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## ORSTOM'S COOPERATIVE RESEARCHES IN BRAZILIAN AMAZONIA: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

ORSTOM, the French Research Institute in Cooperation for the Development, has been cooperating for 25 years with Brazilian research institutes, mostly through cooperation agreements established with CNPq and EMBRAPA. In the special case of Amazonia, the first program began in 1979 in cooperation with INPA in Manaus. Since, 17 different programs have been carried-out or are currently developed with different institutes. As a detailed presentation of them all would be beyond the main issues of this meeting -data banks, researches for sustainable development and need of interdisciplinarity -, we shall only present them in a synthetic table. For more details, readers should report themselves to the G. Leprun's book which relates the history of ORSTOM's cooperation with Brazil.

In the table, programs are ranked depending on the date of their start. Most of them have been quite long and this is a characteristic of ORSTOM's cooperation which favours long-term programs to which different researchers will collaborate through time. Therefore the titles point out a broad problematic rather than addressing to a specific operation. From one year to an other, programs can evolve through different sub-programs, depending on different factors such as the former results, the evolution of global processes of the research in Amazonia, the disponibility of the Brazilian and

sustainable development (marked 1 in the table). But some of them discuss directly the viability or the feasibility of sustainable development projects within local conditions (marked 2 in the table)

### **INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

The distinction between multi- and interdisciplinarity, as synthesized in Brazil by Texeira (1995), is

## DATA BANKS

Very few of the programs listed in the table have led to a database. The main one is the geographical information system SISGEO which links different bases related with soils, climates, socio-economics, maps, vegetation and plant diseases but which does not address exclusively to the Amazonian region. Another database consists in a *lingua geral*, Portuguese, dictionary already published as a book but which does exist on a computer medium and could easily be included in a general Amazonian database.

## CONCLUSION

The Brasilia workshop organized by CNPq and European Union has been a valuable contribution to the Amazonian research development. Meanwhile such a project needs further development in both the field of information and interdisciplinarity. The first stages of the implementation of the Amazonian database seem to be guaranteed by the involvement of ETFRN and SIAMAZ. Meanwhile, further development will probably need a broader European net which should include scientists that do not work in the strict field of forestry. The promotion of interdisciplinarity obviously need specific workshops which should first inventory the interdisciplinary projects, evaluate the difficulties

No.	Title	Date	Institutional	Main	Other	Number of	Number of	Disciplines	Inter-	Sustainable	Date bank
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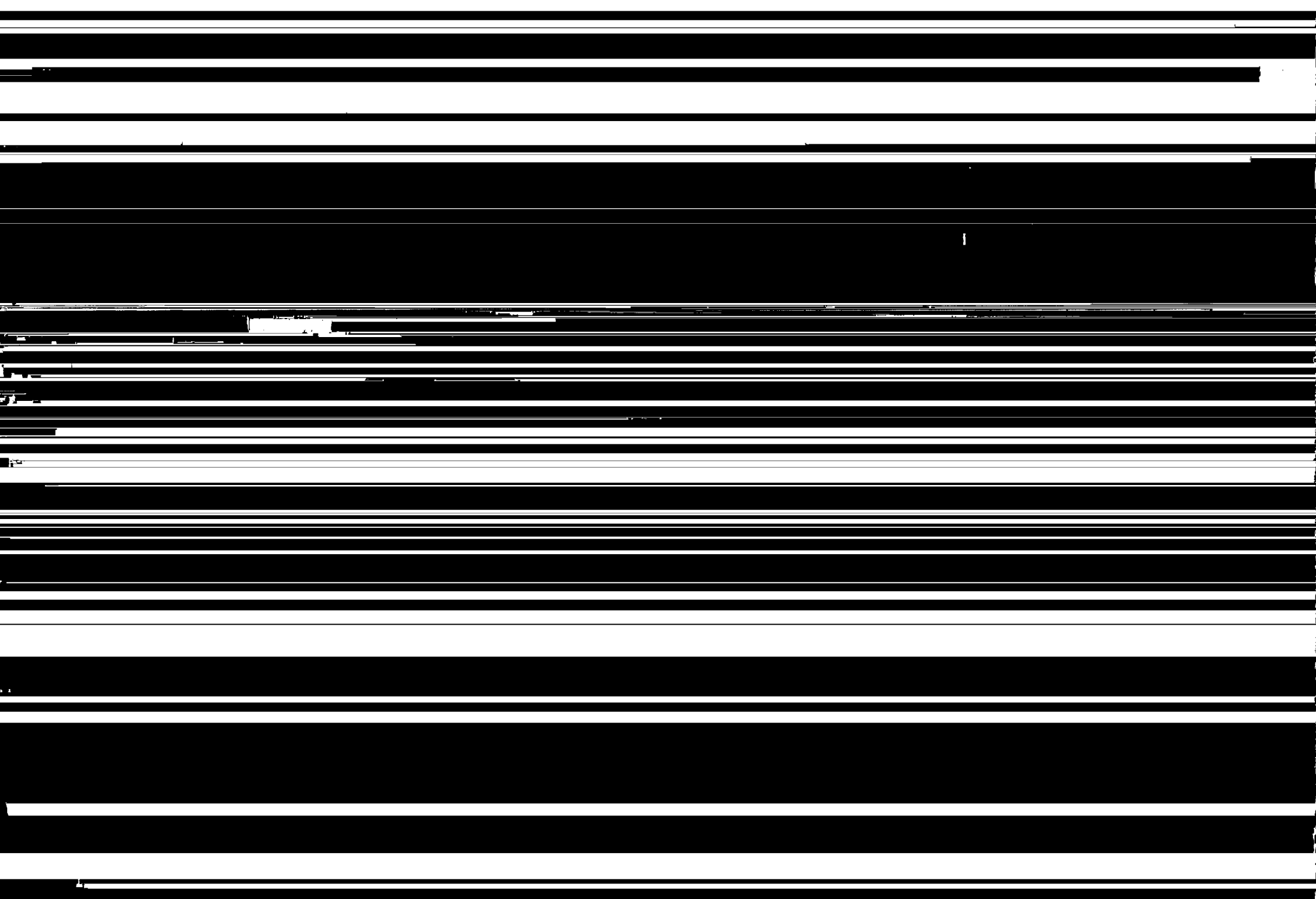
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No.	Title	Date	Institutional agreement	Main partner	Other partners	Number of researchers	Number of supported thesis	Disciplines	Inter-disciplinarity	Sustainable development	Data bank
2	<i>Fresh-water resources in Amazonia</i>	1980-1989	CNPq	INPA		Fr.p.: 5 Fr.m.: 2 Br.: 14	1 Dr. 2 Ms.	Ichthyology, Carcinology			no
2.1.-	Impacts of the Tucuruí barrage on the aquatic macrofauna and the fishing in the Rio Tocantins.	1980-1987	CNPq	INPA	Electro-norte	Fr.p.: 3 Br.: 7		Ichthyology, Carcinology	2	1	no
2.2.-	Ecological and economic conditions of the production in a várzea island: a case study in Careiro island	1986-1987	CNPq	INPA	Max Plank	Fr.p.: 5 Fr.m.: 1 Br.: 8	1 Dr. 2 Ms.	Ichthyology, Carcinology	2 (3)	2	no
2.3.-	Fishing systems in central Amazonia	1982-1989	CNPq	INPA		Fr.p.: 2 Br.: 1?		Ichthyology	0	1	no
3	Arboviral infections and haemorrhagic fevers	1981	CNPq	Inst. F		Fr.p.: 2		Ecology, Medicine	1	1	no



