

MANAGEMENT REPORT

MMA Proposal for Counterpart Funding

August 14th, 2003

São Carlos, September 14, 2003

Dr. Maurício Cortines Laxe,
Ministerial Assistant
Ministry of the Environment – MMA
Executive Secretariat

Dear Maurício and Members of the Committee,

The project “Continental Fisheries of Brasil: Sustainable Conservation and Livelihoods”, known as “Project Peixes, Pessoas e Agua” (“Project Fish, People and Water”) represents a holistic vision in the sense of contributing to the revitalisation of the São Francisco River in a manner that integrates human and ecosystem needs. Focussed on the fish, riverine communities, participative management of the environment and resources, the project doesn’t allow one to forget that this “River of Integration” in Brazil is of interest to all Brazilians, and that its revitalisation depends on the integration of all users and governmental and administrative groups.

The proposals put forth in the project have already been adopted by the communities involved, including: during the First Regional Conference of Eight Municipalities at Três Marias Lake; the Seminar of the Lake Waters 2003; the Meeting of the Artesanal Fishermen of Minas Gerais (Três Marias, August 2-4, 2003); and in the manifesto of the mayors of COMLAGO (Consortium of Municipalities of Lago Três Marias) to the Ministry of the Environment.

With relation to fisheries, the project has a tripartite co-ordination of: the Federal University of São Carlos – one of the Brazilian leaders in [the area of] citizenship development; the Federation of Artesanal Fishermen of Minas Gerais; and the World fisheries Trust (a Canadian NGO). This co-ordination team has the ability to act as a link to improve river conditions as well as ensuring sustainability of this healthier environment and, at the same time, contributing to the survival of a traditional way of life, the latter of which integrates important knowledge and practices from the point of view of the relationship with the environment. In this way, the project also contributes to the improvement of quality of life for low-income people, that are included in the population of artesanal fishermen, and augments the availability of high quality protein to the Brazilian people.

The project proposal includes a group of 29 Brazilian and 15 Canadian institutions, with financial support for \$2.9 million (Canadian) that has already been approved by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and counterpart contributions estimated at approximately \$3.9 million (Canadian). We are attaching a detailed summary of plans for the application of these funds.

Although the counterpart portion is not completely confirmed, the project “Peixes, Pessoas e Agua” is underway and demonstrating exceptional effectiveness in carrying out the proposed activities and in the development of a variety of new sub-projects that guarantee the implementation of results achieved in the main project.

Some of these sub-projects are currently being formulated or are in progress:

- 1. The implementation of the capacity to co-manage the fishery in artisanal fishermen's communities.** The project "Peixes, Pessoas e Agua" put together a rapid review of the fishery situation in the São Francisco, in the project's focal areas, and managed to implement modifications in the law and the fishery policy for the State of Minas Gerais in order for these to be more receptive to participative administration. It also managed financing from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), for a sub-project that proposes to bring the experience of fisheries co-management from the Amazon to the São Francisco. This project, a partnership between the UFSCar; the Amazon Institute of Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources (IARA, an NGO); and fishermen of the mid-upper reaches of the São Francisco River; will begin in October, 2003.
- 2. Practical restoration of marginal lagoons.** Marginal lagoons are very important to São Francisco fish stocks, and those of its tributaries, acting like nurseries for eggs and larvae of a great variety of migratory fish, and contributing to the enormous fishery potential of the river. With the advent of large dams and the resulting lack of seasonal flooding, many of these marginal lagoons stopped producing young fish. The project "Peixes, Pessoas e Agua" is creating partnerships and surveys to put together a sub-project for restoration, with practical and viable techniques, for fish production in the marginal lagoons. The proposal for this sub-project already has the support of CEMIG and the Special Secretariat for Fish and Aquaculture, with the aim of beginning in 2004 in the mid-upper reaches of the São Francisco.
- 3. Restoration of the Fishermen's Support Center (CAP) in Três Marias, Minas Gerais.** The CAP project was approved and constructed as per Agreement no. 001-95 of the PNMA-PED (National Environmental Program –Executive Project for De-centralisation) with the objective of supporting the artisanal fishery with training and livelihood support [facilities], as well as providing environmental education to the general public. Currently, CAP contains the Eco-school Francisco Borges, which offers important ecological experiences to the schools in Três Marias. [However,] due to a lack of resources, it is not attaining its potential as a model of integration in education, ecology and human use of natural resources, focussed on the fishery and the restoration of the São Francisco watershed. A proposal exists to promote CAP together with CODEVASF's Hydrobiological and Fish Culture Station in Três Marias, (both are located as neighbouring properties on the shores of the São Francisco). In this way, the result will be a Center of Reference for Fisheries of the São Francisco, performing research, education, training, environmental restoration and support for the fishery sector – thus demonstrating the potential that exists here. The project "Peixes, Pessoas e Agua" is headquartering itself at CAP, with the aim to re-create this potential, and is looking for supplementary partners to take this on in a sustainable way.
- 4. Restoration of the São Francisco Veredas.** Other than the seasonal rains, the springs of the "veredas" (artisanal oases) and are the principal contributors of water to the mid-upper reaches of the São Francisco River, as well as supporting unique ecosystems. With the growth of intensive agriculture and silviculture, these veredas are drying out, putting at risk an important basic element of the River. The project "Peixes, Pessoas e Agua" is looking for partners and collaborators to provide continuity to the studies, develop proposals, and carry out restoration with relation to this problem. This activity provides continuity to the project "Freshwater", carried out within Agreement no. 0123-2000 between the MMA and the Municipality of Três Marias.

Other sub-projects are being promoted with the activities of project “Peixes, Pessoas e Água”. Amongst these are included:

- activities, originating in the community, to restore and provide added value to production and productivity of the Três Marias reservoir, in addition to the participatory administration;
- optimise fish passage mechanisms for the Brazilian fish fauna;
- control the spread of Golden Mussel, an exotic mollusc that is dangerous, very aggressive and approaching the Sao Francisco River;
- socio-economic studies of the riverine communities and the fisheries of the São Francisco River;
- incentives for the management and practice of artisanal fisheries in the whole country, in a way that is socially profitable and compatible with the conservation of resources and other uses of the environment;
- Survey of and resolution of requirements for the improved processing of fish catches in the artisanal fishery of Minas Gerais.

Maria Ines Rauter Mancuso – UFSCar
(Ndp@poweer.ufscar.br)

Joachim Carolsfeld - WFT
(yogi@worldfish.org)

Raimundo Ferreira Marquesi – Federation of Fishermen

Project "Peixes, Pessoas e Agua"
Timeline for work Solicited by the MMA
Summary

Parcel	Cost (\$R)	Period of Application	Date Required
1	200,000	October - December, 2003	October 1, 2003
2	64,500	January - March, 2004	January 1, 2004
3	56,400	April - June, 2004	April 1, 2004
4	63,400	July - September, 2004	July 1, 2004
5	74,200	October - December, 2004	October 1, 2004
6	72,300	January - March, 2005	January 1, 2005
7	53,400	April - June, 2005	April 1, 2005
8	50,800	July - September, 2005	July 1, 2005
9	65,000	October - December, 2005	October 1, 2005