

TRIP REPORT

IPAM ProVarzea Seminar

Santarém, PA Brazil
July 7th – 9th, 2004

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World Fisheries Trust

“Projeto Várzea: 10 anos de Co-Manejo na Amazônia.” IPAM (Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia), Santarém, Pará 2004.

Datas da viagem: 6-14 de julho de 2004

Local: Santarém, Alter do Chão e Alenque, Pará, Brasil

Participante: Alison Macnaughton, representante do World Fisheries Trust, Canadá.

Purpose of Trip

Together with fishing colony representatives from Pirapora and Três Marias (colonies Z-1 and Z-5), to learn more about the structure and functioning of other fishing colonies, associations and projects promoting sustainable fisheries that are being carried out in partnership with the IPAM and IARA institutes in the Amazon region, as well as to share ideas and broaden understanding of the range of issues facing artesanal fishers throughout the country, by attending a ProVarzea seminar in Santarém, Pará, hosted by the IPAM institute. Jointly with this objective, to strengthen existing partnerships with members of IPAM and IARA, as well as to establish new contacts and extend our network of contacts in areas of common interest.

Background

Barbara Johnsen, director of the Secretary of Environment for the City of Três Marias, as well as Ana Thé, UFSCar researcher and executive secretary of the IDRC funded project “Rumo a Co-gestão”, were invited by partners in the IARA/IDRC capacity building for co-management in the São Francisco project to participate in a 3-day seminar in Santarém, celebrating 10 years of Projeto Várzea, an initiative currently sponsored by IPAM, the WWF, the Woods Hole Research Centre, the EU, the UNU, USAID, DFID, HSBC and ProVarzea of IBAMA – MMA Amazonas. The invitation was specifically to share in the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as to present the work of the Centro de Apoio ao Pescador (CAP) in Três Marias, which bears many similarities to a project currently being developed in Santarém by the IPAM institute, the Centro de Capacitação dos Pescadores (CCP). Though similar in purpose and design, each project has experienced unique challenges. CAP is an existing facility, lacking current funding to develop and implement programming. CCP, on the other hand, has a fairly well-developed program of activities waiting to be implemented (including a series of publications), but has been facing construction roadblocks. Norberto Antônio dos Santos attended in the place of Barbara Johnsen, who was busy with a week of cultural activities in Três Marias. Two additional community participants, one a professional fisherwoman from the Três Marias colony and the other the president of the Pirapora colony, as well as a representative from WFT, also attended in order to take advantage of the opportunities to learn about situations and activities in the region. Unfortunately, Ana Thé of UFSCar was also unable to attend, due to prior commitments.

Overview of Trip Activities

The trip was divided into two main sections. The first involved attendance at the Projeto Várzea event. The second was a series of visits to different organizations and communities in the region, to discuss with community members and organizers there about the similarities, differences, and lessons to be learned from each other's experiences.

Trip Itinerary:

July 6: Flight to Santarem, via Brasilia and Manaus.

July 7: **Projeto Várzea: 10 anos de Co-Manejo na Amazônia** – presentations:

AM: *Experiencias de Manejo Comunitário na Amazônia: Estratégias de Gestão na Várzea* (Antônio Olviedo, WWF), *Experiências bem sucedidas de Manejo Comunitário na Região Amazônica, Política Governamental Para o manejo dos recursos naturais da Várzea* (Mauro Luis Ruffino)

PM: *Manejo Integrado dos Recursos Naturais da Várzea: Manejo de Lagos, Manejo Participativo do Pirarucu, Experiência de Mamirauá, Reflorestamento, Alternativas Agrícolas de Renda*

July 8: Early morning visit to the fish market.

Day 2 of seminar presentations:

AM: *Experiência de Formação para a Co-Gestão dos Recursos Naturais da varzéa: Educação Ambiental na Amazônia, Educação Ambiental em Santarém, Centro de Capacitação do Pescador Artesanal* (Marcelo Apel), *Centro de Apoio ao Pescador – CAP* (Norberto Antônio dos Santos)

PM: *Política de Co-Gestão*: presentations, and working groups to discuss issues of co-management, environmental education, etc., were discussed, and proposal ideas developed for possible WWF funding. See attached seminar summary for more details.



July 9: AM: Visit with Regina Cedeira, president of IARA, to Tingu in Maicá to observe local elections for board of directors for Maicá's community base (a small rural community that is part of Santarém's colony Z-20).

PM: *Oficina Aberta ao Público*: Wrap-up session and public exhibition of Projeto Várzea event, new publications and related projects at a local gym in Santarém.

July 10-11: Weekend in Alter do Chão with IPAM, IARA and ProVarzea staff and project representatives.

July 12: Return to Santarém.

Visit to Lúcia Apel's home radio recording station.

