

DRAFT

ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE AMAZONIA

Toward an Amazonia which continues to supply a range of timber and non timber forest products, provides employment, satisfies various ecological or environmental services and conserves species, genetic and ecosystem diversity in the overall landscape.

Program Description

Program Coordinating Group:

Regional and International Institutions

Asociación de las Universidades Amazónicas
 Business Council for Sustainable Development
 Center for International Forestry Research
 Coordinación de las Organizaciones Indígenas da Cuenca Amazónica
 Secretaria Pro Tempore del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (in negotiation)
 Parlamento Amazónico
 World Resources Institute

Nacional Coordinators

Bolivia:	Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible y Medio Ambiente
Brazil:	Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia Fundação Pro-Natureza
Colombia:	Centro Científico de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Colombiana
Ecuador:	Fundación Natura
Guyana:	University of Guyana (provisional)
Peru:	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental
Suriname:	NGO Forum of Suriname
Venezuela:	Fondo Nacional de Investigación Forestal

In cooperation with:

FAO
 Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, Germany
 United Nations Development Program
 United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
 World Conservation Union

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Action for Sustainability in Amazonia

April, 1994

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

I. Introduction

II. Activities

III. Products, Communication, Outreach and Timetable

Annex 1: Background, Justification and History of the Program

Annex 2: Organizations Consulted to Develop the Workplan

Executive Summary

The goal of the Program is to foster long-term use and conservation of forest resources in Amazonia through a multi-stakeholder process which will include governmental policy makers and advisors, grassroots and indigenous groups, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and private business interests.

Specifically, the Program will:

- Identify options for decision makers to remove obstacles and create opportunities that will establish a policy environment conducive to achieving sustainable use and conservation of forest ecosystems in Amazonia.
- Promote an Action Agenda to implement priority activities necessary for achieving sustainability in Amazon forest ecosystems. Such activities will cover policy dialogue, capacity development and investment.

The priority target audience for the Program is senior local and national policy makers in the Amazon countries, international policy makers, indigenous peoples and grassroots groups, the private sector, environment and development non-governmental groups, development and donor agencies.

The Program has three phases, Planning (Phase I, started in June 1993 and completed in March 1994), Phase II, with various research activities by task forces and national partners (April 1994-April 1995), and Phase III, promotion of the recommendations and actions identified in Phase II.

The organizations responsible for Program implementation and coordination are listed on the cover of this document and form the Program Coordinating Group. Non-governmental and grassroots representatives will be included in all discussions, and their networks employed to gather broad input on the design of the Program and to review draft reports. Program implementation will be supported by advisory groups at the regional and national levels and by a Private Sector Advisory Group. These advisory bodies will draw upon expertise from the region and will enable wider input into the Program.

In each of the eight Amazon countries, an institution was chosen (following consultations with local groups) to be the National Coordinator (there will be two joint National Coordinators in Brazil). The National Coordinator will establish National Working Groups that include many other local institutions to collect and analyze data and information.

The role of the National Working Groups will be to select and analyze past and ongoing forest ecosystem management initiatives as case studies that illustrate the impact of existing policies, legislation and institutional regimes. Cases will include natural forest management for timber and non-timber products, nature conservation, agriculture, fisheries, agroforestry and plantation forestry. Based on the case studies and other components of the Program, the members of the National Working Groups will work with other Program participants to determine an Action Agenda, based on recommendations from the study, and promote its implementation.

The National Working Groups will be supported by three Task Forces which will:

- Formulate a Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM) to help decision makers identify initiatives that contribute to long-term conservation and use of Amazon forest ecosystems. The method will integrate ecological, economic and social criteria and also be used to establish principles and guidelines from past experiences to orient future investment.
- Investigate the obstacles and opportunities presented to the countries of the Amazon, in their efforts to promote sustainable forest ecosystem management, by international policies and institutions, including trade, structural adjustment and foreign assistance.
- Develop recommendations for policy makers for minimizing the negative impacts of large infrastructure developments in Amazonia, particularly highways.

The Program will prepare two publications: first, an easy-to-use manual describing the Sustainability Assessment Method; second, a report featuring the recommendations and conclusions of the National Working Groups and Task Forces. The latter publication will propose an Action Agenda of priority activities and investments to promote sustainable forest ecosystem management in Amazonia. Publishing will occur in 1995-6 in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Action for Sustainability in Amazonia

April, 1994

During Phase III, it is anticipated that a range of activities will be launched by partners and other groups to promote and implement the recommendations of Phase II. Activities will be managed by local, regional and national institutions. They could include strengthening capacity of local, national and regional institutions for policy analysis and implementation, promoting new programs of incentives and regulatory measures where needed, and further research activities on sustainable forest resource management.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Goals and Objectives of the Program

The goal of the proposed Program is to foster long-term use and conservation of forest ecosystem resources in Amazonia² through a multi-stakeholder process that involves governmental policy makers and advisors, grassroots groups and indigenous peoples, social development and conservation non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and private business interests.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- Identify options for decision makers to establish a policy environment conducive to achieving sustainable use and conservation of forest ecosystems in Amazonia.
- Promote an Action Agenda to implement priority activities necessary for achieving sustainability in Amazon forest ecosystems. Such activities will cover policy dialogue, capacity development and investment.

1.2 Terminology

The language used when discussing forest issues has become highly politicized as a result of the convergence of powerful social and economic forces around the issues. The terminology employed in this and other documents resulting from the Program has been carefully selected to promote the widest possible understanding of the meaning of the work in Spanish, Portuguese and English. The terminological challenge is ongoing and effort will continue to be made to refine and revise the language; any comments or criticisms on this topic would be most welcome.

² The partnership will comprise groups from all of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Box 1: Definition of Key Terms

Sustainable forest ecosystem management. Use and conservation of the forest-dominated landscape to generate products and employment while maintaining environmental services and conserving species, genetic and ecosystem diversity.

Policy. Expression of the goals and targets of an institution, implemented through legislation, program activities and budgets.

Policy dialogue. Process through which policy options are considered and consensus drawn.

Multi-stakeholder process. A series of activities designed to incorporate and involve the full range of residents, scientists, indigenous groups, business, industry and other groups in an effort to build partnership that seeks to achieve a common goal by cooperating in a joint program of work.

Capacity building. Establishing or strengthening the ability of policy makers and institutions to enhance decision making, planning, management, administration and implementation activities through improved information, knowledge, skills and facilities.

Target audience. Those who will use the products of the Program, or are expected to be influenced by them.

1.3 Scope of the Program

The Program will focus study and actions around the concept of "sustainable forest ecosystem management." Forest ecosystem management includes forestry (for timber and non-timber forest products), agriculture performed in a forest-dominated setting, plantation forestry and fisheries. This focus does not exclude consideration of other activities where these play a key role in promoting unsustainable land uses, and driving deforestation.

The forestry sector is therefore taken in a broad sense to include non-timber forest products (flora and fauna), and biogenetic resources. More specifically, analysis will focus on identifying mechanisms to promote long-term development of the contribution of timber,

non-timber forest products, fisheries, agriculture and agroforestry toward meeting the needs of the Amazon countries while maintaining "environmental service functions." The Program will include study of activities and options of a wide range of user groups, from indigenous to industrial and community programs.

