

Diagnostic of environmental problems of an agricultural project in Amazon

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The data presented in this work result from a survey made by CPRM as part of the Amazonas Integrated Environment Management Project in Apuí, where the Rio Juma colonization project is located. The Rio Juma project was created in 1982 by the National Colonization and Agrarian Reform Institute, with an area of 689,000 hectares and capacity for 8,000 families from Rondônia and Acre states. Actually, around 2,000 families have been settled at the county through agriculture, cattle raising and mineral extraction activities.

The main environmental problems concerning land use and occupation are: (i) agriculture and cattle raising - ecosystem disequilibrium resulting in forest retreat, alluvium accumulation in the drainage as a result of soil erosion process produced by deforestation and inappropriate agricultural use, organic soil removal, probable agrotoxic groundwater contamination; (ii) mineral extraction - groundwater contamination by oil machine and groundwater level exposure by sand, pebble and ferruginous concretions extraction; (iii) road construction - erosion process on the road slopes, causing obstruction and economical damage; (iv) sanitary system - groundwater contamination.

The high index of abandoned small farms results, in part, from little knowledge about the environmental elements required for correct land use planning, poor credit distribution, infrastructure to sanitary system and transportation. The actual environmental, social and economic scenery of the county shows that is necessary to promote environmental politics and planning activities to attain regional ecological and economical sustainable development.