

Information and Training Programme for Sustainable PD 178/02 Rev.1 (F) Forest Management in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru)

Final Report

PD 178/02 Rev.1 (F)

I. Introduction

The Council approved and fully financed this project at its Thirty-third Session. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed in April 2003. The first disbursement of funds was made on June 6, 2003.

II. Project Objective

The project's overall objective was to promote sustainable tropical forest management practices in the Peruvian Amazon. Specifically, the project aimed at establishing a Sustainable Forest Management Information System for the Peruvian Amazon region in order to provide current relevant information and specialised computer tools and facilitate the exchange of information among key forest sector stakeholders in the region, and strengthen capacities and train leaders in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sustainable forest management plans.

III. Project Strategy and Activities

The project's strategy was geared towards meeting the private and public sectors' needs for qualified personnel to formulate, implement and monitor forest management plans as stipulated in the new Forestry Law promulgated in Peru in 2000. To this end, a Sustained Forest Management Information System (SIMFOS) was to be established to provide information and specialised tools and to facilitate the exchange of experiences among key forest sector stakeholders in the region. Furthermore, with the support of Amazon universities and regional cooperation groups, the project was to provide training on sustainable forest management (SFM) to 60 leaders, supplemented with a technical mission to Bolivia to visit successful forest initiatives.

IV. Project Achievements and Outputs

The Project was completed in February 2005. In accordance with the project document, all planned activities, plus others not originally contemplated, were successfully carried out and achievements can be summarized as follows:

- The Peruvian Amazon Forest Information System – SIFORESTAL was developed and currently provides a vast amount of information grouped under 3 main themes: Forest Ecology, Forest Management and Timber and Non-Timber Markets. All information has been uploaded in digital format to the internet and is freely available at the website: www.siforestal.org.pe. The website also includes links to other forestry institutions worldwide and provides support for downloading several forestry-related software packages like CO2FIX and others;
- A user-friendly software tool denominated AMAZON FOREST was developed in order to assist forest concessionaires in the elaboration and implementation of forest management plans and annual operating plans, including the statistical processing of raw forest inventory data. The software is freely available on CD-Rom from the Executing Agency or downloadable from their website;
- The SIFORESTAL website also created a virtual network that linked forestry-related professionals and institutions in the remote Departments of Loreto, San Martin, Ucayali, Madre de Dios, with their counterparts in the capital, Lima;
- Two 3-day workshop-courses on management of forest concessions and reduced impact logging were organized and held at IIAP's Jenaro Herrera Field Station to the benefit of the concessionaires in the Peruvian Amazon. A Total of 36 professionals and 167 concessionaires benefited from this training in sustainable forest management practices, based on the several technical manuals produced by the project;
- Inter-institutional coordination and collaboration was established and currently continues, in particular with institutions like INRENA, the Regional Government of Loreto, the Peruvian Council for Voluntary Forest Certification, and other forestry projects being implemented in the region; and
- A 15-member technical mission composed by forest concessionaires and public sector professionals from the Peruvian Amazon visited Bolivia for 5 days in order to exchange experiences with successful forest management operations there.

V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement

The following Peruvian Amazon-based interest groups directly benefited from the SIFORESTAL website and the workshops on forest management plans and reduced impact logging: loggers and forest managers; indigenous and mestizo communities, forestry professionals, forest industrialists, universities and technological institutes, forestry-related public entities, research institutions, and non-governmental organisations. Moreover, the aforementioned stakeholders played an active role in the design and contents of the SIFORESTAL website and its links to other websites of interest to the beneficiaries.

VI. Lessons Learnt

Among the many lessons learnt, the following can be highlighted:

- Even though the SIFORESTAL website provides much useful information to many forest concession managers and others, its access is still restricted to the major cities and towns of the Peruvian Amazon. Satellites and retransmission towers need to be put in place for it to reach those located in the remote forest concessions;
- Links to other nodes, particularly websites set up by local public institutions, are difficult due to the fact that most websites in Peru are still in their infancy and need upgrading; and
- While the training component was a success and extremely useful to those that participated in formulating their management plans and annual operating plans, it was clear that the demand for this type of training exceeded by far what could be offered by the project. Taking into consideration that the forest concession process in the Peruvian Amazon has just begun, the Executing Agency is considering setting up a long-term training centre at its field station in Jenaro Herrera.

VII. Dissemination of Results

The results were mainly disseminated through the SIFORESTAL website, workshops and the distribution of technical manuals.

VIII. Recommendation Related to Future Work

In order to provide for the long-term sustainability of the SIFORBOL website, IIAP should continue to lobby the Peruvian government for its economic support and seek greater sponsorship from the forest industry sector. As regards the project's SFM training component, and in view of the current high unsatisfied demand for this type of training, the Peruvian Government has submitted a follow-up project proposal PD 321/04 (F) "Continuation of the Postgraduate Programme in Sustainable Tropical Forest Management in Bolivia" to ITTO. This proposal aims to continue to implement the SFM training component developed under this project.

IX. Concluding Remarks

Overall, the project contributed towards the achievement of sustainable forest management in the new forest concessions of the Peruvian Amazon.

The ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report, technical reports and publications and, once it receives the Final Financial Audit Report, this project was therefore reported as completed. Copies of the Completion Report and other technical documents are available upon request from the Secretariat.