Milestones

1975 – During military dictatorship in Brazil the hydroelectric inventory studies of the Xingu River basin get started.

1980 – While the Federal Act nº 6.938/1981 about Brazilian national environmental policy, technical and environmental viability of the HPP Babaquara (expected power 6,274 mW) and the HPP Kararaô (expected power 6,274 mW) is assessed.

1986 – According to the Environment National Council (CONAMA) Resolution nº 001/1986, Archaeology is obligatory included as a part of the viability studies of the Xingu River Hydroelectric Complex.

2004 – Energetic Research Enterprise (EPE) is created, through the Federal Act nº 10.848, with the aim of taking on the technical, economic, social and environmental planning of electric energy and all kinds of renewable energy sources undertakings.

2007 – Growth Acceleration Program (PAC) is started. Consequently, the project of building a hydroelectric power plant in Xingu River is revived as the hypothesis of building one in Iriri River is abandoned. As a result, the old Project of the HPP Kararaô, renamed as Belo Monte, is revived and planned to be located at the Volta Grande do Xingu (Xingu Big Turn), a section of the Xingu River. The engineering project of this new HPP was brand new previewing a run of the river power plant with 11.000 MW installed capacity. A new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is performed and completed in 2009.

As Preventive Archaeological Project, including Archelogical Survey, Rescue Archeology and Heritage Education Subprojects, are required by the EIA, Scientia is hired to perform them and 177 new archaeological sites are found.

Rescue Archaeology: field excavations, laboratorial analysis and radiocarbon dating. 55 carbon samples dated by Beta Analytic Laboratory showed a hunter-gatherer occupation in 6 archaeological sites between 10850+/-40 BP and 3992 +/- 30BP, and a ceramist cultivators occupation in 21 archaeological sites between 4.680 +/-30 BP and 380 +/-30 BP. These results show that hunter-gatherers and ceramist cultivators coexisted in Xingu River basin for a period. More recently ceramist cultivators and European settlers also coexisted there.

Heritage Educational Program

Target audience: school network, undertaker workers (1), and communities impacted (2).

Field School (3): Archaeology students (graduate/undergraduate), researchers in related fields, and auxiliary technical personnel.