



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

1) Title

Project title: **Sister Watersheds – Brazil and Canada**

Former project title: **Capacity Building of Civil Society in Water Resources Management in São Paulo State – Brazil**

Project number: **UPCD Tier 2 Project S61268-373G**

Canadian partner institution: **York University**

Overseas partner institutions: **University of São Paulo (USP) - Brazil and Ecoar Institute for Citizenship – Brazil**

Duration of the project: **01-April-03 to 31-December-08**

Reporting period: **01-April -03 to 31-March-04**

2) Executive Summary

a) Project Abstract

This partnership brings together three innovative organizations. 1) The *ECOAR Institute for Citizenship*, one of Brazil's leading NGOs in the areas of sustainable development, environmental education, citizenship building and natural resources; 2) The *University of São Paulo*, Brazil's leading academic institution and a very important player in human resources development in general; and 3) The Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, one of Canada's largest and most established academic units involved in interdisciplinary teaching and research activities related to environmental issues.

The partnership's overall goal is to contribute to improved water resources management through the strengthening of civil society to participate more effectively in the river basin committees in São Paulo State. The project's expected outcomes at the end of the project's duration are the strengthened capacity of ECOAR and USP to carry out the

critical role of ongoing capacity building of civil society to participate more effectively in river basin management committees.

Project activities fall into the broad components of curriculum development, training methodology development, collaborative research, educational exchanges, network building, internationalization, development education, project management & administration, and evaluation. In more specific terms, some of the key activities over the 5-year period include:

- 10 Brazilian and 10 Canadian graduate exchange students undertaking research (including 4-6 month stays in Canada and Brazil, respectively).
- Research projects by faculty and staff from the three partner organizations.
- Development, delivery and evaluation of a training program for civil society groups (and selected state and local government representatives) involved in the river basin committees in Brazil.
- A series of short courses, seminars, and public lectures, as well as new university curriculum.
- Development of teaching materials, new curricula, training modules, and education materials (including on-line courses, videos, CD-ROMS).
- Creation of linkages with other Brazilian and Canadian partner organizations and researchers.
- Ongoing evaluation efforts to ensure the partnership accomplishes the intended results.

Ultimately, the proposed partnership is expected to have a lasting impact on the ability of the Brazilian partner organizations to play a leadership role in strengthening Brazilian civil society to effectively participate in decision-making processes in the management and protection of water resources.

b) Significant Results

Background research work for the project began in the summer of 2003, followed by the hiring of the Canadian project coordinator and a very successful visit of the current Brazilian project directors to York in January 2004¹. During this working visit, Brazilian and Canadian partners together reviewed in detail the budget, timeline, workplan and activities planned – already having in mind the selected pilot watersheds. The period from January to March 2004 (FY1Q4) was defined as a period of ground preparation for several activities beginning in April 2004 (FY1Q1).

The project's significant results so far include:

- the selection of two *pilot-watersheds* and corresponding river basin committees in Brazil, namely that of the Piracicaba River (**Piracicamirim** sub-committee) and the Alto Tiete watershed (Pinheiros-Pirapora sub-committee, **Pirajuçara** sub-watershed). One of the criteria used for the selection was the fact that both watersheds cross the two USP campuses (São Paulo and Piracicaba) –

¹ Please see Visit Agenda in Appendix.

- transforming the University communities into one of the several beneficiaries of this project, and facilitating the academic-NGO-government linkages;
- the start of the selection process for the recruitment of Brazilian project staff members;
 - the recruitment of the Canadian project coordinator, intensifying the communications with the Brazilian partners;
 - the acquisition of project equipment in Brazil and in Canada;
 - the start of the graduate student program exchange, with the trip of Erika Fuchs, the first York-FES graduate student to Brazil, from August 2003 to February 2004, followed by her seminar presentation at CERLAC (the York University Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean);
 - the recruitment of three graduate research assistants in Canada, who initiated bibliographic research on watershed management and public participation in Brazil;
 - contact with several cooperating institutions in Brazil, including the Projeto Marca d'Água, which are engaged in research that is closely related to our project, which has led to the possibility of a joint seminar on Brazilian watershed management;
 - the beginning of website construction in Brazil;
 - formal completion and signing of a Cooperation Agreement between York University and the University of São Paulo, which allows students enrolled at each institution to attend the other.

