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Project:
IMPLANTATION OF THE
EXTRACTIVE RESERVE OF ALTO JURUA

CONSELHO NACIONAL DOS SERINGUEIROS
ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS SERINGUEIROS DO RIO TEJO
1990

I. Introduction

A. Aims

To consolidate the Extractive Reserve of Upper Juruá, preserving 5,000 sq km of rainforest and surrounding indigenous areas; to improve the life of 6,000 rubber tappers and neighbouring Indian communities; to develop a pilot project for the implementation of extractive reserves in other areas of Amazonia as well as providing a model for cooperation between forest peoples.

B. The Concept of Extractive Reserves

Creation of Extractive Reserves was proposed in 1985 by the Nation Council of Rubber Tappers as a conservation-and-development strategy based on forest dwellers having a tradition of non-predatory extractivism. Extractive Reserve have been legally defined as *territorial spaces destined to self-sustainable exploitation of renewable natural resources, by extractivist population* (Decree N. 98.897 30 January 1990). Use of such areas by rubber tappers is assured by means of concessions, subject to management plans.

C. General Description

1. Social Aspects

The area is inhabited by rubber tappers and their families since early in this century. Rubber tappers extract latex from wild rubber-trees; they live in forest settlements formed by a central clearing surrounded by forest. Rubber tappers, besides collecting forest itens for their own use, also hunt and fish, and grow small gardens of manioc and maize for food. Within the area there is a tradition of community organisation and respected leaders community leaders. In 1989 the Association of Rubber Tappers of River Tejo was founded, having Francisco Barbosa de Melo (Chico Gintú) as its president. Chico Gintú also represents the Nation Council of Rubber Tappers within the Extractive Reserve of Upper Juruá. The existence of a traditional community of extractivists, and of a responsible and

respected leadership associated with the proposal of Extractive Reserves is an important condition for the success of the project.

The project is coordinated by Antônio Batista de Macêdo, from the National Council of Rubber Tappers. It started in 1988 as a Plan of Community Development. Before this, the rubber tappers were living under a debt bondage system to the local rubber barons. Involving local rubber tappers leaders such as Chico Gind, the project initiated a veritable social revolution in the Tejo River, part of the area now decreed the Extractive Reserve of Upper Juruá. This was done by the setting up of a network of 12 cooperative posts, funded by the National Bank of Social Development and with the help of some other agencies. The cooperative project is still in its initial stage, requiring support to consolidate in a viable manner. The neighbouring areas comprised within the Extractive Reserve also are demanding assistance to set up their own cooperatives.

The entire region is devoid of schools and health centers and lies 3-7 days boat journey away from the town of Cruzeiro do Sul. The Plan of Community Development included the setting up of forest schools and health posts which lacks as yet funding.

2. Environment

The Extractive Reserve of Upper Juruá comprises all the hidrographic basis of the Juruá river from a given point (the Amonia River at left and the Tejo River at right) until the Peruvian border (excepting Indian lands within this area). This makes the Reserve a natural unit.

The Reserve has an area of 506,186 ha (5,061 km²) formed by forests and rivers, with small clearings where the rubber tappers live in groups of two or three houses linked together by trails. Professor Keith Brown, from State University of Campinas, writes in a report that the area presents the largest known diversity in Brazil for some typical rainforest groups. He also states that there is a great number of rare, primitive or endangered. He assessed the global value of the genetic patrimony as being "very high": (+9 in a scale of 10). He further writes that "Presence of man at low densities increases the biological value (diversity, abundance, rare species, global genetical patrimony)". The Tejo River in particular is know in the region as having a high natural productivity of rubber. But the whole area is rich in many other extractive products, being specially rich in a variety of palms-trees.

D. Institutional Situation

The Extractive Reserve of River Tejo was created by presidential decree on 23rd January 1990, being under the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA). This decree establishes that "IBAMA, when implanting, protecting and managing the Extractive Reserve of Upper Jurua, may make agreements with legally constituted organizations such as existing cooperativas and associations within the Reserve, to define the measures which will be needed to the establishment of the same".