PM: Visits with Colony Z-20 in Santarém, and local women fishermen's association - AMUPA.
Later PM – Night boat to Alenque, across the Amazon river.

July 13: AM: Visit in Alenque with Lulu of colony Z-28
Noon boat back to Santarém.

July 14: AM: visit to local college to view live Pirarucu.
Noon: Flight back to BH, via Manaus and Brasília.

Notable Experiences

Project Várzea Seminar:

The Projeto Várzea group includes many interesting partners, among them are: IARA, Instituto de Preservação de Amazônia (IPAM), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Instituto Internacional para Educação Brasil (IIEB), Universidade Federal de Pará in Belém (UFPA), Universidade Federal de Amazonas in Manaus (UFAM), Associação dos Mulheres Pescadores e Artesenais de Amazonas (AMUPA), Movimento Nacional dos Pescadores (MONAP), Movimento dos Pescadores Artesenais de Amazonas (MOVEPAM), various fishing colonies in Pará and Amazonas, Rondônia, and Acré.



experiences with other seminar participants.

The seminar offered an opportunity for Norberto, professional fisherman of Três Marias, to speak about the Centro de Apoio ao Pescador (CAP) in Três Marias, as a project with many similarities to the Centro para Capacitação dos Pescadores (CCP) project now under development in partnership with IPAM in Santarém, Pará. There were also many opportunities for Pedro Melo (president of Colony Z-1 Pirapora, MG) and Maria José Alves Costas (professional fisher and member of Colony Z-5, Três Marias, MG) to exchange ideas and



The presentation topics during the seminar included: management strategies, successful experiences with community based management in the Amazon region, legislation for managing natural resources, lake management, participatory management of Pirarucu, reforestation, revenue generating agricultural alternatives, environmental education

programs in Amazonia, and in Santarem (IPAM), the CCP – Centre for Capacity Building of Fishermen (Santarem, PA), the CAP – Fishermens’ support Centre (Tres Marias, MG), Co-management policies, legislation for property regularization in the Varzea



Presentations were followed by a series of short debates, and the seminar was wrapped up with a series of roundtable discussions and suggestion of possible policies, programs and projects to be developed by partners for funding by the WWF and other agencies present. Copies of existing project publications and teaching materials were distributed to all participants. The content and layout of these publications could be useful for generating ideas for other publications. There was also a public cultural show with local musicians and exhibitions of local groups’ projects, as well as of local

artesanal crafts, on the final day of the seminar.



Community Visits:

After the seminar, Pedro, Maria José and I spent several days visiting various colonies and associations, learning about the history, political context, structure and current activities and challenges faced by the various groups, as well as spending time relationship building with members of IPAM and Projeto Várzea and with each other.

Board elections in Maicá:

Following the seminar we had the opportunity to visit the inland community of Tingu where we attended the election of a board of directors for the Maicá community-level council of representatives to the Santarém colony. This provided rich learning opportunities for the participants from the São Francisco region. The opportunity to watch an electoral process take place from the vantage point of an outsider was very useful to the community participants from the São Francisco, as it enabled them to view the process somewhat objectively, observing where sources of confusion existed, and suggesting ways that this confusion over understanding the process could be resolved. It was also very interesting because three women were elected to the board, something which others had earlier mentioned they did not believe was likely. Another interesting difference was the fact that the vote was made separately for each position, rather than for a pre-organized team – making the results more democratic overall. This was noted by one member of the São Francisco team to be a potential detraction from the future ability of the council to make decisions effectively, while others believe it provides greater opportunity to build capacity for responsible decision making in

the best interests of the community among a greater diversity of people through election and accountability.

Weekend in Alter do Chão:

On Saturday, July 10, we were invited to spend the weekend at Alter do Chão with group of seminar participants and IPAM staff – mostly involved in capacity building and environmental education at the community level. Other seminar participants present were from Rondônia, Acré and Amazônias. The weekend was very rewarding for all involved as it provided an extremely positive and relaxed environment in which participants were able to share their different social realities comfortably, discuss concerns with regard to co-management and other issues facing the fishermen class, and build relationships for continued ideas and technology sharing.



Visit to the Santarém colony, AMUPA and Alenque:

On Monday, July 12, we returned to Santarém, where we were invited to stay at the residence of Marcelo and Lígia Apel of IPAM and the IARA institute. Lígia showed us her home office from where she edits community radio programs, and provided Dona Maria José with a series of materials ranging from books about writing, to manuals for alternative economic activities. Monday afternoon we met with the women of AMUPA, the Associação de Mulheres Pescadoras e Artesenais de Amazonas, an association begun by professional

women fishers that has spent recent years working towards the exercising of equal rights for women fishers as well as providing support and capacity building functions for women.



