

Melina Selverston a, 09:45 04/10/96 +0, (Fwd) BIG time logging in the

X-Old-Sender: <amazoncoal@pop.igc.apc.org>  
From: "Melina Selverston and Debra Delavan" <amazoncoal@igc.apc.org>  
Organization: Amazon Coalition

INSTITUTO SOCIOAMBIENTAL  
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cod. 137 0000

To: hhogrefe@hr.house.gov, amazoncoal@igc.apc.org, anacasti@aol.com, ariw@cr-am.rnp.br, pgarzon@acecol.ecx.ec, postmast@oraiqupe.org.pe, amanakaa96@aol.com, tst3@cornell.edu, lrabben@igc.apc.org, csalinas@igc.apc.org, postmaster@apdh.org.pe, rossana@apdh.org.pe, Arc2Amaz@ConnRiver.net, ktreakle@igc.apc.org, karih@igc.apc.org, bread@igc.apc.org, cesr@igc.apc.org, cielus@igc.apc.org, cntm@igc.apc.org, krsticv@hrw.org, crle@aol.com, nativlan@access.digex.net, columbandc@igc.apc.org, coica@ecuanex.ec, k.awbrey@conservation.org, e.ortiz@conservation.org, j.thomsen@conservation.org, CI-Peru@conservation.org, ccd@ECNET.ec, conaie@ecuanex.ec, tmacdon@cfia.harvard.edu, csc@web.APC.ORG, dgap@igc.apc.org, earthaction@igc.apc.org, steves@edf.org, elawus@igc.apc.org, foedc@igc.apc.org, D\_YASHAR@HARVARD.EDU, pazp@hrw.org, hra@cais.com, amazanga@ecuanex.ecx.ec, socioamb@ax.APC.ORG, mshifter@iadialog.org, cklyemeyer@iaf.gov, dstanton@iaf.gov, iitc@igc.apc.org, glenirn@igc.apc.org, lawg@igc.apc.org, mknoildc@igc.apc.org, bramble@nwf.org, rob@essential.org, ic-nfp@clark.net, Benson\_Susan@oas.org, cathyross@igc.apc.org, bromero@igc.apc.org, postmaster@oxam.org.pe, steve@moles.org, kellyq@ran.org, amazonia@igc.apc.org, canopy@igc.apc.org, rffny@igc.apc.org, georgem@dti.net, mespinoza@igc.apc.org, saic@igc.apc.org, 7genfund@humboldt1.com, scldfintl@igc.apc.org, nickie@leland.stanford.edu, tonantzin@igc.apc.org, sdaues@igc.apc.org, jabanales@aol.com, mark.rentschler@treas.sprint.com, urep@uclink.berkeley.edu, dwhyner@usaid.gov, eolson@wola.org, nigels@wri.org, worldview@igc.apc.org, denis\_udall@elob.ci.net, jcp149@psu.edu, delavan@alllinux1.alliance.net, pall@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu, jkimerling@igc.org, jonathanfox@igc.apc.org, Ssumka@aol.com, bret@wjh.harvard.edu

Date: Fri, 4 Oct 1996 09:45:16 +0000  
Subject: (Fwd) BIG time logging in the Brazilian Amazon  
Reply-to: amazoncoal@igc.apc.org  
Priority: normal  
Sender: amazoncoal@igc.org

----- Forwarded Message Follows -----

Date: Wed, 25 Sep 1996 09:04:41 -0300  
Reply-to: amazonia-l@marajo.secom.ufpa.br  
From: Jose Roberto de Alencar Moreira <jmoreira@cenargen.embrapa.br>  
To: Multiple recipients of list <amazonia-l@marajo.secom.ufpa.br>  
Subject: [AMAZONIA-L:193] BIG time logging in the Brazilian Amazon (fwd)

Acho que esta e de interesse de todos.

By William Schomberg

BRASILIA (Reuter) - Three multinational logging companies from Asia have moved into the Brazilian Amazon, raising fears that the already growing rate of deforestation in the planet's largest rainforest may be about to speed up.

