

TRIP REPORT

POLICING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL VISIT

Canada, October 19th – November 8th, 2003

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TECHNICAL VISIT TO CANADA



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1. INTRODUCTION

World Fisheries Trust (WFT) is a Canadian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that receives financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in order to apply these funds to social projects in Third World Countries.

WFT's efforts in our country have the support of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), an agency that is connected to the Itamaraty offices in Brasilia. [The latter] is responsible for the control of international co-operative efforts in Brazil. [The project] is managed by a team of professionals from the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), situated in São Carlos, in the state of São Paulo.

WFT is working on the development of artesanal fisheries and on the social inclusion of fishermen and their families, in a pilot project in the vicinity of Três Marias, Minas Gerais (MG). Initially, they were aiming to integrate and develop a fishery that invested in the fishermen's qualifications, environmental education and the interaction with other parts of the country that had experience in innovative practices for fisheries management and better results for artesanal fishing communities.

The central proposal for bilateral co-operation between Brazil and Canada is to work with transfer of technologies. WFT is in charge of advancing the integration of Brazilian and Canadian institutions and public agencies, so that their experiences, including community policing activities, can be shared through technical visits and workshops between these two nations.

The Military Police of Minas Gerais (PMMG) were invited by the Rector of UFSCar to join forces in the development of fisheries in Brazil. The PMMG confirmed their participation through Document No. 36.815.3, sent in July of 2001, and signed by Colonel PM, State Chief of Police. Considering the support system of this Institute in the state territory of Minas, especially in the vicinity of Três Marias, the PMMG offered as a counterpart the movement of scientists and representatives of WFT while involved in field activities, accompanied by representatives of the environmental police force, while carrying out regular environmental patrol duties. At the same time, training of key members that could act as subsequent trainers was offered, in order to disseminate the skills acquired in these joint efforts within the military police.

In October of this year, the first technical visit to Canada, financed completely by WFT, took place. It was part of the efforts to integrate and exchange Brazilian and Canadian technologies. The integrated Brazilian Team included representatives of artesanal fishermen, the State Institute of Forestry (IEF), the Catholic University of Minas Gerais (PUC-Minas), The Municipal Secretariat of the Environment for Três Marias and the PMMG.

2. DATE OF VISIT

From October 20 to November 9, 2003.

3. TRAVEL AGENDA

- Belo Horizonte – São Paulo
- São Paulo – Toronto
- Toronto – Ottawa

- Ottawa – Vancouver
- Vancouver – Victoria
- *Victoria – Calgary
- Calgary – Toronto
- Toronto – São Paulo
- São Paulo – Belo Horizonte

* Only the PMMG representative and a WFT representative went to Calgary to visit members of the Calgary Police Service.

4. LOCATIONS VISITED/ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE

OTTAWA – Travelodge Hotel: II Canada/Brazil Symposium on Lessons Learned, promoted by CIDA, involving partners from Brazilian states and Canadian provinces. The event was intended to provide information about CIDA’s partnership endeavours with Brazilian Institutions that participate in cooperative, bilateral Brazil/Canada projects.

VANCOUVER – Visit of the Vancouver Aquarium. It was possible, at this event, to see the importance that the Canadian government gives to preservation of ichthiofaunal species. The Vancouver Aquarium includes a team of technicians and scientists devoted exclusively to this.

Workshop and visit > East Side/Carnegie Centre > The biggest Community Centre in Canada, it provides support to drug addicts. The lesson provides an example of success that integrates community strengths and public power in the battle against the use of drugs. The people in the community (drug users) who are involved feel motivated to stay away from using drugs, motivating others to act in the same way.

SIDNEY – LGL/Consultants in fisheries issues. **WORKSHOP** – Migration and growth of Sturgeon populations (a local fish). Canadians are concerned about the monitoring of fish stocks; thus they try to develop methods and technologies to evaluate stocks, researching migratory processes of the fish and using the information to develop the fishery and protect aquatic ecosystems. In the case of Sturgeon, research work and evaluation of stocks are lead by community groups.

VICTORIA – Headquarters of WFT > Visits, working meetings, presentations and discussions about issues related to Project “Peixes, Pessoas e Água”, including:

Archipelago Marine Research – visit > A business doing research and developing technology for the monitoring and development of fisheries.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre – visit > NGO responsible for the administration of public and private resources for the support and development of First Nations Communities in Canada.

Goldstream Hatchery – visit > Community fish culture station for monitoring salmon stocks. They have specialised technical equipment to monitor and follow [fish] school migrations and maintain reproductive stocks in captivity for restocking rivers. Volunteers do all the work, and funding comes from the federal government and licensing fees from the sport fishery.

Workshop – Alex Gryzbowski/Geographer > Peaceful solutions to environmental conflicts. Participants received training about the best ways of solving environmental conflicts, taking ethno-cultural aspects into consideration.