c) Main Cumulative Results

This is the first year of the project, so cumulative results are still in progress.

d) Brief Review of any Changes

During the meeting of the Canadian and Brazilian project team in January, 2004, several changes in project design were agreed upon with AUCC. These revisions made the project more efficient and more feasible, in view of the people and watersheds involved. The majority of those changes were thoroughly described in revisions to the project's Budget Notes, and these include:

- Shifts in budget categories, increasing the item Brazilian Consultants while reducing other categories. This was done to cover the recruitment of project staff in Brazil, namely 3 full time manager consultants – one for each Brazilian institution for the duration of the project -- and 3 part-time project assistants – *estagiários* – for each year. These staff members are needed to coordinate, develop and assist field work activities planned in Brazil.
- Former Brazilian project directors Marcos Sorrentino of USP and Larissa da Costa of ECOAR have taken different positions in Brazil but continue to be involved as consultants and advisors to the project.

e) Summary of Lessons Learned

This is the very first year of the project and we have generally been in learning mode all year. This has included learning how to build relationships with all our partners, how to account for our activities, how to build our networks, and how to create the basic structure to support the planned and desired project growth. Our expectation is that in a few more months the creation of this basic organizational knowledge will be less central, enabling us progress towards other goals of the project – which is already happening. The project is off to an excellent start, with productive, fun and enthusiastic relationships among the project team members and a real sense of shared commitment to the project's goals.

3) General Project Information

a) Timeline

Start date: 01 – April - 2003
Original planned end date: 31 - December - 2008
Approved extension: Not applicable.
Status: operational

b) Partners

Name and address of lead Canadian institution:
Faculty of Environmental Studies/ York University
4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Name and address of lead developing-country institution:
Instituto Ecoar para Cidadania
Rua Tomás Carvalhal 551, Paraíso, São Paulo, SP,
04006-002 BRASIL

Names of additional partner institutions:
Universidade de São Paulo – campus SP
Coordenadoria Executiva de Cooperação Universitária e de Atividades
Especiais - CECAE-USP
Edifício da Antiga Reitoria
Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, Trav. J, 374 7º andar.
Cidade Universitária 05508-900 São Paulo – SP. BRASIL

Universidade de São Paulo – campus Piracicaba
OCA - Laboratório de Educação e Política Ambiental
Departamento de Ciências Florestais
Escola Superior Agrícola Luis de Queirões
Av. Pádua Dias, 11 Caixa Postal 9
13418-900, Piracicaba – SP. BRASIL

Name of Canadian project director:

Patricia E. (Ellie) Perkins
Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies
Telephone: (416) 736-2100 ext. 22632 fax: (416) 736-567
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Name of developing country project director:

Miriam Duailibi
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Other project team members (name, institution and role)

Canadian Project Coordinator:
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c) Website

<http://www.baciasirmas.org.br> – under construction

d) AUCC Project Officer

Tom Tunney
Program Officer, UPCD Tier 2/Agent de programmes, PUCD Volet 2
International Affairs Branch/Direction des affaires internationales
Tel/Tél.: (613) 563-3961 ext./poste 254
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e) Total Contribution Commitments

CIDA:	\$ 749.077,80
Canadian University:	\$ 331.000,00
Developing country	\$ 140.000,00
institution:	
Total:	\$ 1.220.077,80

f) Main CIDA Priorities Addressed

This project is of most relevance to the ODA priorities of **human rights, democracy and good governance**. The project's main focus is the strengthening of civil society in order to fully participate in decision-making in society. While focused on the role of civil society in water resources management, and the river basin committees in São Paulo in particular, this can form a model for the effective participation of civil society groups in other sectors and in other regions of the country.

