

ROBIN LE BRETON

Consultant on Protected Areas Management

Born 1941; Brazilian; Male; Married.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS: MSc in Environmental Management from London University (Wye College) (1998); MS in Agricultural Economics from Iowa State University (1970); M.A. in Law from Oxford University (1964); Certificat d'Etudes Françaises from the University of Lausanne (1960).

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: For over twenty-five years, I have worked in many different ecosystems and environments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, both as an adviser and as a professional farmer, on the sustainable management of natural resources. My work has included issues of biodiversity conservation, land management, the preservation of private, public and community-owned forests and the management of both private and public conservation areas.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

1999 – present: **Director of the Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research and Conservation Center**, a private research center working on solutions to land degradation and forest conservation problems. Its activities include forest restoration, land use management, the development of economic production alternatives and community engagement. All this is supported by the Iracambi GIS, the first in the area. For a full description please see our website: www.iracambi.com.

In keeping with my interest in **public policy issues** and participatory planning and implementing of **community development models**, I serve on a number of different committees. These include:

- The Minas Gerais State Environmental Policy Commission;
- Advisory Council of the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park (of which I am currently the Vice President). In this connection, I served on the Working Group that wrote the terms of reference for the Park Management Plan. Until its end, I was on the Executive Council of the Federal Economic Development Territory of the Serra do Brigadeiro .

As a member (and former chair) of the County Sustainable Development Committee I am actively engaged in working with the community to prepare and implement the master plan for the development of the county. The non-governmental organization I manage, Amigos de Iracambi, is currently assisting the rural communities concerned in drawing up management plans for county Environmental Protection Areas as well as assisting two other counties doing the same work. From 2007-2011, I served on the Administrative Council of the Minas Gerais State Forestry Institute.

I am also the owner (and manager) of a Private Reserve of Natural Heritage constituted under Brazilian conservation law and registered with the Federal Environmental Protection agency. As such, I am a member of the Audit Committee of the Association of Private Reserve Owners in the State of Minas Gerais.

1989-2000: Independent **consultant in natural resource management**, working for international agencies including World Bank, FAO IFAD and GEF. In between consulting assignments, ran a 500ha farm in the Atlantic Rainforest area of Brazil, producing milk, fish and timber, developing production systems that allow economic use of the remaining primary forest, regeneration of the degraded forest, and sustainable production on the former forestland.

Assignments for GEF included establishing the Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust, in Malawi, evaluating the agricultural activities in the Atlantic Region Biological Corridor in Nicaragua, and (under an IFAD co-execution agreement) identification and preparation of the project for the community management of the Sarstoon-Temash National Park in Belize.

In Malawi, as a consultant for the IDA-funded Natural Resource Management program, I worked with the National Parks Department on the development of management plans for the 3 parks in the south of the country (Mwabvi, Majete, Lengwa).

1988-89: World Bank West Africa Region, Sahel Dept. Responsible for the development of the technical content of the agricultural extension and research projects that the World Bank was financing in the **Sahelian** countries. These complemented the community natural resource management activities then being formulated in the "Gestion de Terroirs Villageois" program:

1984-87: seconded to Government of Brazil: Superintendency for the Development of the North-East (SUDENE), Recife, **Brazil**. Leader of a technical assistance team under a UNDP sponsored project, to assist in improving the planning, supervision, and monitoring capacity of SUDENE. The initiatives taken by this group laid the groundwork for the local-level participatory planning that is now an integrated feature of the North-East development program.

1982-84: World Bank Latin America Projects Dept., with responsibilities for rural development projects in **Mexico and Peru**, including a regional development project in the foothills of the Andes, giving priority to the protection of forest resources and indigenous land rights.

1978-82: World Bank Resident Mission in **India**: I led a team that helped the Indian government reform the agricultural extension services to extend appropriate technologies in most of the country, including such environmentally fragile areas as the Thar desert and the hill country of Assam. I also worked with similar projects in **Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**;

1974-77: World Bank, East Africa Projects Dept. responsible, *inter alia*, for developing strategies for sustainable agricultural production in the arid, eroded highlands of **Ethiopia** and the intensively cultivated highlands of **Rwanda**;

1971-1974: Commonwealth Development Corporation in London, identifying agricultural projects for development finance in **Indonesia**, (where I lived from 1971 to 1972), **Zaire**, and various Commonwealth countries.

1964 -68: Management of tea, coffee and cinchona estates of the Brooke Bond Company in my native **Kenya**, where I had also worked on my family farm.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

English (mother tongue)

Portuguese: fully fluent written and verbal

Spanish, French: Full working knowledge (FSI level S2+)

Swahili, Hindi: working knowledge of spoken language.

COMPUTER SKILLS: fully literate in Microsoft Office suite and other commonly used programs.