

Juma's Rainforest Report

July, 2010

Permaculture Project

Approximately 400 families live within and close to the borders of the Juma Sustainable Development Reserve, in the state of Amazonas, Brazil. They rely mainly on manioc and fruit production for daily nourishment. This is known as subsistence agriculture. Fruit collection, fishing, and hunting are also a part of their diet.

In Juma the primary crop is manioc, which is used for production of "meal," a staple food for locals. Historically, manioc has been grown in a monoculture system, which implies only one food source and/or income option for locals. Without crop rotation or other methods, this type of cultivation damages the soil. As an alternative, community members have been known to also rely upon "slash and burn methods" to clear patches of rainforest for new crops. This technique not only makes the area incapable of further yields for future generations, but also emits harmful CO₂.

Permaculture is an ecologically sound agricultural system that encourages the use of foods that are grown naturally within the area. The goal is to create a "permanent culture": one that is sustainable, productive, technically viable and environmentally-friendly.



A Juma resident learns sustainable planting practices

Marriott has helped the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS) find a new partner - Tauck - Romano Innovative Philanthropy - to support a project for training and motivating 30 of Juma's communities to try permaculture and also create a more sustainable area for Juma's food production.

This new permaculture class serves as a laboratory for traditional classroom teaching as well as a venue for hands-on production of food for the school. The ultimate goal is to provide the structure for ongoing local environmental education and sustainability.

On March 20, Juma residents traveled to Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas, to participate in this 14-day permaculture course. They attended classes that covered both theory and practical activities, and involved many relevant topics such as: identification of species, reproduction of seedlings, food security, small livestock, biofertilizers, and medicinal plants.

Two months later, another 35 students from 20 different Juma communities participated in the course, taught by 4 teachers from the Institute of Permaculture of Amazonas (IPA). During the course students also helped outline a new sustainable food production system for Juma.

This new food production area will help provide meals for 90 of the school's regular students, and will also serve as a living classroom. The current food production area is expected to support 30% of the school's food needs within the next year. There are also plans to double this area within the next year.

Finally, the students learned numerous other useful skills such as how to capture rain water, how to improve organic garden production, how to make compost, and how to make soap out of kitchen oil.

The results of this course were seen as very positive by both the students and the teachers. According to one of the teachers, who is also a permaculture farmer in his Juma community, the advances made by the group are the fastest he has seen, and the students are now capable of maintaining the production area with the new techniques they learned during the course.



Juma students show their permaculture certificates

REDD Methodology Receives International Approval

The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) methodology -presented by the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS) in partnership with the consulting company Carbon Decisions International and the Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (Idesam) - will be the first methodology for REDD in Brazil to be accepted by the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) system. The validation of this methodology will allow the development and implementation of REDD projects all around the world.

The VCS board chose Bureau Veritas Certification (BVC) to validate the methodology. BVC gave final approval on May 24, 2010.

Mariano Cenamo, Idesam's executive secretary, said that the validation of the frontier methodology (the first validator in the VCS process) shows that there is an accumulation of technical and scientific credibility to secure the implementation of REDD projects. "We hope this serves as a positive signal to motivate decision makers in negotiations regarding the regulation of international mechanisms for REDD," said Cenamo.

After VCS's validation of the frontier methodology, the project will be submitted to a second independent validator. This double validation process is a requirement of the VCS system that adds even more credibility to the methodologies presented.

"The first step has already been finished. We will begin the second phase of validation immediately. We plan to have the methodology approved by the end of this year," said Gabriel Ribenboim, Manager of Special Projects at FAS.

The validation process is financed by FAS and the proposal was developed by Carbon Decisions International in partnership with Idesam and FAS.

FAS Board of Directors

Director General: Prof. Virgilio Viana

Scientific and Technical Director: João Tezza Neto

Administration & Finance Director: Luiz Cruz Villares

For any additional information, please contact:

Raquel Luna – Project Institutional Coordinator

E-mail: raquel.luna@fas-amazonas.org

Skype ID: [raquel.luna2](https://www.skype.com/people/raquel.luna2)

Address in Manaus - Rua Álvaro Braga, 351 – Parque 10 de Novembro – Tel:(5592) 4009-8900

Address in São Paulo - Rua Pequetita, 145 – Cj. 22 – Ed. Almar - Vila Olímpia – Capital - Tel:(5511) 4506-29003

www.fas-amazonas.org