

# INVIGORATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN BRAZIL: A REGIONAL STUDY<sup>1</sup>

*"To unite the communities through a common project ensuring citizenship and worthy work that respects the environment, and be respected by the public power"*

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## Summary

The work analyzes the process of participatory diagnosis for the "Rural Agenda", a series of events designed to subsidize the Ribeira Valley Rural Community Invigoration Program, in the State of Sao Paulo (BR) over the 2000-2002 period. Sub-regional workshops embracing 432 rural communities discussed and prioritized actions to be taken. The creation of a clear dialogue channel between civil society and the public power was the way to ensure the communities' participation in policy proposals that will determine directions towards regional sustainable development.

Key-words: family farmers, sustainable development, participatory diagnosis.

## 1. Introduction

The sentence quoted above essentially translates the motivation that led traditional rural communities, along with several government bodies, to accomplish the goals of the Ribeira Valley Rural Communities Vocation Invigoration Program- Rural Agenda (RA) through participatory planning workshops carried out between 2000 and 2002 that culminated in consolidation of their demands and priorities at a Regional Meeting.

The principles of solidarity and participation were the guiding values throughout the working stages. That is a greatly important qualitative progress for an area such as the Ribeira Valley, inasmuch as its institutionality had always been strongly based on political and economical "clientelism".

Among the vocations of the area, ecotourism and beach tourism are the most evident. In the region called Upper Ribeira River there is an important concentration of caves and the area called Lagamar, which stretches from the Juréia-Itatins Ecological Station to the Cardoso Island State Park, possesses natural patrimonies, with biological marine and terrestrial diversity. The hinterland delimiting line passes down the Paranapiacaba "ecological continuity" - an extensive corridor covered with dense forest that allows for the free dissemination of the Atlantic Forest fauna and flora species -, and forms an alignment of several mountain ranges where several Conservation Units were implanted (Figure 1). The native culture of seaside dwellers (caiçaras), which retains the centennial characteristics of the colonization around the first Brazilian villages of Iquape and Cananéia, is a very attractive historical and cultural patrimony. The Middle Ribeira Valley predominantly stands out for the banana farming adapted to low areas and hillsides and sharing its space with tea, ornamental flower and horticulture towards the low course of the Ribeira. Sand and limestone mining completes the economic picture of the area that, in a nutshell, can be particularized as an exporter of natural resources coming from forest and fishing extraction and agricultural produces, adding low value to its production.

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On the other hand, environmental legislation restrictions to planting and fishing have been increasing the dwellers' dependence on food coming from outside, bought or received through government's programs (food basket or food card). Thus a problem of food security has arisen for the local population, given the loss of autonomy for subsistence production.

Since the 1960s, various government bodies have acted in area. However, their performance included ready-made and megalomaniac proposals that ended up wasting resources, instead of promoting sustainable development or meeting the population's needs. In 1996, following the national tourism policy and observing the basic precepts of the AGENDA 21 (RIO/92) of fostering the participation civil society and the public-private articulation, the "Ribeira Valley Ecotourism Agenda" was created with the objective of studying, planning and fostering ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development. The action plan succeeded in training environmental monitors that propitiated the creation of the Ribeira Valley Environmental Monitors Network (REMA VALE). By bringing together associations of almost all municipal districts, it implemented information dissemination channels for ecotourism, always in partnership with the municipal, state and federal government and NGO's.

That front line of performance, despite the limitations in operational, financial and human resources of the Ecotourism Agenda yield good results for the population, among which the awareness of ecotourism as a sustainable development alternative, as well as community-based concept of welcoming visitors. In addition to these fruits, the Ecotourism Agenda created the following products that can be used to subsidize regional tourism planning and development: "The Ribeira Valley Tourism Attractions and Equipment Guide" and two CD's, "Atlantic Forest Ecotourism- Ribeira Valley Interactive Guide" and "Ribeira de Iguape Hydrographic Sustainable Development – An analysis of the socioeconomic conditions and restrictions to Ecotourism".

However, every effort to move forward with a management plan involving rural communities in the advance of tourism activities always faced difficulties in several domains. It is in this sense that the RA appears, as a joint initiative between local communities and some government technicians to meet the population's need to prioritize actions, preparing it to reach a larger participation in the guidelines of the regional sustainable development.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of this work are: to register the process of accomplishing participatory diagnosis workshops of the Rural Agenda, to systematize the demands of the traditional rural communities of the Ribeira Valley, and to present a theoretical reflection on this type of community in Brazil, i.e., how it can be inserted into a globalized world without losing its own identity.

## **3. Methodology**

An effort was made to create articulation among the social actors involved in the objective of establishing a dialogue channel between civil society and public power, seeking to ensure the rural communities' participation in and their access to the decision making process regarding public policies that pave the way to regional development. Focus was given to the research-action approach (THIOLLENT, 1947), based on the principle that the object of the investigation is constituted by both the social situation and the problems of different nature found and aimed at increasing the knowledge or the "level of awareness" of the groups involved, an important aspect in the subsequent steps of the collectivity in the resolution of their problems. Family farmers of the Vale do Ribeira that live in rural communities share things in common that go much beyond the sphere of work. Parties, music and habits are

important elements for the group to identify themselves as a community. Those activities gather people at the present time, not only strengthening their coexistence ties, but also enabling the future security and making the new generations know and respect their roots of the past.

