

# **TRIP REPORT**

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## **IARA COMMUNITY CENSUS**

Três Marias, Brazil, February 2004

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## **INVITATION**

Your family is invited to participate in a community meeting to discuss fisheries accords.

The meeting will be held on \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2004.

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Participate! Your presence is very  
important to us.

Please invite your fellow fishermen.

## Questionnaire

(translation Cathy Carolsfeld)

## Statistical Community Census

(surveyors: don't forget to note the leaders' names)

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/ 2004

Location:

### 1) History

- a) history of the name
- b) age of the neighbourhood/community
- c) ancestry of population
- d) How was the neighbourhood formed?

### 2) Culture

- a) traditional festivals
- b) history
- c) local artists

### 3) Recreation

- a) recreational activities

### 4) ?Artesanal Crafts

- a) types of crafts

### 5) Health

- a) Is there a [public] health clinic?
- b) [Is there a public] healthcare worker?
- c) What types of problems are related to health assistance?
- d) [What are the] most common sicknesses?
- e) What are the most [commonly] used medications? (home-made (medicinal plants) or from the pharmacy?)
- b) In what situation do you go to the doctor?
- f) In what situation do you use home-made (medicinal plant) medications?
- g) What type of home-made (medicinal plants) medications [do you use?]

### 6) Basic Sanitation

- a) How are the toilets made?
- b) Is the water treated?
- c) [What is the] destination of the garbage?

### 7) Home (Moradia)

- a) Of what material are your houses constructed?
- b) How are your houses built?

### 8) Education

- a) Is there a school? Specify? State, municipal or private?
- b) Up to what (grade) level does the school go?
- c) Do your children attend public or private school? Specify.

- d) Do the teachers live in your neighbourhood?

**9) Commerce**

- a) Is there a grocery store?
- b) [Are there] stores? ([what] types and [who are the] owners)

**10) Organization**

- a) co-ordination (of the neighbourhood)
- b) soccer club
- c) youth group
- e) mothers' group
- f) associations
- g) other groups (political party, unions, fishermen's colonies)

**11) Religion**

- a) Which churches are there?
- b) Are there religious groups? Specify.
- c) Are there religious festivals? On what date(s)?

**12) Communication**

- a) What [radio] stations do you usually listen to?
- b) [What] TV [stations do you usually listen to]?
- c) [What are your] favourite programs?
- d) [Is there] public telephone [service]?

**13) Transport**

- a) [What] means of transportation [are available]?

**14) Economy**

- a) What are the sources of income?
- b) Do you grow anything? [If so,] what? Do you sell it? [If so,] where?
- c) Do you raise animals? Which ones? Do you sell them?

**15) Fisheries (Pesca)**

- a) Which types of fisheries [are there]?
- b) Where do you fish?
- c) Which fishing gear is used (and where)?
- d) [Which] species [are] captured and [during which] season?
- e) [Which] species are used for domestic consumption and [which] are sold?
- f) How much fish is consumed (per capita)?
- g) How much fish is captured (weekly harvest and season)?
- h) [What] types of conflicts [occur] (cause, individuals involved)?
- i) What do you think is good and bad about fisheries laws?
- j) What can be improved? How?

## **Trip Report**

Prepared by: Joachim Carolsfeld, World Fisheries Trust

### **1<sup>st</sup> Community intervention for co-management - IDRC project Preliminary Report**

#### **Objectives of Project**

- 1) Evaluate application of IARA formula to local situation
- 2) Start process towards co-management in pilot communities
- 3) Detailed survey by UFSCar team

#### **Outline of activities to date**

- Preliminary scoping and mobilization by UFSCar;
- Group census meetings guided by IARA in Três Marias, Pontal de Abaete; Itajaí, Barro do Guaicui, Pirapora;
- Training of local questionnaire teams by UFSCar in both locations (youths of fishing community).
- Door-door survey of fishing families in all communities by UFSCar

#### **Summary of results**

##### **Pre-meeting**

Pre-meeting activities by UFSCar consisted of contact with colony/association leadership, developing a mobilization strategy, and defining meeting locations and times.

