



*The capacity of civil society organisations
and their networks in community based
environmental management*

CiVi.net Newsletter

Issue 1/March 2012

English version



You are reading the first issue of the CiVi.net Newsletter. Through this Newsletter the CiVi.net partners would like to inform you about all their activities and the latest project outcomes and it will be published every 3 months. On www.civinet.eu you can find more news, background information and details on this project.

This Newsletter is available in three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese.

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We are online!

On the February 1st we have launched the CiVi.net project website, where you can find updated information on our project, our partners, what we are doing and what is going on in our four case study regions.

During the coming months we will add more pages to the website in order to inform you on the background and details of the project.

Please visit our project website: www.civinet.eu

First case study visits finished

Seven researchers of our project travelled from January 16 to February 24 through all four case study regions of the project. The three Brazilian case study areas are located in Marujá/Estado do São Paulo, Ilha do Bananal/Estado do Tocantins and Encosta da Serral/Estado da Santa Catarina. In Costa Rica, the case study area is the Osa Conservation Area (ACOSA). Ten days were scheduled for each field trip.

Our researchers got to know local stakeholders such as fishermen, small hostel owners, small tourist entrepreneurs, farmers, ceramic and dairy industries, artists as well as members of professional associations and cooperatives, the local governments and government agencies, and local NGOs. (continued on next page)



First case study visits finished (continued)

In several meetings and workshops the researchers got to know their situation and solution strategies with regard to problems they cope with. Moreover, they met the Environmental Minister of Tocantins State, Divaldo Rezende, and had a meeting as well as a press conference with the Environmental Minister of Costa Rica, René Castro. During this, CiVi.net could present itself to a broader public and was discussed in the Cost Rican press.

First participatory movie presented

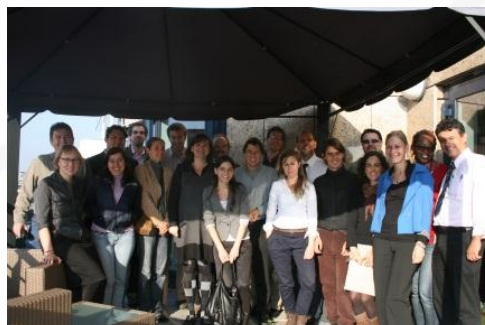
Participatory movies have been made in all four case study regions as part of the research trip. This means that local stakeholders by themselves make a movie on their living conditions, problems they cope with in the region and what kind of solutions they figured out to overcome these problems. The intention is to show these films to people from other regions with similar problems who are interested in implementing similar solutions in their regions. The raw cut of the first movie was recently finalized and presented on the workshop in Marujá by the local film crew.

Introducing ourselves - *Who are we?*

CiVi.net is the abbreviation for “The capacity of civil society organisations and their networks in community based environmental management”.

CiVi.net is a research project which is financed by the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union. We are seven partners from Latin America and Europe:

- [Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research](#) (ZALF) - Germany
- [Instituto Ecológica Palmas Associação](#) (IE) - Brazil
- [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich](#) (ETH) - Switzerland
- [Foundation for Sustainable Development](#) (FSD) - Netherlands
- [Organization for International Dialogue and Conflict Management](#) (IDC) - Austria
- [Fundación Neotrópica](#) (NEOTROPICA) - Costa Rica
- [Foundation of Agricultural Research support](#) - (FUNDAG) - Brazil



CiVi.net partners at kick-off meeting, November 2011, Berlin, Germany



Introducing ourselves - *What do we want?*

We aim to analyse, transfer and disseminate successful and sustainable community based solutions with regard to ecosystem service management in Latin America. The main focus is on institutional settings in terms of original rules and related governance models which help to prevent and resolve tensions arising from the necessary new repartition and use of natural resources. The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) within these governance models is thereby at the core of the research.

Introducing ourselves - *What do we do?*

CiVi.net takes an action research and case study approach. We have chosen four case study regions in Brazil and Costa Rica where successful solutions have been applied. Those will be analyzed by the project. Based on the findings, we want to facilitate the transfer of successful solutions to at least one other community for each selected case study region confronted with similar environmental challenges.

Introducing ourselves - *What do we want to achieve?*

Final and lasting outputs will include:

- A manual to assist practitioners and scientists on how to design and manage the knowledge transfer on Community Based Ecosystem Management
- An innovative web-based data portal for providing and sharing knowledge.

Would you like to know more?

If you want to know more about CiVi.net or want to get in contact with our partners from the case study regions, please contact our executive project coordinator: Lukas.Wortmann@zalf.de

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