Geographically, the Program will address the region covered by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. The geographic limits are deliberately loosely defined to reflect the ecological, social, political and economic interactions with other parts of the Amazon countries and beyond. It is recognized that some ambiguity regarding geographic scope remains, for example, the extent to which the Program should include Venezuela's Bolivar State and French Guiana.

1.4 Overview of Program Design

The Program is divided into three phases.

Phase I began in June 1993 and was completed in March 1994 with a planning workshop in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, at which an earlier version of this workplan was discussed. Planning activities involved visits by WRI staff to all of the Amazon countries and meetings with many senior policy makers, non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives and grassroots groups to learn about their needs and priority issues (see Annex 2 for a list of the institutions visited). The comments

from the planning workshop were written up in a synthesis report (available from the Program) and the workplan was revised accordingly.

Dialogue will continue within a "rolling" design to encourage input with suggestions for Program improvement throughout the life of the initiative.

For **Phase II**, a Program Coordinating Group has been created to coordinate implementation of the Program (a graphic outline of Phase II activities is provided in Figure 1, with an organizational map in Figure 2).

Box 2: Program Structure

Phase I:	Planning (9 months - completed)
Phase II:	Analysis by options and preparation of Action Agenda (18 months)
Phase III:	Promotion of Action Agenda (indefinite)

The focal point for Phase II activities will be at the national level in each country, with supporting actions at the regional scale. Throughout Phase II there will be an emphasis on promoting policy dialogue between representatives of the key interest groups. The following steps will be taken to implement Phase II:

1. An institution from each country will be invited (in consultation with the key local stakeholders) by the Managing Organizations to be **National Coordinator** (there will be eight in total).
2. **National Working Groups** will be developed by the National Coordinators to perform detailed policy research and case studies of selected forest ecosystem management initiatives in each of the Amazon countries (see Section II).
3. Three **Task Forces** will work to formulate a Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM), analyze international policies that affect the region's forests, and study infrastructure development policies respectively.
4. The recommendations of the Task Forces will be employed by the National Working Groups, in conjunction with their own analyses, to devise an Action Agenda to implement priority activities.
5. Two workshops will be held, one to discuss the Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM), and the other for broad debate of the proposed Action Agenda.

Figure 1. Outline of Phase II Activities

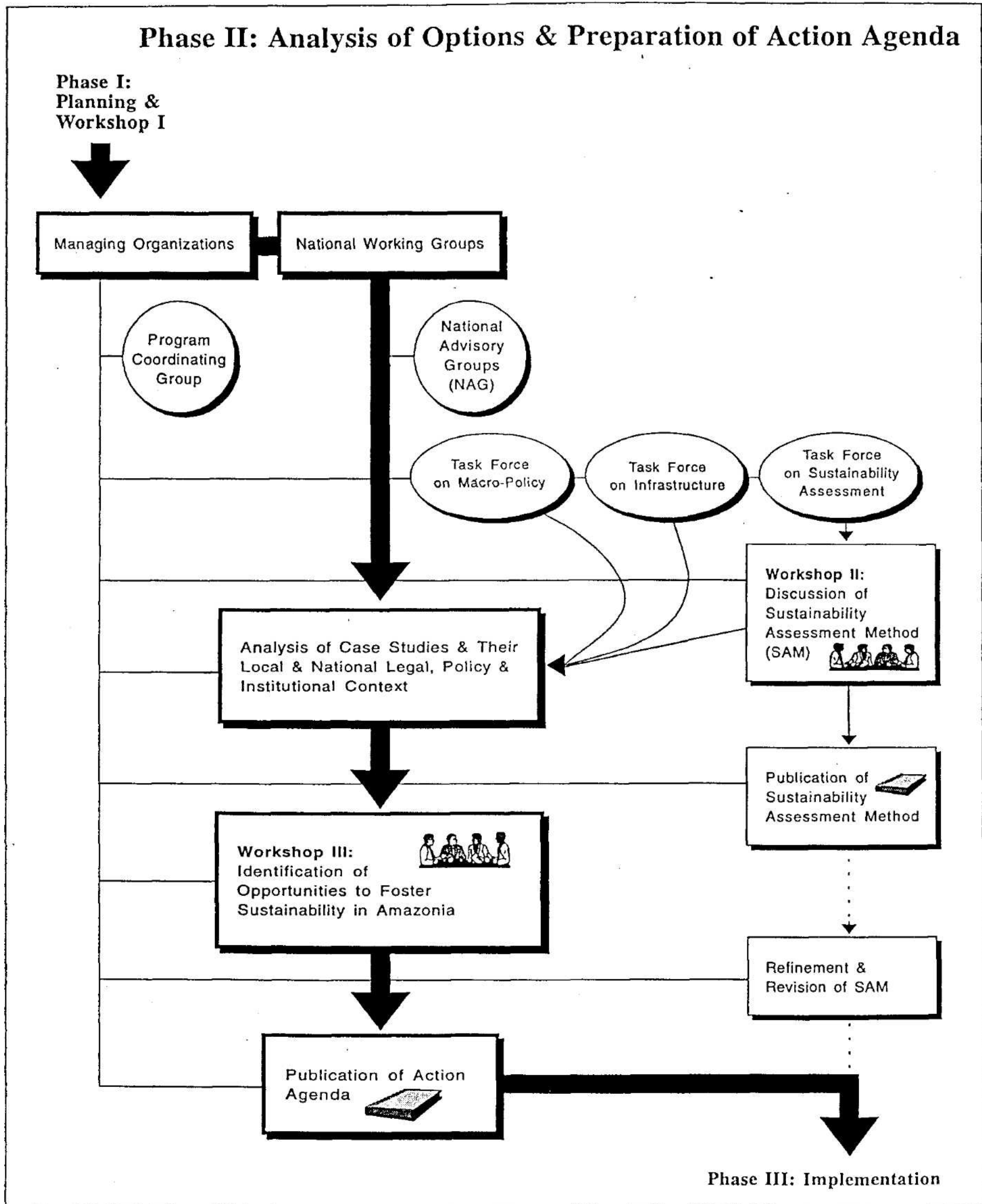
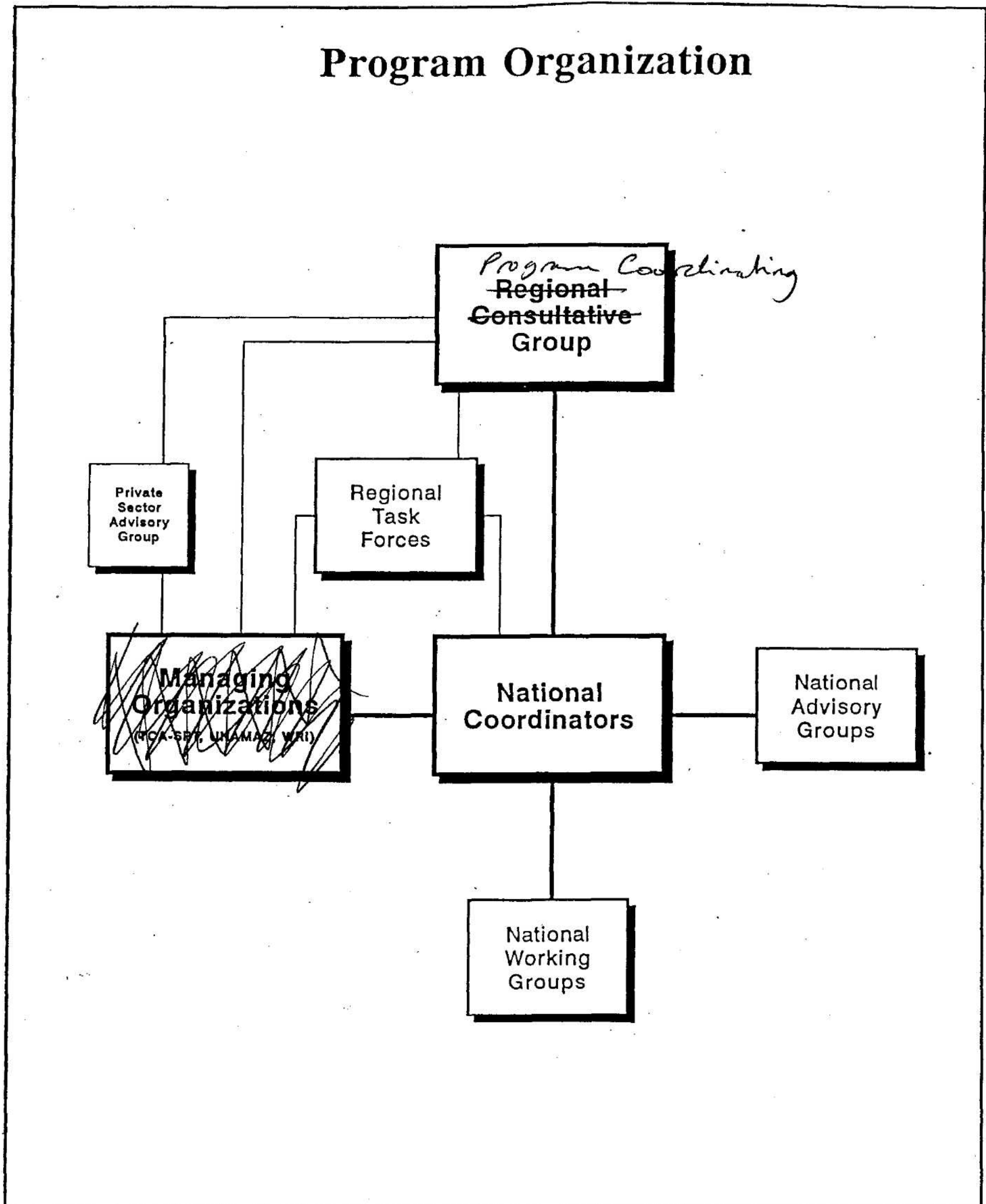