Therefore the work accomplished with those communities followed some stages, whose reports on which the present text is based are in AGENDA RURAL (2001), CARTA DA ILHA COMPRIDA (2001) and ROMÃO et. al. (2003). Meetings and workshops proceeded with ZOPP participatory planning techniques (GTZ, 1997). Preparatory meetings<sup>6</sup> were accomplished for the choice and formation of local agents' groups, i.e., people involved in community-related work linked to health (health agents), environment (environmental monitors), unions members, technicians from the agencies involved, as well as people with the multiplication spirit seeking the common good. Throughout the process, local agents had a decisive role providing technical support to the activities that enabled the community to follow and participate in the workshops and in the mobilization for the debate and choice of community representatives.

The region was divided into 5 sub-areas according to the geographical proximity of the municipal districts. Initially, agents fomented discussions in the rural communities so that dwellers thought about their problems and proposed solutions. Then each community's chosen representatives took the results of the first round of discussions to Sub-regional Participatory Planning Workshops. During the Workshops, dreams and demands of the community were diagnosed. After that, representatives gathered by municipal district proposed Action Plans, based on the decision taken on the priority subjects, defining the challenges that depend more on the community and the ones that depend more on the governments' municipal, state and federal actions, i.e., the degree of governability of the actions.

The communities' identified priorities were consolidated for each municipal district and analyzed according to the social, economic and environmental typology characterized in previous work portraying the structural heterogeneity among countries' municipalities. Thus, it was possible to simultaneously systematize demands and increase reflection on regional development.

#### **4. Theoretical Reference**

The powerful nature and cultural wealth of the Ribeira Valley, formerly identified as an obstacle to capitalist development, became, in the early 1980's, recognized by its importance in environmental conservation, notwithstanding an orthodox view of many scholars and rulers who opted to make it untouchable. Only after 20 years of social movements of producers and rural workers could the ideas of sustainable development and socio-environmentalism penetrate governmental bodies. Within this perspective, some subjects can be discussed in the light of the recent history of the area.

##### **4.1. Family farmers' identity question**

It can be stated that in Brazil, historically and in a general way, "the main trait of peasant agriculture was precariousness, i.e., juridical, economical and social precariousness of control over labor and production means and, especially, land tenure; extremely rudimentary crop systems and production techniques; the poverty of the people engaged in these activities, as shown by the great special mobility and dependence on large plantations (LAMARCHE, 1997:180)".

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<sup>6</sup> A Organize Committee constituted for civil and government organs encourage works.

It is estimated that 85,2% of the country's rural establishments fall within the category of family agriculture, occupying only 30,5% of the tamed lands and answering for 37,9% of the agricultural production's gross value (INCRA/FAO, 1999:15). However, that importance of family farmers has never in history fulfilled the required conditions of social legitimacy that would allow their specificities to be assisted by the agricultural policies implanted.

It can be affirmed that the family farmers' social identity in Brazil has been built by the militancy of social movements carried out by peasants, early settler and rural workers without land, in their struggle to access the condition of citizens and farmers. The delimitation of the family producers' social space was hindered by the existent union structure once its representativity was only granted to two categories: patronage or wage workers. But many changes have happened and even in the Ribeira Valley unions representing family farmers already exist.

As for the future of the category, the chosen way has been to rely either on themselves within their own organization, instead of depending on the State, whose expected and announced support is not always given, or to depend on the world market, whose agricultural products trade has to compete with the highly subsidized agriculture of developed countries or with the great capitalist companies of the international agro-business.

Taking into consideration the characteristic constitution of the Ribeira Valley, the fact is that the true wealth that they possess as a potential for local and global insertion is the farmers' very cultural identity living in rural communities.

#### **4.2. The issue of ecotourism vocation**

As RODRIGUES pointed out (1997:42-43) in his tourism-related literature, this issue is generally treated under two separate focuses: one dealing with production and "landscape" production and another analyzing landscape, territory and space consumption. However, "produced" landscape and landscape appropriated for tourist activity are elements that cannot be dissociated. Tourist activity produces territories as the others by the industrial way of producing goods and is unsustainable in its essence because it is necessary to take into account that all production is at the same time destruction, i.e., it is the so-called destructive production. Thus sustainability cannot be thought of as an isolated activity, given the interrelation existing among all economic activities. It is necessary to think of ecotourism not only as the direct consumption of the natural or historical landscape, but also as a wider production circuit, and analyze it from the viewpoint of sustainable development. Or yet, once its unsustainable and destructive essence is known, we should go beyond its negative attributes, considering that a place cannot be analyzed as a bearer of exoticness and singularity, but as one being more and more fragmentedly appropriated by the global, and that ecotourism needs to be understood also within the scope of the other economic activities.

Therefore, it becomes important to supply the bases for inserting the Ribeira Valley's population into activities ensuring their existence and survival, in alliance with the human interest in its natural, cultural and ethnic legacy so as to improve life conditions without changing the local communities' lifestyle. The ecotourism alternative should be understood as a complementary economic activity to those accomplished by the communities and, through participatory administration for environmental preservation and the support from local populations, tourist activity should be integrated into other such activities as: craftsmanship, artisanal food production, artisanal fishing, sustainable fish farming, forest and swamp sustainable handling, non-aggressive agriculture, cultural and natural patrimony conservation, monitoring of visiting activities to the tourism sites, etc. Also, an effort should be made so that the community itself supplies food for the local population and the tourists. Agro-ecology and other ecological forms of production, carried out within the limits of lands suitable for

cultivation and allied with agro-forestal and sustainable handling of species should be part of a set of economic activities aimed at sustainability and integrated into ecotourism.

