

TRIP REPORT

Project Management and Technical Mission

Minas Gerais, Brazil

November 14 – December 6, 2004

Joachim Carolsfeld
World Fisheries Trust

Travel Report Nov – Dec. 2004

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Agenda:

Nov. 13-14: Travel to Brazil & Belo Horizonte

Nov. 15: Meeting with Michael Shawyer, Ana Thé, Alison, Thiago, Erika; Travel to Brasilia

Nov. 16: Meetings with SEAP, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, FAO library; Informal meeting with ABC; Travel to Pirapora

Nov. 17 – 20: Project review in Pirapora

Nov. 21: Travel to Três Marias

Nov. 22-23: Meetings in Três Marias with Federation, SEMEIA; Barbara Johnsen, Comlago, Sato, SEBRAE; Travel to Belo Horizonte

Nov. 24 – 26: Workshop preparation with Godinho, facilitator, Arley

Nov. 27: Travel to São Carlos

Nov, 28 -30: Meetings in São Carlos; Travel to Belo Horizonte

Dec. 1: Meeting preparation

Dec. 2-3: Technical review workshop

Dec. 4-6: Meeting wrap-up and follow-up

Dec. 6: Meeting with IBAMA in Belo Horizonte

Dec. 7-8: Return to Canada.

Objectives:

- 1) Facilitate the end of Michael Shawyer's visit on improving fisheries returns, in particular to ensure institutional connections
- 2) Participate in review of IDRC project and its interactions with CIDA project
- 3) Assist in preliminary survey for development of CIDA subproject 2: community development & introduce Erika to project partners
- 4) Arrange and conduct review of CIDA project sub-project 3
- 5) Review management structure response to review in August & Brazilian counterpart options.

Thematic Summary

Michael Shawyer- improving fisheries returns:

Michael's technical tour appeared to have gone extremely well, despite a very tight schedule, with good opportunities for discussions with fishing community members (both in groups and individually), observe a variety of fishing and fish handling conditions, and look at training and institutional capacities. Both Michael and the Brazilians appear to have gained a lot from the visit. The trip was very ably organized by Alison, translated and assisted by Thiago Torquato, and guided by Carlos, the Três Marias Municipal Environment Secretary's driver. I and Erika de Castro (UBC) accompanied Michael to Brasilia to meet with some of the Federal institutions involved with fisheries (IBAMA, SEAP, Ministry of Labour). This served to round out Michael's updated understanding of institutional fisheries and aquaculture environment, as well as getting us some new contacts at the Ministry of Labour (Programa Solidariedade).

IDRC project review:

The IDRC and CIDA projects jointly carried out a participatory evaluation process of the IDRC project and the interaction between the two projects Nov. 16-19th. This was done as a workshop in Pirapora, including participation by representatives of a variety of the fishing colonies, IARA, UFSCar, IBAMA, IEF, CIDA (Brasilia), IDRC (Montevideo), MMA, PMMG, and WFT (see facilitators report).

Unfortunately, the meeting was too large and diverse to extract a succinct project review. However, it was very valuable for continued promotion of interactions between fishing representatives and the different institutions, conflict resolution between the different groups, familiarization by funding partners of the project, and ample discussion of project goals and strategies and interaction between the projects. This was the first effective participation of IBAMA and MMA in project activities.

Technical review workshop:

Together with PUC-Minas (Hugo Godinho) and IBAMA-BH (Mário Tallarico), we held a workshop in Belo Horizonte Dec. 2 – 3 to start reviewing strategies for the more technical components of the project. The meeting was attended by about 35 people, despite being a very difficult date for most agendas. This included numerous and diverse fishing and institutional representatives (see facilitators report).

Outcomes of the meeting were a table of prioritized activities, as well as an improved network of communication for the fishing communities. A tentative working group to carry initiatives forward was formed, but has not been followed up on, pending decisions on how this sub-project will operate.

Review of Management Partners and Project structure:

Several meetings were held with Brazilian project participants and management partners. The revised management structure discussed in August has unfortunately not really improved

divisions of labour and responsibility amongst the Brazilian partners, though some degree of improved communication has happened.

Discussions with IBAMA (BH) were fruitful in terms of getting closer to a concrete partnership, but have not yet resulted in concrete partnership agreements. Further counterpart options with the MMA were discussed at length with the MMA representative, with the conclusions that the original agreement for counterpart funding was no longer valid, and that a new agreement would have to be made through a new process with the Programa de Revitalização.