

SPOTLIGHT ON PRO BONO PROJECT



AMIGOS DE IRACAMBI

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Amigos de Iracambi US Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization registered in the state of Virginia, which supports the work of the Iracambi Atlantic Rainforest Research Center located in Rosário da Limeira, in the state of Minas Gerais Brazil. Specifically, Amigos de Iracambi US Inc. supports the Brazilian-registered non-profit organization Amigos de Iracambi (“Iracambi”). Iracambi was founded in 1999 with the objective of reconciling the conflicting demands of rainforest conservation and sustainable development. Located in one of the world’s top five biodiversity hotspots, Brazil’s Atlantic Forest, Iracambi works with traditional communities to improve the care of the forest concurrent with their existence in the rainforest. Iracambi’s focus areas include forest restoration, community education and empowerment, natural resource management and the generation of sustainable incomes. More information about Iracambi is located at www.iracambi.com.

Describe the pro bono work you did for the Amigos de Iracambi.

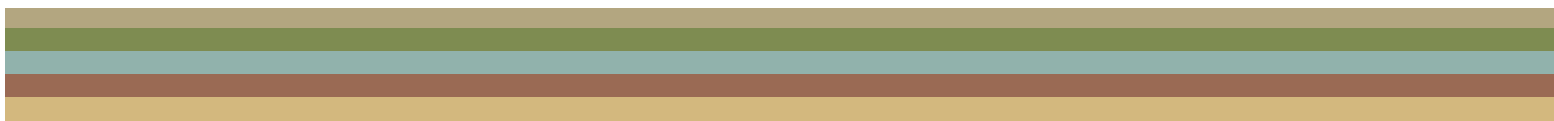
Through a good friend of mine, I became acquainted with Amigos de Iracambi and the environmental work it does in Brazil. Based on my knowledge of the organization and interaction with previous volunteers in fundraising initiatives, I had a desire to contribute to the organization through pro bono legal work. A base objective of my project involved on-site interviews of staff and personnel to better understand the organization and its daily operational challenges so that I could provide better future legal counsel for the organization remotely.

Other areas of my work focused on research and analysis of potential sources of fundraising. Ultimately, this research focused on three different sources. The first was the Combined Federal Campaign (“CFC”), the only authorized process under which charities may solicit federal

employees of the United States government in their workplace. My research on the CFC focused on the legal requirements for participation of not-for-profits in the CFC, both individually and as part of a federation, and whether the organization met the eligibility requirements, and if not, what operational changes were needed.

The second area of focus was exploring the viability of setting up a community-based carbon credit program. This involved research and analysis on Brazilian environmental and land use laws, the structure under which such a program might operate, the different types of carbon credit programs, and the steps involved in setting up a carbon credit program.

A third related area was focusing on the organization’s compliance program and researching the various “stamps of approval” that are available to non-profits to facilitate fundraising



(e.g., the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance).

What was one highlight or the greatest part thus far in doing this project?

One of the highlights was being able to get a better appreciation of the day-to-day operations of a not-for-profit and the operational and mission struggles that a not-for-profit or NGO often faces. However, being able to experience, witness, and contribute towards the environmental work of the organization, and to see its impact in the community, was the most gratifying experience.

Is the project complete? If not, what is next for the project?

The project is still ongoing. I continue to be involved in Iracambi's CFC efforts. There also is additional research and analysis planned regarding the medicinal plant initiative. I also am a member of Iracambi's Advisory Board and am involved in their organizational planning and fundraising efforts.

