

TRIP REPORT

Project Management and Technical Mission

Minas Gerais, Brazil
January 30 – March 15, 2004

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World Fisheries Trust

Travel Report Jan. - March, 2005

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Agenda:

Jan. 30-31: Travel to Brazil & Belo Horizonte; receive community reps from Santarem
Feb. 1-2: Organize workshop participation; travel Três Marias
Feb. 3 - 4: Stock Assessment workshop, São Gonçalo do Abaeté
Feb. 5 - 10: Follow-up and report preparation, TM
Feb 11: CODEVASF meeting on water quality course
Feb. 14 - 15: Travel BH, distribution of report draft & organize municipal visits
Feb. 15: Travel São Carlos, pick up Erika
Feb. 15 - 19: Discussions Environmental Education, mineral investigation & gender
Feb. 20: Return TM; municipal visit organization, report finalization
Feb. 21 - 26: Municipal and fishing colony meetings for community development and stock assessment respectively (São Gonçalo, Três Marias, Pirapora, Buritizeiro, Varzea de Palmas, Ibiaí)
Feb. 27 - 28: Return BH; Meetings Hugo, Vasco, IBAMA, SEAP, Marcelo (IEF); Erika departure
March 1 - 2: BH, Cathy arrival, meetings IBAMA
Mar. 3: return Três Marias; meeting Roberto Carlos re: CAP & São Gonçalo environmental education
Mar. 4: Três marias meetings & school visits
Mar. 5: Visit on river and with Norberto
Mar. 6: Travel Pirapora & on river to Barra do Guaicui
Mar. 7: Meetings Buritizeiro - education, social assistance, fishing colony, women (International Women's Day)
Mar. 8: Barra de Guaicui, Ibiaí
Mar. 9: Meetings on education, Pirapora
Mar. 10: Site visit with UFSCar mineral crew; AWP review; viewing of BBC film
Mar. 11: Workshop on environmental education with UFSCar
Mar. 12: Três Marias wrap-up meetings
Mar. 13: BH wrap-up meetings - Vasco, Hugo, Arley
Mar. 14 - 15: Return to Canada

Objectives:

- 1) Conduct stock assessment meeting and follow-up
- 2) Develop contacts with new municipal governments; community development strategy building meetings
- 3) Assist in Environmental Education survey and strategy building
- 4) Review project progress with UFSCar and Erika; work on partnerships

Thematic Summary

Stock assessment workshop and follow-up:

The Stock Assessment workshop was well attended, despite poor timing, with quite a diverse participation - including strong fishing community representation. Good communication was established between researchers, managers, and the fishing groups, but a specific implementation proposal for stock assessment procedures was deferred for the next meeting (see booklet and CD of meeting). Follow-up meetings were held with fishermen in Três Marias, Pontal do Abaeté, Barra do Guaicui, and Ibiaí - generally in conjunction with the environmental education survey. These served to make it clear community meetings will be needed before the next workshop to help get the fishing communities on side. An additional meeting was also held with Wagner Benevides (SEAP), which re-enforced his support, but primarily for a snap-shot of current fishing resources.

Contacts with new municipal governments:

Meetings were held in each of the six municipalities of the riverine study area to get to know the new governments and see what kind of work could be developed together - particularly in the area of economic and social development related to the fishing community. The project's team included myself, Alison, Erika, Ana The, and representatives of the respective fishing colony or federation, whereas the municipalities generally included the major, vice-major and a variety of the Municipal Secretaries related to environment, social, and economic issues. The local water treatment companies (SAEE) were also visited in Buritizeiro and Pirapora.

We were well received in all locations, and now have good contacts in all locations to proceed with new developments. Nevertheless, the discussions, potential, and responsiveness were quite variable between in the different locations. Alison and Erika have summarized these results in their reports.

Environmental Education survey:

The survey for Environmental Education was a good opportunity to follow up quickly on the new contacts made during the municipal visits, as well as to make fresh contacts within older partners, such as IBAMA and IEF. The meetings were organized by both Barbara and Alison, and the project's visitation team included Cathy, Barbara, Alison and I. All of the meetings were very well attended, with very useful information and a high level of interest. The results have been summarized in both Barbara and Cathy's reports, and have been used to create a funding proposal for the Revitalization Program.

Review of Management Partners and Project structure:

The meetings at UFSCar and IBAMA both included discussions on project management and strategies, and meetings between individual partners and Erika were ensured to foster discussions on this topic. From these discussions, it is clear that we still have problems with the formation of a strong, unified Brazilian management force, communication between partners. These issues are dealt with more specifically in Erika's report.