Fisheries and Oceans – visit > The federal agency responsible for policing fisheries in Canada. They are uniformed civilians who hold administrative and criminal policing power, specifically in the area of fisheries enforcement. However, they are not entirely alleviated of the responsibility of protecting public security. In the case of crimes like drug trafficking, they act promptly in the manner comparable to that of the responsible police force.

Workshop – Mike Miles/Geomorphologist > Recuperation strategies for waterways impacted by highway construction. An undertaking to recuperate a small section of a waterway that had been impacted by the construction of a highway was presented to the [Brazilian] visitors. The work included technical details (refuge and sheltered areas) to facilitate migration of migratory fish species (salmon) protecting them against adversities caused by a poorly preserved environment. It was emphasised that it is better to work at the level of the [whole] basin. For example, the huge investment that was made in this case could easily be worthless, due to other activities in the basin. Evidence was also shown of the significant, long-term impacts that relatively small projects can have, emphasising that recuperation work has to take into account the cause of the problems, not just the passing symptoms, and has to be done with a solid technical base, not just for the community to feel better.

WFT – Review Meeting of trip > Presentation of results/Proposals for future work.

Workshop – Cris Dragseth/Ex-police officer > Community Police for the protection of indigenous communities. Information was presented about the community police actions [that have been] developed in Canada. The focus was police work on behalf of indigenous (“status”) communities that live on reserves, but are living an urban life, thus [being] subject to some of the rules of “white man’s” society;

Workshop – Thomas & Hartman/Researchers on migratory fish > Recuperation of aquatic ecosystems. The lecture was very technical and presented recuperation methods for aquatic environments that had been damaged by human activity. The focus was the conservation of freshwater systems for the preservation of [fish] stocks.

Qualicum Fish Hatchery – visit > State salmon hatchery station. The (quite large) station was constructed in a river valley and serves to monitor the upstream migration of stocks during the spawning season. The event was opportune in that it gave the visitors an in-depth understanding of the salmon reproductive process, which, ultimately ends in death due to the stress encountered in their upstream journey. The station is one of the largest in the province, serving to re-stock the river with salmon. However, this function is now being aggressively questioned, since there have been few returns after a long time and [it is thought that] perhaps it has even damaged the biodiversity of the native salmon stocks.

Workshop – Andrew Day/Biologist > Representative of one of the first experiments in co-management of fisheries on the Pacific coast of Canada. It includes federal, provincial, municipal, indigenous, NGO and other user representation, working together for the protection and stimulation of fisheries. In a round table discussion, presentations about Public Sector policies for the protection of fisheries in Canada were made. The country develops programs to encourage fishing activities combined with actions to protect fish stocks;

Fraser River – A river tour with Fisheries and Oceans, the agency responsible for federal policing of Canadian fisheries. The visitors accompanied the boarding of a commercial fishing

boat that was encountered in the process of taking in its nets. The fishermen were working legally, and no infractions were noted;

Workshop and visit – Cecilia Creek & Rock Bay Restoration Projects > A Canadian NGO that oversees the improved quality of life in poor neighbourhoods, especially in terms of pollution. A project was presented in which they aim to improve the water quality in a stream that was contaminated with domestic sewage and industrial and urban waste/runoff. Polluted water is of great concern to Canadian communities. For this reason, the involvement of citizens in actions for the protection of water resources is intense. The NGO in question depends upon the support of institutions, businesses, industry and citizens to develop their work, maintaining long-term activity reports, and noting the advances over the years towards the desired objectives (of decreasing pollution). Work [takes place] within the guidelines of Best Practices in relation to the environment, developed together with the users, and certifications for businesses that are adhering to these guidelines.

Workshop and visit – Philippine Women's Centre > A Canadian NGO that supports Philippine (immigrant) women who work in Canada. The Philippine government has a policy of exporting working people, and it takes advantage of a Canadian immigration program for temporary domestic help to send [Philippine] women trained in nursing, sociology, psychology and other areas [to Canada]. Contracts with families don't always work out, leading to segregation, abandonment of Philippine women and sometimes, to prostitution or trading in women. The NGO, a prize-winning pioneer in Canada, works to better the life and constitutional rights of these women, including diminishing the incidence of violence and prostitution and legalizing the permanent immigrant status of these women [in a way that is] more in line with their training;

NANAIMO – Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) – visit > Presentation about community police forces in indigenous communities. The (federal) Royal Canadian Mounted Police contracts people from the diverse types of communities that exist in Canada, especially indigenous ones. Through them, they look for understandings and agreements about community policing approaches, which permit them to maintain desired levels of public tranquility within the context of ethnic conflicts registered on a day-to-day basis.

CALGARY – Visit to the Calgary Police Service, including:

Presentation by a Community Security Councils that depend on voluntary participation of community citizens;

An oral presentation about the hierarchical levels of policemen, structure and training. From the least experienced to the Chief of Police (the highest level), there are only five levels, including the first and last. Considering that they are civilian [officers], this low number of hierarchical levels facilitates the communication between them and promotes group cohesion. They are not required to have a university degree, but only those who are interested in personal development and who look for courses outside of the police are promoted to higher levels. The entry level, annual salary is Cdn. \$20,000.

