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Instituto Juruá holds its first expedition in Mid Juruá since the beginning of the pandemic

By Bernardo Oliveira

The expedition aimed to execute the projects accumulated in two years of pandemic

Two years in two months. This was the motto of the Juruá Institute's expedition along the Juruá River, which began in September and lasted until mid-December 2021. In fact, it took almost four months of work in riverside communities in the Mid-Jurua region, AM.

Shortly after the institute was established, in 2018, the covid-19 pandemic began. To avoid the risks of contamination by community members and staff, the institute temporarily suspended fieldwork in communities. As vaccination progressed, it became possible to summarize field activities..

"We had a lot of projects approved, a lot of resources raised, and activities planned that were supposed to happen as soon as the pandemic ended or improved. So we waited for that moment, which happened in September 2021, when our team and most of the communities were already vaccinated. In fact, it took almost 4 months of work to execute projects and activities accumulated during two years. Because of this, there was a large team mobilized and many different activities were carried out during this expedition", says Andressa Scabin, executive director and project coordinator of the Instituto Juruá.



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira

Among the many activities carried out, we highlight a few:

One of the scientific researches conducted during the expedition was based on interviews with riverside communities located inside and outside protected areas in the municipalities of Carauari and Itamarati. This research seeks to understand some of the economic, social, and psychological variables that make some community-based conservation arrangements work and others not.



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira

"These are very dense interviews, lasting on average 30 minutes, addressing economic issues, social cohesion, quality of life, and other personal aspects of the residents of the communities," reveals Andressa. Most of the research was carried out by young residents of the Reserva Extrativista do Médio Juruá and Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Uacari, who also participated in the expedition.

Another of the researches carried out was the participative mapping of the use of natural resources. The idea of this work is to map, together with the community, the areas where the use of resources is happening, especially extractivism, but also agriculture. The extraction of oilseeds, açai, and latex. And the agriculture of manioc plantations and agroforestry systems.

This mapping is part of a diagnosis of the services that the communities end up providing when they protect the territory, and will provide subsidies for payment for environmental services for the communities that live in the region.



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira

"The main environmental services that we are analyzing are those involving the use of extractive and agricultural resources in relation to some ecosystem services such as carbon stock, soil quality, and biodiversity maintenance," adds Andressa. "And we will make comparisons of these services between different land uses, such as shrublands, coppices, agroforestry systems, and forests."

The Instituto Juruá team also gave courses during the expedition. One of the courses held in Xibauzinho community was the arapaima counting for women, held in partnership with ASMAMJ, to train women in this stage of arapaima management which until then was a mostly male activity.

We also held, both at the Casa Familiar da Floresta, located at the base of Campina, in the RDS Uacari, a photography workshop, which developed the students' eye to artistic perception, and a field course, where students could experience a few days as researchers, in classes that went from data collection in the field, through data analysis in computers and presentation of research results in the format of a scientific congress

Andressa highlights that this was the first field expedition conducted as Instituto Juruá. "For the first time we traveled as an institute, because it was consolidated in 2018. This was important for people to change their view a little and see that we are no longer independent researchers, but that we are now organized into an association that is there to carry out long-term work, not more one-off research."

"For me it was amazing to be back in Juruá after so long and to be able to put into practice some things that we have been planning for years. The expedition was very satisfactory, we were able to achieve many of the goals we set ourselves at the beginning. And we hope that, from now on, we will be able to maintain a constant presence in the fields, so that we don't need to concentrate our activities so much", adds Andressa.



Photo: Hugo Costa.

Ecojewels Workshop for women held in the Mid-Juruá

By Raqueline Nery and Quilvilene Cunha

The management of Arapaima has been a reality in the Mid-Juruá region since 2011, the result of involvement, persistence and a lot of willpower of the community, grassroots organizations, and partner institutions. It was observed that the Arapaima's viscera and scales were randomly discarded at the edge of the lakes, without any use and generation of income for the families involved in the activity.

After detecting this waste, Associação de Mulheres Agroextrativistas do Médio Juruá (ASMAMJ) thought of a way to generate income for families and inserted in the Natura program "Nos da Floresta", the need for training in making ecojewels with pirarucu scales. The Workshop was then held with the support of Natura and ASPROC, from 27 to 29 November 2021 in the Toari community, Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Uacari (AM), and aimed to empower as Women of the Mid-Juruá, providing another income alternative with the confection of handicrafts and ecojewels made with arapaima scales, in order to give more autonomy and financial security to the women of the Mid-Juruá region.

In the workshop there were representations from three communities of the Mid-Juruá Extractive Reserve (Novo Horizonte, São Raimundo and Morada Nova), five communities from the RDS Uacari (Bauana, Santo Antônio do Brito, Xibauá, Toari, Cachoeira and three indigenous villages (Kanamari, Matatibem and Aldeia Bauana.) In addition to a representative of the Médio Juruá Benefits Fund, an ASMAMJ employee and a consultant, totaling 36 participants.