Figure 2.



The National Working Groups will be advised by:

1. **A Program Coordinating Group** made up of representatives of the organizations that have accepted responsibilities for guiding and implementing the Program (the Managing Organizations, the National Coordinators, COICA, the three Task Forces, and the Private Sector Advisory Group). In all, it will convene a total of 16-18 people.
2. **National Advisory Groups** convened in each country by the National Coordinators to gain input and participation from a range of interests. Typical composition would include government officials, indigenous and private sector representatives, NGOs and grassroots groups.
3. Input from hundreds of **grassroots groups** (including rural workers unions, small farmers associations, cooperatives, local NGOs) through their networking organizations such as the Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico (GTA) in Brazil.
4. **A Private Sector Advisory Group** created by the Latin America office of the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) with high-level business leaders from each country. Members of the Private Sector Advisory Group might also participate in the National Advisory Groups in their respective countries.

Phase II will result in two publications:

- **A major policy report** (100-150 pages, with a 15-page summary) presenting options for decision makers to implement sustainable forest ecosystem management with an **Action Agenda** highlighting the priority activities needed.
- **An easy-to-understand manual** describing the Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM).

The publications will be circulated widely in the region, simultaneously available in Spanish, Portuguese and English, and will be accompanied by outreach workshops.

Phase III will be action-oriented, building upon the results of Phase II, with promotion of the Action Agenda. Phase III activities will be identified through extensive consultation with a range of interest groups in Amazonia, as well as debate within the network of partners, advisors and contributors established in Phases I and II. Activities will include policy

dialogue, capacity building and investment activities. Phase III implementation will be largely in the hands of the national and local institutions, and their networks.

1.5 Target Audience³

The target audience for the products of the Program includes:

- Local and national government advisors and senior policy makers in the Amazon countries with responsibilities for policy that has an impact on forest ecosystem use.
- Elected representatives in local and national governments of the Amazon countries with interest in Amazonian development issues, including the 64 members of Amazon Parliament.
- Indigenous peoples' organizations and grassroots groups such as Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDESEP) in Peru, Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC) in Colombia, Coordinadoria das Organizações Indígenas da Amazonia Brasileira (COIAB) and Grupo de Trabalho Amazonico (GTA) in Brazil.
- Private investors and business leaders in the Amazon countries and internationally with actual or potential investments in the region.
- International development agencies and Programs, for example bilateral development and assistance agencies, the United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Organization of American States.
- Environmental and social development NGOs working in Amazonia.
- Research and teaching institutions such as the members of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ).

³ The term "target audience" is not entirely appropriate for describing the potential users of the products of the program as many of them, both as individuals and as institutions, will be participating in the execution of the program that leads to those products.

1.6 What is Different about this Program?

Several major initiatives are being implemented to reduce deforestation rates and promote sustainability in Amazonia, including the Group of Seven (G7) Pilot Program for the Conservation of the Brazilian Rain Forest, National Forestry Action Programs in various countries, and hundreds of projects underway at the national and local levels in each country.

This diversity of efforts provides the best hope for turning around the current pattern of resource degradation and poverty to move toward a vision of a well-managed forest ecosystem.

Various aspects of this Program complement and build upon the on-going initiatives in the region:

- It is regional, working with partners and issues in all of the Amazon countries.
- From the start, the Program has been predominantly a local effort with international institutions playing a catalytic role.
- The input of hundreds of grassroots groups through the existing, and rapidly growing, grassroots networks will be a central component.
- A diversity of interest groups are participating in the design and execution of the Program.
- The ownership of the Program is intentionally broad-based.
- The Program is administered and managed in a transparent and participatory fashion.
- The Program will promote actions based upon rigorous research of the opportunities for and obstacles to sustainable forest ecosystem management.
- The Program includes research and action at local, national and international levels.
- The Program does not compete with, but rather complements and draws upon the strengths of, other initiatives in Amazonia.

- An ambitious outreach component of the Program will begin early in Phase II to inform and invite the participation of institutions throughout the region and internationally.
- The Program design ensures a high probability of its being welcomed by policy makers and others in the region, and with their support, policy and institutional changes can reasonably be expected to result.

1.7 Institutional Capacity Building

One of the principal impediments to sustainable use of natural resources is the weakness of institutions charged with the task. In Phase II, institutional capacity of the local partners will be strengthened through the following:

- Their active participation in all stages of development of the Program.
- Execution of case studies including their design, use of field tools, analysis, compilation and presentation of the results.
- Overview analysis of the case studies once all are completed.
- Review of the prevailing policy and institutional environments, domestically and internationally.
- Participation in a developing network of groups in different Amazon countries working together to implement the Program.
- Strengthening of communications capabilities through, where necessary, installation and training in the use of, electronic communications (e-mail and its derivatives).⁴
- Greater harmonization, or at least compatibility of approach and understanding between different groups.

