

For Immediate Release

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CAPES Approves International Cooperation Program with UF for Integrative Research on Amazon Dams

Gainesville, FL - On July 19, CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior - Brazilian Coordination for Enhancement of Higher Education Personnel) announced the approval of an International Cooperation Program between Brazilian Amazonian Universities, University of Florida/TCD and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center. The project entitled “**International Cooperation Network for Integrative Research on Social- environmental Effects of Hydroelectric Dams in the Brazilian Amazon: Learning from Experiences**”, will be coordinated by Dr. Carolina Doria from UNIR with participation of representatives from five Amazonian universities (UNIR, UFT, UFPA, UNEMAT and UFAC), involving academic exchange and collaboration between Brazilian and University of Florida faculty, students and researchers, including a collaboration with the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) in Colorado.

The project is part of a larger international initiative named “Amazon Dams Program” hosted by the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program in the Center for Latin American Studies at UF. The Amazon Dams program is led by a team of UF and Brazilian researchers, with the goal of developing integrative research on socio-environmental effects of hydroelectric Dams in the Amazon. The main leaders of this initiative at UF are Dr. Simone Athayde (TCD Associate Researcher at and Program Coordinator), Dr. Bette Loiselle (TCD Director), Dr. Marianne Schmink (PI of Amazon Dams Seed Project), Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith (Anthropology) and Dr. Stephanie Bohlman (SFRC). Dr. Theodore Melis is a USGS/GCMRC leader and collaborator. In Brazil, project leaders are Dr. Carolina Doria and Dr. Walterlina Brasil (Federal University of Rondônia-UNIR), Dr. Elineide Marques and Dr. Marina Hertzogue (Federal University of Tocantins-UFT), Dr. Amintas Rossete (State University of Mato Grosso-UNEMAT), Dr. Edna Castro (Federal University of Pará-UFPA) and Dr. Silvio Simione (Federal University of Acre-UFAC). The project is funded for two years and involves academic exchange, training and research coordination activities.

At UF, this initiative builds on TCD's and the Center's 30+ years of experience and expertise on social-environmental research in the Amazonian region, as well as on strong academic ties with Brazilian Universities and research centers.

Among important innovations and outcomes envisioned by project leaders for this initiative are: the strengthening of graduate education in Brazilian Universities; the coordination of efforts for synthesizing knowledge and informing future research on social-environmental effects of hydrodams throughout Amazonian watersheds; the advancement of inter and transdisciplinary (between academy and society) research and practice both in Brazil and in the US; and the establishment of multi-sectorial partnerships for learning from and adapting US experiences on adaptive management in rivers impacted by hydroelectric power plants. The partnership and collaboration with the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (US Geological Service) is an important step in this direction.

Signed:

Dr. Bette Loiselle

Director,

Tropical Conservation and Development Program

Center for Latin American Studies

University of Florida

BLoiselle@latam.ufl.edu

Dr. Simone Athayde,

Research Associate and Program Coordinator

Tropical Conservation and Development Program

Center for Latin American Studies

University of Florida

simonea@ufl.edu