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Contribution of integrated workshops and technical courses in bringing the Company closer to the community and gaining credibility

In 2007, Cemig launched the Peixe Vivo Program to act in the conservation of native fish species in the basins where it has plants and to minimize the consequent impact of its energy generation process. For this, it was necessary to involve the different segments of the community that could contribute and benefit from the actions carried out in partnership.

The first initiative of the Peixe Vivo Program, in 2007, was to hold eight integrated workshops with NGOs, researchers, fishermen, environmental agencies and various segments of the Três Marias community, in addition to a workshop with Cemig professionals throughout the state of Minas Gerais and consultations with national and international experts. The objective was to build together with the partners the most important guidelines and actions for the improvement and protection of the native fish fauna in the state, in addition to defining strategies to avoid and prevent the death of fish in Cemig's hydropower plants. The main proposals listed were:

- develop studies and mitigation actions related to the conservation and restoration of habitats and protection of species of interest for the improvement of fish fauna;
- assess the relevance of implementing and operating fish passage systems for the conservation and improvement of fish fauna;
- ensure the existence and strengthen the Program to avoid the death of fish;
- evaluate and propose measures to protect fish in plants, reducing risks;
- expand the dissemination and discussion about the fish fauna for society, allowing a correct understanding and greater involvement in the issues presented. To ensure this participation, the participants proposed environmental education, translation of scientific information, establishment of communication channels and direct contact with the public and partnerships for community development and fish fauna conservation.

In 2008, the proposals were investigated and helped the Company to define programs for the conservation of fish fauna. Cemig also prioritized the studies necessary to support this work, establishing partnership with research institutions, totaling R\$ 8 million, and made the start of activities possible, with many of the studies developed and technologies proposed being unprecedented in the Latin America. Several partnerships were built to enable the various planned works.

Three years later, the Program sought out the same institutions and other representatives who were present in the objectives outlined after the 2007 roadmap, presenting the goals achieved and the status of the various initiatives carried out within the scope of Peixe Vivo, in addition to seeking new suggestions to adapt the work or carry out new initiatives. This time, in addition to evaluating and proposing new aims for fish conservation, it also sought to consolidate its Biodiversity Policy, with the objective of formalizing the principles that govern Cemig's actions aimed at biodiversity conservation.

The integrated workshops brought together researchers, representatives of NGOs, environmental agencies, the artisanal fishing segment and the community of Três Marias, when the progress of the work was presented. The groups also contributed to identifying the most important guidelines and actions, defining protection strategies to avoid and prevent the death of fish in Cemig's hydropower plants. The result was an even greater integration between the Company and those involved in the formulation of guidelines to guide Cemig's policy in relation to fish and hydrographic basins conservation.

In this way, the participants understood the need for integrated work and the participation of each one to promote changes, including in behavior. The discussions also made it possible for Cemig to finalize and publicize its Biodiversity Policy based on the suggestions received, reaffirming the importance of dialogue and building partnerships with stakeholders to comply with the established principles.

In addition to the workshops, four editions of the course "Topics in Management and Conservation of Fish fauna for the Electric Sector" stand out, organized and taught by biologists from the Peixe Vivo Program, with

contributions from different internal areas of the Company (environmental, and communication). In addition to Cemig employees, representatives of companies in the electric sector and state and federal environmental agencies participated in the courses. The objective of the course was to provide participants with basic knowledge in ichthyology, limnology, legislation, interaction between hydropower plants and fish, and the electric power generation policy. Practical classes were also held, which allowed participants to have direct contact with different species of fish, learn about their external and internal anatomy and their relationship with life habits and behavior. In these classes, the main methods of catching fish in rivers and reservoirs, and the proper use of fishing gears, were addressed so that participants could learn about how the monitoring program is carried out.

At the end of each edition, an evaluation was carried out, giving participants the opportunity to express their opinion about the course. Many mentioned that the opportunity to unite professionals from different backgrounds, companies and areas of activity is essential for gaining knowledge. The exchange of experiences was constant throughout the course, mainly due to the active participation of the public during practical and theoretical classes, allowing the demystification of many relevant issues in the interaction between plants and fish. In addition, many representatives of environmental regulatory agencies reported that they did not have much knowledge about fish fauna before the course and were able to learn more about Cemig's performance through the Peixe Vivo Program in mitigating impacts and fish conservation in Minas Gerais.

All actions described exemplify measures carried out by the Peixe Vivo Program, which contributed to the Company gaining the trust of the external public regarding the response to biodiversity conservation.