Capacity building will be a key part of Phase III, including strengthening capacity of local, national and regional institutions for policy analysis, formulation and implementation.

⁴ The Managing Organizations are committed to taking the fullest advantage of the information revolution and the opportunities it offers to the Program.

II. ACTIVITIES

2.1 National Working Groups -- Facilitating, strengthening and replicating local initiatives of forest ecosystem management in Amazonia

Small farmer organizations, private entrepreneurs, indigenous peoples' groups, government agencies and others are experimenting all over Amazonia with new approaches, or continuing traditional management practices, and in some cases integrating the two, in initiatives to establish long-term production systems. Through economic necessity or ethical design, these involve reduction of deforestation rates and management of the forest ecosystem. Admittedly, these initiatives are swamped by continuing expansion of cattle pasture and are in testing competition with loggers who invest little or nothing in forest management.

In striving for more sustainable management of forest ecosystems, it is the potentially successful local initiatives that must be encouraged with a supporting set of policies. Legislation and institutions should provide incentives, technical input through research, and security in the face of competing, less-desirable land uses.

In each of the eight countries an institution has been invited to be the **National Coordinator**.

The first task of each country's National Coordinator will be to convene a **National Advisory Group** in their country. The National Advisory Groups will be composed of individuals from various interest groups. Typical composition would include representatives of:

- Relevant government ministries
- Grassroots and indigenous groups
- NGO networks
- Private sector federations
- Research and teaching institutes

The National Coordinator will then establish a **National Working Group**, a consortium of various institutions and individuals who will implement Program activities, such as case studies and policy reviews. The composition of the National Working Groups will vary from country to country but could include technical specialists from universities and government research institutes, individuals from government agencies, technical experts from NGOs, grassroots groups and the private sector.

In addition to the above tasks, the National Coordinator in each country will:

- Serve as secretariat to the National Working Group to administer international and local funding available to support the work effort, coordinate and participate in the execution of the case studies and other activities, and participate as a member of the **Program Coordinating Group**.
- Network with a wide range of institutions throughout the country.
- Develop a mailing list of all those consulted or in the target audience in the country.
- Develop and implement a national outreach strategy to disseminate the activities and products of the Program.

2.2 National Working Group Activities

Activities to be implemented at the national level to satisfy the Program's objectives include:

- Case studies of promising initiatives of forest ecosystem management.
- Review of existing national and local policies and their implementation through legislation and institutions.

2.2.1 Case Studies

Case studies of specific projects or initiatives can help identify and evaluate the impact of particular policies, laws, and institutions upon a delimited geographic area during a defined time frame. It is at the local scale, of individual communities, forestry concessions, and agricultural enterprises, that policies and institutions, designed to promote more sustainable use of forest lands, have impact. The objectives of the case studies are to:

- Identify obstacles to and opportunities for promoting sustainability.
- Highlight promising activities and examples of more sustainable forest ecosystem management.

An important dimension of the case study approach is that it can be used to engage local partners with complementary expertise from different countries. Debate and exchange of experiences among partners from different Amazon countries can thereby be promoted.

Case studies will examine initiatives which industry, local communities, indigenous groups and others have developed or are implementing. Of particular interest are those initiatives that appear to hold promise to contribute to sustainability.

Cases will be chosen by the National Working Groups in consultation with the National Advisory Groups and the Program Coordinating Group. It is therefore impossible, at this stage, to provide a list of the cases to be studied.

Cases should reflect the most relevant and representative situations in each country, within the context of efforts toward sustainable development, and cover a range of activities such as:

- Agriculture and ranching in forested areas.
- Use of degraded areas which require restoration through the use of agroforestry systems.
- Timber and non-timber forest product extraction, small and large scale.
- Multiple use of forest.
- Indigenous territory management.
- Fresh water fisheries.
- Mining.
- Others to be identified in each country

As far as possible, a participatory approach will be taken to data collection. The partners will not only study but also work with those involved in each initiative to understand their perspectives, and to encourage them to reflect upon their actions.

2.2.2 Review of National Policies, Legislation and Institutions

The case studies will be complemented by collection of the following background information in each of the Amazon countries:

- Relevant literature and previous research reports.
- Documentation of national policies and legislation affecting the use of forest resources in each national Amazon territory.
- Documentation of the roles of, and relationships between, the various agencies whose actions have an impact on the use of forest resources.
- Institutional analysis of the key agencies.
- Analysis of coherence and compatibility of legal instruments and development policies.
- Review of the conceptual framework of laws, institutions and policies.

2.3 Task Forces

The activities of the National Working Groups will be supported by the work of three Task Forces. The Task Forces will serve as expert consultative groups on key, cross-cutting themes. Three key topics have been identified to date:

- Low-cost, easy-to-apply, sustainability assessment methods.
- International policy, including trade, structural adjustment and macroeconomic issues.
- Policies to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative impacts of infrastructure development, especially highway construction.

The task forces will be composed of leading technical specialists from the Amazon countries and the international community. The work of the task forces is described in detail below.

2.3.1 Task Force 1 -- Formulation of a Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM) to help decision makers identify initiatives that contribute to long-term conservation and use of Amazon forest ecosystems.

There are many reasons for evaluation of past, ongoing, and planned initiatives, including the need to:

- Better understand the practical meaning of "sustainability."
- Learn from past experiences.
- Provide guidelines and information to decision makers so that they can make well-informed policy decisions.
- Compare options and select those that contribute to sustainability goals.
- Strengthen the decision making capacity of development, conservation, and planning institutions.
- Complement existing tools, such as land use zoning, with more specific information on what types of initiative should be encouraged in different zones.

A simple planning tool will be developed which can be used to assess the actual and potential contribution of a range of ongoing projects to long-term development and conservation.

The first step toward developing the tool will be a survey of existing project evaluation techniques, starting with a review of their strengths and weaknesses. The Task Force will consist of a small team of leading thinkers on evaluation tools and indicators of sustainability (3-4 specialists from the Amazon countries, and 3-4 from other regions). It will be asked to integrate understanding of the different dimensions of sustainability:

1. Economic viability
2. Ecological sustainability
3. Technical appropriateness

4. Socio-cultural desirability
5. Institutional sustainability

2.3.2 Task Force 2 -- International policies, including trade and structural adjustment

The majority of Program activities will be directed to issues at the local, national and regional levels. In order to ensure that these efforts are not undermined by the inability of nations to adopt and follow up on the Program's findings, it is important to investigate the external pressures which affect national decision making. Of particular importance are the influence of international trade, debt, and structural adjustment policies. At the same time, international mechanisms based upon trade, debt relief, investment and donor actions, can be brought into play through innovative schemes to support and nurture more sustainable forest resource use.

The objectives of Task Force 2 will be to:

- Help understand impediments relating to international policy faced by Amazon countries seeking to implement sustainable forest ecosystem management.
- Identify policy and legislative measures which could be adopted by the Amazon states, solely or in unison, to overcome the impediments.
- Help to identify the opportunities presented by international mechanisms and other innovative proposals which could be utilized to promote sustainability.

