

# **TRIP REPORT**

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## **Project Management and Technical Mission**

Brazil, July 30<sup>th</sup> – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003

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## TRIP AGENDA:

July 29/30 - Travel Canada-Brazil; meeting Jutta Gutberlet in Sao Paulo (review fisheries review mission and original meeting that liberated the fisheries decree for review); travel to Belo Horizonte; meeting Margarida Ramos in Belo Horizonte (plan fisheries decree meeting)

July 31: meetings with IEF and Policia Militar in Belo Horizonte (plan fisheries decree meeting); travel to Três Marias.

Aug. 1: Organize Fisheries decree meeting

Aug. 2-4: Conduct fisheries decree meeting; participate in meeting of Federation re: Secretaria Especial de Aquicultura e Pesca (SEAP)

Aug. 5-7: Meeting wrap-up & reporting; organize Conference of the Cities meeting; arrange other project activities

Aug 7-8: Conference of the Cities meeting, Três Marias

Aug 9-14: Meeting wrap-up & reporting - Três Marias and Felixlândia; arrange other project activities including Canada mission; travel to Brasilia

Aug 15-16: Meeting Brasilia - CIDA & ABC; MMA Environment conference

Aug 16-17: Travel Belo Horizonte; arranging project activities

Aug. 18-24: Meetings and project development (CEMIG, IEF, CETEC, SEAP, UFMG)

Aug. 24: Travel São Paulo

Aug. 25: Meet Merle Faminow (IDRC); travel to São Carlos

Aug. 26: Meetings w/ IDRC at UFCSCar; CIDA project development; travel to Três Marias

Aug. 27: Meetings & tours in Três Marias - IDRC, SEMEIA, CEMIG, Federation, fish market, CODEVASF; travel Brasília

Aug. 28: travel Santarém; meeting IARA, demonstration of radio programming

Aug. 29: Santarém fish market, meetings with associations & colonies

Aug. 30: IDRC de-briefing, meeting IPAM, travel to Manaus

Aug. 31 - Sept. 1: Manaus fish market & meetings at colony and confederation

Sept. 2: Travel to Brasília; meetings SEAP, MMA; travel Três Marias

Sept. 3-8: Meeting organization & project development, Três Marias

Sept. 9: Travel Belo Horizonte; meeting with GEF - São Francisco project; view fish leather project.

Sept. 10: Meeting SEAP (BH); return Três Marias

Sept. 11-13: Workshop Aguas do Lago 2003 in Três Marias

Sept. 14-15: Conference wrap-up and reporting

Sept. 16: Travel Rio de Janeiro; meeting COPPE-UFRJ & Petrobras

Sept. 17-18: Travel Belo Horizonte, meeting ABRAGE (golden mussel).

Sept. 19: Set up trial recirculating aquarium system CETEC; travel Três Marias; meeting for gender and youth strategy

Sept. 20: Wrap-up meetings, Travel Belo Horizonte

Sept. 21-22: Wrap-up meetings Belo Horizonte (CEMIG, SEAP)

Sept. 23-24: Travel to Canada.

## **CONTEXTUAL SUMMARY OF TRIP RESULTS:**

### **Fisheries:**

#### **Fisheries decree review meeting and follow-up:**

The state of Minas Gerais began exercising control of fisheries within its boundaries with a Fisheries Law published in 1998. However, the law was overly restrictive of professional fishermen through the prohibition of the use of nets, and public protest forced the law to be withdrawn. A new state Fisheries Law was prepared in 2000, with input from fishermen. In June of 2003, our project's fisheries review mission discovered that the Decree needed to implement the Law was on the desk of the State Promotor (Attorney General) for approval, but prepared without review of the fishermen. As a result, our representatives of the Military Police and the Instituto Estadual Florestal (IEF – responsible for state fisheries) managed to withdraw the decree and make it available for review by the fishermen in a multiple stakeholder meeting. We organized this meeting together with the Federation of Fishermen.

The draft decree also prohibited the use of nets, as had the first law, so was not well received by the fishermen, and they initially refused to participate in its review. This created a challenge, so we arranged (from Canada) prior consultation with the principal groups, a stepped participation for the meeting, and professional facilitation (the facilitator, Margarida Ramos, had trained with the CIDA project in Sto. Andre and GTZ).

