The challenges of local development for network territories in the southeast of the State of Pará – Brazil

ABSTRACT

The incidence of network territories, in the territorial limits of the Amazon of Pará, conceived and categorized to guarantee the strategic development of transition to sustainability, culminated in the formation of new dynamics and territorialities. Thus, the objective of this work was to analyze the challenges of local development in network territories in southeastern Pará. Therefore, due to the qualitative multidisciplinary approach, the analytical-descriptive-critical scientific method was used, followed by evaluations, anchors to territorial approaches, and reflections, on the challenges of local development, especially in the areas present in the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins. As a result, it is observed that the notion of the conception of this territorial unit, brought by the Macrozoning of the Legal Amazon, must be relativized because it is possible to perceive that in the process of development of territorialization policies to convergence, there has been a resurgence of inter-regional asymmetries, regional, implying challenges with a focus on local and regional development, thus reinforcing the role of the State in articulating and providing local leadership, through socio-territorial organization and innovation in development processes.

Keywords: Amazon, Innovation, Socio-territorial organization.

1 INTRODUCTION

According to Pires (2007), influenced by different economic, sociological, geographic, and ecological conceptions, analyses of territorial logics in globalization emphasize the importance of the place, the environment, the landscape, the ecosystem, and the geosystem for the study of the development, and, specifically, for territorial development. This demonstrates and reinforces the need to conceive territoriality and its components as an object of development (PECQUEUR, 2014).

Two observations deserve to be made regarding the conception of the logic of territorial development. First, the representations from the epistemological conceptions referring to the dynamics of local and territorial development (LIMA 2001; ROCHA 2009; FLORES 2020; (DALLABRIDA, 2011; VASCONCELLOS 2013; CAMPAGNE; PECQUEUR, 2014). de Lévesque (2010), summarizes the lines
of approaches, seeking their main convergences, stating that local and territorial development represents, at the same time, a discourse that goes beyond traditional and social approaches, designating new socioeconomic realities, especially new ones. relations between economy and territory, In addition to being a model of innovation, insofar as the dynamics of territorial development aim to reveal and enhance territorial resources and assets, in particular, those that are unprecedented.

The second observation emphasizes the division of territorial units, carried out through the ecological-economic macro zoning of the legal Amazon, which led to the formation of new territorialities, which can be identified, according to Flores et al. (2020), the network territories, border territories, and zone territories with presence and incidence in the territorial limits of the state of Pará, conceived and categorized to guarantee the strategic development of transition to the sustainability of the region.

In this sense, the following categories of territories are distinguished in the Legal Amazon:

- **Network Territories**, corresponding to areas of consolidated settlement, characterized by the predominance of networks, spatially discontinuous, with extreme mobility, with flows and/or connections susceptible of overlapping; zone territories, with a predominance of still-preserved ecosystems, with boundaries tending to be demarcated and the groups, are significantly rooted; and, the **border territories**, which are constituted by penetration fringes with different stages of land occupation, in the direction of the surrounding ecosystems and the limits of the network territories (BRASIL, MMA, Macro-ZEE da Amazônia Legal, 2010, p. 42).

In both observations, what is shown by Denardin et al. (2022), about the emerging notion of territorial development, which by definition is multidimensional and is useful for thinking about alternatives and strategies for development in rural and urban spaces. As well as Pires (2007), emphasizes that the hypotheses of local development are based on geographic, social and economic logic more or less implicit in territorial dynamics.

In addition, referring to development policies, the ecological-economic macro zoning (MacroZEE) of the Legal Amazon, ensures, through territorial units, the sustainability of regional development, indicating productive strategies and environmental and territorial management in conformity with the ecological, economic, and cultural and social diversity of the Amazon, culminated in the formation of new dynamics and territorialities (BRASIL, 2010).

However, it is possible to perceive, in the process of developing policies from territorialization to convergence, a resurgence of inter-regional asymmetries, implying challenges with a focus on local and regional development, which deserve reflection and deepening, in particular, when considering the intention of propose a scenario of responses to the challenges of local development for network-territories in the Paraense Amazon.

This is because the notion of the territorial unit represented by network territories must be relativized in the Legal Amazon (MMA, 2010b), due to the weak and incomplete production chains, whose command networks located in the global space, failed to connect to effectively form an integrating network, making
it necessary, therefore, to analyze its main challenges, especially in the areas corresponding to the consolidated stands present in productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins.