Among the issues that the case studies and national policy reviews carried out by the National Working Groups might identify as needing further analysis are:

- The new agricultural regulation under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in relation to the use of forest resources.
- The impact of GATT and other trade rules through export and import restrictions.
- The role of antitrust law and enforcement, as well as dispute resolution procedures of GATT and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The ability of national governments and interested parties to ensure that GATT and other international agreements do not undermine sustainable development goals.

- The relationship between structural adjustment policies (SAPs) and the potential for the adoption of sound policies.
- The constraints which continued and ever-growing indebtedness places upon the adoption of environmentally-friendly development strategies.

2.3.3 Task Force 3 -- Policies to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative impacts of infrastructure development, especially highway construction in Amazonia

Recent history of development in Amazonia has centered on the construction of highways which create convenient access to vast areas of land, forest, and other resources previously accessible only by many days of river travel. The highways have brought economic development, ecological devastation and social turmoil demonstrated by the construction of the BR 364 highway linking Brazil's *cerrado* region to the interior of Rondonia and Acre in the 1980s.

Domestic and international outcry has resulted in less highway construction since the mid-1980s, but it is clear from the nature of local political debate and economic pressures, as well as genuinely expressed needs to improve access, that construction of new highways and the improvement of existing ones will continue. Cases which merit special attention are the extension of the BR 364 to the Pacific coast of Peru and improvement of the route north from Porto Velho to Manaus and on to Venezuela and Guyana.

A result of recent history has been dramatic politicization of the highways debate in Amazonia. It is very important to stress that *this Program is not starting from an anti-highways stance*, but rather is determined to provide a clearer framework to guide decision makers and establish a suite of policy recommendations which, if implemented along with the development of new highways, could increase their benefits and minimize negative impacts.

Experts predict that the route to the Pacific would reduce transport costs of agricultural and forest products from the western Amazon to Asia so dramatically that it would provide an enormous stimulus to large-scale investment and production in the region. Such activity could bring tremendous economic and social benefit, but it also threatens to promote social conflict and uncontrolled loss of the forest resource base.

Two sets of issues are raised:

- What should be the process through which new highway construction decisions are made, and which factors and dimensions should be considered when making such decisions?
- Once it is decided that a highway should be constructed or improved, what steps can be taken to maximize the benefits it brings and minimize the negative results?

Task Force 3 will work with local policy makers and other interest groups in Amazonia to formulate recommendations which could be used as guidelines in the highway decision making process. The recommendations will include types of analysis needed to assess the costs and benefits of construction and a review of the other options available for addressing transport and access needs in the region.

The analysis will draw upon experiences in Amazonia and in other parts of the world to identify a set of fiscal incentives, such as speculation taxes, land transfer taxes and toll fees which may help to reduce negative impacts. A series of policy recommendations will be prepared along with institutional needs for their implementation.

III. PRODUCTS, COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND TIMETABLE

3.1 Products

Phase II will result in two publications:

- **A major policy report** (100-150 pages, with a 15 page summary) presenting options for decision makers to implement sustainable forest ecosystem management with an **Action Agenda** highlighting the priority activities needed.
- **An easy-to-understand manual** describing the Sustainability Assessment Method (SAM).

The publications will be circulated widely in the region, simultaneously available in Spanish, Portuguese and English, accompanied by outreach workshops.

Other components of the Program may also be published as stand-alone reports depending upon the importance of the findings and needs for outreach.

3.2 Communication and Outreach

A two-step set of outreach activities is planned during Phase II:

1. Dissemination of information about the activities of the Program to policy makers and others in the Amazon countries and internationally (including North America and Europe). This will create an expectant and informed audience awaiting the results of the analyses.
2. Promotion of the published products of Phase II with a series of events in the Amazon countries and internationally.

Program staff have identified opportunities to make target organizations aware of the Program prior to the release of publications. Briefings are planned with major international donor and development agencies, governments and non-governmental groups in the USA and Europe, and the business community.

The National Coordinator in each Amazon country will be expected to develop their own outreach strategy. The staff of WRI's outreach department will provide support and, if funds are available, an outreach training workshop will be held.

Throughout Phase II of the Program, there will be a series of meetings, workshops and fora as the task forces and advisory groups go about their work. A major opportunity for dissemination of information will be at the Association of Amazonian Universities' (UNAMAZ) General Assembly in Manaus in September 1994. There, activities will be promoted among 68 research and teaching institutions from the region.

During Phase II, a mailing list will be developed and used to communicate information about the progress of activities. The list will be supplemented by names from WRI's general mailing list of institutions, government officials, NGOs and others, both inside and outside the Amazon countries, who are likely to have an interest in the Program.

Draft Program documents will be widely reviewed prior to publication. Formal review will be performed by the National Advisory Groups and the Program Coordinating Group. Each National Coordinator will also solicit comments from interest groups within their country.

Established and emerging networks of grassroots groups will be extensively employed to facilitate communication about the Program as it develops, and to constantly seek input from as great a diversity of institutions.

Computer communications networks will be used to increase the speed and decrease the cost of communication between the partners. Where connections to the network do not exist, the Program will attempt to find funding to have them installed and conduct training.

The release of the Action Agenda, will be accompanied by press releases in the Amazon countries and internationally. Also planned are articles in major news magazines, and if possible, the production of a television documentary, with sponsorship from one of the major networks. At release, approximately 8,000 copies of the report will be mailed out to key individuals.

3.3 Follow-Up

As described in the Overview of Program Design (Section 1.3, above), Phase II will be followed by promotion of the priority actions identified as essential for promoting sustainable forest ecosystem use and conservation in Amazonia. The broad foundation of participation

and support generated by the Program partners in earlier phases will guarantee tangible results from efforts to implement the Action Agenda. The members of the Program Coordinating Group are optimistic that policy dialogue will be more informed as a result of the Program and that consequently decision makers will choose to implement some of the priority measures required. The intensive outreach effort to international organizations and investors is also likely to yield dividends in Phase III with the implementation of better informed investment initiatives in the region.

3.4 Timetable

April - May 1994:	Establishment of regional and national partnership agreements.
May 1994:	Constitution of Program Coordinating Group, to meet 2-3 times over the coming year.
May 1994 - Sept. 1995:	National Working Groups and Task Forces created and implement activities.
November 1994:	UNAMAZ General Assembly workshop.
November 1994:	Workshop II for discussion of draft Sustainable Assessment Method manual.
February 1995:	Publication of assessment method manual.
September 1995:	Workshop III to discuss draft report and Action Agenda.
Sept. 1995 - Feb. 1996:	Consultation and preparation of final draft and publication of report.
March - April 1996:	Launch of report and outreach in the Amazon countries and internationally.
April 1996 onwards:	Start of Phase III.

Annex 1. Background, Justification and History of the Program.⁵

The countries of the Amazon Basin are confronted by serious challenges of poverty, meeting agricultural production goals, creating employment, satisfying domestic needs for basic raw materials, including forest products, and satisfying the energy demands of their growing economies.

According to official statistics, over 70% of the population of the Amazon countries lives in or on the edge of poverty with annual per capita income of less than US\$ 2,000. Demands for energy, food and industrial wood are large and growing and have a heavy toll on the region's forests. Taking the Amazon countries as a whole, approximately 72% (by volume) of all wood production is for fuelwood and charcoal, 25% is for local industrial consumption, and 3% is exported with different levels of processing. If consumption grows at a rate close to population growth rates then an increase in demand for fuelwood of about 50 % is projected by the year 2015. In the Centro-Oeste region of Brazil, 24 million cubic meters of charcoal are consumed each year, a significant part of which is of primary forest origin.