In addition, the project is of substantial relevance to the ODA priority of **environment**. The project is expected to address the human resources needs of institutions in the environmental area, provide training on environmental topics, and develop new curriculum and training materials in environmental studies. It is expected that these contributions will ultimately lead to improved environmental conditions in São Paulo State.

While the project does not involve any physical infrastructure, the decisions being made in the river basin committees often involve infrastructure, for example water treatment facilities. A part of the project will therefore address what role civil society plays in policy development and decision-making around infrastructure in the areas of wastewater treatment, water supply, sanitation, etc. In this way the project addresses the ODA priorities of **infrastructure** and **basic human needs** in the area of water and sanitation.

The project is also of relevance to ODA's **women in development** priority. Participation of women will be encouraged in all aspects and levels of the project in various ways, and gender considerations will be an important element in the design and delivery of training activities and curriculum development. The two project directors are both women, and of the six members of the Project Management Committee four are women. The gender balance of all involved senior faculty and staff in both Brazil and Canada is around 50/50. It is expected that the gender balance of the students involved in the project will also be balanced; participation by female students will actively be sought. York University Affirmative Action procedures will be followed where hiring and/or contracting occurs in Canada, and a similar procedure will be employed where feasible and appropriate in Brazil.

The gender balance among the representatives in the river basin committees (from state level agencies, local government, and civil society groups) is reasonable; women's participation among the NGOs representatives is particularly strong. Nevertheless, a conscious effort to ensure ongoing participation in project activities by women will be required. Participation of women participants and women's groups will also actively be promoted and supported in the pilot project areas, with a number of activities specifically addressing gender issues.

Women's participation in the river basin committees also does not imply that gender issues are a key element in how the committees are formed, how decisions are made and what projects are endorsed. Building gender issues into the water resources management framework, therefore, is an objective of the project. There will be a substantive component of the training delivery and curriculum development activities which will address gender issues in general, and the importance of gender considerations in the functioning of the river basin committees. Some of this will be in the form of awareness building for male participants (as part of the pilot projects) to test and further develop gender awareness building in training and curriculum development.

4) Reporting Results

a) Status of Results Table (see appendix)

b) Analysis of Project Results

The project is just completing its first year, so outcome – level results are not fully achieved. However, some progress towards future results has been made in the early stages of project activities.

2.1.1. Identification of pilot watersheds

With the visit of the Brazilian partners in January 2004 to Toronto, two pilot watersheds were selected, namely those of the Piracicaba River (sub-committee Piracicamirim) and the Alto Tiete River (sub-committee Pinheiros-Pirapora, sub-watershed Pirajuçara). These watersheds cross the two USP campuses (São Paulo and Piracicaba).

2.1.2. Building the hydro-social database

The first steps in building the hydro-social database were accomplished through the recruitment of two Brazilian field work managers, one for the Piracicaba campus (Clarissa Riccio de Carvalho) and another for the Sao Paulo USP campus (Fabiola Marono Zerbini). They are responsible for the organization of the data collection and future field work. Another related operational step was the acquisition of equipment, such as computers for their work.

2.2.1. Initial hydro-social research to determine capacity building needs and existing programs

This research is just beginning in both pilot watersheds, where baseline research is currently underway.

3.1. Development and implementation of new learning modules and course offerings at York/USP.

At York University, Professor Ellie Perkins is continuously being requested to teach Individual Directed Study (IDS) courses for graduate students, related to the general theme of the project: participatory approaches to watershed management in Brazil. During this first fiscal year four such courses were offered (winter and summer 2003 courses for Erika Fuchs and fall 2003 and winter 2004 courses for Marcia Chandra).

3.2.1. Academic linkages and exchanges.

During their January visit, Brazilian project team members met with York/FES assistant professors Leesa Fawcett and Deborah Barndt. Professor Ellie Perkins established contact with Prof. Margaret Keck – one of the directors of the U.S.-funded Marca D'Agua project – regarding watershed management in Brazil and collaboration between the two projects. They agreed to consider planning a future seminar involving the team members of both projects.

