

The integration of forest-based development in the Western Amazon (Phase II). Technology for sustainable utilization of raw forest materials

Final report

The project's planned duration was 36 months with an overall budget of US\$ 3,425,000.00 of which ITTO contributed US\$ 1,900,000.00. However, the project experienced a number of delays due to administrative issues. Additional funding was requested in order to convene its closing workshop, to fund additional research in the Antimary State Forest (ASF), as well as to publish a book discussing research and studies related to this project.

The project aimed to identify a model of regional development, taking into account the rational use of forest resources. In this way, the project sought the generation and distribution of income in the ASF, benefiting all the members of the productive chain of forest goods. The main objectives in the long term of the project were to motivate and promote the development based on the forests of Western Amazon as part of one integrated policy of land use in the area, using the State of Acre as a model.

The Executing Agency achieved specific outputs, including the development of: an integral forest management plan for the Antimary State (ASF); a participation system; road access to the ASF; a market strategy for wooden and non-wooden products coming from ASF; an integrated operation of wood, primary and secondary processing of wood and production of components for wood homes; processing equipment for latex and brazil nuts; a monitoring system for products coming from ASF; a group of permanent plots to monitor several effects of the forest uses; and improvements of social services for people living and working in the ASF.

The project contributed to the development and implementation of the forest policies for the State of Acre. It facilitated the establishment of public and private partnerships, through public competition in the bidding modality to make possible logging in the ASF, which is the base for definition of the forest concessions. The success of logging demonstrated for the State timber sector the technical and economic benefits from SFM as compared with the traditional harvesting. The project made possible the training in planning and management in RIL techniques, for members from the ASF community and professionals acting in the local private sector. In this way, harvesting activity in the ASF benefited the ASF rubber tapper community with the income obtained with the sale of the stumpage. In the social aspect, it promoted the improvement of the conditions of health, education, community organization and habitation of the resident population in the ASF. It facilitated the development of the traditional productive sector with the introduction of techniques for rubber industrial process, Brazil nut, copaiba oil and forest seeds with the objective of adding value to the products. It enlarged the infrastructure of highways and access extensions besides the improvement of the transport in the Antimary river. This project made possible the transport road into the ASF.

Based on experience gained with the extractivist reserves and also in the implementation of activities related to SFM and forest products utilization, such as those implemented under the Antimary Project, the Acre Government gradually developed new mechanisms to facilitate the development of the State taking into consideration the need to improve the socio economic conditions of the population, while at the same time to ensure the sustainability of the forest that cover over 90% of the state area.

The Executing Agency has submitted a completion report which has been reviewed by the ITTO Secretariat. A final audit report on the use of project funds was also submitted. These reports were presented to the relevant Committees in November 2006 and the project was declared completed.