

Newsletter Informativo



Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Amazon

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Highlights

In Remembrance

The US Forest Service and the USAID regret the passing of the President of *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* (ICMBio), Rômulo José Fernandes Barreto Mello. Rômulo Mello, as he was known, will always be remembered by his leadership in the Institute and dedication to protecting nature.

2017 Workplan

On September 5th and 6th, ICMBio Coordinations met with the USFS in order to define the actions that will be part of the Workplan in the Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Amazon for the fiscal year 2017. The workplan includes crosscutting activities involving various ICMBio coordinations and other federal government agencies, such as Ibama, Funai, and Amazon-region State Agencies.

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Strengthening the value chain of pirarucu fish

The National Conservation Unit System (SNUC), of the *Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade* (ICMBio), has designated areas or Conservation Units (CU) that permit the direct use of natural resources by traditional communities living inside the units and surrounding areas. Such is the case with national forests, extractive reserves and areas designated for sustainable development. With support from USAID, the Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Amazon has been working to ensure technical assistance and aid to these communities, so that they can enjoy the benefits those protected areas provide.

In the Extractive Reserve of Auati-Paraná, in Amazonas, one of the value-added products identified by the local communities is pirarucu fish (*Arapaima gigas*).

Endemic of the Amazon region, pirarucu is a large fresh-water fish species that can weight up to 200 kg (440 lbs). Pirarucu can be found in rivers and lakes with clear, calm waters. In order to guarantee good management of this species, there must be a lakes' zoning program according to different protected area designations.

For three months, 94 people representing 13 communities met regularly to present and discuss the sustainable management project of pirarucu. In the project supported by the USAID, members of three communities signed local agreements for managing the pirarucu, thus establishing a collective zoning of the lakes according to CU designation.

Monitoring the number of individuals in each lake is just as important in the management of pirarucu. Counting is done according to traditional local knowledge, with quotas established to maintain population at sustainable levels. The project has provided capacity training on the monitoring of the pirarucu species, as well as environmental education courses for community members. Improving community management of pirarucu is the first step for strengthening the value chain of this species and enhancing the livelihoods of Auati-Paraná communities.



Proper management of pirarucu is essential for structuring the species' value chain. Photo: João da Mata



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Forest inventory reveals economic potential of Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve

During the second half of July, forest experts from *Instituto Floresta Tropical* (IFT) participated in a series of activities for rewriting the management plan of the Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve. After a planning meeting in Santarém (PA), the group worked in the reserve where they coordinated the preparation of a forest inventory in the zone dedicated for community forest management.



Dwellers of Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve, which has over 25% of its area for forestry activities. Photo: Mauricio M. Santama-

In partnership with Tapajoara (the reserve’s largest dwellers’ association), Ascapunã (small local association) and researchers from the Western Para Federal University (Ufopa), IFT will soon start inventorying forest economic potential. The inventory will cover an area greater than the assessment done in 2015, in which COOMFLONA (a cooperative of producers in the Tapajós National Forest, neighbor to the Extractive Reserve) participated along with Tapajoara and Ufopa.

Located along the western banks of the Tapajós River, Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve was established in 1998, with 648,000 hectares. About 3,000 (around 18,000) people live and are permitted to sustainably harvest timber and non-timber products in about 25% of the Reserve.

Training on forest roads in the Tapajós National Forest

From September 12th through 19th, the Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Amazon supported a training effort on Forest Roads, with activities in the city of Santarém (PA) and the Tapajós National Forest (TNF). A total of 19 people participated, including ten community members from COOMFLONA, the Community Cooperative that maintains roads where they perform forestry activities in the TNF.

Staff from ICMBio, the Brazilian Forest Service, Ibama, and a federal police officer and local forest experts also participated. Activities were coordinated by two USFS tropical forest experts with experience in the Amazon.



Course participants in the Tapajós Natl Forest. Photo: Gordon Keller

São Joaquim National Park management plan adopts NPS methodology

In August, ICMBio concluded the first workshop for developing management plan in a Brazilian Conservation Unit. Using methodology for park management adapted from the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), experts from the USFS and NPS, local residents, researchers, tour guides and representatives from several Brazilian institutions worked together to develop a first draft of the management plan for São Joaquim National Park (SC), the site chosen for the workshop.



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Trail Workshop in Chapada dos Veadeiros

In September, staff from the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park (GO) and community members surrounding this CU welcomed USFS experts together with Colorado State University (USA) for a workshop on trails.