#### **4.3. Ribeira Valley: the environmental X social environmental confrontation**

The main theoretical confrontation identified in the subject of the regional development of the Ribeira Valley concretely refers to whether or not it is necessary to surround the protected environment to maintain the biological diversity. As POSEY points out (1984), biologists support the following point of view on diversity: there is a recognition of the fact that a deeper knowledge of the fauna and flora variety exists in areas where traditional populations exist or existed, a suggestion that this diversity would have been formed in virtue of the handling of the resources by these populations. Cultural diversity appears as a result of Man's needs to adapt to different ecosystems, being the conveyer of larger biological diversity. Cultural diversity should be maintained and fostered inasmuch as it keeps deep linkage with biological diversity. Referring to the Amazon region, for example, POSEY (1984:37) states that it is composed of a great variety of ecological zones, and that only recently have biologists and environmentalists recognized the complexity of the subject. Nevertheless, native Indians already used to deal with it because the awareness of that variety is a kind of knowledge incorporated into the cultural inheritance they received from their ancestors.

Keeping in mind the proportions of the indigenous communities of the Amazon region and the traditional rural communities of the Ribeira Valley, it is possible that the main environmental movements that supported State interventions in the creation (in some cases), implantation and administration of the Conservation Units in the Ribeira Valley had a less flexible view than Posey concerning the local communities' capacity to embrace a sustainable development project. Thus they included the communities in areas defined for environmental preservation and conservation, but without a dialogue that might have led to an "understanding" the reasons of the parts involved, which resulted in the manifestation of disparate interests that brought about conflicts.

Two authors, PAOLIELLO (1992) and QUEIROZ (1992) synthesize well that historical moment of the Ribeira Valley while analyzing the dwellers' situation, particularly in the Conservation Units. In the state of Sao Paulo State, between 1985 and 1988, whereas the environmental issue gains importance, the agrarian issue becomes secondary. Early settler and peasants of the region clearly perceive the new focus of the State and society, and feel betrayed by the environmentalists, until then their allies, who would have abandoned their fight for land tenure regularization and agrarian reform and turned to environmental issues.

In the rural communities of the Juréia-Itatins Ecological Station, for example, the core of most conflicts between environmentalists and dwellers is the issue of individual development or collective development in a 'ecological culture'. Environmentalists argue that a society based on limitless growth will soon exhaust natural resources, hindering development and individuals' creativity. The Jureia's dwellers argue that they do not envision future development and that, at present, they are certain that their freedom and their possibility to grow are strongly restrained by the 'ecological culture'. Since the State's effective control of the areas expropriated for preservation purposes and its strategies for forestall management, the local communities have swiftly mobilized against what they see as restrictions to their freedom and survival (QUEIROZ, 1992).

In Brazil, a deep and disturbing issue is the reduction of social inequality whilst simultaneously avoiding the degradation of the material bases of economic development, once it is not possible to subject a democratic society to an elitist vision of the environment. One of

the main social movements, of the Amazonic "rubber tappers" led by Chico Mendes, left as inheritance the evidence of the intersection between social and environmental issues in the Brazilian reality, which emerges as a social environmental issue (SILVA, 2001:206).

Prohibition, coercion and enclosure seem very strong terms to describe the way the recent history of the area of the Ribeira Valley developed, but they translate the feeling of the communities' dwellers, who learned from the experience and started to react, to organize themselves, and to demand the right to access land necessary to cultivate and the waters to fish, as well as natural resource sustainable management that cared for the need to reproduce their livelihoods. Therefore, it becomes convenient to debate the elements that allow communities to examine their potential to find paths to be (re)taken or abandoned.

## **5. Ribeira Valley: social and economic reality**

The Ribeira Valley lies in the southeast of the state of Sao Paulo (Brazil). It embraces one of the last remnants of the Atlantic Forest in the country and shelters the Iguape - Cananéia - Paranaguá Lagoon-Estuary Complex. Encompassing about 60% of the regional territory, those natural resources nestle diversified flora and fauna that is maintained in several categories of Conservation Units contemplating a number of uses, from leisure activities for the population in general to restricted use for the scientific research. The area is comprises 23 municipal districts, totaling a little over 350,000 inhabitants and it is characterized by the presence about 500 seaside and hinterland communities, including "quilombolas" (slave descendent) and indigenous villages, with an estimated population of over 35% of the inhabitants' total.

The historical conditionings of the local development have mainly originated in the following types of restrictions: the nature of the lands that were not expropriated by intensive capitalist agriculture; land tenure problems involving a large tract of the territory; environmental conflicts arising from authoritarian policies; and infrastructure deficiency, among others. Such restrictions are reflected in the difficulty to mobilize the local/regional market, to gain access to rural credit policies or other types of financing, and in the decrease of job creation and income generation opportunities, which reinforce the obstacles to economic and social development.

The Ribeira Valley area has about 1,5 million legally pending hectares awaiting land tenure regularization processes, which account for about 40% of its territory. Compared to the area in the state of Sao Paulo with problems involving land possession, it represents 35% of that total, i.e., it is the most important area with pending land dominion situations in the state. Historically, it was the stage of serious land tenure conflicts involving, on one hand, squatter and gunmen and, on the other, tenure producers, the legitimate postulants. The land tenure regularization in this context would guarantee small tenure producers the land domain, a necessary condition for their development. As well explained by MORAES (2000:20), the search for physically or legally inadequate areas for occupation by low-income populations occurs because of the inadequacy of social mechanisms giving them conditions for insertion into the productive system, which portrays their social exclusion in the space.

