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**THE UPPER JURUA EXTRACTIVE RESERVE AND
THE TEJO RIVER COOPERATIVE**

Acre, Western Amazonia

Aims of the project:

1. **Ecological protection and administration** of the 400 Km² Upper Jurua Extractive Reserve together with its surrounding eight indigenous areas.
2. **Community development** for the local population of 10,000 Rubber Tappers and neighbouring Indian communities through setting up an infrastructure of cooperatives, schools and health centres.
3. **Development of a model** for the administration of extractive reserves.

Characteristics of the area:

1. The Reserve is surrounded by 8 indigenous areas which have been vulnerable to logging invasion and it is adjacent to the National Park of the Serra do Divisor. These are now part of an immense area of protected forest.
2. It is a particularly rich ecological area, where no large scale deforestation has taken place. Its abundant extractive resources will allow for a diverse range of produce as well as rubber.
3. The Extractive Reserve in the Tejo River region is part of a zone which will be affected by the building of the BR364 road, which will intensify the pressure on the natural resources and the communities.

Project Background:

The Tejo River, a tributary of the Jurua River in Western Acre, was originally inhabited by the Kaxinawa, Jaminawa and Shawanawa Indian People. When the rubber boom began in the early part of this century, people from the north-east of Brazil were brought in to tap the rubber. There was a period of conflict with the Indians, who were eventually forced to move from their ancestral lands because of the violence and massacre of their people.

Rubber eventually lost its economic importance, but by this time the Rubber Tappers had accommodated themselves into the forest way of life.

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Today most of the inhabitants of the Tejo River area are Rubber Tappers who have partially integrated with the Jaminawa and Shawanawa people. The population consists of about 600 families, occupying approximately 2400 square kilometres. They produce about 300 tons of rubber a year, which is an average of half a ton per year per family.

The Rubber Tappers also have other productive activities. They are farmers, hunters, fishermen, extractivists and craftsmen. All these activities are self-supporting, thus encouraging their long-term survival in the forest. The Rubber Tappers, alongside the indigenous people of this region, have a deep respect for the forest as part of their philosophy. This is why they are so actively defending the forests with their lives, as in the case of Chico Mendes and many others.

Although the Rubber Tappers produce a commercial product and live in the forest where they collect their food, building resources, medicines and other needs for their daily life, they are still fighting the exploitation of the rubber barons. The barons do not invest in the production activity but provide goods at inflated prices.

Since 1980 the Rubber Tappers of the Tejo River region have organised themselves into trade union units. The National Council of Rubber Tappers have supported their organisation since 1987. In 1988, the Rubber Tappers elaborated a proposal to create an Extractive Reserve to guarantee them their right to remain in the forest. The proposal sought to allow them a health and education programme and better conditions of trade for their products. In January 1990, the area was officially demarcated as an Extractive Reserve by the Brazilian Government; now funds are needed to implement the programmes which will make the Reserve a success.

The entire region is devoid of schools and health centres and lies 3-7 days away by river from the amenities of the town of Cruzeiro do Sul. The National Council of Rubber Tappers has therefore begun to implement a plan for community development which involves 380 Indian and Rubber Tappers' families. It is a two year project aiming to build schools, health stations, community sheds, paths for cargo animals, boats and a communication system, as well as doing technological research to increase the capacity for self-supporting production.

The project already has funds to start developing the necessary infrastructure (from Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social - BNDES, through FINSOCIAL programme) of about 70 thousand dollars. This money has been used since early 1989, to provide a community training programme for management.

There is now a network of 12 cooperatives along the Tejo River, which are organised by the Association of Rubber Tappers, founded in June 1989. The success of these has led to the creation of further cooperatives along neighbouring rivers, including amongst Indian communities.

Where cooperatives have not yet been established, amongst almost two-thirds of the population (about 7,000 people), *marreteiros* (river traders) are entering the areas and trading on the same grossly exploitative terms as the departing rubber barons. These communities are all requesting assistance to set up their own cooperatives.

Objectives of the Project:

1. **Development of further cooperatives** along the rivers throughout the reserve and neighbouring Indian communities based on the successful River Tejo model.