Given the above, it is in this context that the research proposal is projected, starting initially from the study of the characterization of the transition strategies for the sustainability of the (MacroZEE) of the Legal Amazon (BRASIL, 2010), in territorial units called territory-network, associating it with the main public policies for the regional development of the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins in southeastern Pará.

Because of this, and when evaluating the process of consolidation of the settlement of the territorial unit in southeastern Pará, it is assumed that occupation dynamics will remain in the territory with its history connected with the cycles of economic exploitation, evidencing what Flores et al. (2020), emphasize the need to understand territory management, “which is the way to materialize the social expression on a given space or environmental resource by inserting the dynamics of the public and administrative power relationship, under the regency of constitutional principles for the realization actions necessary for the common good.

Finally, it remains for us to state that analyzing the challenges of local development in network territories in southeastern Pará represents a great potential that can contribute to the process of social empowerment, so that it promotes the appropriation of natural resources with social justice, support in the definition of mechanisms that can promote the creation of a democratic territory for the defense and valorization of the local way of life, in an integrated way with the actions and public policies of territorial development, dealing, in effect, with the valorization of the attributes of the territory useful for the constitution of territorial identity in permanent reinvention.

2 METHODOLOGY

To analyze the challenges of local development in network territories in southeastern Pará, an attempt was made to observe, among the territorial units, the areas present in the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins, composed of the municipalities of Santana do Araguaia, Santa Maria das Barreiras, Redenção to Xinguara, all directly or indirectly influenced by the course of the Araguaia River.

These are located in the southeast of the State of Pará, in the Redenção micro-region, covering an approximate territorial area of 38,778Km² (square kilometers), representing about 3.11% of the territorial area of the State of Pará, with main accesses through the BR 158; BR 155 and PA 279 (MMA, 2010b), as shown in Figure 1 - Territories-Network - Productive Systems of Araguaia-Tocantins in southeastern Pará.
For the development of the research, due to the qualitative multidisciplinary approach, analytical and descriptive (THOMAS E NELSON, 1996) and critical (FARIA; MENEGHETTI; STEFANI, 2016) scientific methods were used to understand the scenario in which the research locus is composed. Then, the territorial approach of a theoretical-conceptual nature was used for analysis, and, finally, an attempt was made to reflect on the challenge of local development for network territories, based on the areas present in the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins (BRASIL, 2010), comprising the municipalities of Santana do Araguaia, Santa Maria das Barreiras, Redenção to Xinguara.

The collection of information took place through bibliographical and documental research (GODOI; BANDEIRA-DE-MELLO, 2012), such as studies referring to the transition strategies for the sustainability of the ecological-economic Macrozoning of the Legal Amazon (BRASIL, 2010), maps of the territorial units of the Legal Amazon (MMA, 2010b) Pará 2030 Program (GOVERNMENT OF PARÁ, 2016).

Still, in an attempt to systematize the main epistemic-theoretical conceptions converging with the territorial approach in the context of local development for network territories in the Paraense Amazon, it made use of the structuralist theory, (CHIAVENATO, 2003), which is based on the concept of structure, where a whole is composed of interrelated parts, and the whole is greater than the simple sum of the parts, which encompasses the possibility of understanding reality, from its various interrelated dimensions in a territory-network.
3 RESULTS/DISCUSSIONS

According to studies referring to the transition strategies for the sustainability of the ecological-economic Macrozoning of the Legal Amazon (BRASIL, 2010), throughout the settlement consolidation process, the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins expanded, at different levels, with development focused on extensive livestock and the production of grain crops, including corn and soy. And, secondarily, agriculture on small properties, in addition to areas for logging and gold mining.

Given this, it can be said that these dynamics of territory occupation, in the general context, were devoid of internal integration between the infrastructure, services, and trade networks, which are just beginning to be inserted in segments of production chains, configuring themselves as a territory-network (BRASIL, 2010).

Thus, the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins, present in the territorial unit represented by the network-territories, in the municipalities of Santana do Araguaia, Santa Maria das Barreiras, Redenção until Xinguara, are considered a consolidated settlement, composed of several network types: natural (rivers); logistics or infrastructure; of transactions (economic and political); and information (infovias), considering that the density and diversity of the networks vary greatly in the space in question, resulting in differentiated levels of consolidation (BRASIL, 2010).

Another characteristic that distinguishes this territorial unit, when compared to the other network territories present in the Pará Amazon, is its regional geopolitical position, with greater economic, social, and cultural connectivity, with the states of Tocantins and Mato Grosso and the other regions of integration of the State of Pará – favored by the road network, represented by the BR 158, BR 155 and PA 279 axes (PARÁ, 2010).