Visit to the Integrated Centre for Security, Fire and Citizen Services. The model is similar to the Integrated Nucleuses for Community Security (NISC) that exist in the Brazilian state of Pernambuco. In a single location, citizens have access to various security services offered by the state.

Visit to a community police office that includes retired and young volunteers from the community. Retired Canadian citizens understand that in order to keep the system going, they need to give back to society that indirectly pay their salary. Thus, they volunteer themselves [for example] to work in police offices, registering reports, providing information and working on

patrols in cases that require prompt police intervention. Young people become trainees or volunteer to try out police life. It is important to note that volunteers in this service don't take the place of police, but improve the effectiveness of police work in the community;

This reporting officer participated in and accompanied the police service in Calgary, from the moment a drug deal (marijuana) was encountered to the end of the registration. It was possible to see the great preoccupation of Canadian police with applying the law in a way that respects human rights. This preoccupation is present throughout the incident, from the [time of] police action in the street until delivering the prisoner to the district police office;

Visit to the Coordination Centre for Volunteer Services for the Calgary Police. Volunteers are coordinated by a specific agency, with the aim of not making this service onerous for the local police department.

Visit to the Unit for Victim Assistance, with an oral presentation of work that has been done. In the incidences of crimes against people and customs, police participation takes place in the form of visits to the victim, with the aim of providing encouragement and consolation. The work is done by voluntary police and by people with the technical training to provide this type of support. They feel that this practice contributes to the decreased sense of panic in the victims, and that victims are then able to contribute to the police investigation.

Visit to the Unit for Cultural Resources that strives to integrate forces that support different cultures in the municipality. It is new to the Calgary Police and they are [still] in the experimental stages of [these] activities. They are trying to integrate representatives of various communities (First Nations/Indigenous, Blacks, Asiatics etc.) into the Police Force.

Visit to Calgary's Chief of Police, Mr. Jack H. Beaton. We were very well received by Calgary's Chief of Police, who extended his best wishes and made his intention to collaborate with Brazilian Police institutions very clear.

Oral presentation by this reporting officer about police activities related to preserving [civil] order, as accomplished by the PMMG, followed by discussions about community policing. We presented projects that were carried out under the auspices of the 22nd BPM, presenting to the Canadians the methods that the PMMG has found for combating criminal activities, while also contributing to the development of youth and children.

5. CONCLUSIONS

It is important to note that the actions and facts that were observed on the technical visit to Canada are set in the context of a nation with high socio-economic standards and an homogenous ethno-cultural structure.

Canadians place a great deal of importance on environmental issues and participate effectively in them, to the point that one doesn't observe, within the context of a technical visit, high impact injuries to the environment. On the contrary, we were shown locations and ecosystems that had previously been completely degraded by anthropogenic activities, but that have been meticulously recuperated.

The salmon fishery is of singular importance to the Canadian economy and culture, since the care of fish stocks is of interest to the government and citizens that, voluntarily, provide services at community fish culture stations (hatcheries) with the aim of preserving fish stocks.

There is effective involvement of citizens in social issues that affect them directly. The police aren't considered the principle instruments of conflict resolution, but one of the resources to help

come up with solutions, working in partnership with NGOs that take care of [issues of] interest to society.

The Calgary Police [Service] is [a] civil [force] and has very few hierarchical levels, which facilitates the interactions between policemen, decreases the level of corruption and increases the level of confidence and credibility of their work to the [general] population.

The Calgary Police Service provides a complete policing cycle. They have a uniformed segment, entrusted with ostensive policing duties, and a non-unionized/regulated group that performs scientific work, criminal investigations and victim support services. They execute these duties within a strict code of human rights, providing respectful treatment to prisoners at the scene of the crime as much as while they are in custody, waiting legal processing.

The Police are well regarded by society and possess a status that distinguishes them on a socio-economic scale. Their entry level, annual salary is approximately Cnd. \$20,000.00.

The cost of providing police services is covered mostly by the municipality. In Canada, representatives of the federal, state and municipal police, with identical powers, can co-exist in the same area. Thus, for economic reasons, it is common for a municipality that doesn't have the financial resources, or chooses not to have its own police force, to contract the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (federal) to set up a detachment. In this case, the municipality covers 95% of the expenses, including the police payroll.

In summary, the visit was especially important for the PMMG, considering that Canadian practices could establish the "benchmarks" for the creation and restructuring of our internal system.

Annotations and informational material (folders, brochures, business cards) for future consultations and contacts that might be needed for implementing PMMG policy, can be found in the archives.

Belo Horizonte, December 5, 2003

**ARLEY GOMES DE LAGOS FERREIRA, CAP PM
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