This requires:

- a **river transport network** to take produce to and from Cruzeiro do Sul - some fourteen canoes with outboard motors would be required
- **ten community sheds** and two store rooms
- **working capital** for basic stock (e.g. fuel, cloth, knives, salt) to initiate the cooperatives. This is currently exchanged against the Rubber Tappers' produce
- two **garages** for repair and maintenance of machines

2. The setting up of a **communications network** through the installation of a radio system. The remoteness and huge expanse of the area make this vital. Two-way communication is urgent in times of accidents, political conflicts, important visits to the area and for general coordination of the activities.

3. **The development of primary processing units:**

Primary processing is especially important to increase the return on their produce and thus allow for self-sufficiency without undue exploitation of the natural resources.

- for rubber. A local factory would be acquired by the cooperatives
- for agricultural produce such as rice, sugar and manioc. Rice refineries, manioc flour making units and sugar cane processors are needed
- for extractive products such as wild fruit, oils and plants (research and technical cooperation is urgently needed for this)

4. **Breeding of wild animals** in semi-captivity to prevent over hunting. Some pilot projects have been started. Animals and equipment are required.

5. **Careful development of a market** for produce, dictated by producers not consumers.

6. To build a **network of 12 health centres** along the rivers. This requires:

- equipment for the centres
- transport and salaries for local health officers
- training for the health officers, following the principles of a pilot study carried out in the area

7. **A network of schools.** This requires:
 - equipment for the schools
 - transport and salaries for teachers
 - training for teachers, following the principles of a pilot study carried out in the area

8. **Long-term research** into sustainable development of the Rainforest, to look at, for example:
 - agricultural methods used by the forest dwellers
 - domestic energy consumption
 - processing of extractive produce
 - a census of local plants

It is envisaged that this research will be conducted by local Rubber Tappers in conjunction with outside help. A small research project has already begun in conjunction with Campinas University, and EMBRAPA, a government research body, have written up research proposals.

9. **Office infrastructure and salaries**

The Forest Peoples Office in Cruzeiro do Sul is the local headquarters of the National Council of Rubber Tappers, of the Acre branch of the Union of Indian Nations and the administrative base of the Forest Peoples' Alliance and of the Extractive Reserve. The office is responsible for a large area inhabited by 60,000 Rubber Tappers and 12,000 Indians and is working to support them in initiating and developing community projects. The office represents the Forest People when they have contact with the local authorities and is seeking to provide judicial support during the many political conflicts.

The office's equipment of 4 typewriters and one telephone is grossly insufficient and there is never enough money to pay the salaries of the seven full-time workers. This exerts unnecessary strain on them and slows their working capacity considerably.

10. **Organisation of local Rubber Tappers' meetings**

Conditions are often extremely difficult for the Rubber Tappers, and they face much political pressure to stop their activities. Meetings are essential for coordination, planning and keeping their spirit going. Due to shortage of money, a meeting to inaugurate the Upper Juruá Extractive Reserve and discuss strategies for its administration has been postponed twice.

Project Organisation

The project is monitored by the National Council of Rubber Tappers, and coordinated by Antonio Batista de Macedo and the staff of the Forest Peoples Office. They are supported in their work by Mauro Almeida, anthropologist and advisor to the National Council of Rubber Tappers.

The project has the backing of the Governor of Acre, Flaviano Flavio Baptista de Melo, various government bodies, FUNTAC, EMBRAPA and others.

Strategically Important

The Jurua Valley is the site of Brazil's most promising experiment in sustainable development and the focus of a new phase of solidarity and cooperation between Forest Peoples. It is also extremely strategically placed in view of government plans to build the BR 364 highway across Acre as far as Peru for use as an export route for, among other products, Rainforest timber. The planned course of the highway runs through areas marked for preservation. The effective installation of a sustainable model of use for the region's forests is the only way to prevent them from falling victim to the devastation which the BR 364 brought in its wake as it crossed Acre's neighbouring state of Rondonia.

The estimated budget for 1990 to establish this Extractive Reserve as a viable option for the protection and regeneration of the forest and its cultures will be approximately £450,000. A provisional budget for some aspects of the work follows, the full costing of which will be finalised at the inaugurative meeting of the extractive reserve, to be held towards the end of 1990.

Funds can be sent via the *Forest Peoples Fund* c/o The Gaia Foundation, 18 Well Walk, London NW3 1LD, United Kingdom.

