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# PERSISTENCIES AND TRANSFORMATIONS AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE WAY OF LIFE (FUND OF PASTO) IN A SETTLEMENT IN THE HINTERLAND OF BAHIA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The present article has as object of analysis the way of life type Community of Pasture Background, that guarantees the sustainability of the members of the Community Association of the Residents of Povoado Serrote, in the village Serrote, rural area of the municipality of Paulo Afonso-BA its general objective is to analyze the possibility of recognizing the pasture fund in the surroundings of Povoado Serrote, bordering ESEC Raso da Catarina in the city of Paulo Afonso -BA, ensuring the preservation of these areas. To carry out the research, bibliographic material was used; participant observation; applying a form and conducting an interview. The participant observation was carried out with the members of the Community Association of the Residents of Povoado Serrote, using a structured form containing closed questions, with dichotomous and multiple choice answers, and the interviews were of the unstructured type. It was verified, with the analysis, that it is essential to recognize the Pasture Background Community existing in Povoado Serrote, to guarantee the continuity and maintenance of the existing population, in order to stimulate the permanence of these people in the place where they were born and constituted their However, there is a need for more in-depth discussions on the theme, enabling a harmonious coexistence with the shallow ESEC of Catarina, which was implemented without checking the existing population in its surroundings, aiming at the development of a model adequate to the factual reality observed.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Frequently asked questions in Parks, Ecological Stations and Reserves managed by Federal and State bodies, the withdrawal of traditional residents from their traditional territories converted into Conservation Units, leading to the extinction of their way of life. Also finding in these traditional communities, issues of conflict between residents of these areas and those who prefer not to be recognized as a traditional community to live in the condition of family farmers to be inserted in the policies directed to them (ALMEIDA, 2013). On the other hand, in the case of traditional communities, whether they are grazing, quilombola or indigenous, the inadequate policies implemented by Organs responsible bodies are observed, following guidelines consolidated in the National System of

Conservation Units (SINUC) in 2000 and which they are in direct contradiction with principles and policies for the recognition of traditional peoples and communities announced by the Brazilian State in the 2000s in Federal Decree No. 6,040 / 2007, which instituted the national policy for the sustainable development of traditional peoples communities (ALMEIDA, 2013). Numerous cases expulsion of residents from traditional territories can be reported, as a consequence of the declaration of such territories as Indirect Use Conservation Units, especially since the Jânio Quadros government and until the end of the military dictatorship, when these territories inhabited by communities until today, under pressure from federal agencies, bringing conflict between the rights of traditional communities recognized in Federal Decree No. 6.040 / 2007.

Pasture communities are characterized as human groups marked by common identities and values. However, the ethnic and racial traits and their life trajectories are the most diverse, this is because there are quilombola pasture funds, indigenous or family farmers and farmers1 who were born and raised in those localities, taking care of plantations or taking care of their animals, in general goats and cattle (ALMEIDA, 2020) need the ESEC due to the scarcity of water and food for the animals. Perceptible then, the conflict existing between the traditional communities existing around the Esec - Raso da Catarina and the State supervisory bodiesthat do not allow the communities of Pasture Background there for several centuries to coexist with Esec, being that it is what happens in Povoado Serrote. Thus, this research aims to discuss possible benefits of the peaceful coexistence of the Pasto and Esec - Raso da Catarina fund, listing solutions for the impacts in the areas studied in the surroundings of Povoado do Serrote, in Paulo Afonso -Bahia.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Study Area: The city of Paulo Afonso, Bahia, Brazil, is located in the northeast of this state, (backwoods of Bahia). From the phytogeographic point of view, it presents as predominant vegetation the caatinga that according to Leal; Tabarelli; Silva (2003), from the biogeographic point of view, plant extracts from "trees or shrubs" can be found, especially "low trees and shrubs, many of which have thorns, microfilia and some xerophytic characteristics" (p.23). According to Azevedo (1997) the area that delimits the municipality and that includes the area object of this study "[...] is characterized by a semi-arid climate of the type BShs in the Köeppen classification. Low rainfall throughout the year results in an average annual rainfall of 500 to 600 mm".



Source: Google Maps, November / 2020.