Initial consultation occurred with the IEF and the Policia Militar in Belo Horizonte on the first day of my trip (after reviewing details of the original meeting with Dr. Gutberlet in São Paulo), confirming their support of the event and participation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days. Subsequent consultation in Três Marias was with the Federation President, the Federation's legal advisor, the facilitator, and staff of SEMEIA (Secretaria do Meio Ambiente of Três Marias) and CAP (Centro de Apoio ao Pescador) to agree on meeting strategy and set up logistics.

The meeting itself was held at CAP, with institutional support of SEMEIA. All presidents of the professional fishing colonies and associations in Minas participated, most with one or two assistants from the colony (including several wives and fisherwomen). The first day was used to review the manuscript, focussing initially on building a good working environment in the group as a whole with a discussion of positive elements. A presentation of the legal evaluation then set the stage for break-out groups to review the document in detail and make a series of substantive recommendations on how to improve it. Ms Ramos, several people from UFSCar (Inês, Norma, Sandro) and SEMEIA (Barbara) and I assisted in this process, as well as the newly-appointed state representative for the federal Special Secretariat for Aquaculture and Fisheries (SEAP - Edson). The representatives of IEF (Marcelo Coutinho) and the Military Police (Arley Ferreira) arrived for the evening supper, allowing for initial networking.

On the second day and the morning of the third day, results of the break-out groups' evaluations were presented in the group as a whole and discussed. Marcelo and Arley participated in this stage, with a very open and generally positive discussion that provided good clarification from both sides and a consensus recommendation on most points. A consensus document was prepared on-site and signed by everyone present. Care was taken throughout the meeting, also by consensus, not to modify elements that would restrict sport fishing – as this group was not present in the discussions.

Most of the expenses of the meeting were covered by the CIDA project (including travel and lodging of participants), other than the considerable institutional support provided by SEMEIA and CAP.

The report of the meeting, along with the group census recommendations, was prepared with the facilitator and, together with a more in-depth legal evaluation of the document, were submitted officially by the Federation to the IEF in the following week. Arley and Marcelo committed themselves to preparing the revised decree and re-submitting it for legal evaluation by the Attorney General. Our initial plans were to hold a second review meeting with a broader stake-holder participation (to be facilitated by Maureen Maloney of the Uvic Dispute Resolution Centre), but most participants (including the IEF representative) felt quite strongly that this would not be necessary at this point, and that it would only slow the process unduly. While understanding the importance of transparency of process, most of our partners felt that these other interest groups had already had their input unofficially and felt it best not to pursue this other meeting at this point. We thus cancelled plans for the second meeting, but the Federation made their preparedness to present and discuss their views in a broader audience clear in the cover letter of their submission to IEF of the revised decree and agreed to my distributing it unofficially to other user groups.

By August 6<sup>th</sup> the revision of the decree by Marcelo and Arley was almost complete. We (Marcelo, Arley, Godinhos and I) discussed again, at IEF, the importance of including provisions for a consultative council and a participative review mechanism of local regulations (portarias) that included the fishermen. This was agreed upon, and a council was roughed out, to be led by Hugo Godinho (as indicated by the head of the IEF division). Marcelo voiced his intention to informally already pass “portaries” by Raimundo’s Federation before any publications. The first of these was a Portaria to lift the prohibition of “caceia” nets, essential for the fishery on the river below Pirapora.

### **IEF Consultative Council**

Our initial meeting with IEF at the beginning of August, together with Vasco Torquato (CEMIG) and Hugo Godinho (UFMG) included a discussion with the head of the fisheries division (Dr. Celio) on the importance of multi-lateral user input to fisheries management. Such a council was guaranteed in the new Fisheries Law, but was removed by the new governor, along with other similar councils in other areas. Dr. Celio suggested that such a council be re-created, under the leadership of Dr. Hugo Godinho, but so far there has been no further progress on this idea.

### **IBAMA:**

IBAMA is a partner in our project, but their participation was understood to be organized by the Ministerio de Meio Ambiente (MMA). However, with delays in getting the Brazilian management of the project organized, establishing the MMA counterpart contribution, mis-communications, and internal politics, the relationship with IBAMA has not yet been defined. In addition, the past director of the Belo Horizonte office of IBAMA has not had a good relationship with a variety of our partners. However, the new director, Roberto Messias, is well respected by everyone and is very positive about the project. Unfortunately, during much of my current trip IBAMA was on strike and/or Dr. Messias was unavailable. Other than keeping them abreast of proceedings, IBAMA thus did not participate significantly in activities during this trip.