That exclusion in the Ribeira Valley results in a type of "risky ruralism", once the peasant's occupation, still in the colonial period, primarily occurred under the form of **possession** of environmentally fragile lands (mountain hillsides and water edges). The increased land speculation in the 70s and 80s saw the population at the mercy of squatters, gunmen and death threats. The State government at that time announced the possibility of granting titles to peasants. However, progress of one of the wings of the environmental movement at government level caused a setback in the actions toward tenure regularization. Thus, what happened instead was the implementation of an authoritarian environmental

policy, which did not foster management and planning towards the communities' sustainable development within parks and ecological stations.

The meaning of the Environmental Conservation Units (ECUs) to the region is better understood when it is observed that therein live approximately 2,974 families. The State Parks (7) and the Ecological Stations (3) are units of Integral Protection, embracing several municipal districts of the area (Figure 1 and Table 1), besides the Environmental Preservation Areas, totaling 7, and the Biosphere Reservation (UNESCO's patrimony). Attention should be drawn to the wealth of the ecosystems and the bio-diversity of the fauna and flora, besides the importance of the waters (sources, fountainhead and perennial rivers) to the remainder of the state.

Despite being frequently pointed out as a homogeneous area, that does not reflect the reality of its internal differentiation. Based on a typology built for the municipal districts of the Ribeira Valey (CHABARIBERY; PETTI; ROMÃO; 2000), which diagnoses the social, economic and environmental differences among them, a summary is made of the variables found in the municipalities, grouped into in 5 classes (Figure 2, Table 2).

TABLE 2 – Summary of the social, agricultural and environmental typology of the municipal districts of the Ribeira Valley

Class/ Municipal districts	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
	Apiáí, B.do Chapéu, B.do Turvo, Iporanga, Itaóca, Itapirapuã Pta. e Ribeira	Cananéia e Peruibe	Eldorado, Tapiraí, Juquiá, Miracatu, Jacupiranga Cajati, Iguape, Itariri, P. de Toledo	Registro, Sete Barras e Pariquera-Açu	São Lourenço da Serra Juquitiba
INDICATOR					
Predominant agriculture type	family	employer	family	family and employer	employer
Rural Welfare	very low	high	medium	medium	high
Degree of agricultural modernization	low	low	medium	medium	high
Incidence of poverty	high	high	medium	medium	medium
Rural income importance	high	low	high	high	low
Agricultural employment dependence	high	low	high	high	low
Municipal district's life standing level indicator-Isli	very low	low	low	medium	medium
Worst Isli dimension	education, childhood and income	education	education	education	education
Social and economical surrounding	stagnant	average dynamics	low dynamics	low dynamics	vigorous
Natural restrictions to agriculture	highest	highest	highest	high	very high
Wild life vocation	highest	highest	highest	medium	low
Community level	local	local	local	local	-
Type of community	predominantly rural	predominantly urban	significantly rural	significantly rural	predominantly urban

Source: based on CHABARIBERY; PETTI; ROMÃO (2000).

In general terms it can be affirmed that class 1 municipal districts are the poorest and neediest ones, while class 5 corresponds to the median line. In the intermediate field, class 2 includes coastal cities related to summer houses and classes 3 and 4 would represent the area's

average. This synthesis allows us to visualize the structural heterogeneity of the area and its needs. It is verified that low-income family agriculture prevails. Classes 2 and 5 encompass the patronage type, but they are not typical agricultural municipalities, presenting more urbanized communities.

The area presents low life standing indices compared with those of the remaining state of Sao Paulo, but it is possible to draw attention to those variables that would be related to the implementation of a basic infrastructure, represented by electric power and basic sanitation (rural welfare) and those linked to the 5 social dimensions that determine the life standing of the population: education, longevity, childhood, income and domicile. In all the classes, the worst dimension is related to education.

Reflecting the vast areas within the conservation units, all the classes of municipal districts participate with very high percentages of lands with restrictions for agricultural activities. However, although apparently contradictory, except for class 2, all the others depend on agriculture for employment and income generation, a fact that is also related to the low economic dynamism of the area, which makes it dependent on rural activities for the population. The low economic dynamism is also reflected on the area's poverty incidence.

## **6. Defining priorities for the rural communities**

Once the local agents mobilized the rural communities to speak about their dreams and desires, they were taken to sub-regional workshops. An effort was then made to clarify what each approached topic in fact meant, and to form them into a hierarchy so as to finally define the priorities to be transformed in actions. It was a very rich process that managed to involve very simple people who, besides the countless material difficulties faced every day, had "difficulty speaking in a public meeting, were too shy to make questions and did not trust the projects", as a participant expressed. Thus, they had low expectations regarding the planning workshops and it was necessary to overcome their shyness by showing the value of each contribution, avoiding the overlapping of contributions, and creating an organized network for the sustainable development.

