

First FGP Certification in South America Completed!



The Forest Garden Product Certification Service (FGP CS) undertook the inspection of the Sateré-Mawé lands in the upper Amazonian watersheds of the Rio Andira in July 2001. This is a landmark in many ways, it is the first international certification by the FGP CS, and it creates the first certified Anthropogenic Tree Dominated Ecosystem (ATDEP) in Latin America. The certified community being in the heart of the Amazon also provided the challenges to the inspector, should

the products be classed as Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) coming from natural ecosystems, or should they be classed as Forest Garden Products (FGPS)? A long history international negotiation exists over where the lines separating the two ecosystems. This certification holds promise of contributing to the negotiation.

The inspector traveled from Sri Lanka to Brazil. The final leg of the journey, twelve hours by small open boat from the Main channel of the Amazon in Parienthis, up the Rio Andria to the Sateré lands. A journey that took almost as long as the jet flight from Europe to Brazil.



The certification was done for the Conselho General de Tribo Sateré-Mawé (CGTSM) at the request of M/S Guyapi Tropicals the distributors of their products in Paris. The CGTSM is the political representation of the Sateré-Mawé tribe.

A team consisting of, The Secretary of the CGTSM, the Consultant to CGTSM, An Ichthyologist from the University of Amazonian Research Institute and a sociologist from the University of Manaus accompanied the Inspector of FGP CS on his mission.

The CGTSM demonstrated its capacity in raising the awareness of their communities and having them ready for evaluation by certification systems. A very positive development is the Leisha (Garbage) program of the CGTSM. Under this program all non-organic garbage is collected for transport back to the municipality who supplied those goods.

The inspection revealed the affectivity of management under current conditions. It identified a number of potential crop species that are found in the natural ecosystem and needs to be incorporated into the anthropogenic systems. The current levels of extraction are sustainable at low levels, but with the development of external markets large quantities will be required. The development of these lands using Analog Forest theory could help increase the productivity of these systems without affecting structure and function.



The entire land area managed by the Sateré-Mawé is about 788,528 Ha of land much of the land being covered with primary forest. The land can be divided into two distinct components natural and anthropogenic.

Natural Tree Dominated Ecosystems contain only the original patterns of biodiversity. They may or may not be human influenced. The native species occur in established seral patterns. These formations and processes have not been



impacted with a frequency or intensity to change established seral patterns. The biodiversity components are retained. The tree species of a forest account for less than 01 % of the biodiversity of such formations and help in maintaining total biodiversity.

Anthropogenic tree dominated ecosystems are human influenced, managed or affected with a frequency or intensity to change established seral patterns. Many components of its natural biodiversity are lost; often they contain elements of exotic species.

In this inspection the use the term 'Forest' denote natural formations and plantation, 'home or forest garden' denote anthropogenic ecosystems.

In the area examined the anthropogenic component consisting of about 25 % of the land represents the results of subsistence agriculture and the creation of Guaranazias, informal plantings of wild Guratna seedlings into secondary vegetation around the village.

The lands are comprised on two major ecosystems the Igapo or black water flooded forest and the tall evergreen forest above the high water line. The Ipago forests are situated on sandy subsoils and beaches, the crops Camu Camu (*Myrcaria dubia*) and Muira Uria (*Cypflora mira*) are examples of plants adapted to these ecosystems. The tall evergreen forests have many tall buttress rooted trees and the crops Copaiba (*Copaifera multijuga*) and Muirapama (*Liriosma*



ovata) are examples of plants adapted to these ecosystems.



The Guarana is grown in informal plantings of wild collected Guarana seedlings. The interest in Guarana about twenty years ago led to the establishment of many Guaranaizais on traditional swidden lands. As the initial market that arose in the 1980 fell by the creation of industrial scale Guarana production by multinational companies. These Guaranazias were abandoned and reverted back into secondary vegetation. The Guarana plants, which are mid seral stage, woody climbers, establish as a natural component. The clearing of these once abandoned plantings are a major

source of new land for Guarana production. However the clearing process must be designed with an enrichment planting process so that analogous structures can evolve. In many farms this process in well under way, in others the CGTSM is implementing a capacity building program to bring formal planning procedures to address land management.

Another innovative approach in the management of Guarana has been to build a pollinator enrichment program. Guarana flowers are pollinated by the stingless native bees. These bees not only boost Guarana production by as much as 200% but also produce a very distinct and valuable honey. Through the pollinator enrichment program the Guarana production could increase by at least 75 %.



The production of Guarana from the Satere community is comprised totally of production from Anthropogenic systems. All personnel interviewed confirmed that Guarana collection from the wild is not practiced any more. Although the communities are aware of the wild Guarana plants in the forest but they are considered uneconomical for collection. They are aware of the value of the wild Guarana in close proximity to their own fields as it allows a healthy gene flow to and from the wildplants. This keen observation is also

presented in their application:

"A lots of different native species of bees guarantee the cross-pollination between native trees and the domesticated Guarana in the Guaranazais. Then Toucans also give their contribution to this crossing by swallowing the complete seed from domesticated trees and taking them back to the native forests."

Thus the production of Guarana within the a community is entirely within anthropogenic systems.

In the responding to the degradation of the Amazon closed canopy forests, the Forest Garden Project of the Sateré-Mawé will make a positive difference.