Projections of national demand for industrial wood products based on small increases in per capita consumption and projected population growth show that the demand in the Amazon countries for these products will almost double between 1990 and 2015, without considering policy makers' stated goals of also increasing exports.

Demand for agricultural products will also increase with population growth. The economies of the Amazon countries are also heavily dependent on agricultural production to generate export income. Agricultural commodities currently account for one third of export earnings. If exports are to be maintained, the growing population fed, and the policy makers' goals of reducing basic food imports to be realized, a significant increase in the productivity of the agricultural sector is required.

Pressures outside the region and the creation of opportunities in Amazonia, albeit short-lived, have encouraged human migration to the Amazonian territories. The expansion of oil exploration in Ecuador, penetration roads in Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, and mining activities in Guyana have all facilitated unplanned colonization. In Brazil, incentives programs and occupation policies have also driven colonization. Much of the "problem" now faced "in" Amazonia can therefore be traced back to forces outside the region. This is particularly clear in the Andean countries which have witnessed a flood of migrants to the Amazon frontier in response to lack of land and declining fertility in the Sierra.

Meeting the internal challenges has not been helped by a range of international structural obstacles to developing countries seeking economic development. These include unfavorable international

⁵ The program thanks Dr. Roberto Samanez Mercado and Dr. Julio Cesar Centeno for helping provide the data cited here.

exchange rates and debt burdens which consume a large proportion of export earnings in some countries to repay loans at rates of interest in excess of those paid by developed countries.

The result of the constellation of economic, social and political pressures has been deforestation of large areas of native forest, converted to relatively unproductive agricultural land and pasture, often abandoned after a few years, as well as continuation of the pressure from a poor population to present alternative policies, strategies or plans to meet their needs.

Of the 7.25 million square kilometers of Amazonia, about 80 % was historically covered by forest and the rest by other vegetation types such as natural savannahs. The amount that has been deforested is debated and varies with definitions of deforestation, measurement techniques and definition of the geographic limits of Amazonia. According to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the figure is 12%. Approximately 64% of the deforestation registered during the 1980s was due to conversion to agriculture and pasture, 20% due to forestry activities and 16% for other uses such as mining and hydroelectricity generation.

One of the principal benefits policy makers have sought as a result of deforestation is meeting agricultural, forestry and energy needs in the Amazon countries and fuelling exports, and results are disappointing. At least 40% of the land cleared for agriculture and pasture in Amazonia is currently not producing food. A proportion of this is due to the abandonment of pastures, long fallow periods of shifting cultivation, and high colonist attrition rates. The land that is in beef production exhibits low stocking rates. Labor-intensive shifting cultivation largely meets subsistence needs of poor colonists, with little excess for the markets, and relatively low quality products which consequently command low prices.

The forestry sector has almost universally not implemented appropriate forest management systems anywhere in the region. Wood extraction and processing are extremely wasteful; a recent ITTO study for Ecuador measured wastage rates of up to 70% of the useable timber. Typically less than 10% of the useable timber is harvested due to market constraints, and in the process 40% of the standing trees are damaged due to the use of inappropriate felling techniques and equipment far inferior to those which could be employed given more training and investment. In addition, due to the high profits captured in this poorly regulated industry, logging companies have received a strong incentive to exploit relatively isolated, and previously inaccessible sites, especially where the most valuable export species are abundant. The access roads have in some cases proved irresistible to colonists who have moved in to establish shifting cultivation. Subsequently many of these areas have been purchased by larger land owners for extensive cattle ranching. Meanwhile, poverty continues with high infant mortality rates, 10-20 times those of developed countries, poor access to formal education, and serious problems of malnutrition.

An additional impact which has attracted much attention is that suffered by the indigenous inhabitants of the region who have traditionally been excluded from the development debate. It is estimated that there are currently about one million indigenous people in Amazonia, many living a lifestyle almost

totally dependent upon forest resources. While many of the countries have recognized the rights of the indigenous peoples to land and public services, there are serious conflicts in some of the countries over such issues as the extraction of timber and mineral resources from indigenous lands, and provision of public services. At the same time there has been little effort to work with the indigenous populations to improve "western" understanding of how the lands and forest resources of Amazonia might better serve national needs through improved agricultural and forest use systems.

Development policies in the Amazon countries promoting forest conversion to agriculture and pasture clearly give greater value to these activities than to maintenance of forest cover and the development of production systems based upon the direct use of the forest resource itself. The undervaluing of the forest, and the vision of the forest as an obstacle rather than an asset for development, has perhaps been at the root of many of the forces driving deforestation. Undervaluing of the forest has been paralleled by lack of investment in social and development services in the Amazon region. Agricultural development and colonization schemes, though criticized as misguided and likely to return few benefits in the long term, have themselves not received the investment in technical support and infrastructure development that they would have needed to have even a chance of generating return.

Over the past five to ten years there has been a shift in most of the Amazon countries with respect to legislation and institutional structures designed to promote "sustainable development" in the region. This nebulous concept defined in various ways has broadly been interpreted to mean achieving economic and social development without compromising the abilities of future generations to also meet their needs. In practice, this shift has meant greater concern with environmental and social factors in planning development, and realization that emphasis of short-term needs can greatly reduce the options for achieving long-term development goals.

In Brazil, the past decade has witnessed the establishment of an environmental secretariat, recently absorbed by the newly formed Ministry of the Environment and Amazonia. Legislation has been passed limiting rates of deforestation for individual land owners and reducing fiscal incentives for cattle ranching, as well as slowing the government-sponsored colonization process, and strengthening the need for environmental impact assessments for development schemes. Institutional strengthening to combat illegal deforestation, and reduction in fiscal subsidies (as well as the economic recession) have dramatically reduced the annual deforestation rate in the Brazilian Amazon largely due to lower rates of establishment of cattle pasture. Brazil's 1988 constitution recognized the importance of the country's long-term needs with a strong environmental article.

The Government of Colombia has also restructured its administration with the creation of an environment ministry and a simplification of the relationship between national and local government in environmental policy making. The government established a moratorium on new forestry concessions until legislation and policy can be strengthened following concerns about the ability to monitor the management in the older concessions. Colombia's 1989 constitution took the significant step of requiring the transformation of about half of the country's Amazon territory into semi-autonomous indigenous areas.

The Government of Venezuela has instituted a series of legal and institutional changes since 1989 to establish a unique policy with respect to the state of Amazonas. This includes the establishment of the Servicio Autonomo para el Desarrollo Ambiental del Territorio Amazonas which has created an innovative working relationship with the State's majority indigenous population, also the founding of the Centro Amazonico de Investigaciones Ambientales "Alexander von Humbolt," and the declaration of the world's largest biosphere reserve covering 49% of the State (8.9 million hectares) jointly managed with its indigenous inhabitants.

In Bolivia, the new administration has created a Ministry of Sustainable Development and Environment with the goal of beginning a more unified approach to development planning. A "pausa ecologica" has also come into force with the cessation of granting of new forestry concessions while a new forestry law is drafted to address the concerns about long-term forestry development.

