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BR003

**Synthesis document of main issues of fisheries and indigenous people**

**Introduction**

The objective of this prior survey is to define the working groups that are most relevant to indigenous communities, based on the actual problems faced by these communities and possibles opportunities. 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. In the second day participants will be divided according to topics of interest. This prior research will raise possible topics of interest for debate, but the participants themselves will define the working groups jointly with the organization. The survey will be a guide for the organization and to prepare for the possibilities of the workshop.

**Main issues of fisheries and indigenous communities**

Solimões[[1]](#footnote-1) and Purus River[[2]](#footnote-2) are the main rivers that supply the fish market of Amazonas state capital, Manaus. On the Solimões River and its tributary rivers, known as Purus and Juruá River[[3]](#footnote-3), conflicts are related to competition for fish resources: large fishing boats illegally invade indigenous lakes searching for fish and chelonians, generating conflicts. The large-scale fisheries in theses rivers promote fish reduction for indigenous communities. The creation of the Manaus Free Zone is also another factor that contributes to the uncontrolled fishing exploitation in the Solimões River, because it encouraged a large population migration to the state capital, increasing drastically the demand for fish (Ferreira et al., 2015). All these factors led large-scale boats to go up to the Solimões River in search for areas rich in fish resources, entering into lakes, that were previously restricted to indigenous and riverine communities (Ferreira et al., 2015). Municipalities in the state of Amazonas that depend on theses rivers, such as Tefé and Alvarães, are facing problems related to the scarcity of fishing resources. This has generated a series of conflicts and invasions in protected areas and indigenous land.

Apart of these territorial conflicts, there are fishing agreements generated among the actors involved. 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 indigenous communities*.* This action take place on the Purus River, by the ethnic group Paumauri and the Apurinã, with the support of FUNAI (the official indigenist organ of the Brazilian State) and IBAMA (executive body responsible for implementing the National Environment Policy). In the interfluvial Juruá and Purus rivers, the community management is done by the ethnic group Deni, with the support of the NGO 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[[4]](#footnote-4) 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. There are also conflicts with larger fishing boats and with the sport fisheries that invades indigenous lands of Munduruku, Sateré-Mawé (Coatá-Laranjal) and Mura ethnicity. As a result, the Mura peoples will begin a process of indigenous lands surveillance with FUNAI support. In another Mura indigenous land, the indigenous people established agreements with some sport fisheries companies with the objective of reducing invasions and at the same time increasing income for indigenous people. FUNAI has also provided support to tourism legalization implementation in indigenous lands.

In lower Marmelos River[[5]](#footnote-5), tributary of Madeira River, the absence of demarcated indigenous lands has generated conflicts in the region that affect the life of the indigenous people and the usufruct of the earth's resources. Notably, indigenous people report conflicts of land use as the main impediment to their use, and to a lesser extent, the presence of more or less constant invasions in their territory. In addition to the specific conflict involving the indigenous people of the lower and middle Marmelos River, the inhabitants of the villages of the lower Marmelos report that there are invasions in the area which they cannot completely restrain. They report invasions by non-Indians, for fishing, chestnut extraction, *açaí* collection, and logging, mainly. The entire region of the Madeira basin encounters problems related to the presence of gold mines, an activity that is especially intense in the municipalities of Manicoré and Humaitá.

In the lower Amazon River[[6]](#footnote-6), 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, tributary to Amazon River, suffer from commercial fishing boats invasion and occasionally from tourist sport fisheries boats.

In the Negro river basin[[7]](#footnote-7), there are different fishing situations, but its low supply of fish prevails in contrast to the Solimões basin. The Uaupés, Tiquié, Içana and Xié Rivers and the course of the Negro River itself are rivers that present unfavorable characteristics to fishing predominate: low availability of fish and the presence of stones and rocks that make difficult for navigation and for fishing activity. 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. Beside that, the demand for fish in the city is greater than what the local fishery can supply.

In the city of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, where 90% of the population are indigenous from the upper Negro River, 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.

**Conclusion**

Theses results show us some possibilities of topics to be worked in the workshop. The land tenure issue, for example, will be an extremely relevant subject during the workshop, where many Guidelines points could be addressed. Another working group would be focused on the fishery resources competition and disputes with large-scale and sport fisheries. Sport fisheries 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 fisheries 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. This theme had already been mentioned at the meeting with the workshop partners. Because of this, another working group could be devoted entirely to this topic. And two other working groups could be dedicated to gender discussions and other to aquaculture. These will be some ideas of a working group that we will present during the workshop, making it possible to broaden the discussions on the Guidelines and align them with the realities of the indigenous participants.

**References**

Ferreira, J. C. L., Peralta, N., Costa, R. B. “Nossa reserva”: redes e interações entre peixes e pescadores no Médio rio Solimões. *Amazônica-Revista de Antropologia*, 7(1), 158-185, 2015.

1. The Solimões River is the main tributary of the Amazon River, composing the upper portion, from its confluence with the Negro River. The Solimões River basin has areas outside the Brazilian territory and covers significant fractions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Purus River is formed by white water and known for its immense sinuosity, with a total length of 3300 km. It is the last major tributary of the right side of the Solimões River. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Juruá River lies in the western portion of the State of Amazonas. It is born in Peru and enters Brazil through Acre. It is a tributary of the right bank of the Solimões. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Madeira River is an important tributary of the right bank of the Amazon River, occupying the southern part of the state. Madeira River is a white-water river like those of Solimões, carrying a large content of organic sediments. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Marmelos River, its tributary on the right bank of the Madeira River, covering its middle portion [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The Amazon River is one of the most extensive rivers in the world, with numerous tributaries, such as Madeira, Negro and Japurá. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The Negro River basin is formed by tributaries that are born in Colombia, and the Negro course is born in Venezuela, occupying the northwest portion of the Brazilian Amazon. It is one of the three largest rivers in the world and the longest black-water river. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)