

# **TRIP REPORT**

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## **Community Development Visit**

Minas Gerais, Brazil

November 14 – December 1, 2004 and February 15 – 28,  
2005

Erika de Castro  
University of British Columbia

**Travel Report Dec. 2004 & Feb., 2005**  
**Erika de Castro**

***Agenda:***

Nov. 13-14 Travel to Brazil & Belo Horizonte  
Nov. 15 Meeting with Michael Shawyer, Ana Thé, Alison, Thiago, Erika  
Travel Brasilia  
Nov. 16 Meetings SEAP, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, FAO library  
Informal meeting with ABC, travel Pirapora  
Nov. 17 – 20 Project review, Pirapora  
Nov. 21 – Travel Pirapora – Tres Marias  
Nov. 22-23 Meetings Tres Marias – Federation, SEMEIA; Barbara Johnsen, Comlago, Sato, SEBRAE;  
travel BH  
Nov. 24 - 26 Workshop preparation – with Godinho, facilitator, Arley  
Nov. 27 Travel São Carlos  
Nov. 28 -30 Meetings São Carlos, travel Belo Horizonte  
Dec. 1 Meeting preparation  
Dec. 2-3 Technical review Workshop  
Dec. 4-6 Meeting wrap-up and follow-up  
Dec. 6 Meeting IBAMA – BH  
Dec. 7-8 Return Canada

Feb. 15: Travel to Brazil & São Carlos  
Feb. 15 - 19: Discussions Environmental Education, mineral investigation & gender  
Feb. 20: Travel TM; municipal visit organization, report finalization  
Feb. 21 - 26: Municipal and fishing colony meetings for community development (São Gonçalo, Três Marias, Pirapora, Buritizeiro, Varzea de Palmas, Ibiaí)  
Feb. 27 - 28: Return BH; Meetings Hugo, Vasco, IBAMA, SEAP, Marcelo (IEF); Return to Canada

***Objectives:***

- 1) Become familiar with the project's partners and activities
- 2) Participate in review of IDRC project and its interactions with CIDA project
- 3) Conduct background surveys for development of the CIDA subproject on community economic development and the cross-cutting theme on gender
- 4) Propose strategies to pursue the themes identified in (3)

***Thematic Summary & Recommendations:***

Meetings were held in the 6 municipalities of Três Marias, Pirapora, São Gonçalo do Abaeté (Beira Rio, Pontal do Abaeté), Buritizeiro, Várzea da Palma (Barra do Guaicuí) and Ibiaí.

**Gender strategy:**

Recommendations for activities related to the gender strategies for the project are:

- Foster and assist the development of a gender awareness strategy within the municipalities
- Prepare women in the fishing communities for pursuing alternative income generation activities
- Involve other women from the communities, in order to strengthen local and regional linkages and networks
- Include an environmental education component in the gender strategy linked to the river resources, conservation, and protection

Some activities suggested for implementing these recommendations are:

- Prepare/collect adequate formation/information materials
- Carry out mini-workshops for training municipal officials in Gender Analysis
- Send official invitation for municipal staff and community leaderships from Santo Andre (and other identified municipalities in Brazil) to participate in the workshops
- Carry out Workshops with pilot communities
- Develop a Participatory Women Video
- Establish a follow-up procedure and support for pilot communities in the development of workshops with remaining communities within the project area.
- Establish a bi-monthly meetings agenda with municipal staff responsible for gender issues in all municipalities
- Assist a women's group - identified during the workshops – and municipal staff in the development of a Local Gender Strategy for pilot municipality

### **Community Economic Development:**

Meetings were held with the six new municipal governments of the project's pilot region in early February 2005. Participants at the meetings generally included the mayor and municipal secretaries for environment, economic development, tourism, social services, and education. The project was presented at each of the meetings, including potential community development aspects, and the particular potential, needs, and interests of each municipality were recorded. In each case, representatives of the local fishing colony or federation participated in the meeting in a leading role. World Fisheries Trust representatives: Alison Macnaughton, Yogi Carolsfeld, and myself; UFSCar representative: Ana Thé. Alison has prepared reports for each of the meetings.

Most of the municipalities showed great interest in the project, understanding that development with the project would be a partnership and that the project could not contribute with infrastructure.

Characterization of potential, interests and requests

<i><b>Municipality</b></i>	<b>Preliminary Potential Interests/Capacity Identified</b>			
	Pro-poor tourism	Crafts	Environment	Others/Obs
Três Marias	X	X	X	
São Gonçalo do Abaeté	X	X	X	Mining site visitation
Pirapora	X	X	X	
Buritizeiro	X			
Várzea da Palma	x	X		
Ibiaí	x	X		Crafts School

### **Interaction between IDRC and CIDA projects:**

I had the opportunity to be an observer in a mid-term participatory review session for the IDRC project in Pirapora and later led a discussion for development of both projects at the UFSCar.

