

# **Strengthening Inter-institutional Communication and Conflict Management Skills in the Brazilian Amazon**

A Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute Practicum Report  
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# Outline

- The Place
- The Challenge
- The Opportunity
- The Strategy
- Status
- Lessons Learned



# Place: The Brazilian Amazon



- 40% of world's remaining tropical rainforest in Brazil
- 24,000 sq. km of forest cut 2002-3
- Deforestation caused by:
  - Clearing for pasture
  - Infrastructure projects
  - Commercial Ag. (soy)
  - Logging
  - Colonization & subsequent subsistence agriculture

# Amazonian development schemes of 60s & 70s: Mining, ranching, colonization

Progress = Deforestation



Military Dictatorship - Disregarded rights of indigenous & traditional peoples



## “Quiet Revolution”

- Challenge to development paradigm
- Local & international support
- Decentralization of power



Araquém Alcântara

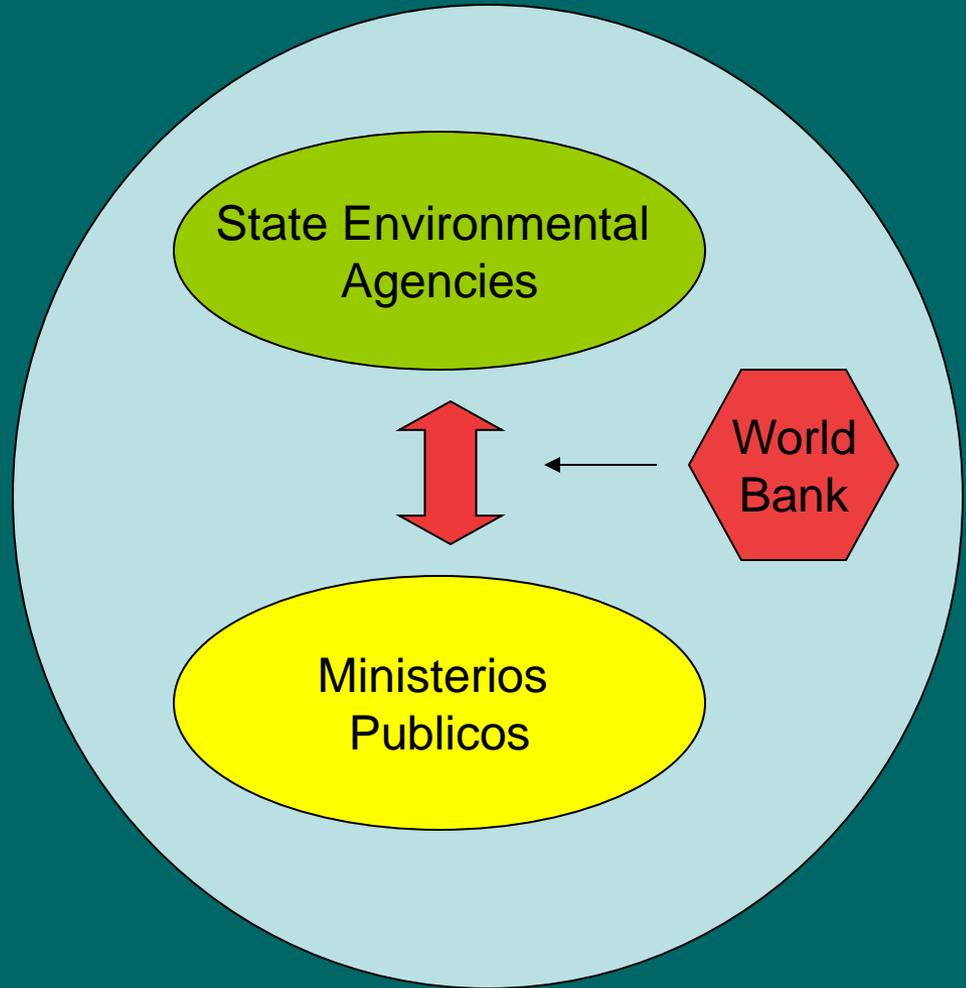


## “Productive Conservation”

- Support resident livelihoods
- Promote conservation

# The Challenge:

- Environmental planning and regulation shifts to States as decentralization occurs
- State environmental agencies-understaffed, under-trained, under-funded – overwhelmed
- “Ministerios Publicos” bound by inappropriate laws and regulations
- World Bank (G-7) initiative designed to strengthen institutions



# The Opportunity

- July 2004 planning meeting brought together reps from SEAs and MPs from 9 Amazonian States
- Conflict Management cited as key capacity-building need
- Participants also note inter-institutional tension
- UF approached about providing “conflict resolution” training



# The Strategy (Process Plan)

## “Capacity-building as intervention”

- Brainstorm with local partner organization
- Collect/read background materials
- With local partner, interview stakeholders, assess interests and perspectives
- **Prepare workshop and longer-term program proposals**, seek feedback locally, regionally and from UF
- Seek additional (Brazilian) partners
- Meet with funders, adapt plan
- Implement short-term plan
- Continue longer-term planning (Acre, Brazil NRLI)

# Inter-institutional Communication Workshop - Day I

1. Establish safe, relaxed environment
2. Establish context, common (grand) vision
3. Share institutional perspectives and missions
4. Analyze differences and commonalities



# Day II & III



5. “Broken Squares” Game + Communication strategies and tools.
6. What MPs need from SEAs, SEAs from MPs? Conditions under which this can happen.
7. Next steps: Specific actions
8. Conflict management needs assessment

# Longer-Term: Brazil NRLI

- Start small in State of Acre
- Adapt FNRLI model, fewer trips, more days?
- Invite representatives from other States
- Expand regionally?
- Link with southern Brazil?



# Status Report



- Some days road is clear, other days there is much confusion
- September workshop postponed until November, led by UF colleague
- World Bank funders interested, may support 1<sup>st</sup> BrNRLI in July 2005
- Continue to meet with potential partners

# Leadership Lessons Learned

- Credibility and trust key; long-term relationships
- Word “conflict” can lead to conflict
- Importance of partnership with local people and institutions
- Vital to consider cultural perspectives
- Beware of assumptions
- Impact of historical factors and time