### **6.1. The making of a Social Pact: What is the dream for the Ribeira Valley?**

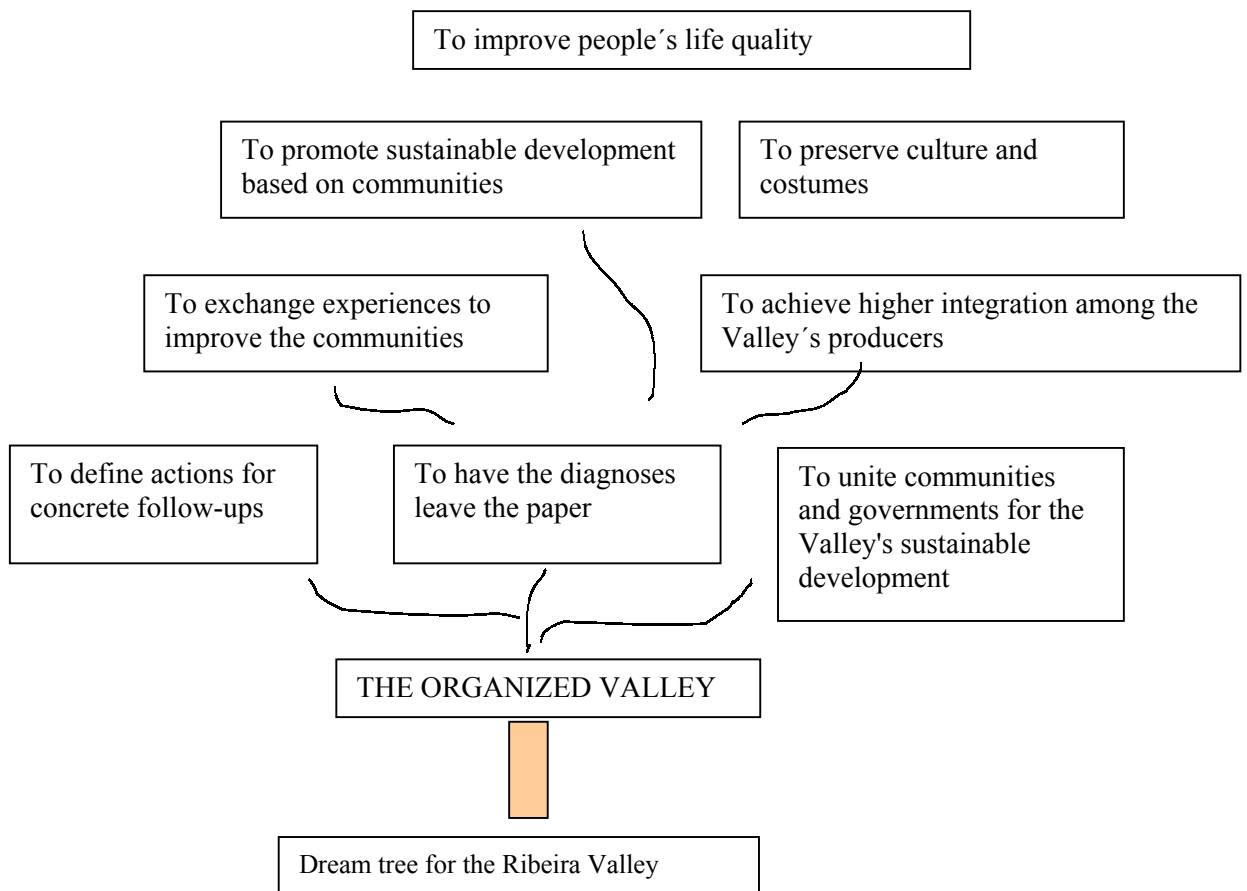
At the outset of the debates representatives were stimulated to present their communities' dreams, in the short and medium run, with a view to creating a social pact to strengthen a participation network, which challenged the difficulties and valued the group's common objectives. After the mobilization phase and the decisions taken in each community, representatives participated with a mission, with the certainty of having brought, besides paper with annotations, the whole trust and force of the place where they lived. This pact was organized in a multitiered tree. A little below in this text the medium-term dream tree for the Ribeira Valley can be seen.

Their short-run dreams reflect urgent demands, in an extensive list exposing all the needs felt by the population, and translated as difficulties regarding: the opening and the maintenance of roads, health centers (medical and dental attendance), schools (including to teach adults to read and write), nurseries, school lunch, school toilet, school transport, public transportation (regular lines), covered bus stops, boats (many communities are located in places whose access it is only done by water), leisure (facilities), treated water, electric power, phone booths (community telephone), garbage recycling, toilets in the houses, construction of bridges, community tractors, commercialization of agricultural products without middleman, producers fairs, access to seeds, seedlings and agricultural inputs, information for better soil handling, the State technical support for agriculture, the subsidized financing for agriculture, bats extinction, community center's headquarters, incentive for cooperatives of products and



rural industry (milk, sweets, cassava, sugar-cane, rice, banana), tourism and ecotourism infrastructure, incentive to crafts (fiber, clay, wood), licensing to grow crops, regularization of the tenure lands, support to artisanal fishing, etc.

Also in this phase they sketched the need to strengthen their vocations because, in order to have income and job generation, key factors for them to reach a better life quality, they would have to present projects aiming at a larger economic autonomy, such as those involving quality award stamps to value the products in their commercialization, the need for technical training for agro-industry projects to aggregate value, and the creation of cooperatives to market the banana, as well as other products. However, only after the debates in the workshops of the sub-areas was a consensus on the priority subjects for each municipal district reached. The local agents provided support clarifying, informing, remembering things, but always avoiding interference in the collective decisions of the representatives.



## 6.2. An approach to the Municipal Action Plans

The priorities defined in the Action Plans of each municipal district, based on the planning workshops, were synthesized as challenges faced by the 432 participant communities. According to the adopted typology, grouped by class of municipal districts, the coherence between the defined priorities and the social characterization made (Table 3) was analyzed.