In spite of the project review not had achieved a clear and objective review, the workshops was obviously important and helpful in the promotion of interactions between fishing representatives and the

government institutions. It was a good occasion for fostering increasing knowledge about project goals and strategies, as well as discussion of conflicts, challenges and opportunities between participants/partners and an evaluation of the interaction between the projects.

The two projects clearly have considerable overlap, which at times is conflicting and generally is not optimized for complementarity. We discussed this, and constructed a table of distinct objectives to guide future development (see attached table) primarily based on the concept of the IDRC project as a research project and the CIDA project as a development project.

### **Development of CIDA project:**

During both visits, I interviewed and interacted with a variety of the CIDA project's partners, and was asked by WFT to make an assessment of the project's progress and appropriateness of management strategies and to recommend strategies for future development of the project. These results are detailed in a separate internal report, but in summary are:

- 1) The project has achieved quite a bit in terms of building partnerships and buy-in by the fishing communities;
- 2) Despite these good results, the progress towards the stated objectives is not as good as could be expected;
- 3) Greater Brazilian political and financial commitment is needed to make the project work better. New strategies need to be developed to correct this, but it appears unlikely that this will change very quickly;
- 4) Centralized management of the project in the UFSCar has proven to be too much for this institution. Supplementary Brazilian management structure and resources that were originally proposed have also not materialized, possibly because the organization into sub-projects has proven too unwieldy.
- 5) I recommend that in the short term, WFT take on the management of project activities in Brazil more directly to alleviate the onus on the UFSCar, including with the commitment of more Canadian staff in Brazil, and that in the longer term, partners other than UFSCar be called on directly by WFT for management of some activities and activity cycles (rather than sub-projects).

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### **General comments**

During the visit with Michael Shawyer and Yogi to federal government and agencies institutions involved with fisheries (IBAMA, SEAP, National Secretary for Solidarity Economy, Ministry of Agriculture) was clear the great interest for the project. Also we could perceive that there are some opportunities for collaboration and support in terms of human resources and participation on existing programs, in spite of the absence of real cash contribution. However, these opportunities should be pursued, "cultivated" and monitored in order to maintain the level of interest in the project, which will bring these collaboration opportunities and increase the project's profile.

In BH, discussions with IBAMA looked initially positive towards a more solid partnership, but again, it later demonstrated that it was very dependent of a political commitment that appears not to exist (except perhaps in terms of environmental education).

### Idea for Gender Workshop:

A) Video as Existing Brazilian videos “Minha Vida de João” (for men) and “Acorda Aurora” (for women)

Stimulate participants to talk about the day routine of men and women – conflicts that make life more difficult. Change possibilities, steps taken, concrete actions at individuals and collective level.

Material: TV, Video, chairs, flip chart

B) Making a BIOMAP

Each participant receives a map of Brazil and marks his/her line of migration. The objective is to help in the recovery of cultural values. People should talk about important facts that have been helping them in becoming better community and family members

Material: Maps of Brazil for each participant, pencils

### **Youth Involvement Strategy:**

#### **Key Concepts**

##### **Youth participation/meaningful youth participation**

Meaningful youth participation is considered a key youth development practice and critical for promoting young people's healthy development and learning. In this context, youth participation refers to activities through which young people have opportunities to make meaningful decisions, develop and practice leadership skills, and experience a sense of belonging or mattering.

##### **Relationship building**

Relationship building is considered a key youth development practice and critical for promoting young people's healthy development and learning. It involves the development of caring, supportive relationships between adults and young people, and among young people and their peers. When young people experience relationship building in their programs, they build knowledge of adults and peers, gain emotional and practical support from adults and peers, and experience guidance from adults.

##### **Community involvement**

Community involvement in this context refers to activities that increase young people's knowledge of the community and allow them to give back to the community while experiencing a sense of connection to it. These experiences, along with concrete knowledge of the community and its resources, are critical for promoting young people's healthy development and learning.

##### **Capacity building**

Our approach to working with organizations and institutions that builds or improves their ability to focus their practices to create quality youth development experiences for young people. We strengthen those practices through skill building, on-going assessment, and coaching.