No.	Title	Date	Institutional agreement	Main partner	Other partners	Number of researchers	Number of supported thesis	Disciplines	Inter-disciplinarity	Sustainable development	Data bank
9.-	<i>Health and disease anthropology among eastern Tukano indians of the upper Rio Negro, Amazonas, Brazil.</i>	1984-1987	CNPq	MPEG		Fr.p.: 1		Anthropology	0	1	no
10.-	<i>Coastal and continental environments during the last climatic cycle (last 120.000 years)</i>	1986-1992 1992 -	CNPq	USP ON-RJ		Fr.p.: 8 Br.: 5		Pedology, Geology, Palynology	2	0	no
11.-	<i>Inter-ethnic contacts, social changes and economic development in the northern region of Amazonia.</i>	1988-1994	CNPq	UnB		Fr.p.: 2 Br.: 6		Anthropology	0	0	no
11.1.-	<i>Health and disease anthropology among eastern Tukano indians of the upper Rio Negro, Amazonas, Brazil.</i>		CNPq	UnB		Fr.p.: 1 Br.: 4		Anthropology	0	1	no
11.2.-	<i>Indigenous societies and the frontier extension in Amazonia : history, impacts and representation of inter-ethnic contact among Yanomami indians.</i>		CNPq	UnB		Fr.p.: 1 Br.: 4		Anthropology	0	1	no

No.	Title	Date	Institutional agreement	Main partner	Other partners	Number of researchers	Number of supported thesis	Disciplines	Inter-disciplinarity	Sustainable development	Data bank
15	The role of languages in educational systems and in the construction of identity in indigenous Amazonia	1993-	CNPq	MPEG	CNRS (Fr.)	Fr.p.: 2 Br.: 1		Linguistic	0	1	no
16-	Land degradation, reconstitution and restoration in Amazonian forest ecosystems.	1994 -	CNPq	INPA	EMBRAP CATUniv. Paris VI	Fr.p.: 9 Br.: 19		Botany, Pedology, Ecology, Soil fauna	1 (2)	1	no
17	Population identity and environ-	1995 -	CNPq	MPEG		Fr.p.: 4		Anthropology, Socio-Economy	1	1	no



**Interdisciplinary Research**  
on the  
**Conservation and Sustainable Use**  
of the  
**Amazonian Rain Forest**  
and its  
**Information Requirements**

**- report on the workshop held in Brasília, Brazil  
November 20 - 22, 1995**

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