In practice such measures are as follows:

- Survey and register of rubber tappers's families by the Association of Rubber Tappers (to be completed between July-August 1990 -- see below).
- Elaboration of Management Plan and Regulations.
- Signing of Contract between IBAMA and the Association of Rubber Tappers of the Upper Jurua (replacing the Association of Rubber Tapper of River Tejo), and granting to registered rubber tappers of the rights to use their traditional forest settlements subject to the Reserve Regulations.

II. Sub-projects

A. Census and Survey

1. Objectives

To provide additional and in depth information on the whole Extractive Reserve, including areas added to River Tejo, as a basis for adequate plans; organizing rubber tappers under the new legal situation.

2. Personnel

- a) CNS Team
(1 Coordinator CNS; 2 Researchers CNS)
- b) Technical Team
(Anthropologist/Sociologist, Doctor, 1
Botanist/Ecologist, Economist/Surveyor)

3. Activities

- a) Maps of human occupation
- b) Reports on Health, Education, Economy
Information on Vegetation, Animals, Soils,
Waters.
- c) Improved Plans of Community Development
- d) Improved Management Plan and Regulations

B. Project of Community Development for the Forest People (2 years)

1. Education

This subproject aims to implant an adequate education system within the Extractive Reserve. Requirements are:

- a) Technical staff to supervise the project;
- b) Equipment

A network of 24 forest schools at selected places in the forest; including the production of adequate teaching material;

- c) Training of local monitors;
- d) Implantation of a technical school

Located at the River Tejo mouth, with facilities for more specialized training in skills which will be needed for the autonomous management of the Extractive

Reserve by the rubber tappers (from the 2nd year on).

2. Health

To set up a network of health centers within the Extractive Reserve at places selected by the rubber tappers. The requirements are:

- a) Equipment for health centers in the forest;
- b) Medical staff for supervision and training;
- c) Salary for local health officers;
- d) Transport facilities;

3. Cooperativism

To set up cooperative posts along rivers throughout the Reserve and neighbouring Indian communities based on the successful Tejo river model. The requirements are:

- a) Fluvial transport

Network to transport produce to and from Cruzeiro do Sul

- b) Community store houses
- c) Working capital of basic stock

To initiate the cooperative activities.

- d) Training of cooperative officers
- e) Administration (at Cruzeiro do Sul)
- f) Communication

A set of radio-transmitters linked to the Cruzeiro do Sul office)

C. Research and Development

1. Diversification of Extractive Economy

- a) Research on Extractive Economy

On useful plants (Economical Botany), on commercial uses (Chemistry) and on processing and marketing (Food etc. technology). (A team has been formed at University of Campinas to carry this research at Jurua)

- b) Agricultural and Agroforestry Management

Abandoned garden sites (*capoeiras*) and degraded areas with forest species of high value.

- c) Management and breeding of wild animals
- d) Diversification

Small-scale, family agriculture.

- e) Domestic sources of energy

2. Processing Units

3. Rubber

Setting up of micro-processing units (mini-usinas) at the rubber tappers's settlements to improve quality of local production; (b) Acquisition of a rubber-processing at town to sell rubber direct to industry for better prices.

4. Other

Processing units for extractive products such as wild fruit, oils and plants.

5. Enciclopedia of the Forest

Research carried out by rubber tappers on traditional knowledge on the forest, including from technical and cosmological knowledge. The resulting data (in the form of books, images, artefacts) will be a source for new generations of rubber tappers, and also a first profile of the culture of rubber tappers. Ecology (Soils, waters, ecosystems, Plants, Animals), Cosmology (entities, rules, traditions), Technology (objects, agriculture, hunting, extraction), Sociology (neighbours, settlements, kin, compadres).

D. Office infrastructure and salaries

The Forest Peoples Office in Cruzeiro do Sul is the local headquarters of the National Council of Rubber Tappers, of UNI-Acre and the administrative base of the Extractive Reserve (as the headquarters of the Association of Rubber Tappers of river Tejo, to become the Association of Rubber Tappers of Upper Juruá). The office's equipment of 4 typewriters and one telephone is grossly insufficient and there is never enough money to pay for the salaries of the full-time workers.