

# Joining forces to find answers

Leading researchers from Canada and from around the globe are pooling their know-how to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. These experts come together under the International Research Chairs Initiative, a cutting-edge project sponsored by Canada's International Development Research Centre in collaboration with the Canada Research Chairs Program.

The International Research Chairs Initiative pairs top research talent from universities in Canada with their counterparts in developing countries. These specialists share their advanced skills and knowledge to confront issues of common concern while mentoring a new generation of scholars and practitioners.

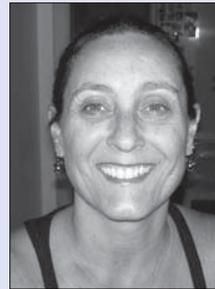
Eight International Research Chairs partnerships were announced on February 25, 2009. Working at universities in Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Morocco, and Uganda, each IDRC Research Chair is pursuing a five-year research program in collaboration with a Canada Research Chair. The Canada Research Chairs are based at McGill University, McMaster University, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, University of Waterloo, and York University.

The result of this joint effort: world-class discoveries and healthier, wealthier, fairer societies.

## Helping fishing communities manage their resources

In Brazil as elsewhere, coastal resources are declining. In fact, some commercial species exploited by local artisanal fishers are already endangered. If this trend is not reversed, ecosystems and social systems will both suffer.

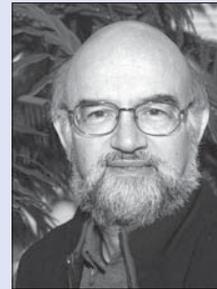
The research team will develop integrated approaches to help fishers in Paraty (Rio de Janeiro State) to manage local resources and to diversify their income sources, and thus increase food security. A first step will be to increase knowledge of the ecology, drawing on local people's knowledge of their resources. Working with local communities, the researchers will then pilot a community-based adaptive management system for livelihood resources that could serve as a model for other parts of Brazil.



**Alpina Begossi**

IDRC Research Chair  
in Community-Based  
Resource Management

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In doing so, the team seeks to empower and integrate local groups into the management process and to build local capacity to engage stakeholders in governance processes.

### **Alpina Begossi**

#### **IDRC Research Chair in Community-Based Resource Management**

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Alpina Begossi has been studying the ecology and ethnoecology of Amazonian and Atlantic Forest fisheries as one of her main research lines, among other studies on human ecology. These studies have examined food diversity, food taboos, folk taxonomy, local knowledge, fishing territories, and the applications to the co-management of fisheries.

In 2006-2007, she was the President of the Society for Human Ecology. One of the founders of the Fisheries and Food Institute (FIFO), she now serves as Executive Director of the non-governmental organization. She is also a researcher at the State University of Campinas (Capesca,

Preac, UNICAMP). Among her 100 or so published works are articles that appeared in periodicals such as *Current Anthropology*, *Ecological Applications*, *Ecology and Society*, and *Fisheries Research*, among others, and four co-authored books.

### **Fikret Berkes**

#### **Canada Research Chair in Community-Based Resource Management**

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Distinguished Professor at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, and Canada Research Chair in Community-Based Resource Management since 2002, Fikret Berkes is an international leader in the areas of commons theory and the interrelations between societies and their resources. This entails the study of linked social-ecological systems,

resilience, co-management, and indigenous knowledge. Through the study of community-based resource management systems in northern Canada and abroad, he has been researching the conditions under which “the tragedy of the commons” could be avoided.

He has served as President of the International Association for the Study of the Commons and led several national and international projects. His publications include *Sacred Ecology* (Routledge, 2008), *Managing Small-Scale Fisheries* (IDRC, 2001; Portuguese edition, 2006), *Gestao Integrada e Participativa de Recursos Naturais* (APED, Brazil, 2005), *Linking Social and Ecological Systems* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), *Navigating Social-Ecological Systems* (Cambridge UP, 2003), and some 250 other scholarly publications.