

Creation of a Biodiversity Management Plan for the Lands of the Suruí People of the Western Brazilian Amazon

In 2007 and 2008, the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) has supported the development of a biodiversity management plan for the Suruí indigenous people of the Brazilian state of Rondônia.



Photograph: meeting of the Suruí with experts to determine viability of options for management planning, August 2007

Following the conclusion of an ACT-guided ethnographic and land use mapping project in early 2007 for the Suruí's *Sete de Setembro* reserve, the Suruí leadership commenced discussion and planning of the generation of alternative sustainable forms of income for the community, including the potential of payment for carbon offsets.

Subsequently, a full reserve land management plan was drafted by the Suruí indigenous association Metareilá. The reserve land management plan embraces capacity-building (ACT will develop and conduct Suruí park guard training courses); agroforestry management; territorial protection/integrity; land monitoring and evaluation; biodiversity research;

nutritional/food supply security; healthcare; education opportunities; cultural preservation and advancement; eco-tourism development; and housing. A complementary management plan for income generation emphasizing non-timber forest products for local and national markets will focus on three additional areas: certification and marketing of organic coffee; marketing of nuts; and marketing of handicrafts.

In December 2007, a group of local and international experts convened with the Suruí in Rondônia to verify the potential for the development of carbon credit projects in the modalities of degraded areas reforestation and avoided deforestation in remaining rainforest areas. The group's assessment was that there is a great potential for both carbon credit modalities (reforestation and avoided deforestation) centered on the Suruí lands. The assembled parties agreed that the area designated for initial reforestation will encompass approximately a relatively small 1500 hectares, as the project is challenging and the Suruí currently lack experience in the implementation of large-scale projects.

In mid-2008, ACT is helping the Suruí begin implementation of their land management plan and carbon credit projects, as well as stepping up efforts to build institutional links with parties able to provide constant satellite monitoring and interpretation of threats and risks to the reserve. (See below links to descriptions of the ACT-facilitated collaboration between the Suruí and Google Earth.)

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/06/10/MNGROQC65E1.DTL&hw=google+earth&sn=003&sc=910>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/amazon-tribe-enlists-google-in-battle-with-illegal-loggers-808492.html>

http://news.mongabay.com/2006/1114-google_earth-act.html