This is because, (Flores; Canto; Farias; Condurú, 2020), indicate that six of the territorial units described by the MacroZee of the Legal Amazon are located in the territory of Pará (BRASIL, 2010), from the innermost to those that are still little anthropized, to the outermost, those that are most anthropized in the region, from the innermost, those that are still little anthropized, as shown in Figure 2 – Strategic territorial units and their environments in Pará.
Still, it emphasizes that the flow of people, service provision, consumption, and production of inputs present in this territorial unit is significant and intense, which provided, on a vertiginous scale, the pressure on the use of natural resources, associated with the process of appropriation and occupation of territories. Currently represented by agricultural activity with a significant concentration of land for some groups, in contrast to the chronic lack of financing, technical assistance, and rural extension for family farming, which, even so, is still responsible for most agricultural production, except grain production associated with soy, corn, and sorghum (IBGE CIDADES, 2022).

In addition, in addition to these characteristics, the presence of indigenous peoples with different levels of integration with the societies present in the municipalities object of this study, as well as, accentuated activities of agrarian conflicts and illegal exploitation of gold ore (BRASIL, 2010).

Driven by new proposals for territorialization of development, generated from government public policies of spatialization, reformulation of arrangements and agreements for the rational use of natural resources proposed by the Pará 2030 Program (GOVERNO DO PARÁ, 2016), it is noted that, the production systems in these network-territories, has shown significant changes in their structures and territorial dynamics. Represented mainly by the advance of land conversion for the expansion of agricultural production and the intensification of cattle raising, associated with the modernization of the provision of commerce and services directed to these activities.
However, bearing in mind that the presented notion of development and readjustment of the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins must be relativized, the need for the economic viability of small producers and extractives present in the network territories of southeastern Pará is highlighted, represented by the municipalities of Santana do Araguaia, Santa Maria das Barreiras, Redenção to Xinguara, based on the promotion of productive systems on a sustainable basis, adding value, direct access to consumer markets and expansion of government programs, to contain environmental degradation, with the consequent permanence of these segments in the field (BRASIL, 2010).

4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS OR CONCLUSION

Analyzing the challenges of local development for network territories in southeastern Pará and presenting them in the present work was guided by the following question: how to analyze network territories composed of the territorial unit characterized by the productive systems of Araguaia-Tocantins from the perspective of management and governance in the southeast of Pará and, as a response, considered that local development in the region should be a guideline to be followed, however, it becomes a broader challenge by imposing the search for solutions that must be systemic and logical in their formulation, articulated between the public power and civil society, above all cohesive in its actions and interventions to respond to the demands of Pará society.

In general, such solutions aim to create conditions for the full use of local and regional potential, considering the productive diversification, the stimulus to the formation of productive arrangements, and the competitive insertion to the economic dynamics, accompanied by the strategic planning and territorial governance of the region, aiming at their use on a sustainable basis.

Moreover, given the scenarios presented here, while contemplating a consistent characterization of territorial dynamics and their relationship with the territory network associated with theoretical reflections, about development strategies, which resulted, for example, in approaches that reinforce the territorial dimension of development, as already mentioned, is witnessing an aggravation of asymmetries and a reduction in regional convergences and, at the same time, disregard for the national space and the nation-state.

Therefore, it can be stated that propositions for local territorial development, in the network territories represented by this analysis, must converge to provide local protagonism, through socio-territorial organization and innovation in development processes. This is because initiatives centered on a new localized development policy, related to improving social organization for development, allow it to provide an effective response to its problems and challenges.

In addition, to complement the scenario of responses to the challenges of territorialization of development, in the network territories of southeastern Pará, two more aspects stand out: the first aspect, is related to the necessary resizing of the role of the territorial unit, within the space state, as well as
institutional capacities, and the second aspect refers to the impact on the territorial dynamics of development and territorial innovation resulting from collective learning.

This reinforces the role of the State in the articulation between the territorial actors and the territorial unit, through strategic communication, necessary to define the insertion of the network territories in the globalization process, overcoming the challenges of the territorialization of development.

Finally, it is emphasized that the propositions highlighted here to face the challenges of local development in network territories in southeastern Pará, serve as guidelines to induce a development centered on the territorial perspective, envisioning a horizon that requires an active posture from society territorially organized, capable of being structured, based on conceptions and theoretical reflections on territorial governance, represented by the dynamics of planning and management of territorial processes.
REFERENCES