### **Secretaria Especial de Aquicultura e Pesca (SEAP):**

The Special Secretariat for Aquiculture and Fisheries (SEAP) was set up by President Lula in late 2002 to better address development of these areas. The secretariat was built primarily from staff of the Department of Fisheries in the Agriculture Ministry (which became extinct), supplemented by staff from both CODEVASF and IBAMA. Representation in each of the states and areas was built out of local Agriculture Ministry offices, with politically indicated new heads. The Secretariat appears to have a loose mandate to develop and organize the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, but has backed off on policing and regulation - leaving this to IBAMA. The respective responsibilities of the different organizations was still quite ambiguous during my trip, and the SEAP had not yet received a budget.

In Brasilia, we had made earlier contact with the SEAP, delivered our project proposal, and had discussed various means of working together. However, an official invitation outlining this understanding had not yet been received during my trip. Nevertheless, when Raimundo and I visited them on the return from Manaus/Santarem, they indicated that proposals on lagoon revitalization, aquaculture, and processing centres would be positively entertained once money came in.

In Minas, a Dr. Edson had been appointed the state representative of the SEAP two days before our meeting in Três Marias to review the Fisheries Decree. We managed to arrange his participation in this meeting, including a half-day session at the end of the event to discuss the fishermen's expectations of the SEAP (including animated discussions on environmentally benign aquaculture, participatory stock assessment, and participatory research). Dr. Edson also expressed substantial interest in participating/partnering with our project. However, one week later he had been replaced by another appointee - Wagner Benevides. We also met with Wagner, had similar discussions, and agreed to help him organize a state fisheries meeting in Três Marias in October (immediately prior to Lessons Learned).

### **Technical visit for community policing:**

Arrangements for the mission to Canada to review policing were on-going throughout the trip. The initially proposed timing in September appeared to be acceptable to nobody, whereas October would work for Arley and Marcelo. All needed official invitations quite soon. The new timing also worked for others, such as Barbara and Raimundo, and tied in well with Lessons Learned (though this expanded the size of the group considerably). Participation by IBAMA was also considered very important, but by the time we had confirmed that there would be room for everyone, our invitation for IBAMA was too late.

### **Fisheries Co-management - IDRC proposal:**

By the start of my trip, the IDRC-funded IARA project was basically approved, having been modified to incorporate UFSCar as an equal partner and a salary at the UFSCar to assist both the IDRC and CIDA projects. In theory, only a check on the budget, a letter from the UFSCar, and a field review were still needed. Merle Faminow carried out this field review from August 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, and asked me to accompany him. I agreed, extending my planned visit to Brasil, but also insisted on taking Raimundo (Federation President) along to Santarem to familiarize him with the partners and situation in the Amazon and to get his feed-back on the planned project.

I picked up Merle at the airport in São Paulo with a UFSCar car and driver and accompanied him through meetings we set up in São Carlos (UFSCar) and Três Marias (SEMEIA, CAP, Federation, Colonia, CEMIG). The meetings went very well in both locations, with open

discussions and a clear presentation of Merle's expectations (including that of an effective interaction between the IDRC and CIDA projects and a focus on gender and race issues). Merle was well received in both locations, in particular in Três Marias, where SEMEIA went to extra effort to provide him with a tour of the region, as well as picking us up in Belo Horizonte at the start of the visit.

In Santarem, we were received and hosted by Regina Cedeira and Gilviandra of IARA. Meetings were set up at the IARA office and with fishing associations and colonies. Iara also demonstrated their community radio program (which they feel is central to keeping co-management agreements together) and a visit to a community fisheries meeting in one of the lagoons in the area was arranged for Raimundo and myself (this visit failed, as the motor of the boat we were in burned up and we had to hitchhike back to Santarem at midnight). Ties between some of the associations and Raimundo have since continued, as he is lobbying for their independent colony and federation status in the Confederation of Fishermen. A meeting was also held with IPAM, another fisheries-related NGO in Santarem. Marcelo Grossa, a researcher at IPAM, was a participant in the radiotelemetry course we ran in 1999, and is conducting some interesting participatory radiotelemetry research on the piraracu with fishermen. He has found that the fishermen's participation in the research (despite being quite high-tech) has enhanced their interest in co-management substantially and has reduced poaching to zero from about 60-80% of the allowable catch. Raimundo agreed that this would be an interesting idea to pursue in the São Francisco River.