We also met with several members of the board of directors of the Santarém colony, and visited the building where the CCP is being constructed. Monday evening we took a boat across the confluence of the Tapajós and Amazon rivers to the community of Alenque, where we had scheduled an early morning meeting with the Alenque colony Z-28 the following morning. On Tuesday morning we visited with Lulu of the Alenque colony, before taking the boat back to Santarém. The Alenque colony is interesting for its relationship with MOPEBAM, a movement to

organize fishermen in the lower Amazon region that was created and acts in opposition to the organization provided by the state-level fishermen's Federation. Tuesday evening we visited with the Apels, as well as visiting a community radio/public health promotion project and having a meeting with an IARA staff member involved in another project that was experiencing some

management challenges. Finally on Wednesday, we visited a local college to look at a captive pirarucu (a giant prehistoric fish, endangered and the focus of great revitalization efforts as it is the symbol of the Amazon,) before heading off to the airport to return to our respective homes.



Lessons learned



Overall, the most notable immediate outcomes for us were the experiences built among Pedro, Norberto, and Maria José, in terms of broadening their vision and providing them with great opportunities to recognize the similarities and differences between the situations of professional fishers in the Amazon and in Minas Gerais with regard to fishing conditions, livelihood strategies, legislation and regulation, etc, as well as to discuss advantages and disadvantages of different forms of organization, and share experiences with others.

The seminar presentations were very interesting and provided many examples of approaches to co-management, as well as offering a look at the possible development of a project over the course of more than 10 years. The amount of progress achieved in this time was quite inspiring, and was noted by the participants from the Sao Francisco River. Also noted were the legal differences, and the different state/society relationships existing in the area. Artesanal fishing enjoys a more central position in Amazonian society, and therefore the situations of marginalization of the fisher class, though they are severe, are somewhat different in character than those existing in the Sao Francisco Basin.

The environmental education programs were particularly interesting, especially since they now use techniques to evaluate the effectiveness and the effective use of the various tools that they provide to local teachers. This material is available from Silmara at IPAM and would be useful to take a look at, though it is limited by the fact that the evaluations are quantitative surveys, rather than qualitative discussions of the usefulness of particular tools or strategies. The idea of asking the teachers what materials they used, and what was most successful was an extremely good one. Also interesting was the fact that each education strategy developed involves the local community and teachers in its planning and design, to ensure that it addresses relevant issues, and to ensure that it is popular and has a better chance of success (ownership promotes use of strategies.)



The opportunity we enjoyed to observe the electoral process in action in Maicá was very rich and stimulated much discussion, as did the visit to colony headquarters in Santarém. Discussions with representatives of various organizations were all very interesting, with many opportunities to make comparisons between situations, forms of organization, conflict situations, etc. Learning



about the different possible structures for colonies (capatazias, nucleos de base, etc.) as well as the different voting systems was very interesting, and was a point to which the participants from Sao Fransisco paid a great deal of attention, mostly in terms of comparing it with their own systems and trying to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses.

Also very notable was the opportunity to spend time with Marcelo and Ligia Apel, learn about their specific perspectives, get a clearer understanding of the workings of IARA and IPAM, and generally

establish good relations with IPAM as well as people from Projeto Varzea and WWF.

There are also some potential connections to be made with WWF Brazil and IIEB in terms of possible assistance in securing funding for environmental education activities. If possible, I think we should also begin to think seriously about developing some activities directed towards gender equality (maybe bring Sonia from AMUPA to do a workshop if possible, along with some Canadians working in the area?)

Contacts

Antonio Olviedo: WWF Brazil

David McGrath: IPAM and UFPA – Nucleo de Alto Estudos Amazônias, dmcgrath@amazon.com.br, 91-9942-7175, 91-249-8777

Mauro Luis Ruffino: managing ProVarzea in Manaus, ruffino@provarzea.ibama.gov.br, 92-9996-1458, 92-613-6246

Gordon Armstrong: IIEB in Brasilia (offers grants, scholarships, and funds small projects related to environmental education and capacitation for environmental education). Gordon@iieb.org.br (61) 248-7449

Oriana Almeida: Executive Director of IPAM in Belém, also interested in environmental education potentials within PPA, oriana@ipam.org.br (91) 241-6700

Marcelo Apel and wife Ligia Apel, as well as Silmara and Urbano, all of IPAM. (93) 522-5538, 522-5285

Marcelo Crossa: Uruguayan, also works with IPAM. Interests in participatory stock evaluation. (93) 522-5538 crossa@ipam.org.br

Sônia Maria Leon Perreira: AMUPA (Associação Mulheres Pescadoras e Artesenais de Pará). Extremely good person to talk to about possibility of developing program for conscientizing, empowering women fishers in SF basin. Also works with Claudette, Jesus, and Annie, who are all great too. (93) 522-0237, 523-5099.