



IS COMMUNITY FOREST-BASED ENTERPRISES SUSTAINABLE IN AMAZON?



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Introduction

Community-based forest enterprises (CFEs) are considered as an alternative to protect forest at the same time provide complementary income for small landholders

Since the mid-1990s, the implementation of sustainable forest management has increased.

The potential significance of CFEs is considerable (Colchester et al., 2003, Colchester et al., 2003; White and Martin, 2002).

However, the number of failures in CFE experiences is meaningful as well (Smith, 1996).

Why is their potential has not been realized in many countries?

The main factors threatening two CFEs experiments in the Transamazônica region context (southeast of Para State in Brazilian Amazon) were investigated.



Results

Main factors threatening CFEs

Institutional aspects

- :: Insecurity tenure rights
- :: Illegal logging competition

Organizational issues

- :: Lack of organisation capacity to face bureaucracy
- :: Lack of capital to invest and re-invest
- :: High dependency of donors to access funds and technical assistance
- :: Difficulties to access credit

Costs issues

- :: High transportation costs

Market issues

- :: Difficulties to sell lower value timber species
- :: Prices don't reflect scarcity of some timber species

Methodology

#Survey of the theoretical and empirical literature

#Two cases of CFEs selected:

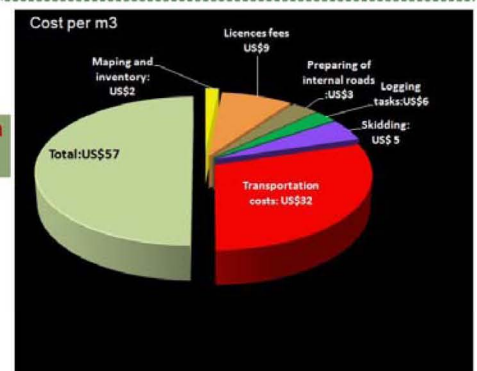
- CANOR (Cooperative of small landholders living in a 70's decade settlement) in the city of Uruara.
- Virola-Jatoba Cooperative: a sustainable settlement model located in the city of Anapu;

#Interviews were made with foresters and CFEs' members during 2007 and 2008;

#Building of cost-benefit scenarios;

#Comparison among different scenarios and logging strategies adopted by the two CFEs studied.

Case Location I (Uruara - Transamazônica Para State-Brazil)



Conclusions

- 1) Despite the NGO's and government efforts, the CFEs still face many obstacles to develop in Transamazonica region;
- 2) The licence process is slow and costly. In general, the CFE's are not prepared to face the technical demands. For instance, they can't pay a forester to elaborate a proper Forest Management Plan;
- 3) The transportation cost is almost prohibitive;
- 4) It is essential to CFE's to negotiate a minimum price per species. This minimum price has to take in account scarcity and logging costs in the region;
- 5) Finally, promote the CFE's partnership with forestry enterprises can be interesting, but CFE's has to be able to monitor contract clauses in the long term.

Case Location II (Anapu- Transamazônica Para State-Brazil)



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