Merle appeared to have good meetings and discussions with IARA as well, though some were *in camera*. He questioned why we had chosen IARA as partners (vs other possible organizations), but in the end appeared satisfied.

## **Environmental threats & mitigation:**

### **Golden mussels & CEMIG:**

Golden mussels (*Limnoperna* sp.) are an invasive freshwater species from China that was introduced into the estuary of the Parana River at Buenos Aires in the 1990s. The species has moved up the river at a fast rate, and reached Minas Gerais in the last few years. It has caused considerable problems in hydroelectric plants, municipal water supplies, and irrigation systems on the way, much as the zebra mussel has impacted Eastern Canada and the USA. CEMIG, and all of the other Brazilian hydroelectric companies, are scrambling to develop control strategies. There is also a very real danger that the mussel will jump to the São Francisco River within the next few years, unless effective control mechanisms are implemented. The headwaters of the Rio Grande and part of the São Francisco drainage are separated by very little, and small boats, aquaculture fry, fishing nets, and aquatic birds are all commonly transferred between the two basins - providing very likely transfer mechanisms for the mussels or their larvae.

Canada has world-class expertise on mussel control, based on the zebra mussel experience, so this is an area that our project could contribute to well – both helping to avoid a future serious impact on the São Francisco and strengthening our partnership with CEMIG.

The current response to the golden mussel invasion in Brasil is very much like that of North Americans to the zebra mussels ten years ago. A principal characteristic of this stage is that the situation is not taken seriously by senior management nor the government, even as the damage caused by organisms mounts. Appropriate steps in our strategy thus could include:

1) Create adequate corporate and institutional priority for the problem by bringing senior CEMIG and government personnel to North America to view the zebra mussel impacts and control strategies;

- this step was to have been accomplished by funding the participation of a senior CEMIG person and an associated researcher at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Invasive Species Conference in Windsor, Ont. before my trip. Unfortunately, the event coincided with the SARS outbreak, and these people could not travel. Nevertheless, we received unexpected interest from our EMBRAPA – Pantanal partner, and funded the participation of Marcia Divina Oliveira to the conference (assisted by a WFT person – Eva Klassen). Marcia subsequently presented her Pantanal research and her Canadian experience to a variety of meetings in Brazil, including those organized during my stay, and has since gone on to be one of the lead researchers for developing strategies for controlling the spread of the mussels in an embryonic MMA study group ( in collaboration with Monica Campos of CETEC (see below);

2) Bring Canadian expertise to Brazil within an appropriate venue for maximum exposure and impact:

- An appropriate venue for this step presented itself early in my trip, when I was invited to participate in the planning for the annual meeting of the Environmental Working Group of the Brazilian Association of Large Hydroelectric Companies (ABRAGE). Procopio Rezende, of CEMIG, is the current chair of this working group, and was arranging a focus on the Golden Mussel invasion. We quickly organized the participation of Renata Claudi, a Canadian expert on zebra mussel control, at this meeting, together with a technical training tour. I extended my planned visit in part to accommodate this development. Both the meeting and the technical visit went extremely well, with CEMIG, CETEC (research centre in Belo Horizonte contracted by CEMIG to study and develop mussel control mechanisms), EMBRAPA, and Itaipu, in particular, receiving exceptional technical pointers for control mechanisms, strategies, and appropriate research directions. Potentially very good collaborations between these groups was also set up, and a strong presence has been established in the MMA national working group on mussels (an outcome of the ABRAGE meeting). The connection developed between Renata and CEMIG also appears strong - she is hosting a technical visit to Canada by Maria Edith Rolla (CEMIG staff responsible for the mussel strategy) in the near future (to be paid for by CEMIG), is assisting in the participation of Maria Edith, Monica Campos (CETEC) and Marcia (EMBRAPA) at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Invasive Species Conference, and is assisting all of these remotely in research and program development strategies.

