

EDITORIAL

In this issue of Uakari, a number of original articles provide important contributions to the biodiversity conservation and to the functioning of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon.

In a study that investigates important attributes of seeds from eight tree species of Amazonian várzea, Conserva, Santana and Piedade covered the species responsible for most of the timber extracted from the flooded forests at the Middle Solimões region. The authors classified these seeds according to aspects relevant to their maintenance and viability over time. Long term preservation of seeds are needed to support strategies to the conservation of várzea forests, especially those strategies related to the restoration of degraded parts of this ecosystem in Central Amazonia, an environment under strong anthropogenic pressure.

In their article on the observation of jaguars as part of a package tour, Nassar, Ramalho and Da Silveira address another sort of viability assessment. Here the authors, employing market analysis tools, discuss the economic feasibility of implementing this scientific tourism option to generate income for local communities and for scientific research. In this case, the observation of jaguars under investigation in the Amazonian floodplain. The potential impacts of the activity, and the benefits that can be distributed among the partner communities are also evaluated of this type of tourism in this article.

The article by Peralta and Magalhães Lima offers an unprecedented analysis of the differences observed among riverine households, inhabiting two protected areas in the Middle Solimões region, and their income generation patterns. The study is based on a large sample of local households surveyed, and demonstrate important differences in the role of extractive activities and also of government programs of income distribution in the profiles of those riverine communities in recent years. Were also investigated in this study several other aspects, such as the average annual household income for each community, local levels of inequality and their consumption patterns. Socioeconomic studies like this are fundamental for understanding the relationship of residents in protected areas and local natural resources.

This number of Uakari also brings a study by Silva, Cavalcante and Queiroz disclosing the reproductive aspects of the saddle cichlid, *Aequidens tetramerus*, living in the várze lakes of Mamirauá Reserve. The study analyzes their pattern of sexual maturity, their sexual precocity, defines a reproductive season for the species in this environment, their fertility and their spawning type. The reproductive aspects surveyed were used to determine the life strategy of the species. Saddle cichlids are important for the ornamental fish trade in the Amazon, and these information are crucial to support the sustainable use of the species.

This issue of Uakari concludes with an analysis for a data series of water quality monitoring at the Middle Solimões region, performed by Pedro Borges and collaborators. With a historical data series of data gathered monthly, during more than 10 years, at various fixed sampling stations, the authors assessed the variation of the main physical and chemical parameters of the water for different classes of water bodies in the region. The results form the basis for an application to search the data that will be made available online at the website of Mamirauá Institute.

We are certain that this issue of Uakari is another significant contribution to the development of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use in the Amazon.

The Editors