President Fujimori of Peru recently affirmed his country's commitment to sustainable development in the Peruvian Amazon and supported the inclusion of an article to that effect in the 1993 constitutional revision. A new forestry law, prepared in a collaborative effort between the government, private sector and NGOs, is also likely to come into force in the near future.

A national environmental planning exercise is beginning in Ecuador with the goal of developing a plan to reduce the environmental impact of development activities in the country. The effort will be led by the former Secretary of the SPT-TCA who has demonstrated commitment to recognizing the constraints to development in Amazonia and promoting promising alternative land uses.

In Guyana, the new administration is committed to a major restructuring of the government with the creation of a National Environmental Protection Agency and review of some of the forestry legislation.

The government of Suriname has recently adopted new forestry legislation designed to promote more sustainable forestry activities.

A series of international initiatives are also contributing to change in the region. Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Guyana are at various stages in the development of National Tropical Forestry Programs within the framework of the international Tropical Forestry Action Program. These national exercises aim to coordinate international donor support to reduce rates of deforestation.

To date, however, national forestry action programs are fully underway only in Colombia and Bolivia. There is also discussion of a Forestry Program for the Amazon region as a whole.

In the Brazilian Amazon, the Group of Seven is financing a pilot program to reduce deforestation rates with projects to strengthen extractive reserves, indigenous areas, national forests, research centers and the Ministry of the Environment and Amazonia. In addition, The World Bank is executing loans in the states of Rondonia and Mato Grosso involving agricultural development, conservation of forest resources and local institutional strengthening.

Perhaps the most important positive sign is the multiplication of grassroots initiatives to promote more sustainable resource use. These efforts are being established by local associations, indigenous peoples, rural unions, small and large private business people, and many other types of non-governmental groups, as well as by local government agencies, often at the municipal level. The success of many of these initiatives has been questioned, but undoubtedly one of the factors which impedes their progress has been the continuing lack of support from the prevailing policy, legal and institutional environment.

The various indicators of the growing receptivity among senior policy makers, civil society and development agencies worldwide to explore possibilities of seeking alternative directions for meeting the needs of the Amazon countries justify renewed effort to promote revision of perspectives and strategies for the region. Senior policy makers in many of the Amazon countries admit, however, that none of them has the institutions, policies and laws to begin to implement their good intentions. Furthermore, there is no long-term development and conservation strategy for their national Amazon territories, let alone for the region as a whole. Without long-term planning, accompanied by investment in appropriate activities, institutional strengthening and training there is little doubt that the good intentions of policy makers will not be sufficient to change the continuing pattern of occupation of the region with its accompanying poverty, environmental degradation and, most importantly, reduced potential to meet greater development needs in the future.

Recent studies have shown that there is significant potential for implementing economic development based upon the use of forest resources in Amazonia compatible with conservation of the resource base⁶. There are, however, many obstacles to the wider implementation of promising resource management systems.

⁶ See for example, *Amazonia sim Mitos*. SPT-TCA, 1992. *Seminário Internacional sobre Meio Ambiente, Pobreza e Desenvolvimento da Amazonia (SIMDAMAZONIA)*. Governo do Estado do Pará & Secretaria de Estado de Ciência, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente, 1992, and A. Anderson (Ed.), *Alternatives to Deforestation: Steps toward sustainable use of the Amazon Rain Forest*. Colombia University Press, New York, 1990.

Many of the obstacles can be classified into two categories:

- Lack of investment, through appropriate mechanisms in alternative production systems and the institutions needed to support them.
- Inappropriate international, national and local policies and legislation which promote short-term thinking and long-term degradation of the resource base.

Poor national policies include:

- Requirement that forested land be cleared to win title to the land.
- Very low rates of rent capture by governments from many resource extraction and forest management initiatives.
- Community lands under more traditional, proven management are often not recognized by national governments.
- Overly restrictive, impractical regulation governing private forest use impeding efforts by owners of large tracts of forest or concessionaires to implement innovative forest management, and promoting disrespect for efforts to control forest use.
- Little economic incentive for more sustainable resource use and forest management.
- Lack of institutional capacity for monitoring forest use and enforcing regulations, and for implementing and monitoring the necessary social and environmental safeguards built into the design of more recent infrastructure development projects.
- Lack of investment in research to develop and refine models of more sustainable forest use.
- Highly centralized governance structures making local participation in decision making extremely difficult. This often does not reflect local interests and the "public good" when policy decisions are taken.
- Decentralization of decision making without the institutional capacity to ensure that basic principles established by the national governments are followed, and without investment in local development programs.

There have been numerous studies of the policy and institutional impediments to implementing more sustainable renewable resource use in Amazonia aiming to promote changes to address many of the issues listed above.⁷ Many of the policy studies have certain factors in common which may have reduced their impact on policies, institutions and the problems they were aiming to address.

- The research is non-participatory and so tends to be insensitive to the different perspectives and perceptions of the issues of some or all resource users and, in some cases, of the policy makers themselves. Where the points of view of some interests groups are considered it is often to the exclusion of other perspectives.
- They neither attempt to attach priorities to the many recommendations made, nor examine the feasibility of making changes considering investment needs, political will and opportunities to implement reforms.⁸
- Overly reductionist analyses giving attention to questions of only natural forest management, or only agricultural production ignoring the interaction between sectors and such important issues as the forest as a source of energy.

⁷ Recent works include:

i. *Seminário Internacional sobre Meio Ambiente, Pobreza e Desenvolvimento da Amazonia (SIMDAMAZONIA)*. Governo do Estado do Pará & Secretaria de Estado de Ciência, Tecnologia e Meio Ambiente, 1992.

ii. *Simpósio Internacional sobre Cenários de Desenvolvimento Sustentável na Amazonia: Alternativas econômicas e perspectivas de cooperação internacional*. SUDAM/GTZ/UNDP, 1992.

iii. N. de Figueiredo Ribeiro, *Políticas Públicas para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável da Amazonia*. Governo do Estado do Pará, 1990.

iv. *Amazônia: Facts, Problems and Solutions*. University of São Paulo/INPE, 1989.

v. *Programa Nacional de Conservação e Desenvolvimento Florestal Sustentado*. UNDP/FAO/IBAMA, 1987.

⁸ See, for example, R. López, *Environmental Degradation and Economic Openness in LDCs: The poverty linkage*. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1992, Vol. 74, pp. 1138-1143, for a critique of H. Binswanger, *Brazilian Policies that Encourage Deforestation in the Amazon*. *World Development*, 1991, Vol. 19, 821-830.

- There has been an overemphasis (with the notable exception of the work of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty) on the Brazilian Amazon, to the exclusion of the eight other national territories which cover over 30% of the Amazon Basin and offer many valuable experiences that could benefit policy making in the region as a whole, as well as the potential of regional cooperation to promote development and conservation.⁹
- No investment plan developed to accompany policy reform.

A series of problems have also been identified with the existing investment programs in Amazonia. These include:

- The processes are often highly "donor-driven" rather than responding to an investment strategy defined by the "recipient" of the funds.
- Very piecemeal approach with insufficient consideration of the broad range of investment needs.
- Poor coordination between investment efforts, sometimes resulting in competition to fund the same initiative and no funding for other worthwhile initiatives.
- Lack of systematic learning from past experiences resulting in the repetition of mistakes and wastage of funds.