In terms of the partnership with CEMIG, this activity with mussels triggered a renewed interest in the partnership with UFSCar (the partnership agreement has been revised and is being reviewed by the respective lawyers), substantial participation and support of the participatory reservoir meetings outlined above, and a draft agreement with the city of Três Marias and the Fishermen's Federation to review the exaggerated safety zone below the Três Marias dam (the last has since stalled again).

3) Focus any inertia created on the prevention of a mussel invasion of the Sao Francisco basin

- We are set up to help out with this next step through the partnerships and networks we have created, but the focus should be on government bodies, not the industry. We



probably need to wait for appropriate opportunities and to define our working agreement with MMA better before pursuing this further.

## **Community-based water monitoring**

CETEC - Fundação Centro Tecnológico de Minas Gerais

CETEC was recommended to us by both CEMIG and UFMG in the latter stages of proposal development as a suitable partner in the areas of environmental analyses. This is the group that is commonly contracted by the police or CEMIG to evaluate causes of fish mortalities. However, despite some discussion, they were not included in the proposal at the time - partly as they work on a cost-recovery basis and would possibly need to be paid to participate and partly because the fishermen perceived them as being too industry-oriented.

With the implementation phase of the project, personnel at CETEC had changed somewhat - including the hiring of Cristiane Lopez, whom we had trained earlier in fish larviculture when she worked for CODEVASF in Três Marias. CETEC has also now been contracted by CEMIG to research the Golden Mussel, so Monica Campos - lead researcher on this topic - was quite involved in the project's mussel events. During my trip, I designed a re-circulating water system to help her in the lab-based mussel research.

Of particular other interest at CETEC are a program with Projeto Manuelzao in which they train community members to monitor water quality and benthos, and a project within the GEF-Sao Francisco initiative on recuperation of the veredas. I held some preliminary discussions with the people involved in these initiatives to see how they could help out our program, but without definitive answers.

Mineral company:

The Companhia Mineira de Mineração (CMM) zinc refinery in Três Marias has been operating for over 30 years – being one of the principal reasons to build the hydroelectric capacity of Três Marias dam. During this time it has created considerable controversy as a purported major pollutor of the river. Rumours about past heavy-handed denial of environmental impacts and suppression of evidence are plentiful, but they appear unlikely to refer to recent events. The company is not currently a partner in our project, but will need to be approached in the near future if we are to build sustainable multiple stakeholder accords.

Upon invitation of Edimarcio, the environmental officer for the company, I made a preliminary visit of the installations to open conversation. The company has ISO 14001 certification, and has just completed a new recycling system and settling pond for residues. My conversation with the company focussed on the development of better community relations based on more transparent environmental monitoring. I talked to one of the environmental officers, and they are clearly interested in a good environmental image, and apparently in good practices. A representative of the National Water Agency (ANA), now responsible for reviewing monitoring programs, also agreed in principal to push for requirements for community involvement in environmental monitoring during a discussion with me in Brasília.

A rumoured “surprise” environmental review of the CMM by ANA on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August did not materialize, but highly contaminated sediments have been found recently in the river (possibly quite old sediments) - so some kind of action is likely in the future.

### **Fish ladders & radiotelemetry:**

Our initial proposal included assistance and training in radiotelemetry to groups studying fish migration in the São Francisco River and the Uruguai River, in addition to applying this technology to the development of fish passes. Lisiane Hahn (of UFSC/Nupelia: Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, SC and the Nucleus for Fisheries, Limnological, and Aquaculture Research, Maringá, PR - both partners in the proposal) prepared a proposal for monitoring the new fish pass at Itaipu with radiotelemetry, with Angelo Agostinho's group at Nupelia. This fish pass, an 18km artificial river, is probably the world's most extensive fish pass, at least 5x the size of any other pass of its kind. However, the monitoring proposal was not yet very good, the equipment to carry out the work was not likely to show up before January of 2004 (at the end of the spawning migration), and Lisiane was very keen to participate in the training and assistance promised in our proposal.

The canal is an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate ecologically appropriate options for fish passes, with great potential for international profile for any work done with it, and an exceptional outdoors laboratory for studies and training on fish migration and movements. Itaipu and Nupelia are also very important partners for us to maintain as a resource for support in other areas of the project. The danger of the current situation is that radiotelemetry could easily, though erroneously, be seen as an expensive tool of little use, and data required for any reformulation of the fish pass would be delayed by over a year. I think this is an excellent opportunity for us to train people from our study area in a politically neutral arena (including fishermen, to build the capacity for participatory research), build networking between the various radiotelemetry and fish pass study groups and our Canadian partner (LGL), and to strengthen our partnership with Nupelia and Itaipu.