By observing the priorities of each group of municipal districts it is possible to discuss how each class of community, despite the rather unsatisfactory way in which the themes were presented, managed to translate their bottleneck points. It is important to register that the

organization and participation of both communities and rural producers was deemed essential to reach sustainable development. Class 1, whose characteristics are lands presenting high restrictions to agriculture, communities inside the Conservation Units, and very low levels of rural welfare and agricultural modernization, prioritized the need for land titles, including the quilombolas, the reparation of the State Park, the implantation/improvement of basic infrastructure and rural technical extension and assistance together with technical expertise for making sustainable handling projects.

Class 2 is more affected by the lack of knowledge on environmental laws - the projects developed should take into account the principles of environmental administration, since they embrace seashore municipalities that belong to Areas of Environmental Preservation. They have not prioritized infrastructure deficiencies because they are old cities, but as they are linked to tourism it is possible that the tourists do not agree with that. However, because the Secretariat of Education closed down many rural schools in the area, even in these municipal districts the most distant places resent the lack of schools in the communities.

TABLE 3 - Synthesis of the priorities defined by the communities in the Rural Agenda Participatory Workshops, according to the Ribeira Valley's Municipal Action Plans.

Class	Communities (n°)	Family (n°)	Challenges	G <sup>1</sup>
1	144	4.016	Tenure land regularization	5
			Infrastructure: highways, telephone, school	
			Transport, health centers	3
			Rural technical assistance and extension	4
			Sustainable management	2
			Organization (association and cooperative)	1
2	29	1.223	Environmental legislation	4
			Schools reopening	1
			Organization (association and cooperative)	1
3	200	15.435	Tenure land regularization	5
			Organization (association and cooperative)	1
			Rural credit access	3
			Infrastructure: highways, telephone, school	
			safety, health	3
			Employment and income generation	3
			Environmental legislation and sustainable management	4
Commercialization (cooperative, training)	3			
4	44	6.360	Commercialization (cooperative, training)	3
			Environmental legislation (adaptation family agriculture)	4
			Infrastructure: highways, school, transport	
			school	3
			Rural credit access	3
			Revaluation of agriculture	2
Tenure land regularization	4			
5	15	2.900	Infrastructure: basic sanitation, garbage collection, electric power, transport	4
			Birth rate and use of drugs control	-

<sup>1</sup> Governability (G) is the condition the community has to face a challenge and overcome it. 1 depends more on the community; 5 depend less.

Source: AGENDA RURAL (2001).

Class 3, together with Class 4, strongly linked to agriculture, but facing problems in the production and commercialization of the goods, strongly feel the need for support concerning the basic instruments of agricultural policies to access rural credit and alternatives of commercialization that strengthen the producer and not the middleman. They feel they need to organize themselves in cooperatives and qualify to manage the market's activities as a way to value their own work. They also pointed out the basic conditions given by infrastructure of sanitation, health, education, transport, communication, etc.

It is impressive that in class 5, which includes two municipal districts located very near the city of Sao Paulo (capital), therefore belonging to the outskirts of the Greater Metropolis, they presented fully-detailed plans with themes of basic infrastructure, showing that they are populous areas, highly urbanized, but with the recurring problems of intense conurbation. Additionally, they expressed their concern with drug-related problems and birth control, which require special attention, mainly among the youth.

### **Final considerations**

The Ribeira Valley Rural Communities Invigoration Program - Rural Agenda succeeded in mobilizing the population of the area for the participatory diagnosis of their problems and discussion of solution proposals. Many local experiences were shared, leading to a concrete approximation between the communities and several government agencies, and to the achievement of a larger homogeneity in the level of awareness of the groups involved. From this point of view, it can be stated that the proposed methodology of participatory planning for rural communities produces a positive effect in the sense of strengthening the family farmers' social legitimacy and, consequently, empowers them to look for a collective local/global insertion, without losing the cultural identity.

A deeper awareness their problems made rural communities stronger to face them and, mainly, supplied the bases for the organization of community ecotourism projects, all with a view to sustainable development. This phase that has been under way in 2004, always with participatory planning workshops, but the projects would need of the support of financing funds.

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TABLE 1- Environmental Conservation Units of the Ribeira Valley

(continued)

