

# Tracking Change:

## Fishing Livelihoods in the Amazon Basin

Tracy Howlett  
November 23, 2020

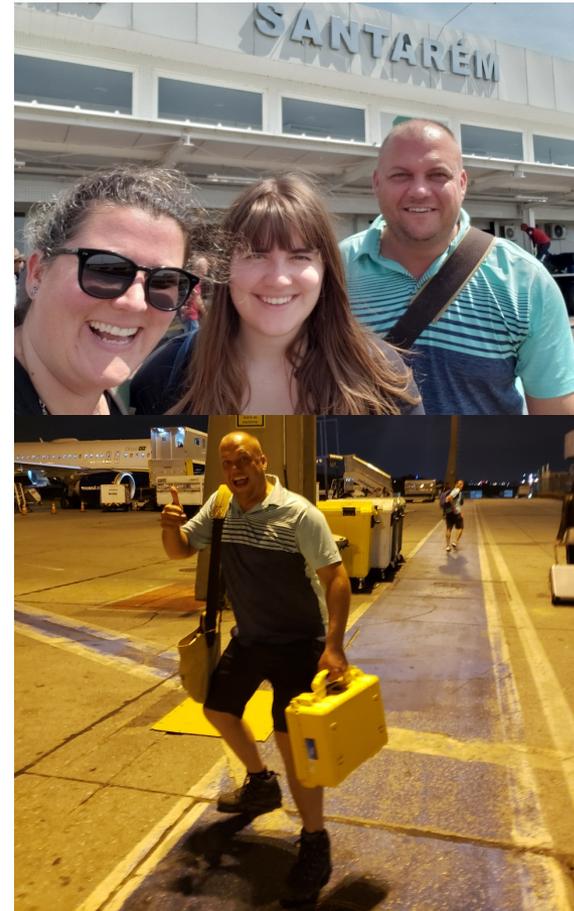


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Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance  
[www.trackingchange.ca](http://www.trackingchange.ca)

# Tracking Change in the Amazon

- September 14 – , 2019
- The Team
  - Mark Poesch – Fisheries Biologist, Associate Professor
  - Sydney Stenekes – MSc Student (thesis forthcoming)
  - Tracy Howlett – Project Manager (the bank)
- Fishers Workshop, Alter do Chao
- Field Work, Tapajos & Trombetas Rivers
- UNICAMP & Sydney's field work
- Lessons Learned & Photos!





## Facts

- 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup>
- 6,600km long
- 30 million people
- 350 ethnic groups
- (60 isolated)
- 10% of worlds known biodiversity
- 17% landcover lost in past 50 years
- 0.5 billion metric tons of carbon released each year (not including fires)

# Fishers Workshop

- Resource Managers, Community Leaders & Academics
- Concerns:
  - Impact of installation of a harbor in Santarem to be used for the transport of soya beans
  - Impact on turtle populations, fish larvae, community health
  - Turtles – traditional food. Community currently monitoring. Populations of fish and turtles declining.
  - Mercury in fish a concern. Naturally high in Amazon. Chronic exposure a problem in the region (gold mines, agricultural runoff)
  - Fish health/population research – behavior, consumption
- “When you take to eat, eventually your belly will get full. When you take to sell, your wallet will never get full.”



# Field Work

- Tapajos – Community Visits
  - Sharing results of previous interviews/field work (poster sharing)
  - Interviewing Fishers using identification photos (150+)
  - Bringing news to isolated communities
- Trombetas – Fish Collection
  - Visit community leader, ask to identify a fisher
  - Fisher accompanies team to set nets, and collect
  - Fishers are interviewed
  - Fish are measured, photographed and stored for lab analysis







# UNICAMP

- University of Campinas
- Home of Cristiana Seixas (today's reading author)
- Cristiana working with different Indigenous Peoples



## Sydney's Journey

- Continued for 2 addition weeks
- Lived in community with student/translator
- Continued conducting interviews



# Lessons Learned

1. Global news coverage doesn't always reflect local, on the ground reality
2. Don't ever eat a raw cashew
3. Indigenous peoples face similar issues globally:
  - Destruction of nature
  - Water pollution
  - Worried about develop
  - Suggest a more balanced life
4. Hammocks are the way!