There were two practical sessions: the first in Chapada dos Veadeiros attracted 43 people and the second one in Kalunga community, with 35 attendees. The park is working on a management plan for implementing a long-distance trail crossing Chapada dos Veadeiros, which will bring new tourism-related economic opportunities to the area.

Demonstration Site Visitation Monitoring

The Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity supports the development of tools and training efforts in order to increase visitation to national parks, national forests, and extractive reserves. Supported by USAID, the partnership among the United States Forest Service, the Brazilian government and Brazilian and US universities is conducting a national program for monitoring visitation in Conservation Units designated as Demonstration Sites.

Ongoing research efforts started with 5,000 visitors in the Tapajós National Forest, plus 5000 in Anavilhanas National Park, both demonstration sites included in the program.



Foto: Suelene Couto

Workshop for writing Anavilhanas National Park Interpretive Plan

From August 22nd through September 2nd, a team of USFS and ICMBio experts gathered at the Anavilhanas National Park for a workshop to write its Interpretive Plan. The park is located in Amazonas State and is part of a major mosaic of protected areas. Anavilhanas is now part of a group of federal units that serve as demonstration sites for public use projects.

The Interpretive Plan is the foundation document for developing strategies and products aimed at enriching the visitation experience and improving communication among the CU staff, visitors and surrounding communities. The workshop was one more effort in the process of training the CU guides in Environmental Interpretation Principles and Visitor Care Excellence, which started in June this year. Aside from the Anavilhanas team, environmental analysts from other federal units also participated.

The draft Interpretative plan is under review and the final version is to be finished by mid-December. Local participation by community stakeholders is strongly encouraged and has been fundamental to the development process and buy-in to the interpretative strategies to be implemented at the CU. This is also an important step towards setting up best practices for visitor management in public federal protected areas, a result of the partnership between the ICMBio and the USFS, supported by the USAID.



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ICMBio Analysts participate in Protected Area Management Course in the USA



Three environment analysts from ICMBio participated in the 26th Annual Course on Protected Area Management sponsored by the USFS and the Protected Area Management Center at the CSU, USA. The course, from July 6th through August 6th, had 23 participants ranging from government agencies, NGOs and universities from 10 countries.

They were introduced to techniques and tools for managing protected areas in the USA and the other participants' countries of origin, approaching the context in the different Latin American countries. With field activities, participants learned best practices and lessons in managing US federal, state and municipal protected areas.

Participants developed action plans for implementing a project based on what they learned in the course. They also developed individual plans to identify personal priorities. ICMBio team was comprised of two environment analysts from the Amazon and two from Brasília, ICMBio's headquarters.

Seminar on Tourism Management in the USA – Still under the agreement with Colorado State University, in September two ICMBio environment analysts participated in the 4th Annual Seminar for Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas. Cooperation between the different agencies and sectors involved in the promotion of responsive management of tourism was one of the major themes discussed.

Course on economic and financial aspects of tourism in protected areas

ICMBio staff from different protected areas in Brazil participated from August 8-12th in an Economic and Financial Viability Workshop of CU Visitation Services. The course taught principles of economics, money valuation, and also trained participants on making economic-financial viability studies towards planning the services that support visitation.

Of the 26 participants, eight were environment analysts working in Amazonian protected areas. Aside from staff working in CUs, there were also three staff members from AcadeBio, and a community-based tourism entrepreneur.

The course took place in the National Biodiversity Academy (AcadeBio) in Iperó (SP), and it was an initiative from ICMBio and the non-government organization *Conservação Estratégica* (CSF), supported by the Partnership for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Amazon.

AGENDA

November/2016 through February/2017

Oct 15-22 – Management Plan Workshop (new methodology), Soure Marine Extractive Reserve (PA)

Nov 8-10 – Institutional Arrangement Meeting for pirarucu management in Amazonas, Manaus (AM)

Dec 6-12 –ROVAP Workshop, Chapada dos Veadeiros (GO)

Dec 13 – Partners Meeting, Brasília (DF)

Jan 2017 – Community Trails Training, Tapajós Natl Forest (PA)

Jan 2017 – Present “interpretive backpack” for Tapajós Natl Forest (PA) guides

Feb 2017 – Management Plan Public Participation Workshop, Chapada dos Veadeiros (GO)