3.3. Graduate student program exchanges between USP and York University.

York FES student Erika Fuchs was the first Canadian student to participate in the exchange with Brazil, from August 2003 through January 2004. She did a presentation of her fieldwork about the educational programs of the Brazilian Landless Movement, entitled “Pedagogy of Hope”, at the Center For Research on Latin American and Caribbean at York University in February, 2004.

Marcia Chandra was selected to be the next student to go to Brazil to do field research for her Master's project about participatory development in Brazilian watershed management.

Four other York graduate students (3 female and 1 male) are interested in doing field work on Brazilian issues related to the project in 2005. They are currently learning Portuguese.

4.1.1. Research into the use of participatory methods and techniques in water resources management.

In FY1, three graduate student assistants worked for the project in Canada: Patricia Dias, Sylvie Trembley and Tracy Locke. All of them collaborated on the construction of a bibliography on participatory watershed management that will be posted on the project's website. Brazilian students and project personnel were also involved in related research.

4.2.1. Construction and animation of networking tools including website.

The official website of the project is being constructed in Brazil – under the name www.baciasirmas.org.br.

The logo of the project was created (see first page of this report).

4.3.3. Media relations (TV, radio, newspaper).

While the Brazilian team members were in Canada they were interviewed for a radio program by David da Silva, as well as by Max Brem from FES. Articles

about the project were posted on the York webpage (<http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=2357%20>); the FES webpage (<http://www.yorku.ca/fes/fesnews/brazil.htm> and (<http://www.yorku.ca/fes/fesnews/sisterswatershed.htm>); and the ECOAR webpage (<http://www.ecoar.org.br/> arquivos).

5) Project Context, Critical Assumptions and Risks

While background research by Graduate Assistants at York began in the summer of 2003, Intensified project activities really began in January 2004 with the Brazilian team's visit to Toronto and revisions of the project design undertaken with the Canadian partners. The slower-than-envisaged start in project activities was mainly due to position changes of project leaders both in Brazil and Canada.

During 2003, USP Professor Marcus Sorrentino moved to Brasilia (the capital of Brazil) where he accepted a position in the Lula da Silva government as Director of the Brazilian National Program of Environmental Education (PRONEA). Another Brazilian project director, Larissa da Costa, left ECOAR in 2003 to assume the position of Coordinator of Environmental Education at WWF in Brazil. On the Canadian side, professor Paul Zandbergen's responsibilities intensified in the Geography Department at the University of South Florida.

With the revision of the workplan and budget – adapted to the current personnel (new leadership) and physical (pilot - watersheds selected) context , the project activities in Brazil were able to begin after January 2004.

As presented in the project's Logical Framework Analysis (LFA), the Outcomes risks were listed as follows:

1. A very large number of stakeholders in the pilot watersheds (high).
(This is not an issue yet.)
2. Challenges in obtaining additional resources for a broader implementation of training programs (medium).
(Not an issue yet.)
3. Resistance from state and local government representatives (medium).
(Not an issue. Actually quite the opposite, since one of our ex-directors now is working for the federal government.)
4. Resistance against curriculum changes within York and USP (medium).
(Not an issue yet.)
5. Changes in the senior administration at York and USP (medium).
(We had changes in the direction of the project both at York and USP, but not in the

senior administration of the universities in a way affecting the project. The new Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York, Dr. Joni Seager, has expressed full support and enthusiasm for the project.)

6. Changes in the structure and functioning of Ecoar (medium).
(There have been personnel changes at Ecoar – but the project continues to have excellent support and direction.)

The current risk we have is that USP is entering a strike – and this seems likely to be a long one. Our advantage is that ECOAR has been having a leading role in the project – hosting project meetings, the webpage, administering finances and communication. As a result, the baseline research in São Paulo has not stopped, nor have team members' meetings and activities – although at USP there is a slow-down.

