management of ecosystem which enhances the climate resilience for a region and the nation as a whole, showing alternatives to further green grabbing or agro-industrial investments in the Cerrado



Thank you!