**PROVISIONAL OUTLINE OF INITIAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE RIO TEJO COOPERATIVE,
THE UPPER JURUA EXTRACTIVE RESERVE
AND THE COORDINATING OFFICE**

Capital investment for river transport network:

1. Boats:

Two large boats with two large motors each have been financed.

In order to travel the smaller waterways of the extractive reserve area, to fetch and exchange produce, canoes with outboard motors are needed. The smaller rivers cannot carry the larger boats, especially during the dry season.

14 canoes @ \$200 each	\$2,800	£1,750
12 outboard motors for the canoes @ \$1,300 each (two already purchased)	\$15,600	£9,750

2. Equipment:

People have to travel long distances (sometimes 4 days by canoe) to attend meetings and have to be accommodated for a few days once they are there. The one shed is used to store products. Another is now needed to accommodate people and to use as a meeting room. The cost of having the wood cut, buying the aluminium for the roof and transporting it for 4/5 days to Rio Tejo is

\$52,000 £33,000

Long-term Costs: Salaries & Infrastructure

It is extremely difficult to raise funds to pay salaries and build the infrastructure of an organisation, although this is essential if the Forest People are to be able to guard the forests. As most of them quietly and firmly point out, they are making great sacrifices by living in cities and bringing their children up in an alien culture. They take the defense of the Rainforests very seriously - for their own people, for the future generations and for the health of the planet.

"We are doing all we can but we are fighting forces that come from your society - therefore you have a responsibility too. You too have to make a long term commitment if we are to achieve any meaningful resistance to destruction and begin to repair the damage."

The Forest Peoples Fund has agreed to develop a strategy with people in Europe whereby the basic costs of salary and infrastructure of the Forest People's Alliance (including the Union of Indian Nations and the National Council of Rubber Tappers) will be guaranteed for 5 years with a view to renewing this agreement for another 5 years.

We will be asking individuals, organisations and institutions if they will be willing to pledge one salary or include one salary in their payroll to a

Office Costs

A budget is being drawn up but the guideline would be:-

	\$	£
Administration		
Urgent requirements are:		
- office equipment: (micro computer, fax, electronic typewriter, TV, video, equipment, eg paper, ribbons, air conditioners, telephone answering machine, rental of a photocopying machine)	\$16,000	£10,000
- running costs (yearly)	\$4,200	£2,625
Maintenance		
The office is a wooden building on stilts and needs to have repairs completed and be painted	\$2,000	£1,250
Total required for office:	\$22,200	£13,875

"Guardian of the Forest" for five years with a view to renewing it for another five. The Forest People's Fund will provide feedback on the work over the years and a proper assessment in the 5th year.

Salaries required for the Cruzeiro do Sul Office:

Rena Poyanawa, Area Coordinator of the Union of Indian Nations, works mainly in the office as the liaison person:

Monthly:	\$250	£156
Yearly:	\$3,000	£1,872

Mario Poyanawa, develops and organises projects with Indian communities for UNI, mainly in the field:

Monthly:	\$250	£156
Yearly:	\$3,000	£1,872

Auxiliary Administrator for the Forest People's Alliance Office, as assistant to Macedo:

Monthly:	\$250	£156
Yearly:	\$3,000	£1,872

Avia Clara is the Coordinator for the regional education project for the Rubber Tappers of the Jurua River:

Monthly:	\$250	£156
Yearly:	\$3,000	£1,872

Garnelita, girl friday:

Monthly:	\$125	£78
Yearly:	\$1,500	£936

Capitan of the new boat

Monthly:	\$ 250	£156
Yearly:	\$3,000	£1,872

Auxiliary for Capitan of Boat:

Monthly:	\$125	£78
Yearly:	\$1,500	£936

An *economist* is required to help orientate the cooperative and the Extractive Reserve. This would have to be full time and is particularly critical at the moment. Such a person is difficult to find. However, the person who negotiated for the first loan from the BNDS bank is very eager to help full time if the salary is there. She would need:

Monthly:	\$1,500	£936
Yearly:	\$18,000	£7,500

Total required for salaries:

Monthly:	\$3,000	£1,872
Yearly:	\$36,000	£22,464