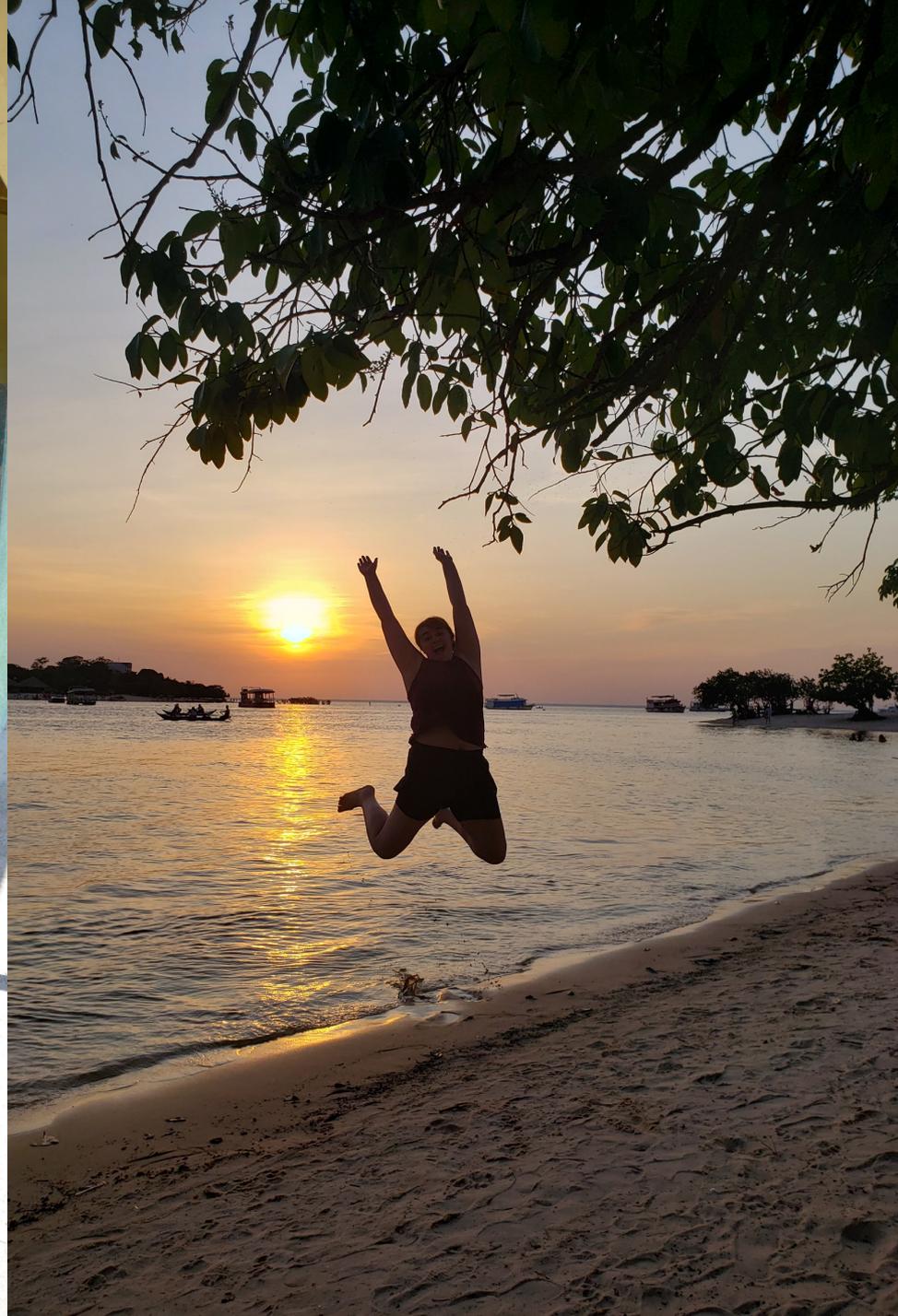


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