Mobilization in Três Marias for the group census consisted of door-to-door delivery of invitations to fishermen listed with the fishing colony, radio announcement, and streetcar announcement. In the Pirapora region, the fishing colony sent out invitations and announcements were made on the radio.

##### **Community meetings**

The IARA approach for the first intervention of promoting co-management is a community meeting. The first portion of the community meetings carried out in this project focussed on getting participants interested in the idea of co-management and more direct participation in voicing concerns – vs. leaving problem solving up to the colony president. This portion usually lasted 20-30 minutes.

The second portion of each meeting consisted of a group census, meant to characterize the group adequately to adapt subsequent training steps and conflict resolution. In addition, it served to help build group dynamics and cohesion for subsequent steps. This portion took 2-4 hours.

All the meetings were documented in writing by two scribes (one from IARA and one from UFSCar), as well as through video documentation provided by UFSCar.

Despite a very successful mobilization in terms of participation, the first meeting in Três Marias was a little difficult, probably due to a variety of factors – including the large number and heterogeneity of participants and differences in social norms compared to the Amazon – resulting in a very long meeting and a low retention rate of participants to the end (approx. 50%). Modifications in the routine to make the meetings more efficient and smaller resulted in approximately 95% retention rates in subsequent meetings - these audiences also tended to greater homogeneity.

Modifications to the initial meeting included a reduced introduction carried primarily by Ana Thé including an introduction of the crew and an overview of the integration with components of the CIDA project. A quick presentation by Raimundo (the Federation President), the colony president, and mayor or equivalent (if present) followed. The opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves personally, as was done in the first meeting, was deleted in the interests of time and cohesion, and Ana Thé was selected as an appropriate initial spokesperson in these meetings to emphasise the integrative nature of the activity.

Interest in the IARA process for these meetings was successfully created in all of the meetings, judging by participation in the discussion and informal feedback at the end of the meetings. However, in the first few meetings it took quite a while for the participants to understand the purpose of the process – apparently alleviated in subsequent meetings somewhat through Ana Thé's more integrated introduction. In addition, the main incentive presented for participation was the question of enabling individual capacity to stand up for rights and ideas in a manner that could be interpreted as militancy against governing bodies. This approach was tempered in later meetings with a greater focus on collaboration with government.

The Environment Secretariat of the Três Marias municipality (SEMEIA) and the Federation of Fishermen MG provided logistic support and staff throughout the surveys.

### **Door-to-door survey**

Individual interviews in a door-door survey of registered and known fishing families were carried out by a UFSCar crew in all communities subsequent to the community meetings with the IARA personnel. The IARA process in the Amazon does not do this, rather incorporating a questionnaire into the group meeting for individual responses of participants. However, as the meetings were very long and the UFSCar was interested in a more thorough survey of the fishing community (including questions of gender and race), the door-door survey approach was adopted, incorporating questions that are normally used by IARA in addition to questions of a standardized population survey that UFSCar carries out and components of gender and race. There was a positive reception by all residents, though survey results are still unknown. Transformative value is being added in the survey through the training and use of local community youth to help out with the survey and through questions answered during the house visits.

## **Survey effectiveness**

The content and effectiveness of the group meetings was equivocal. However, in terms of the information gathered, we will have data from a variety of comparable surveys that should permit a methodological publication and allow us to design an appropriate efficient approach for the next communities in the São Francisco valley:

- 4) Rapid assessment through the group census activities and the select individual interviews conducted by Jutta Guthberlet;
- 5) Quantitative interview data from the intensive surveys conducted by UFSCar (including both information normally collected by IARA, information from a standardized social survey form, and additional information on gender, race, and fisheries. Responsiveness to this survey will be enhanced by the use of local people trained specifically for the survey and relationships developed during the group survey.
- 6) Previous survey data from Ana Thé's thesis, Norma Valencio's work, IBAMA's work, and community records.

