

## 2015 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Raissa Guerra** is the 2015 winner of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award from UF's Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Dr. Guerra received her PhD from the Interdisciplinary Ecology program in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment under the supervision of Dr. Marianne Schmink.



Dr. Raissa Guerra and local leaders of the PA Juruena Rural Settlement during a gender meeting, Brazil

Dr. Guerra's dissertation, entitled *"Feasibility of Payments for Environmental Services in the Amazon region: tools for an ex-ante assessment"*, was considered a great match with the the Schmink Award by the selection committee. Raissa studied a hypothetical application of a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program in the municipality of Cotriguaçu in Mato Grosso, Brazil. The selection committee was particularly impressed with Dr. Guerra ability to explain, summarize, and analyze the PES framework. Her discussion of the theory behind such programs was done in a "profound, acute, and comprehensive way, pointing out advantages and disadvantages of the application of such programs". Further the committee noted that Raissa's treatment of and review of PES and REDD+, which

encompassed the complex aspects of the socio-economic history and development of the specific communities that may apply PES, was "a model of intellectual synthesis and the knowledgeable fusion of the various components of social-ecological system theory".

Raissa is currently a consultant for IPAM (*Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia*), a NGO with an important and direct impact on conservation and development policy in the Brazilian Amazon. At IPAM she works on the design and implementation of impact monitoring systems in state level environmental agencies. Currently, Raissa is also organizing a special Issue on *Deforestation in the Amazon* and working on projects that promote "green" taxes in the Federal Law system of Brazil.



Raissa returning part of the results from CIFOR Global Comparative study on REDD in Brazil.

The Selection Committee was composed of TCD faculty Dr. Susan Paulson (Center for Latin American Studies) and Dr. Ignacio Porzecanski (School of Natural Resources and the Environment) and Tracy VanHolt (TCD Alumna, Stockholm Resilience Centre).

The TCD program congratulates Dr. Guerra on her selection as the 2015 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award!