

USAID project supports environmental conservation of indigenous peoples' territories

PORTO VELHO – From May 3-20, indigenous peoples of the ethno-environmental corridor Mondé Kawahiba – a territory that spans over the East of Rondônia, the West of Mato Grosso and the South of Amazonas, are receiving theoretical and practical training in environmental surveillance and conservation activities. The 1st Training Course for Indigenous Environmental Agents, is organized and coordinated by the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT Brazil) and by the Kanindé Association of Ethno-environmental Defense, in partnership with various other institutions and financial support of USAID/Brazil's Environment Program, through the project consortium "Garah Itxa" ("Together with the Forest", in the Suruí indigenous language).

With a duration of 180 hours, and participation of 32 representatives of the Suruí, Cinta Larga, Jiahui and Zoró indigenous peoples, the course includes theme modules such as: environmental and indigenous rights; cartography; GPS use; ecotourism; indigenous lands' protection (land and water-based monitoring); radio-communication; fire-fighting and fire-management techniques.

The Garah Itxa project consortium is led by the International Institute for Education of Brazil (IEB), and implemented in partnership with ACT Brazil, Kanindé Association, Metareilá Association of the Suruí Indigenous People, Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) and the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF). The consortium promotes the innovative concept of "ethno-environmental corridors", which involves biodiversity conservation actions carried out by indigenous peoples, respecting and valuing their tradition and culture. The project, which has a duration period of three years (from 2009 to 2012), includes three work components: 1) indigenous territorial management; 2) strengthening indigenous organizations; and 3) sustainable income generation.



ACT Brazil

Indigenous peoples receive training in environmental conservation from USAID-supported project



ACT Brazil

Course participants learning orientation techniques