Name/year of Formation	Municipals embraced	Area App.(ha)	Infrastructure	Family (nr)	Ecosystem	Flora (1)	Fauna (1)	Water
Parque Estadual da Serra do Mar D.E. 10.251 30/08/77	Juquitiba, Peruíbe, Itariri, Pedro de Toledo	309.000 (42.737 in Valley)	14 nucleus (8 in Valley)	514	Atlantic Forest (de campos de altitude a manguezais, engloba todos os tipos de vegetação costeira existente)	paineira-vermelha, orquídea rainha-da-serra	anta, onça pintada, suçuarana, gato-mourisco, preguiça, ouriço-cacheiro, sabiacica, cuiú-cuiú juruva-verde, picapau-rei, beija-flor-estrelinha-ametista	detém a maior parte das nascentes dos rios que vertem para o Atlântico; cachoeiras
P.E. Intervalles D.E. 40.135 08/06/95	Iporanga, Sete Barras, Eldorado	42.000 (7.888 yet destined to Quilombolas)	Hostel for 100 peoples-local monitors and research nucleus	313	Atlantic Forest (relevo de origem calcária, com formações de cavernas e sumidouros)	bromélias, orquídeas, canela, cedro, Euterpe edulis (palmito)	onça pintada, monocarvoeiro, lontra Fauna cavernícola Avifauna c/ mais de 300 esp., incl. em extinção: jacutinga, gavião-pega-macaco	áreas de mananciais de 2 B.H.: Ribeira de Iguape e Paranapanema que verte para o interior
P.E. Turístico do Alto Ribeira D.E. 32.283/58 D.E. 28.086/88	Iporanga e Apiaí	35.884	local monitors Nucleus: Santana, Caboclos e Ouro Grosso	255	Primary Atlantic Forest (Serra de Parana-piacaba). Sistema espeológico (250 cavernas cadastradas)	Florestas de planície litorânea, de encosta nebulosa e de campos	Fauna cavernícola Bagre-cego, falso-escorpião, piolho de cobra, morcegos	Drenado pelas bacias dos rios Bethary e Iporanga, afluentes do Ribeira de Iguape
P.E. de Jacupiranga D.L.E. 145 08/08/69	Eldorado, Cajati, Jacupiranga, Iporanga, Barra do Turvo, Cananéia	150.000	Nucleus: Caverna do Diabo e Cedro Hostel and food	1.310	Pequenas planícies, vales fluviais e grande conjunto serrano (Guaraú, Gigante e Cadeado)		mico-leão-de-cara-Preta, mico-leão-caiçara, monocarvoeiro anta, ariranha; aves: Cricrió-suíço, gavião-real, etc.	
P.E. de Pariquera "Campina do Encantado" L.E. 8.873 16/08/94	Pariquera-Açú	2.360	Visitors nucleus		Mata Atlântica; Serra do Momuna; Mata de Restinga; Campos de Várzea; Planícies inundáveis; guanandizal	araçá, jerivá, palmito, caxeta	papagaio-de-cara-roxa, pavó, gavião-de-penacho, maria-da-restinga, lontra, Paca, jaguatirica, capivara, etc.	Rio Ribeira de Iguape (margem direita)

<sup>(1)</sup> Species with extinction risk.

Source: Atlas das Unidades de Conservação Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo, SMA, 2001, complemented with consults.

TABLE 1- Environmental Conservation Units of the Ribeira Valley

(continued)

Name/year of Formation	Municipals embraced	Area App.(ha)	Infrastructure	family (nr)	Ecosystem	Flora (1)	Fauna (1)	Water
P.E. Carlos Botelho D.E. 19.499 10/09/82	No Vale: Tapiraí e Sete Barras	37.644 (total) (23.558 no Vale)	Environmental education activities Capacity-40 peop. local monitors research nucleus	108	Atlantic Forest		onça, mono-carvoeiro; jacutinga, macuco, jacuquaçu, jaó-do-litoral, pavó, gavião-pomba, apuim-de cauda-amarela, cachorro-vinagre, cágado-pescoço-compri.	Ribeirão da Serra, Rio Taquaral
P.E. da Ilha do Cardoso D.E. 40.319 de 03/07/62 e D.E. 9.414 de 20/01/77	Cananéia	22.500	Host for 40 people nucleus of research in Perequê	100	Lagoon-Estuary-Complex of Cananéia-Iguape-Paranaguá (mangue, baías, morros isolados, desembocaduras de rios e vários tipos de ilhas)	Atlantic Forest (de altitude e de encosta -986 espécies de plantas). Também vegetação de mangue.	berçário de espécies marinhas; jacaré-de-papo-amarelo, papagaio-de-cara-roxa, onça pintada; 438 espécies de aves, inclui migratórias. Criatório de 5 espéc. de tartaruga marinha	Mar de Dentro, Baía de Trapan-dé
Estação Ecológica dos Chauás D. 12.327 26/09/78 D.E 26.719 06/02/87	Iguape	2.699			Florestas de encosta e matas de planícies flúvio-marinhas, flúvio-lagunares e turfeiras, florestas de restinga	vegetação paludosas (sobre solos turfosos), guanandizais	220 espécies de aves: papagaio-de-cara-roxa ou chauá, bate-bico, João-do-brejo. Jacaré-de-papo amarelo, capivara mão-pelada, lontra	Rio Momuna, Rio Covuçu
E.E. Juréia-Itatins (parte em 1958) D.E. 24.646 20/01/86 Lei 5.649 28/04/87	Iguape, Peruíbe, Miracatu, Itariri	79.230		374 (indigenous villages included)	Serras de Itatins, do Bananal e de Peruíbe (Mata Atlântica)	Veg. de restinga, manguezais, banhados, praia e costões; Palmito madeiras nobres (jacarandá, cedro guapuruvu, jatobá	+ de 300 aves migratórias: tucano-de-bico-verde, socó-boi-escuro, araponga, onça pintada, mono-carvoeiro, jaguatirica e rato-da-taquara	
E.E. Federal Tupiniquins (Ilhas) D.F. 92.964 21/07/86	Em Peruíbe e em Cananéia	+ de 20			Ilhas e Lajes costeiras Importante ponto de pouso e reprodução de aves marinhas.		fragata, gaivotão, trinta-réis-de-bico-amarelo, atobá-marron No inverno recebe: Lobo e leão marinho	Mar aberto

<sup>(1)</sup> Species with extinction risk.

Source: Atlas das Unidades de Conservação Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo, SMA, 2001, complemented with consults.