### **Environmental education & Environment policy:**

There is a National conference on the environment planned for November of 2003, meant to document the Brazilian peoples' environmental priorities and concerns. Municipal and state conferences are supposed to lead up to this, as are several other satellite conferences. A youth conference is to take place in parallel, being organized by friends of Barbara's. We could help by researching organizational lessons learned at the Children's conference in Victoria. I managed to get contacts and information from Jason Boire (DFO-Ottawa), who was involved in the conference, and sent it on to Georgina Correia, the lady at MMA organizing the conferences, but I had no replies.

During my visit, the MMA sponsored a week-long workshop on Sustainable Development in Brasília, led by Fritjof Capra of the University of California. Capra's fame is a series of books on ecologically-designed living options. Barbara and I were invited to the summary session, but it coincided with the ABC meeting and others we had set up in Brasília, so she went to some of it and I to very little. Results from the meeting were quite interesting, in many cases going well against commonly promoted "industrialized" resolutions to environmental problems, in particular with lots of conversation about eco-agriculture. However, while the Minister expressed avid support for the principles, it is unclear how they could be implemented on a large scale in reality. There were many reports of quite an acrimonious week of the meetings, with many adamantly territorial Brazilian academic and NGO groups, and in the final meeting, demonstrations of indigenous people claiming their views were being ignored.

## **Water management**

### **Participatory Reservoir management meetings:**

Water management is one of the areas we proposed to work in. However, it is also an area that Brazil has made many advances in since our proposal was developed, and it remains unclear how, and if, Canadian expertise and the CIDA project can contribute effectively.

Two meetings occurred during the current trip that helped assess and address some of the needs of our partners. The project contributed participatory facilitation to both meetings.

The first event, held in Três Marias August 7-8<sup>th</sup>, was part of a series of “Conferences of the Cities”, promoted by the new Ministry of Cities to assess the needs and problems of Cities throughout the country. In the case of the meeting at Três Marias, a conjoint meeting was held with all of the municipalities adjacent to the reservoir (organized in the COMLAGO consortium). Our project provided organizational advice and professional participatory facilitation to the whole meeting (with Ms. Ramos), as well as introducing a specific theme on the aquatic environment and reservoir management and organizing a keynote speaker on participatory reservoir management (Dr. Fred Mauad, of the USP – São Carlos: a project partner). One of the suggestions made after this meeting was that Fred, with collaboration from BC Hydro, could produce a new participatory water plan for the reservoir.

The second event, building on the results of the first one, was a workshop to assess more specifically issues of reservoir management of concern to the local communities and to provide information to these communities of regulatory mechanisms - “Aguas do Lago 2003”. The event was initially planned by Barbara Johnsen of the Três Marias SEMEIA for earlier in the year, as part of her Master’s course work, but the event could not be realised at the time for lack of needed support.

We worked with Barbara on a revised program for the workshop, and participated in arranging institutional participation from Brasília and Belo Horizonte. We also assisted the participation of Silvia Freedman of COMLAGO and Ceica, of the Três Marias City Hall, in a conference of the Brazilian Basin Committees in Aracaju, to bring updated national issues to the meeting. COMLAGO also assisted in arranging participation of the leaders of the various municipalities at Aguas do Lago 2003. We took advantage of Ms. Ramos’ presence after the Conferencia das Cidades to provide a 2-day training course to a number of community members of Três Marias for participatory facilitation and to assist in the Aguas do Lago workshop – several of these from the SEMEIA also immediately assisted with a youth environmental conference in the schools of Três Marias.

The workshop of Aguas do Lago took place Sept. 11-13<sup>th</sup>, with all the major regulators of water management presenting on their role on the first day, and discussions in break-out groups taking up the second day and third morning. The result was a tabular report of concerns and action plans to address locally important water management issues and to improve networking between users and regulators.

The meeting thus produced a lot of information that can be useful for planning our strategy in the project – in particular, we could focus on bridging the gap between regulators and users. It is unlikely that producing an alternative water use plan, as was contemplated earlier, is constructive. Many sophisticated plans already exist with the regulators, with apparent

opportunity for input from the community. Our project should probably be working on ways to optimize avenues for this input.