At the level of Outputs risks, the list is as follows:

1. Delays in approvals of agreements, internal to York or USP (medium).
(The intra-university cooperation protocol was signed on the 9th of March, 2004.)
2. Language difficulties related to graduate student participation (high).
(All York students going to Brazil are taking at least one year of Portuguese classes. Brazilian exchange students will also prepare with advance language instruction. So far we have had no problems in this regard.)
3. Changes in the staff composition of the partner organizations (medium)
(Since the beginning of the project, several individuals at each partner organization have been involved and senior administration team members have been up-dated frequently. So the staff changes reported above did interfere somewhat with the start of the project, but not its development and quality. Actually, the revision of the budget shortened the project's time-lines (from 6 to 5 years) so that it will end at the original predicted date (December 2008) with no reduction in goals or expected outcomes.)
4. Exchange rate fluctuations (high).
(Not an issue yet.)

6) Mid Term Evaluation (not applicable at this time)

7) Strategies for Ensuring Sustainability

For this year the most important strategies for ensuring sustainability were:

- 1 – The recruitment of people to work on the project who are already engaged in the issue of participatory management of natural resources – suggesting that their involvement will grow and continue after the project finishes.

2 – The recruitment of students to work on the project and participate in the exchange program who are planning to write their master's paper on an issue related to participation of civil society in watershed management in Brazil. Since they will become experts on the project's main themes, it is our expectation that those students will build on the project's achievements, giving continuity to our work.

3 – The beginning of the construction of the webpage – which will allow us public visibility and facilitate long-term research and educational linkages.

4 – The beginning of contacts with similar projects (such as the Marca D'Agua project) leading to the likelihood of more structured networks in the near future (such as a conference or seminar).

8) Management Issues

All major project decisions are made by the Project Management Committee, consisting of 3 Brazilians and 3 Canadians. The Management Committee includes Miriam Duailibi of Ecoar, Elizabeth Lima of USP Sao Paulo, Valeria Freixedas of USP Piracicaba, Ellie Perkins, Andrea Moraes, and Paul Zandbergen of York U. This committee is responsible for reviewing the project's overall progress, revising the project's direction if necessary, finalizing and approving annual workplans, and responding to any external factors which might emerge during the project's duration. The Management Committee had a very successful meeting at York in January, 2004.

A part-time project coordinator (Andrea Moraes) was contracted in January 2004 to carry out coordination and administrative duties. This position is based at York University. Other administrative duties are carried out by existing staff of the partner institutions. Field coordinators in Brazil have been contracted in each of the two pilot watersheds (Clarissa de Carvalho and Fabiola Zerbini).

Advisors to the project include Marcos Sorrentino and Larissa da Costa, who were involved in the early stages of designing the project and continue to provide input.

9) Challenges and Lessons Learned

Since the project has four local sites, one of our challenges is to maintain a high level of communication. For the three sites in Brazil, this is not a problem, since they have face-to-face meetings regularly. But for the Canadian site, since face-to-face meetings are annual, details are obviously missed, even with weekly e-mail communication. Surprisingly, problem and solution appeared together though the communication with the current York graduate students in Brazil. In one of her e-mails, Marcia Chandra wrote about some specificities regarding the pilot watershed – how bad it was in terms of participation and environmental problems this watershed had experienced. This

information was very interesting for us – but for the Brazilians it was common sense and not worth mentioning. This showed us that the graduate student exchange potentially has a much bigger role for the project than expected, in facilitating communications. The fact that the project coordinator at York, Andrea Moraes, is a native speaker of Portuguese also facilitates communication immensely.

Another challenge is to maintain the high level of integration we have had so far. After the meeting in January 2004, the team expanded with the addition of the project coordinator in Canada and two field work coordinators in Brazil (all females!) – and all of them highly engaged and motivated with the project. We believe this is contagious and we hope it will spread for all project participants in the future.

Finally, because this is the first year of the project, we are “learning by doing” all the organizational and administrative tasks of getting a complex international project underway.