TABLE 1- Environmental Conservation Units of the Ribeira Valley (conclusion)

Name/Year of Formation	Municipal embraced	Area app.(ha)	Ecosystem	Flora (1)	Fauna (1)	Water
Área de Preservação Ambiental da Serra do Mar (APA Serra do Mar) D.E. 22.717/21/09/84	Pedro de Toledo, Miracatu, Juquiá, Sete Barras, Barra do Turvo, Tapiraí, Eldorado, Juquitiba, Iporanga	469.450	Escarpas da Serra de Paranapiacaba, morretes, colinas e planícies			Rivers: Ribeira de Iguape, São Lourenço da Serra, Quilombo, Pilões e Juquiá
APA Federal de Cananéia, Iguape e Peruíbe (APA CIP) D.F. 90.347/84 e D.F. 91.892/85	Peruíbe, Pedro de Toledo, Miracatu, Itariri, Ilha Comprida, Iguape, Cananéia e Ilhas	217.060 (200km of littoral)	Lagoon-Estuary Complex			
APA Estadual de Ilha Comprida D.E. 26.881/87 estabeleceu a ZVS D.E. 30.817/89 criou a APA	Ilha Comprida	18.923	Ilha barreira (aberta ao Oceano Atlântico)	Veg. de restinga, banhados e dunas	refúgio de espécies marinhas migratórias	Rio Cadanpuí Lagoas de água doce
Área Relevante de Interesse Ecológico Estadual da Zona de Vida Silvestre Ilha Comprida D.E. 30.817/89 declarou a APA e parte como ARIE	Ilha Comprida	13.024	Florestas de planície litorânea e seus ecossistemas associados.	Veg. de dunas e de brejos de água salobra, caxetais	capororoca (pato migratório do RS), pagão-da-cara-roxa (ninhais), gaivota rapineira, cachalote-pigmeu e baleia-piloto-de-peitorais-curtas	lagoas de água doce
ARIE Federal da Ilha do Ameixal D.F. 91.889/85	Peruíbe e Iguape	400	manguezais			Rio Una do Prelado
ARIE Federal das Ilhas Queimada Grande e Queimada Pequena D.F. 91.887/85	Peruíbe e Itanhaém	33			endemismo: jararaca ilhoa (veneno mais tóxico dentre a espécie)	
ASPE Federal Juréia P.F. 186/86	Iguape	5.758	Maciço da Juréia			Rio Verde

<sup>(1)</sup> Species with extinction risk.

Source: Atlas das Unidades de Conservação Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo, SMA, 2001, complemented with consults.



FIGURE 1- Conservation Units of Integral Protection, Ribeira Valley, State of Sao Paulo

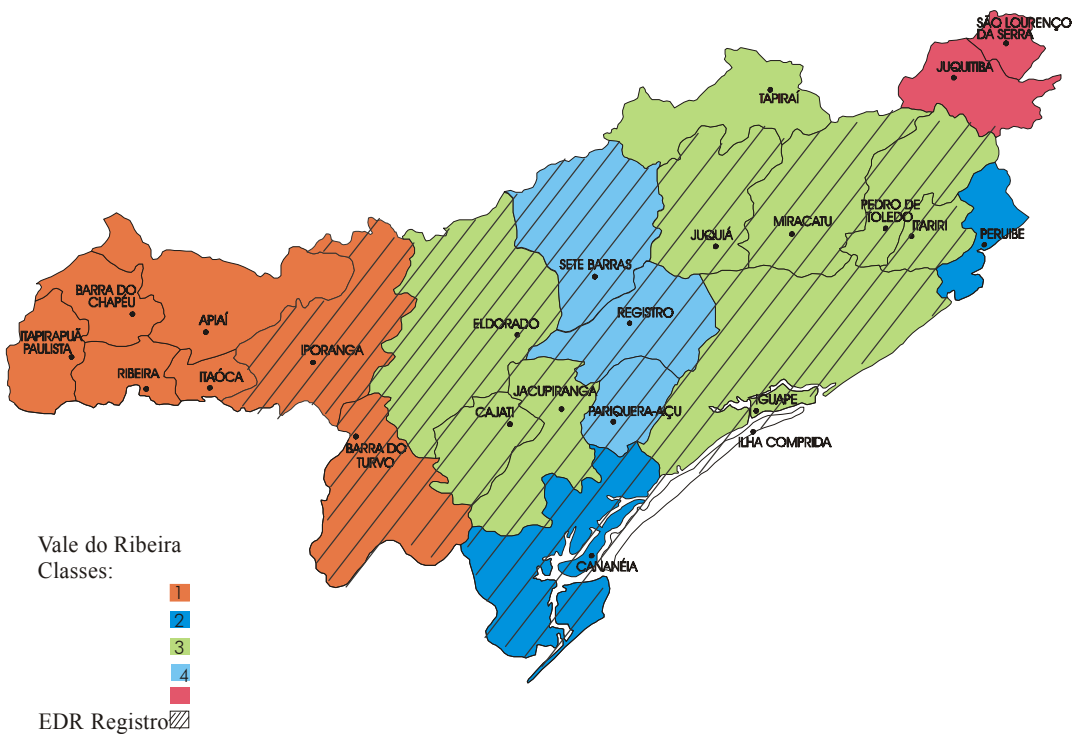


FIGURE 2 - Social, economic, environmental and agricultural typology, Ribeira Valley, State of Sao Paulo.

Fonte: CHABARIBERY et.al., 2000.