

# COMMUNITY MAPPING IN THE AMAZON

## The impacts of soya production in Santarém and Belterra



- **Mapped Communities**  
121 communities have been mapped in the region of Belterra and Santarém. Those located near to urban centres have better infrastructure. Common traits include a church, a community hall and sometimes municipal schools.
- ▲ **Threatened Communities**  
Some 29 communities were found to have reduced populations as a result of soya expansion, and at least two of them had already disappeared completely. Their only record of ever having existed is in the memory of the members of those communities.
- **Deforestation**  
Of 55 locations identified as being deforested through the mapping project, four are primary forest adjacent to large soya fields. The others are secondary forests.
- ☒ **Impact on Rivers**  
The community members identified 29 springs and *igarapés* that were either contaminated by herbicides, had small dams, or were in the process of silting up because of the lack of riparian forest.
- ✘ **Blocked Access**  
Soya plantations moving on to tracks and side roads, traditionally used by local residents, were registered at 12 locations. These cases have led to continual conflicts between soya farmers and community members, who have been forbidden to use those routes.

**METHODOLOGY**

The locations marked in the map were put together on the ground by members of the community from the Santarém and Belterra region, in Pará, or they were highlighted in satellite images in workshops set up between May 2007 and June 2008. The above titles show the subjects areas defined as priorities by the group.