There was also added transformative value to the group discussions of some of the questions, such as those on fisheries and health, and increased group cohesiveness with questions on home remedies.

## **Next steps**

The next steps in the IARA process are:

- 7) Compilation of the survey data
- 8) Selection of community representatives
- 9) Training courses for community organization
- 10) Training course for community radio
- 11) Municipal Forum on Fisheries
- 12) Development of Fisheries Accord

## **Is the Process Appropriate to the Situation?**

While the IDRC project is presented as a two-phase process of first testing the IARA approach in two communities and then adapting it to local conditions, an ongoing monitoring of the process is essential to make sure that the process is positive even in the first stages of the project. This is essential for the next stages to work well. Additionally, as a linkage with the CIDA project is integral to the strategy of the IDRC project and as both projects are working with the same communities, a common over-all strategy is important.

Concerns that became evident during this first activity of the project were:



- 13) Inadequate levels of prior communication on the practical elements of the IARA-based process. Thus it was unclear, for example, what kinds of support materials were needed by the IARA team for the first group census meeting until the last minute. Other preparatory work (e.g. mobilization, food and drinks, name tags) was also done in the absence of information on the IARA process. On the positive side, this led to immediate local adaptation of the process, but unfortunately also led to some initial bad feelings amongst the study team. Better prior information will be needed for the next events to make them work better and improve collaboration between the two teams.
- 14) Differences in the facilitation style and presentation methods of the IARA and UFSCar teams – particularly evident in the first meeting. While the immediate census results of different approaches may be similar, the longer term impacts of the event are sensitive to this aspect – i.e. how the project and project team is perceived in the community after the event, which influences their effectiveness. As the UFSCar and CIDA project partners will still be in the community after the IDRC project and IARA input is over, this is an aspect that needs to be open for discussion – something that was not easy in this first stage of the project and led to considerable friction.

### **Unforeseen Expenses and Activities**

- 15) Pre-meeting mobilization in Três Marias: this involved a week's work for a team of 5 UFSCar staff and students, staff, vehicle and support services of the Municipal Environment Secretariat, and 4 locally employed youth. The extent and expenses of this work were not foreseen, but are being addressed by the UFSCar budget.
- 16) Filming of the events and process involved a film crew of 5 students of the UFSCar film program for the full period of 3 weeks. Equipment costs may be assisted by the CIDA project, but manpower costs will be addressed by UFSCar;
- 17) The individual interview survey is making use of 15 people over a period of 3 weeks. None of this was foreseen in the community census portion of the project, but a smaller crew was foreseen for the gender and race surveys, so the two have been combined. UFSCar so far is making up any required differences in expenses, and the Três Marias municipality has provided staff, transport and support facilities.
- 18) Costs for food and name tags at the census meetings were not foreseen, as IARA does not address these in their format. However, the experience of UFSCar with the social context of Minas Gerais indicated that these were very important elements for a successful meeting and thus were implemented. The UFSCar covered these expenses, with some contribution from the CIDA project.
- 19) The costs of data entry and database development at IARA were not budgeted. Negotiations are currently underway for the CIDA project to cover these expenses. The UFSCar is also creating a parallel database of the information at their own cost.

- 20) Transportation of the IARA crew from Belo Horizonte to Três Marias/Pirapora was not included in the IARA portion of the budget, probably as it was incorporated in the UFSCar transport budget. The UFSCar is thus paying these expenses.
- 21) A return visit to the communities to select representatives for the next phase of the project was not included in the project plan. It is still unclear how this will be carried out and how the expenses will be covered.
- 22) The fishing communities in both Três Marias and Pirapora are larger, more diverse, and more spread-out than was expected. To address this situation, multiple localized meetings were held, rather than one central one as initially proposed. Two such meetings were thus carried out in Três Marias, and three in Pirapora. Extra expenses were covered by the Municipality of Três Marias and the UFSCar, with some contribution from the CIDA project. Even so, members of the Três Marias fishing colony living in other communities on the reservoir have not yet been included in the work.