



CREATION

July 2008

SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Tropical forest socio-ecosystem organised around the Oyapock river that forms the boundary between France (French Guiana) and Brazil (state of Amapá) and characterised by relative isolation.

DISRUPTING EVENT

Construction of a bridge over the Oyapock and opening up of the area to external influences.

KEY TOPICS

- Social economic impact
- Environment, health
- Biodiversity
- Anthropisation processes



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TERRITORY

The study area stretches along both banks of the Oyapock river, a natural border between French Guiana and Brazil. The OHM is located entirely within the tropical rainforest, and includes the communities of Ouanary, Saint-Georges-de-l'Oyapock Camopi on the French side, and the vast community of Oiapoque on the Brazilian side. Almost half of this area is in French and Brazilian conservation areas (Guiana Regional Natural Park, Guiana Amazonian Park, Cabo Orange National Park and Tumucumaque National Park). Sparsely populated, this area is in the process of being opened up to the outside world with the recent opening of two roads that reach all the way to the river. The construction of a transborder river bridge should further accelerate these changes.



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SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Construction of a bridge between the communities of *Saint-Georges-de-l'Oyapock* and Oiapoque constitutes a very significant modifying event for the area. This infrastructure does not necessarily bring the neighbouring populations closer together, since they have long used the river to meet and exchange; however, the bridge could well strengthen the area as a transit and control zone between Brazil and French Guiana, with countless consequences in terms of mixing of the populations, pressure on the land and forests, impacts on the river, etc. The OHM aims to identify and monitor the key processes which will influence the human population and its environment, their interactions and their dynamics.

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