In the light of some of the problems listed above, a group of institutions at the regional and international levels has developed this workplan on the basis of consultations with many institutions in the Amazon countries. The methods and Program management structure described in the workplan should overcome many of the problems encountered by efforts to promote more sustainable forest ecosystem management in Amazonia.

⁹ For an example of a regional effort see, *Propuesta de Políticas y Estrategias Regionales para el Aprovechamiento Sustentable de los Recursos Forestales de la Amazonia*. Amazon Cooperation Treaty Pro Tempore Secretariat, 1993.

History of the Program

In 1992, the World Resources Institute (WRI), among many other institutions, was invited by the Ecuadorian Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (SPT-TCA) to participate in an effort to prepare a proposal for harmonization of forest policy at the regional level in Amazonia. Representatives from all of the TCA member countries participated and a proposal was developed and published in 1993.¹⁰

In 1992 SPT-TCA published "Amazonia without Myths" which had the objective of promoting a more informed and rational debate at regional and national levels about what Amazonia really is, what the challenges are and how they might be addressed.

Building upon "Amazonia without Myths" and the regional forest policy proposal, WRI, in consultation with SPT-TCA, initiated a series of informal, one-on-one consultations with institutions and individuals in all of the Amazon countries with the objective of beginning to identify key obstacles to increasing the sustainability of management of forest ecosystems in the region. A wide range of interest groups was consulted including senior government policy makers, grassroots and research NGOs, indigenous peoples organizations, indigenous leaders, research and teaching institutions, pressure groups, private sector industry federations, and donor and development agencies.

It became obvious through the consultations that a major obstacle to advancing the debate has been the very mechanisms by which debate has occurred. There seemed to be general agreement on many of the basic obstacles, such as problems with current policies and institutional structures, but there had been little agreement or success in developing means to address the problems. Many people seemed to know what to do (as reflected in the wide agreement around the proposals presented in "Amazonia without Myths" and other publications), but were unsure how to do it.

Following the consultations, WRI prepared several drafts of a workplan, each evolving to more appropriately reflect the input received during the many meetings held in the region. The draft workplan set out various proposals for research, capacity building and actions in the Amazon countries with the overall goal of fostering more sustainable management of forest ecosystems. The workplan was reviewed and revised by people in the Amazon countries several times until a draft was arrived at which most felt would be a valuable basis for group discussion.

A planning workshop was organized to bring together people from a range of interest groups from the Amazon countries, to discuss and modify the draft workplan and to consider whether sufficient common interest exists to warrant program implementation. The workshop was organized with the

¹⁰ *Propuesta de Políticas y Estrategias Regionales para el Aprovechamiento Sustentable de los Recursos Forestales de la Amazonia.* SPT-TCA, 1993.

Action for Sustainability in Amazonia

April, 1994

local sponsorship of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ) and the FAO Project in Support of the SPT-TCA, and international sponsorship from WRI, the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Following the workshop, the workplan was revised and is here presented as the Program Description.

Annex 2. Organizations and Key Individuals Consulted to Develop the Workplan.

Bolivia

Conservation International-Bolivia (CI)
 Liga de Defesa del Medio Ambiente (LIDEMA)
 Coordinadora del Programa Nacional de Acción Forestal (PAF)
 Corporación para el Desarrollo del Departamento de Santa Cruz (CORDECRUZ)
 Fondo Nacional para el Medio Ambiente (FONAMA)
 Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible
 Misión Británica en Agricultura Tropical
 Servicio Holandés de Cooperación Técnica y Social (SNV)
 Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social (UNITAS)
 Universidad Autónoma "Gabriel René Moreno"
 World Bank

Brazil

Associação das Indústrias Exportadoras de Madeiras dos Estados do Pará e Amapá (AIMEX)
 Association of Amazon Universities (UNAMAZ)
 Centro Agro-Ambiental do Tocantins (CAT)
 Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros (CNS)
 Coordinadora das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB)
 Conservation International-Brazil (CI)
 Deputado Fabio Feldmann
 Deputado Luciano Pizzatto
 Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA)
 Centro de Pesquisa Agroflorestal da Amazônia Oriental (CPATU)
 Centro Nacional de Pesquisas de Florestas (CNPQ)
 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias do Pará (FCAP)
 Fundação Brasileira de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (FBDS)
 Fundação de Tecnologia do Estado do Acre (FUNTAC)
 Fundação Pro-Natura (FUNATURA)
 Grupo de Trabalho Amazonico (GTA)
 Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA)
 Instituto de Desenvolvimento Econômico-Social do Pará (IDESP)
 Instituto de Estudos Amazonicos e Ambientais (IEA)
 Instituto de Meio Ambiente del Estado de Amazonas (IMA)
 Instituto de Meio Ambiente e do Homem da Amazonia (IMAZON)
 Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia (INPA)
 Instituto Sociedad, População e Natureza (ISPN)
 Instituto de Pre-Historia e Ecologia (IPHAE)
 Nordisk

Action for Sustainability in Amazonia

April, 1994

Nucleo de Dereitos Indigenas (NDI)
 PLANAFLORO
 PROCITROPICOS
 Sociedade para a Conservação dos Recursos Naturais e Cultura de Amazonia (SOPREN)
 Superintendência de Desenvolvimento de Amazonia (SUDAM)
 United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 Universidade Federal do Estado do Pará
 Woods Hole Research Center
 World Wildlife Fund-Brazil (WWF)

Colombia

Asociación Macarena
 CECOIN
 Corporación Colombiana para la Amazonía Araracuara (COA)
 Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP)
 Fundación Gaia
 Fundación Natura
 Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta
 Fundación Puerto Rastrojo
 Instituto Nacional de los Recursos Naturales Renovables y del Ambiente (INDERENA)
 Senador Gabriel Muyuy

Ecuador

Asociación Industriales Madereros (AIMA)
 Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazonica (COICA)
 Eduardo Mansur (consultant)
 Fundación Natura
 World Conservation Union (IUCN)
 Secretaria Pro Tempore del Tratado de Cooperación Amazonico (SPT-TCA)

Guyana

Red Thread Womens' Development Programme
 Navin Chandarpal, Presidential Advisor
 Guyana Environmental Monitoring and Conservation Organization (GEMCO)
 Guyana Organization of Indigenous Peoples
 Guyana Forestry Commission
 TROPENBOS
 University of Guyana

Perú

Asociación de Ecología y Conservación (ECCO)
 Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSESP)
 Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (APECO)
 Alberto Sato Abe (Presidential Advisor)
 Camera Nacional Forestal
 Conservation International-Peru (CI)
 Deputado Julio Díaz Palacios
 Fundación para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (FPCN)
 Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA)
 Oxfam South America
 Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)

Suriname

Bruynzeel Inc.
 Conservation International-Guinas Program (CI)
 Foundation for Nature Preservation (STINASU)
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 NGO Service Bureau
 Suriname Forest Service
 University of Suriname

Venezuela

Audubon de Venezuela
 Econatura
 Fondo Nacional de Investigación Forestal
 Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA)
 Servicio Autónomo Forestal (SEFORVEN)
 Servicio Autónomo para el Desarrollo Ambiental del Estado de Amazonas (SADA-AMAZONAS)
 Universidad de los Andes