

DEMENE RIVER

A WAY TO THE AMAZON

SUMMARY

Every politician, journalist, businessman, scientist or student repeats the urgent need of developing the Amazon without destroying its natural resources. But the main question - HOW can the Amazon be developed AND preserved - still remains very little known.

Concerned about such a lack of information, three institutions joined efforts in a private initiative to show that development with preservation is feasible. Agência Estado, Ecoforça and UNIP/Objetivo set a multidisciplinary team to do research and propose alternatives for the still preserved amazonian ecosystems. For two years, they have been working at an area North of Negro River, state of Amazonas, deep into the least populated zone: **the Demene River**.

The first step was the economical-environmental zoning of the area, concluded last year by the team. Based on satellite images and radar data, the researchers have organized two field expeditions, with the participation of journalists and educators. Besides collecting scientific data, the team produced photos and journalistic stories.

The second step was to organize the field data and the economical-environmental zoning, so that the collected data could feed computer models of development alternatives. Some examples of future sceneries were drafted and all the data is ready to be used by decision makers.

In order to publicize all these informations, several products were already created: a poster and a set of 24 postcards with texts about the expeditions; a series of stories, published in some Brazilian newspapers; a photo exposition, exhibited in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro (during UNCED 92).

But the most important product is yet to be finished: an art book on the Demene region, describing the expeditions and their scientific results.

The editorial and art project of the book is concluded ^{SEE BOOK SUMMARY} (annex 1). The book itself (text and photo selection) will be ready for print within a month. Only the support for printing costs (US\$ 50,000) is still needed. Mr. Rodrigo Lara Mesquita, director of Agência Estado, and Dr. Evaristo Eduardo de Miranda, president of Ecoforça, can provide all extra details needed by eventual supporters. Please find enclosed their addresses, phones and fax numbers.