Figure 1. Serrote village

The population of Povoado Serrote, a rural area in the city of Paulo Afonso, is distributed mainly in the central area of the village; The sale of the "surplus" of subsistence agriculture, mainly maize (Zea mays) and beans (Vigna unguiculata and Phaseolus vulgaris) and cattle (goats, sheep and cattle) are the

main traditional sources of community income. (LINSNETO; PERONI; ALBUQUERQUE, 2010); that (for a portion of the local population) areadded to income from wage labor and government benefits and income distribution programs. Based on the lesson by Albuquerque; Lins Neto and Lucena (2010) on the choice of the research subjects; we considered the members of the Community Association of the Residents of Povoado Serrote to participate in the research. The field research phase was carried out between June 2020 and November 2020.

#### DATA COLLECTION

It should be noted that field research should not be confused with simple data collection, it requires a certain methodological rigor and pre-established objectives that sufficiently describe what should be collected, resulting in a specific plan for each phase (MARCONI; LAKATOS, 2015). The data collection methods used in the research were participant observation (informal conversations); application of forms and interviews. Informal conversations took place during visits to the Community Association of Residents of Povoado Serrote; The applied form was structured, with twenty-six closed questions, with dichotomous answers andmultiple choice. The interview was unstructured using a diary / video recorder (PRESTES, 2007; ALBUQUERQUE; ALENCAR; LUCENA, 2010; RICHARDSON, MINAYO, 2016). For the selection of participants, intentional or rational sampling of the non-probabilistic type was used as a technique, when the informants were previously selected (ALBUQUERQUE; LINS-NETO; LUCENA, 2010), with the inclusion criterion being an associate of the Community Association of Residents do Povoado Serrote, have animals in the pasture fund and be of legal age. Community information; socioeconomic profile, subsistence type of life, in such a way that it could be obtained in such a way that the data could be scrutinized were obtained from the data contained in the form, interview and informal conversations (SANTOS; SANTOS, 2018).

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

The data collected from the forms were analyzed using the GNU PSPP Statistical Analysis software, version 1.0.1-g818227. The statistical results obtained were based on: the conclusions derived from the participant observation, the interviews and the theoretical framework, established through integrative systemic bibliographic research. These methods and techniques were used in the analysis and global interpretation of the data collected during the field research, which sought, in this case, the necessary factors for the description and discussion of the studied question, within a logical and correlated sequence.

## ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

As for the ethical and legal aspects, authorization for field research was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee (CEP) of the State University of Bahia (UNEB), under the number 3,714,500, CAAE: 25591519.4.0000.0057. In the same way, the research objectives were presented to the interviewees before the application of forms and individual conversations, being requested permission to use the data obtained by signing the Free and Informed Consent Term (ICF).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Denomination created by the State to designate agricultural policies aimed at small farmers, its emergence is very recent, occurring in 1996 under the President's government Fernando Henrique Cardoso with the creation of the National Program for Strengthening Family Agriculture (Pronaf), in 1996 (presidential decree n. 1.946, 7/28/1996) and, later, with the Family Agriculture Law (law n. 11.326) in 2006.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Community Association of Residents of Povoado Serrote has 35 (thirty-five) associate members; of these 26 (twenty-six) members (75% of the total) were selected to participate in the research for working directly with agriculture and for having been born in the place of study and 09 (nine) members (25% of the total) were excluded for not work directly with agriculture or livestock. Thus, the survey reached all members of the Association that met the criteria for inclusion in the survey.

Table 1. Social profile of the interviewees at the Associação Comunitário dos Moradores do Povoado Serrote in the municipality of Paulo Afonso-BA, in absolute value and (%)

Socioeconomic data  Breakdown by sex	Number of respondents in absolute value e (%)	
	Absolute No.	(%)
Male	17	65%
Feminine	9	35%
Age ranks		
18 to 25 years		0%
26 to 35 years		0%
36 to 45 years	2	7,7%
46 to 55 years	5	19%
Over 55 years	19	73,3%
Born in the serrote people		
Yes	26	100%
Not	0	0%
Marital status		
Married	23	88%
Single	1	4%
Widowed	2	8%
Scholarity		
Not literate	7	26,9%
Literate	12	46,2%
Primary education	4	15,4%
Elementary school	2	7,7%
High school / technical	1	3,8%
University education	0	0%
Profession		
Farmer	0	0%
Family farmer	26	100%
Cattleman	0	0%
Unemployed	0	0%

Source: Field research conducted in the months of April 2018 and May 2019. Authorship: own

Table 1 shows the social profile of the interviewees, in which we can see that many of the interviewees had access to basic literacy, were born and continued to live in Povoado Serrote, living basically on family farming, in addition to the relatively old age, with 73.3% respondents over 50 years of age.

