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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

Márcio Augusto Freitas de Meira
Presidente da Funai
Fundação Nacional do Índio
SEPS Quadra 702/902 Projeção A, Ed. Lex
70390-025 – Brasília – DF

Antenor Vaz
Coordenação Geral de Índios Isolados da Funai
Fundação Nacional do Índio
SEPS Quadra 702/902 Projeção A, Ed. Lex
70390-025 – Brasília – DF

January 5, 2009

Sr. Presidente/Dear President,

I am writing on behalf of the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) Committee for Human Rights to applaud Funai's efforts to map and protect the territory of vulnerable indigenous groups within the Amazon. The AAA is a professional organization of over 11,000 anthropologists that is committed to the promotion and protection of the right of people everywhere to the full realization of their humanity.

The AAA has recently learned of Brazil's use of high-tech equipment to locate and identify indigenous communities, as well as threats to these communities.¹ We applaud these and related attempts to protect the health and cultural vitality of Brazil's diverse population. Detailed mapping efforts, in combination with pertinent social and environmental data, will allow the state to assess the amount of territory and buffer space needed by a specific community. Establishing official Indian territories is a necessary step in protecting the ethnic and cultural diversity of indigenous populations, particularly small, vulnerable groups that are being pushed from their land by loggers, miners, ranchers and others. Funai's efforts will also serve as an example for neighboring countries whose indigenous populations are under similar threat. We encourage Funai to continue its efforts with expedience and to coordinate with other organizations (e.g., the American Association for the Advancement of Science's geospatial technologies and human rights program) to better protect and serve the Amazon's indigenous inhabitants.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and ask that you direct any inquiries to Mr. Damon Dozier, AAA Director of Public Affairs. He can be reached at (703)528-1902 extension 1163 or [ddozier@aaanet.org](mailto:drazier@aaanet.org).

Sincerely,

Victoria Sanford
AAA Committee for Human Rights, Chair

¹ Downie, Andrew. "Brazil goes high-tech in bid to protect vulnerable Amazon tribes." *The Christian Science Monitor*, Dec. 2, 2008, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/1202/p07s03-woam.html> (accessed Dec. 3, 2008)