Photo: Raqueline Nery

The meeting was given by consultant Rose Dias, who is a forestry engineer, master in forestry and environmental sciences, degree in biological sciences, specialist in occupational health and safety, sustainable development, designer and artisan, who has been working in sustainable enterprises for 30 years in traditional Amazon communities.

The workshop started the process of selecting the fish scale. The arapaima scales used in the course were collected during the management of the São Raimundo community. After the selection stage, the guidelines for making necklaces, bracelets, earrings, among other products, were followed.

The workshop's confection techniques are natural methods, with dyeing made with local plants, seeds and tucum thread or buriti and banana fiber. For this reason, it was suggested to call it "ecojoia". Mainly taking into account sustainability as they are products collected in the forest without having to buy in the city. This collection is guided by good management practices and rational use of resources, ensuring the conservation of the forest.



Therefore, we have today in the Mid-Juruá 35 women multipliers in the production of "ecojoias" with arapaima scales, and they are willing and enthusiastic to continue the lessons learned in the training, all of them left with the commitment to work in their community and in their centers, passing on the teachings.

Photo: Raqueline Nery

Forest Olympics brings together young people from 42 communities in the Middle Juruá region for moments of integration through sport

By Bernardo Oliveira

Unity is a highly valued concept among riverside communities in the Mid-Juruá region. In general, community members from different families come together to make flour, build houses, and manage pirarucu. And it was the possibility of promoting the union between riverside youths from different locations that motivated the holding of the second edition of the Forest Olympics, which brought together around 700 people from 42 communities in the region in the Pupuaí community, between November 12th and 15th.

The event was a moment of integration and guarantee of the rights of children and teenagers of riverside in the Amazon, through sport and leisure. The 400 young people, aged between 10 and 17, were divided into 10 poles, whose names represented products of sociobiodiversity such as manioc flour, açaí, andiroba, bee honey or important species of the region such as pirarucu and tambaqui. Each pole included children from different communities, who competed in sports such as archery, volleyball, soccer, darts and running.



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira

The organizing institutions of the event were Fundação Amazônia Sustentável (FAS), Secretary of Environment of the State of Amazonas (SE-MA/DEMUC), Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICM-Bio), the Municipality of Carauari and the grassroots associations AMARU, AMECSARA and ASPROC. The realization was part of the actions of the DICARA program, Program for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents Riparian in the Amazon, which promotes improvements in the quality of life of young people in the Amazon through activities such as the Olympics.

Enoque Ventura, Project Supervisor at the Fundação Amazônia Sustentável (FAS) says that all those responsible evaluated the event as a possibility to guarantee and strengthen the citizenship rights of children and adolescents. "These were pleasant moments, especially since it happened in a delicate situation, due to the pandemic. Overall, our planning went off without a hitch. Everything worked due to the involvement of the communities, who always believe in our work."



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira

The event represents a conquest of local-based associations, it is the result of the community organization of the associations, in addition to a model of sustainable work and support for strengthening the region's biodiversity. There were many speeches by young people from the riverside valuing the fight for the protection of their territory, for environmental conservation and sustainable development

Enoque expects an even better future for such events in the region. "I believe that at each event we can improve an organization and innovate in new ways, always seeking the well-being of everyone involved, in addition to strengthening the autonomy of children and adolescents and promoting integration between riverside communities. During the award, I was thrilled with the celebration of the Polo champion "

AAEPPRI releases over 400,000 turtle hatchlings into Juruá River

By Raqueline Nery and Quilvilene Cunha

AAEPPRI (Associação Ambiental, Extrativistas, Pescadores E Produtores Rurais De Itamarati) released turtle hatchlings that had spawned along Juruá River's beaches on November, 2021. At the Walterburi's board, in Itamarati (AM), 400,000 hatchlings, among turtles, tracajás and iaçás were released to safety, thanks to the community monitorarion that protects the hatchlings from being hunted and captured.

The monitoring of the beaches is continuous throughout the dry season, when turtles spawn on the sands of Juruá River's beaches and the community protects the nests, preventing them from being disturbed by intruders. At the end of the season, an event is promoted by the whole community, guests and partners. At this event, 30,000 hatchlings were gathered to be released into the river. This celebration, which integrates the communities, provides information of educational nature to children, who educate themselves on the importance of conservation for the continuation of the association's activities and for the whole community's quality of life

Besides Walterburi's tabuleiro (sandy areas on the banks of rivers), the same activity has been done in two other beaches: São Francisco and Nova Olinda, with over 700,000 hatchlings released to safety. This protection work is held by AAEPPRI and counts on the support of Instituto Juruá and Itamarati City Hall.



Photo: Bernardo Oliveira



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