

# Socio-economic and ecological scenarios for the Taquari region, Pantanal, Brazil

## THE TAQUARI PROJET and socio-economic analysis

In the Taquari co-operation project between Embrapa Pantanal and Holland, we studied the changing course of the river, the causes and effects of sedimentation and the ecology of the river: its flora and fauna and habitats, with many research institutes.

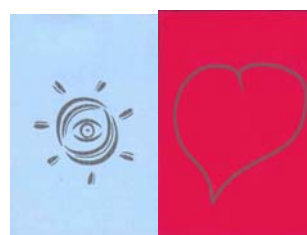
A smaller project was also included concerning the socio-economic issues in the region based on the question:

What do people want for their region and which sustainable development scenarios are there?

## The rainbow of social realities and wishes



2 of the 4 pictograms used:



## DEFINITION

Sustainable development has to be:

1. **Economically viable**, generating income for farmers (large and small ones), for fishermen and for city dwellers who want to find jobs in trade, tourism, industry, mining transport and other services.
2. **Ecologically healthy**: if development is based on the local natural resources, these resources should be used in a sensible way, so as not to destroy them for future generations.
3. **Socially desired**: the development of the region has to respond to the local needs of people, providing schools and health services for both rural and urban populations, employment, clean water and electricity, social

The interviews on the square:



Three generations of Pantanal women:



## METHODOLOGY

To find out what the local organizations and citizens want for themselves and for their region, a public hearing was announced on 4 radio stations and on the local TV, asking people to come to the central square of Corumbá, where a tent was set up and 4 interviewers were available the whole day to listen to the reality and dreams of organizations and people. This was on 12 of August 2004. Pictograms were used with the interviews.

## THE QUESTIONS ASKED

- What do you see happening in the Pantanal? (the Eye pictogr.)
- What does the Pantanal mean to you? (the Heart pictogram)
- What is your dream for the Pantanal? (the Sun pictogram)
- What needs to be done to reach this dream? (the Dancing pic.)

## Scenario 1- Using and developing the natural resources carefully

This future is based on cattle breeding and fishing, allowing for (non predatory) tourism, with sufficient social services for the local population.

It is a continuation of the existing development path, but with more attention to nature conservation and to social services.

## Scenario 2- Conservation scenario

Many people mentioned the beauty of the Pantanal that needs to be preserved. In this scenario the region is a nature sanctuary, to be visited and enjoyed by those who love it and for research purposes. It requires international and national funding. (The example of the Mamirauá reserve in the Amazon shows that this is possible.)

## Scenario 3- Bringing industrialisation to the region

Many people mentioned the gasoduct with Bolivia and the plans to make an electricity generating plant and new industries in Corumbá. This would provide jobs, reduce poverty and make the conservation of the Pantanal possible, many thought...



## THE DREAMS

- + Make the Pantanal accessible also for local people
- + Give small pieces of land so people who were flooded can go back
- + Give compensation to big farms that lost land due to flooding
- + Better training for tourism services
- + Create more jobs, for instance in industry
- + Conserve this beauty for my children
- + etc etc etc