Outputs	Components	Products
Strategic Action for Youth Development	Municipal Youth Policy	Guide for municipal youth policy development
	Youth Database	Database of local/regional youth organizations
	Networking and Partnerships	Guide to building regional networks and partnerships for youth
	Advocacy	Brochures, fact sheets and displays on youth participation.
	Strategies for proposing and strengthening programs	Guide on participatory strategic planning, case studies.
	Resource Development	Guide on resource development for local youth organizations.
Building Human Capacity for Local Youth Development	Municipal Staff Development and Training	Regional and local workshops
	Information/Knowledge Support	Publish electronic and hard copy FQ sheets, news, create and maintain Local Youth Website
Enhanced Design and Delivery of Local Youth Development Programs	Innovative Media and ICTs	Case studies, guides on youth and radio, etc.
	Youth Employment	Case studies; Guide on selecting and implementing income-generating project and activities
	Volunteer Leadership Development	Case studies and guide on volunteer leadership development for rural youth programming

### Pro-poor Tourism Concepts

(adapted from Caroline Ashley, Charlotte Boyd and Harold Goodwin)

Tourism is a complex industry driven by the private sector, and often by large companies. Governments in developing countries have relatively few instruments to influence directly the sector, but there are opportunities to implement strategies to develop a sector for pro-poor economic growth, where tourism can show several advantages:

- The consumer comes to the destination, thereby providing opportunities for selling additional goods and services.
- Tourism is an important opportunity to diversify local economies. It can develop in poor and marginal areas with few other export and diversification options. Remote areas particularly can attract tourists because of their high cultural, wildlife and landscape value.

It offers labour-intensive and small-scale opportunities compared with other non-agricultural activities (Deloitte and Touche, 1999), employs a high proportion of women (UNED, 1999), and values natural resources and culture, which may feature among the few assets belonging to the poor

Assessing the livelihood impacts of tourism is not simply a matter of counting jobs or wage income. Participatory poverty assessments demonstrate great variety in the priorities of the poor and factors affecting livelihood security and sustainability. Tourism can affect many of these, positively and

negatively, often indirectly (Elliott et al., forthcoming). It is important to assess these impacts and their distribution.

Tourism can generate four different types of local cash income generally involving four distinct categories of people:

- Wages from formal employment.
- Earnings from selling goods, services, or casual labour (e.g. food, crafts, building materials, guide services).
- Dividends and profits arising from locally-owned enterprises.
- Collective income: this may include profits from a community-run enterprise, dividends from a private sector partnership and land rental paid by an investor.

Waged employment can be sufficient to lift a household from insecure to secure, but may only be available to a minority, and not the poor. Casual earnings per person may be very small, but much more widely spread (Ashley, 2000; Shah, 2000), and may be enough to improve the household income. Guiding work, although casual, is often high status and relatively well paid. There are few examples of successful and sustainable collective income from tourism, like cooperatives. There are cases that illustrate that it can match wage income in scale, can in principle benefit all residents, is often particularly significant for communities who do not have other options to earn collective income, but can be problematic to manage (Elliott et al., forthcoming; Ashley, 2000).

Negative economic impacts include local inflation, dominance by outsiders in land markets and in-migration, which erodes economic opportunities for the local poor (Shah, 2000).

Tourism development can change poor people's access to assets and to related livelihood options, for good and bad. On the positive side, it can generate funds for investment in health, education and other assets, provide infrastructure, stimulate development of social capital, strengthen sustainable management of natural resources, and create a demand for improved assets (especially education). On the negative side, tourism can reduce local access to natural resources, draw heavily upon local infrastructure, and disrupt social networks.

**Table: Actions to enhance economic participation in tourism enterprise**

<b>Barriers to participation of the poor in tourism</b>	<b>Actions that can reduce barriers</b>
Lack of human capital	Education and training targeted at the poor, (particularly women) to enable up take of employment and self-employment opportunities.
Lack of finance, credit	Expand access to micro-finance. Gradual pace of tourism development; avoiding crash development relying on outside investment.
Lack of organisation. Exclusion by organised formal sector interests	Recognise and support organisations of poor producers. Recognise organised tourism interests as just one voice to be heard among others.
Location – far from tourism sites	Develop core tourism assets and infrastructure in specific areas – where a commercially viable product exists.
Lack of market power. No ownership/control over resources of market value. No bargaining power with investors	Strengthen local tenure rights over land, wildlife, cultural heritage, access to scenic destinations, and other tourism assets. Use planning gain to encourage potential investors to develop their own strategies for enhancing local impacts for the poor.
Regulations. Exclusion from registered and promoted categories of tourism facility/service	Revise or remove regulations that exclude the least skilled, ensure necessary tourism regulations embrace sectors and activities operated by the poor with appropriate standards and processes.
Inadequate access to tourist market	Enhance vendors' access to tourists through, e.g. sitting resorts near public access routes and vice versa, supporting organised markets for informal and small-scale sellers in towns or adjacent to national parks.
Limited capacity to meet requirements of tourism market	Business support to improve quality, reliability of supply, transport links.
Under-development of domestic/regional/independent tourism by comparison with international tourism and all-inclusive	Incorporate domestic/regional tourism and independent tourism into planning strategies. Avoid excessive focus on international all-inclusives.
Government support targeted to formal sector	Recognise the importance of the informal sector; support it in planning processes
New tourism opportunities may conflict with existing livelihood strategies	