

## Community-produced video on mangroves screens at Brazilian international festival

The video short *Nao Manguê de Mim* (Don't Mess with the Mangroves) was selected to be included in one of the most important film festivals in Latin America, the [19th Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival](#) (21-29 August 2008). The video is the most recent co-production of Cine Clube Caravelas (Bahia, Brazil) and [Mangrove Action Project](#) (MAP), in collaboration with the Abrolhos Marine National Park.



*Nao Manguê de Mim* (19 min.) is a poetic view of the mangroves and their myths, as well as the inhabitants who struggle to conserve this ecosystem so important for productive fisheries and livelihoods. Its production was made possible by a grant from the Overbrook Foundation.

Cine Clube Caravelas is led by MAP partner Movimento Cultural Arte Manha, a volunteer-driven community-based initiative based in Southern Bahia State, Brazil. For the last 20 years it has been developing an innovative agenda, joining education, arts productions, and awareness raising on environmental and social issues. All of the Cine Clube's video productions advocate for the rights of traditional coastal populations while promoting community empowerment and an increased awareness of mangrove conservation and industrial shrimp farm issues.

Photo: Nanã, the orixa (deity) of the mangroves.

*Nao Manguê de Mim* has been well-received wherever it has been screened. Large audiences in public plazas and in rural communities readily identify with the characters and their story. The positive reactions to the short, from audiences as varied as artisanal fisherfolk communities to the Bahia State Environmental Secretariat, show that video production can be an important tool for voicing the concerns of Brazilian grassroots entities suffering the consequences of mangrove degradation.

According to the video's director, Jaco Galdino, one of the founders of the Arte Manha Cultural Movement, "The best of all is that the local population has perceived that they can be the authors of their own history, they can write and act, and tell their history from their own point of view, based on their own experiences. This is an immeasurable advancement; only one who has lived excluded from the political decision-making process knows what it means to be writing one's own history and helping to construct a better world."

This is not the Cine Clube's first participation in a film festival. In 2006, [Lia](#), the first co-production with MAP and the Abrolhos Marine National Park, won the Cachaça Cinema Clube prize, one of the most pioneering cine clubs of the city of Rio de Janeiro. The documentary "[It's all a lie](#)," a co-production with Environmental Justice Foundation, was presented at the Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival in Seattle (May 2008) and in Paris at the documentary film festival "Brésil en Mouvements" (June 2008). Following the current festival in Sao Paulo, the Arte Manha Cultural Movement has been invited to participate in the Forum of Popular Audio-Visual Experiences (FEPA) in September in Rio de Janeiro.

All of this is happening not because something new is being constructed, but something that is each day more difficult in this world of "me," of isolation, of being alone. "We know that alone we won't get

anywhere, that collectively each one gives their best and this does not make one better or lesser than the other,” states Galdino.

The environmental secretary of Bahia has publicly committed to support the production of 2000 copies of *Não Mague de Mim* to be distributed amongst coastal communities throughout the state of Bahia and Brazil...from the small town of Caravelas to the world, through video and art production. Congratulations to them all!!!

**About the Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival**

The festival offers diverse expressions of short video, where one can see the most innovative of world productions, retrospectives, tributes, and digital shorts made in the outskirts of Brazil’s major cities. It is a meeting of Latin American and international productions, where filmmakers can exchange cultural, economic, and political experiences related to shorts. It is the largest annual display of Brazilian productions and the event is expected to attract more than 25,000 spectators.

Screenings of *Não Mague de Mim*:

22 August, 5pm - Cine Olido  
(Av. São João, 473 – 240 seats)

28 August, 6pm - Centro Cultural São Paulo  
(Rua Vergueiro, 1000 – 110 seats)



Photo: Filming in the mangroves