The meeting also produced very positive interactions between the various regulators and between the regulators and the community. I think that this positive atmosphere will need to be pursued aggressively and quickly for best results.

### **Alternative livelihoods - Ecotourism:**

Fred Mauffat (USP-São Carlos) also wrote a thesis on environmental impacts of tourism and has some graduate students working in this area. He offered to provide support for this activity in Três Marias as needed. We will have to see how this evolves.

### **Networking with other projects:**

A substantial Global Environment Fund (GEF) project for the São Francisco River has been going since about 1997. We had earlier seen some of the results of this project, and had tried to track down some of the participants, but with little luck. However, during my visit, we became aware that the second phase of this project was being developed, and we (myself, Raimundo and people from the Três Marias City Hall) were invited to a planning meeting being organized by a person from CEMIG. I gave a presentation of the CIDA project, emphasising areas of potential collaboration. Raimundo, Padre Gê (Mayor, Três Marias), and Silvia Freedman (COMLAGO) all also cited the importance of this project in their presentations. Reception was good, as was the interest by other participants, but we have had no subsequent returns.

The MMA is promoting a substantial project within the umbrella of “Revitalização of the São Francisco”. There have been some calls for proposals for this investment, and our project certainly falls within this scope. However, we were assured by Mauricio Laxes (the person in charge of this umbrella) that the counterpart contribution we are promised from the MMA is from this source, and that there is no need for us to apply for further support. Unfortunately, we have not yet received any of these funds. We had managed to get absolute assurance from both Dr. Basileo (Executive Secretary at the MMA) and Mauricio of the approval of our request in early September, but in late September when the evaluation meeting of proposals was held, our paperwork was not complete (the project between ABC and CIDA had not been signed) and the proposal was derailed. We have not had further positive indications of recovering this support.

### **Project management:**

Ines (UFSCar) and I had a meeting in Brasilia with project representatives for ABC (Melissa and Denise Maceio) and the Canadian Embassy (Louis Verret) with regard to the delay in getting the project signed by ABC. Denise and Melissa explained the nervousness the UFSCar letter on the project approval had induced at ABC, as they interpreted it as meaning UFSCar would drop out. Ines explain that they continued to be very keen to do the project, and had no intention of dropping it. ABC agreed to proceed with signing, including approving the inclusion of the Federation as a signing partner. This needs to be done quickly though, as the head of ABC is changing at the beginning of October. Ines promised to follow this up. Louis said it was a bit of an unconventional meeting, but otherwise appeared to come out alright. He's very pleased by the partnership we are developing with IDRC.

## **Lessons Learned Conference:**

Discussions were held during the trip on appropriate participation in CIDA's Lessons Learned conference in Ottawa in October. This was triggered by a request for candidates by Louis Verret during our meeting in Brasilia. There is also interest in representation of the last project, so Hugo, Ines and Barbara are the most likely to be invited by CIDA. However, participation by Ana Thé, Raimundo, and Arley would also be interesting, as all have expressed a lot of interest in the strategy of the overall project.

We felt that it would be good to look at linking the Lessons Learned event to the planned "policing" technical visit, broadening the focus of this trip to incorporate other issues (e.g. gender, participatory training, community development, environmental education) that are complementary to community policing and build bridges between trip participants. This was agreed upon, and I started to arrange travel agendas during my trip.

## **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:**

Specific activities that we should follow up on as a result of this trip include:

- Investigate community: fishermen-led stock assessments (also track down Petrere work in SF)
- Follow up on reservoir workshop results
- Build relationships with GEF and revitalizacao projects
- Letters of agreement & invitations with Secretaria, IBAMA, CEMIG
- SEAP Fisheries meeting set-up and invitations
- Investigate other activities around Lessons Learned – gender & environment
- Write an alternative proposal for Itaipu canal, building openings for Alexandre's Center and LGL; consider purchasing some receivers from Habit as loaners to get things started
- Write journal articles on aquaculture protocols, professional fishermen, CEMIG
- Investigate the Capra philosophy to foresee where the MMA is going
- Letters of invitation for Arley, Marcelo (IEF), and others for the technical visit to Canada.