Central African Regional Program for the Environment

SOS Fund number - # 6b.079

Proposal Title: ***PROMOTING BETTER LOGGING PRACTICES IN TROPICAL FORESTS:A SIMULATION ANALYSIS OF***

Start date: **5/31/99**
Duration: **13 months**
Total Grant amount: **$48,725.00**

Investigator/Contact
Institutional Affiliation
Contact Information

Marco Boscolo
Harvard Institute for International Development, Harvard University, 14 Story Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: 617/495-3621; Fax: 617/495-0527
Email: mboscolo@hiid.harvard.edu

Abstract

Suggestions to promote better logging practices in tropical forests include longer concession agreements, renewability provisions, and the use of performance bonds. The empirical significance of these recommendations have been tested using a simulation model originally developed with a large data set from a lowland tropical rain forest in Peninsular Malaysia. In evaluating these recommendations, the model addresses two classes of decisions faced by loggers: which logging technology to adopt (conventional vs. reduced impact logging), and whether or not to comply with diameter cutting limits. The model estimates the impact of alternative regulations on these decisions and on the resulting economic and environmental outcomes.

The purpose of this grant is two-fold: (1) to disseminate the findings and recommendations of this model to both technical and policy audiences in Central Africa, and (2) to re-run the model using data from Central Africa to derive findings and recommendations relevant to leading forest management challenges in the region. This grant will contribute to the CARPE's forest policy theme, which is being managed by WRI. The grant will support the following tasks.

1. Present the results of the current version of the model at an international forest management conference organized by Forafri (a CIRAD and CIFOR-supported project) in Libreville on October 12-16, 1998.

2. Present a revised version of the model using data from published sources on logging practices in Central Africa.

3. Discuss with conference participants opportunities to run refined versions of the model using growth, mortality, and recruitment data from forest inventory plots in the region.

4. Based on the outcome of these discussions, prepare a proposal to re-run the model to address key forest management policy issues in the region.