10) Promotion of Project Results

So far the main avenues for promotion of the project’s results have been:

--A radio interview was aired with the Brazilian team members on January 16, 2004 during their time at York, on the campus radio station CHRY 105.5 FM Toronto. They were interviewed by David da Silva for the program “Mexe Brasil”.

--Two articles have appeared on the FES Webpage (see appendix).

--Two articles have appeared on the Ecoar webpage (see appendix).

-- An article about the project appeared at the CERLAC webpage (Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University)

--An article about the project appeared at York Y File – York’s Daily Bulletin.

--Student Presentation: Erika Fuchs spoke about her research in Brazil on the educational programs of the Movement of Landless Workers (CST) at a CERLAC seminar at York U. on February 11, 2004.

--Project Coordinator Andrea Moraes visited the Brazilian Consulate in Toronto to introduce the project and begin good relations, March 2004.

--Creation of a Brazilian list serve is underway in Toronto to inform Brazilians and Brazilianists about the project.

11) Success Stories

During the Brazilian team members' visit to York in January, 2004, nearly all of our meetings involved only women (3 Brazilian partners, 1 Canadian project director, 1 project coordinator, 2 Graduate Assistants, 3 to 5 interested graduate students, 1 financial reporting consultant, 1 York accounting staff member – all women). Early on, the Brazilians confided that they found the first title of the project, "Capacity Building of Civil Society in Water Resources Management in São Paulo State – Brazil", to be a real difficult mouthful, especially in translation, and they had begun simply referring to the project as the "Sister Watersheds" project, since the word for watersheds in Portuguese, "bacias", is feminine. The rest of us appreciated their pragmatism, and when we looked around the room we felt a real sisterhood of shared purpose, so we believe this new name is doubly appropriate.

One early tip that we are on the right path, as well as a challenge for the future, has come with the selection of pilot areas of focus for our project. The project's Brazilian team members visited York in January and proposed selecting two pilot watersheds in São Paulo State: Pirajuçara and Piracicamirim. One is mostly urban, the other mostly rural and both include the university campuses as one of their communities.

Just after the start of the baseline research, the Brazilian team is discovering that one of our pilot watersheds is very problematic in terms of low public participation. And worse, in 2003 there was a severe environmental problem in this watershed. A contaminant spill resulted in large quantities of white foam flowing down the river and overflowing its banks to a height of up to 5 meters, invading the centre of the city of Bom Jesus de Pirapora in São Paulo State (see images in appendix).

This problem attracted the attention of the York graduate student now in Brazil, who is investigating how low public participation relates to severe pollution problems. It also helps us understand how important our project is.

12) Other Information

In August 2004 our project will gain new office space, as the Faculty of Environmental Studies is moving to a different building at York University. We will inform you of any changes in address or telephone numbers as soon as possible.

Appendix

1 – Status of Results Table (attached)

2 – Workplan – Jan 2004 (attached)

3 - Visit Agenda - January 04 (attached)

4 - Two Articles on FES Webpage

Sister Watershed Project links FES and Brazil

<http://www.yorku.ca/fes/fesnews/sisterswatershed.htm>

CIDA announces \$750,000 grant for FES project in Brazil, aiding citizens' groups to manage water resources

<http://www.yorku.ca/fes/fesnews/brazil.htm>

5 – Two Articles on ECOAR Webpage

<http://www.ecoar.org.br/> clic on "Noticias" (news) then "Arquivos" (archives) then on the dates: 08.01.04 and 05.03.04.

6 – CERLAC note about the project

<http://www.yorku.ca/cerlac/EVENTS.html#Ellie>

7 – York Y File – York's Daily Bulletin

<http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=2357>

8 - Photos from Pirapora do Bom Jesus

<http://www.estadao.com.br/ciencia/noticias/2003/jul/04/242.htm>

and clic on "Veja Galeria de Imagens" and then click on "proxima" (next) to see all the pictures.

9 - Letter of Intent for International Cooperation/Protocolo Academico Internacional (attached to the paper copy of this report)

10- Photos from visit in attachment: JAN2004-1 to JAN2004-7 (attached to the next e-mail)