

**An outcome of “Globalization in the Amazon: Exploiting Natural Resources
and the Sustainability of the Human Factor”
University of Haifa, 2010**

Changes proposed by Chief Almir Surui:

- 1) More protection from FUNAI, Ministry of Environment, Public Ministry, IBAMA, and Federal Police;
- 2) Ethno-zoning and reforestation of indigenous lands - when discussing climate change, it is important to discuss the impact on the planet that will be caused by building dams and roads across the whole Amazon;
- 3) Support for reforestation projects and recovery of indigenous culture;
- 4) The prohibition of commercialization of non-wood forest products;
- 5) Technical and financial support to develop projects and to combat deforestation.
- 6) Promotion of conditions to traditional populations to manage the surrounding lands;
- 7) The development of a dialogue of communication between governments, private companies, NGOs, researchers and indigenous peoples to ensure the preservation of traditional knowledge and protection of the Amazon rainforest.
- 8) The establishment of channels between non-indigenous society and indigenous peoples;

What could be done to achieve these goals:

- 1) More debate about the construction of dams and deforestation in the Amazon, ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples.
- 2) To inform the Brazilian Government diagnostic showing the pollution of rivers and streams, by farmers and settlers of the surrounding indigenous land; invasion of lands
- 3) More partnership with indigenous institutions and movements;
- 4) Make effective and transparent mechanisms for transferring resources to the
- 5) Communities, including the creation of a fund manager of resources projects.
- 6) The creation of training programs on environmental law for indigenous peoples.
- 7) The recognition that indigenous people are keepers of knowledge on forest resources and are key partners of humanity to the conservation of the environment, can help reduce deforestation and ensure the balance of the planet's climate.

Changes proposed by Ivaneide:

- 1) Transparency and dialogue with indigenous peoples and riversides.
- 2) Indigenous peoples should be consulted and give their consent for developments that would impact their territories.
- 3) Respect to the Art. 6 of ILO-convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the International Labour Organization – ILO.
➔ **Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989** is an International Labour Organization Convention, also known as ILO-convention 169, or C169. It is the major binding international convention concerning indigenous peoples, and a forerunner of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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José Pimenta proposes an effective and a solid, official policy of protection over the indigenous territories and a practical plan for the recuperation of their eco-system by granting the indigenous communities prerogatives over the natural resources in a substantive manner:

- 1) Beyond Policy of environmental protection and recovery of their lands, seeking the benefit from some natural (but sustainable) resources. Beyond the production and commerce of indigenous handicrafts, which is the preparation projects of "sustainable development", such as: commerce of seeds, production of oils and forest essences, apiculture, restoration of degraded areas, the establishment of agroforestry systems (AFS), management plans of hunting and fishing, the creation of chelonian, ecotourism, ethnomapping, etc..(as the example of the Ashaninka of Amônia River, in the past 15 years);
- 2) More political visibility to indigenous leaders in order to hold political positions, to disseminate their experiences and to create Federal and Regional Secretaries of State for indigenous issues;
- 3) Establishment of indigenous schools, educational, cultural and environmental centers (as the example of **Escola Yorêka Átame**);
- 4) To expand and to disseminate experiences of sustainability in order to educate the neighboring populations and to start a comprehensive environmental management plan for the Alto Jurua Basin.

→ *Major problem: the sustainability of its territory.*

→ *Solutions:*

- 1) Integration with other indigenous peoples in order to raise awareness about the importance of regional environmental conservation and about the need to establish economic alternatives to livestock and predatory exploitation of wood;
- 2) Expansion of network of relationships that would include big businessmen in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, actors and musicians, activists in environmental protection;
- 3) Multiple partnerships: municipalities, Brazilian State Governments, federal agencies - such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Culture, the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), indigenous associations, NGOs, indigenous and environmental organizations, universities, anthropologists, etc.
- 4) Dissemination of projects of cooperation.

Hilton & Bock propositions:

The *threat*:

- ➔ the action of Peruvian companies;
- ➔ the short-term economic pragmatism which differs somewhat from the Peruvian government's development policies.

The *solutions*:

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- ➔ To warn the public about this new threat with the support of environmental and indigenous NGOs;
- ➔ The support from Peru to Brazil's (or indigenous or South American representatives) candidacy for the UN Permanent Council;
- ➔ The road integration between the Brazil and Peru, which would allow the exchange of products Pacific-Atlantic ports and the promotion of Pacific-Atlantic;
- ➔ The stimulus to the Peruvian government for technical qualification and acquisition of tools, in order to protect the forest and the indigenous rights.

Ela Wiecko points out the major issues at stake in the lawmaking process, as it is projected from legal documentation:

- 1) Recognition of the ethnic-cultural diversity adopted in the 1988 Brazilian Constitution.
- 2) Effective recognition by public policies, of right of indigenous peoples to maintain their traditions, customs and beliefs, and change or not their model of economic development.
- 3) Raise awareness (in the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court – the guardian of the Constitution), for the importance of indigenous territories in relation to the national territory.
- 4) Coordination and support from international indigenous movements - which had a strong task in the approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – and from alternative movements to the hegemonic model of progress and development for indigenous peoples of Brazil.

Alcida's most clear-cut points:

- The Panel of Experts also points out that regarding indigenous peoples Belo Monte is a disaster foretold a prediction of violated rights. Contrary to the official assertions, the Indians who live in the Xingu region will suffer directly some of the effects of the gigantic dam, proclaimed as the third largest dam in the world (after the Chinese Three Gorges and Itaipu on the Brazil-Paraguay border)! As now planned, Belo Monte will change the flow of the Xingu River and tributaries at the Big Curve, resulting in a permanent dry season and loss of land and river fauna, water scarcity.
- The arrival of thousands of workers in the outskirts of indigenous villages is bound to create health and food problems. The experts conclude that “Brazil doesn't need Belo Monte – a project full of problems – that should be abandoned” not only for its technical flaws, but especially for the extremely serious environmental and social costs it will bring about.
- Mobilization against Belo Monte had a new boost in 2008 during the Second Meeting of Indigenous Peoples of the Xingu when a new organization was launched – the Xingu Lives Forever Movement.
- Added to this the BNDES contribution and all the other federal sums, Belo Monte will be a virtual government enterprise, a far cry from the original idea of handing it over to the private sector. A former director of the Petroleum National Agency expressed his concern about this issue: “what cannot happen is the bill fall on the government if the costs exceed

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what was originally agreed upon,” and he concludes: “We cannot repeat what happened to the construction of the Balbina hydroelectric in Amazonas. It left a trail of destitution in the region... drug traffic and prostitution took over.”

- The Federal Public Ministry in the state of Pará has filed no less than 13 suits with the Regional Federal Court in Brasilia against the Belo Monte project. An NGO and the Catholic Church (CIMI) have also judicially requested the annulment of the auction and indeed, of the entire hydroelectric enterprise. Adding insult to injury, one finds that the winning private company, Queiroz Galvão, is involved in a number of investigations for illicit dealings with other contracts, such as frauds in auctions, active and passive corruption, etc.