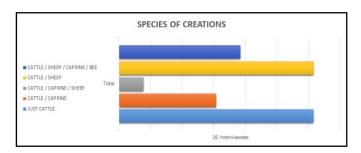


Figure 2. Animal species raised by the interviewees

It is observed that the majority of the interviewees are married, family farmers, residents since birth in Povoado Serrote, being mostly relatives among themselves, having as a family tradition the creation of animals in community grazing. It is noteworthy that these traditional characteristics of Fundo de

Pasto are one of the characteristics of identity cohesion. When asked what species of animals the respondents raise, we find that everyone raises cattle, however some besides cattle raise sheep and / or goats, Figure 2. As for the way of raising the animals, 100% of the interviewees, affirm that they create the animals loose, going to stay days without seeing them. Asked how the interviewees recognize their animals, since they are raised free with the animals of the other members and family members, it was answered, that they recognize their animals by the initials thrown on the animals' bodies, by "marking", a kind of stamp that which town is the animal and an earring that is placed on the animal's ear, identifying the region of origin.

Through the interviews, it was evident that although they have few studies, they are loyal to the ways of recognizing their animals, because once it is identified that the animal is not from this village, or from that region based on the marks / initials, the association should contact the village of origin of the animal so that they can come and collect the animal.

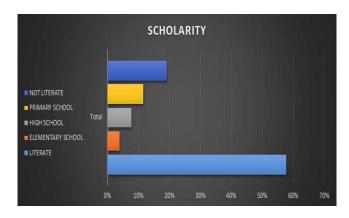


Figure 3. Education level of respondents

The lack of studies according to figure 3, also does not prevent the creation of animals to be done together, since it is a family tradition, in which the costs, tasks and remedies of the creations are divided among themselves. From the interviews we verified that despite all the care, the animals raised on the loose suffer constant threats, being the scarcity of water the most indicated by the interviewees, as shown in figure 4, in addition to the scarcity of food, the presence of predatory animals, such foxes, snakes and jaguars and the great distances traveled to feed the creations.

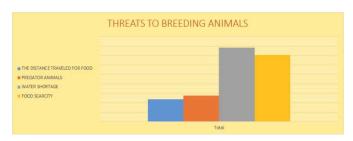


Figure 4. Threats to animals raised on the loose

Thus, verify the size of the damage and the increase in daily work to maintain the creations, due to the ban on the use of ESEC Raso da Catarina, either as a passage to the pastures or to feed the creations and the use of water, which was once in common use by the ancestors of the interviewees, after the creation of ESEC, this practice was prohibited in the area. It is a consensus among the interviewees, that cattle, goat and

sheep breeding do not harm the fauna / flora species existing at ESEC, as animals have been raised in this way for generations and ESEC was only created on October 11, 2001, through Ordinance no. 373, believing that the harmonious coexistence of creations in the background of pasture and the type of preservation unit ESEC Raso da Catarina is possible.

#### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The field research allowed, without exhausting the topic, the direct observation of the problem and thus being able to collect the data, fundamental for the structural examination of the facts and phenomena, obtaining a greater understanding of the context of the people involved and the researched space, allowing to experience, understand and interpret the different aspects that make up the reality of the daily life of the Serrote Community Association with emphasis on conflicts, due to the use of existing natural resources at ESEC Raso da Catarina, for the maintenance of animal breeding in the background mode pasture, already existing before the creation of Esec.

In the first moment, continuous visits were made to the community and some participation in meetings of the Community Association of Residents of Povoado Serrote to learn about the social dynamics of the group.

Based on this prior knowledge, the study proposal was presented to the current president of the association who shared it with the Community. Later, in a meeting with its members, after explanation and debate, the research proposal was accepted by those present.

In this way, the present study verifies the possibility of recognition of PovoadoSerrote, as a grassland community, that can coexist harmoniously with ESEC Raso da Catarina, within minimum established criteria.

However, it remains evident that for a harmonious coexistence to be viable in the existing scenario, it is important that the agencies responsible for the ESEC Raso da Catarina, approach the population of the Serrote Village, the which can be done through the Associação Comunitário do Povoado Serrote, stimulating more in-depth discussions on the topic, enabling greater participation of residents, either through representatives, or even individually, (through leaders) seeking a model that is appropriate to reality observed fact.

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