



PROJETO PIABA BUY A FISH, SAVE A TREE

COMPRE UM PEIXE SALVE UMA AVORE

Join the Project Piaba Expedition and Make a Difference – A special fund raising eco-tour expedition to support a sustainable ornamental fishery and explore the real Amazon.

Dates: January 25 (Sunday ETD 15:00hs) – February 7 (Saturday), 2009.

1. Amazon Expedition: \$2,990 for shared double cabin. We charter a well-equipped river cruiser with air conditioned cabin and private bath. The total cost in the Amazon is \$2,990, which includes boat excursion, room, meals, laundry, local transport, city tour tickets/fees, tips to specialist guides and crew. The total payment includes a donation of \$400 to Project Piaba (US tax deductible). The payment does not include bar bill and other personal expenses. **Deadlines: September 30 2008-** sign up with a deposit of \$500 USD; **November 15** - full payment due; afterward \$100 late fee will be added; **December 15** - reservation closed. Please contact us for your own eco-tour group and dates.

2. Air Travel: There are flights from gateway cities to São Paulo then connected to Manaus, direct flight from Miami to Manaus with TAM Brazilian airline; COPA airlines (from Miami via Panama 3 times per week). We can help you to book group discount tickets from US/Canadian cities, early booking is strongly recommended. You must arrive in Manaus no later than January 25 (ETD-03:00 PM) and leave not earlier than Feb 6 2008. We would be happy to arrange additional Brazil tour for you.

Project Piaba is a multi-disciplinary program to safeguard and improve a sustainable ornamental fishery in the Rio Negro basin, Brazilian Amazon, where over 40 million live fishes are collected and exported to aquarium fish hobbyists worldwide. The fishery provides livelihood for 10,000 rural folks (*caboclos*) and urban labors. The assertion behind our slogan "buy a fish, save a tree" is that if people have a stable economic livelihood from the fishery, they would unlikely engage in illegal and ecologically destructive activities, such as slash-and-burn farming and ranching, mining and wildlife poaching. Since the *piabas* (local term for ornamental fish) have a short life span and replenish annually, the aquarium fish trade has been a highly effective means of providing local subsistence and conserving rainforests ecosystem. We believe that a sustainable *Piaba* fishery and fair trade practice can reduce the pressure on deforestation and improve quality of life for *caboclos*.

Since 1991, we have organized this annual fund raising expedition in the Amazon, along the Rio Negro to Barcelos, the capital of ornamental fishes. We will explore forest streams (*igarapés*) in the dugout, hike in the rainforest and visit local communities during the tour. The expedition is organized and led by Dr. Ning Labbish Chao (Professor, Univ. Federal do Amazonas) and MSc. Scott Dowd (Senior Aquarist, New England Aquarium). We usually take a small group of patrons for a fabulous experience in the water-world of Amazon and forest. We charter a well-equipped boat that has air-conditioned cabins, private bath and great cuisines. We have quite diverse daily activities include canoe rides, fishing, bird watching, swimming, jungle walks, and stalking animals at night, and beach soccer matches with local kids. Most participants have been nature lovers and aquarium fish enthusiasts.

We will give presentations on Project Piaba and Amazon conservation; we'll discuss how the aquarium fish hobby can positively affect the rainforest and its people. If condition permits, we will conduct specific research. Participants would have opportunities net small fishes for observation, catch piranha and other large fishes for food. When available, we will invite

other specialties as guest speaker or special guide to accompany our trip.

January is the low water season in the Rio Negro that is the best for fishing and snorkeling. The most exciting program is participating in the "Barcelos Ornamental Fish Festival", where folks celebrate the prosperity brought by the *piabas* with great pageantry and dance contests. We will host a party for fish collectors (*piabeiros*) family and join local beach parties. We will visit Project Piaba's research site, Igarapé Zamula. We will visit the astonishing "wedding of the waters" near Manaus where the Rio Negro and the Solimões Rivers unite to form the mighty Amazon River. Yes, we will include city tour and souvenir shopping opportunities.

Funds raised from the past expeditions have provided scholarships to local trainees in Barcelos and students at the Federal University of Amazonas. It also helped us to conduct independent research, environmental education and extension programs.

Please browse Project Piaba website for more information <http://www.opefe.com/piaba.html> or <http://www.acecotour.com>

Please sign up and contact us for more details:

Ning Labbish Chao (Manaus, Brazil):

Tel: +55 92 236-6380 or +55 92 9988-1119 (mobile)

E-mail: piabas@gmail.com; Skype: piabas

Scott Dowd (Boston):

Tel. 617-973-5243 (day)

E-mail: SDOWD@NEAq.org

Lein Han (Baltimore)

Tel. 410-539-7428 (evening); 443-527-6138 (mobile)

E-mail: Lein Fang Han@aol.com

Please make checks payable to:

**Bio-Amazonia Conservation International *
1295 William St.
Baltimore, MD 21230, USA**

* BACI is a US tax-exempt 501(c) organization.