Main Site

BR001

**Preparatory Meeting in Manaus**

On December 7th, 2018, ICSF coordinated a meeting to begin the organization of the Indigenous Fishers Workshop. The meeting was held in *Manaus* (*Amazonas* / Brazil) with representatives of NGO OPAN, NGO ISA and the FUNAI. Some referrals began to be developed. One such referral would be the production of a support material to be distributed in the workshop to the indigenous participants. This material is intended to be distributed, prior to the workshop, directed to government agencies and partners to interact with the content of the Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale Fisheries. The material would consist of information on the Voluntary Guidelines of Small Scale Fisheries, aimed at indigenous audience.

Another meeting forwarding was the need of a prior survey on the main conflicts involving fishing and community management initiatives in the state of Amazonas. The survey objective is to define the working groups that are most relevant to indigenous communities, based on the actual problems faced by these communities. The workshop will be held for two days, on March 27th and 28th, 2019, and the Guidelines will be discussed in working groups in these two days. On the first day, the participants will be divided according to their fishery and inhabits territory/river. The rivers contemplated will be: high and middle *Negro* river, high and medium *Solimões* River, medium and low *Purus* River, middle *Juruá* River, *Madeira* River, low *Amazon* River. Among those regions, the following ethnic groups will be considered: *Tukano, Piratapuia, Baré, Baniwa, Ticuna, Cocama, Kambeba, Deni, Canamari, Kulina, Katukina, Paumari, Apurinã, Mura, Munduruku, Tenharim* and *Sateré-Mawé*.

On the second day, the working groups will be divided by themes based on the preliminary survey of major conflicts and management initiatives. These working groups will not have the topics closed in advance. The working groups will also be formed based on information raised by the participants in the first day. The preliminary survey will serve as a prior guide to orient the workshop organization. The survey is being conducted, but already showing some partial results.

The partial results are*: Solimões* and *Purus* River are the main rivers that supply the fish market of Amazonas state capital, *Manaus*. Large-scale fisheries in those two rivers promote fish reduction for indigenous communities. In *Purus* River and *Juruá* River conflicts are related to competition for fish resources: large fishing boats illegally invade indigenous lakes searching for fish and chelonians, generating conflicts. Apart of these territorial conflicts, there are fishing agreements generated among the actors involved, but most of the time they are not monitored. On the other hand, there are several initiatives looking for raise income of indigenous fishermen and to control some target species, such as the management of *pirarucu (Arapaima gigas)* made by the indigenous communities*.* This action take place on the *Purus* River, by the ethnic group *Paumauri* and the *Apurinã*, with the support of FUNAI and IBAMA. In the interfluvial *Juruá* and *Purus*, the community management is done by the ethnic group *Deni*, with the support of OPAN. These managements projects maintain a close relationship with the objective of monitoring demarcated indigenous land, which is constantly threatened with invasions.

In the low *Madeira* River there is a set of small indigenous lands arranged like "islands" in the middle of private properties. In this region, the most prominent conflict occurs between the *Mura* indigenous peoples and the cattle and buffalo raising. Faced with this conflict, the actors involved participated in municipal fisheries agreements. Among these small indigenous lands, there are also conflicts with larger fishing boats and also with the sport fishing that invades their territories. As a result, the *Mura peoples* will begin a process of indigenous lands surveillance with FUNAI support. In another indigenous land, the *Mura* ethnic group villages practice agreements with some sport fishing companies to give benefits to the indigenous communities in that territory. In this sense FUNAI has provided support to tourism legalization implementation in indigenous lands associated with sport fishing.

There are still conflict situations in the *Munduruku* and *Sateré-Mawé* (*Coatá-Laranjal*) territory, in which large boats invade the indigenous lands, sometimes under compassionate permission of some leaderships to fish migratory stocks. These situations creates legal and social conflicts between villages and ethnic groups.

In the lower *Amazon* River, the *Sateré-Mawé* of Indigenous Land *Andirá Marau* suffer from the decrease in fish stocks for food consumption, and currently experience initiatives of aquaculture with technical support from the Federal Institute of Amazonas (IFAM). The *Mura peoples*, who live on the *Urubu* River territory, suffer from commercial fishing boats invasion and occasionally from tourist sport fishing boats.

In the *Negro* river basin, there are different fishing situations, but its low supply of fish prevails in contrast to the *Solimões* basin. Thus, the *Tukano, Dessano, Tuyuka, Piratapuia, Wanano, Cubeo, Baniwa, Corripaco, Baré*, and other tribes of the upper *Negro* river - including the *Tiquié, Uaupés, Içana* and upper *Negro* River - among others, find restrictions on fish consumption, although it is the basis of their diet.

In the city of *São Gabriel da Cachoeira*, where 90% of the population are indigenous from the upper Rio Negro, the fish price is above what the population usually can afford (due to the low market supply), causing a serious distortion in the diet of these people. Fishery management actions have already been developed, with the assistance of the Socio-environmental Institute (ISA), in the *Tiquié* River, and in the middle portion of the *Negro* river and its tributaries. Almost all actions had many of difficulties that halted the initiatives. In *Marié* Rivers (low *Negro* River) and in *Téa* and *Uneiuxi* Rivers (in the middle *Negro* River) there are initiatives on the construction of sport fishing agreements.

These partial results already show us some possibilities of topics to be worked on in the workshop. The land tenure issue, for example, will be an extremely relevant subject during the workshop, where many Voluntary Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines points will be addressed. A working group would be dedicated only to this question. Another working group would be focused on the fishery resources competition and disputes with large-scale and sport fishing. Sport fishing in some regions creates conflicts and in others can be a source of sustainable income for indigenous communities. Because of this, it would also have a working group focused on income generation alternatives, including the partnerships between indigenous communities and sports fishing companies. It can also be included in this working group: crafts, the indigenous products sales in the cities and community-based tourism.

There are several management and monitoring practices carried out by indigenous communities. The theme had already been mentioned at the meeting by the workshop partners. Because of this, another working group would be devoted entirely to this topic. And two other working groups would be devoted to gender and to aquaculture. New workgroups may appear after the research is completed, which is expected to end in February.

In addition, other referrals have been provided: the event venue, the attendant lodging and feeding - all provided by the same company - are already confirmed. The next steps are to arrange the plane tickets and boat transportation of indigenous participants, as well as reaffirm the partnerships with the federal and state government. It was not established contact with the FAO office in Brazil. However, this contact will be made as soon as possible and listed as next steps in the workshop organization. The governments partnerships are being redone because many of our contacts and partners have been exonerated from office after October 2018 elections that redefined executive positions at federal and state levels. Although the establishment of these partnerships is yet to be consolidated due to the Brazilian political context, we conclude that, in general, the activities are all within the deadline stipulated by the schedule.