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Malaysia's WTK Group, one of the world's biggest timber firms, is completing its purchase of 741,300 acres of forest up the remote, winding Tapua River, seven days by boat from the city of Manaus. An official said the firm was also doubling capacity at a Manaus sawmill it owns.

"We are very hurt by the criticism. We haven't cut down a single tree yet," said WTK representative Tu Twang Hing in response to claims that his and other Asian firms plan to log on a scale not yet seen in Brazil.

Environmentalists say the arrival of the multinationals, combined with government plans to pave a highway to Venezuela to bring goods to the Caribbean and overseas markets, shows development of the Amazon is shifting into top gear.

"This is test of the government," said Carlos Miller of the environment group Vitoria Amazonica. "Brazil must advance with sustainable development and strengthen its regulatory ability"

Logging is a major force driving destruction of the Amazon. Eleven percent of Brazil's Western Europe-sized chunk of the forest has been cleared and the rate is speeding up. During 1994, 5,750 square miles were cut down, up from 4,298 square miles in 1991.

The government's Environmental Institute (Ibama) admits its efforts to control the notoriously negligent local timber industry have been flawed. A recent survey of 34 logging sites in Paragominas, the Amazon's biggest timber center, found that not one met requirements of the International Tropical Timber Organization, to which Brazil has agreed to comply by 2000.

A swoop this year by Ibama found 31,000 cubic yards of illegally felled timber floating down the Purus River towards waiting sawmills.

"Multi-million-dollar investments in the Amazonian logging industry would spell disaster as things stand," Ibama chief Eduardo Martins said. "We don't want that kind of investment."

Martins said that as well as WTK, Samling Corporation also of Malaysia, and Fortune Timber, owned by the Chinese government and Hong Kong investors, have bought bankrupt local companies. Other deals have been stalled when the would-be buyers discovered they were being offered Indian lands.

An Ibama document put at 11.1 million acres the amount of Amazon land now owned by the multinationals and said the Asians' upgrading of local sawmills would lead to a five-fold jump in timber felled to produce plywood.

"We're extremely worried because (the Asians) work with very powerful technology," Miller of Vitoria Amazonica said.

WTK and Samling have logged massively in Malaysia's Sarawak region where critics say massive ecological damage has been inflicted on tropical forests. Both have concessions across the Far East. But, as Asian governments tighten their forestry laws and local forest resources dwindle, the multinationals have inevitably turned to the Amazon

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rainforest, which is estimated to hold a third of the world's tropical timber but accounts for only two percent of the international tropical timber trade.

The World Resources Institute, a New York policy research center, warned in 1995 that concessions offered to Asian loggers in Surinam, on Brazil's northern border, meant between 25 and 40 percent of that nation's land could be logged. The report said Surinam risked losing "its forests and getting shattered biodiversity, ruined fisheries, eroded soil, displaced populations and perhaps ethnic strife in return."

Richard Bruce, a forest economist hired by WTK to draw up its application to log Jurua, argued the levels of concern caused in Brazil over the arrival of the Asian logging firms might lead to improvement in enforcement of forestry rules. "You'd be crazy to think we won't have government inspectors all over us after all the uproar," he said.

And that is precisely what the government intends to do, Martins of Ibama said. Every existing logging permit-holder in the Amazon region is being checked to see if their timber really does come from areas authorized for logging and not from protected Indian lands. So far, 80 percent of permits have been found to be "irregular."

Martins pledged that timber produced by the Asians would be inspected. He also said stricter new laws on forest clearing, combined with a two-year ban on new projects to fell rare mahogany and virola trees, would slow deforestation.

But environmentalists said they were waiting to see if the government lives up to its promises to get tough with loggers.

"The problem is a lack of enforcement," said Garo Batmanian, head of the World Wildlife Fund in Brazil. "Just changing the law without a systematic and comprehensive strategy will simply not work."

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Technical writing for the Information Technology industry  
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**Forests Monitor, 12:37 07/10/96 +0, WTK and Samling**

Date: Mon, 7 Oct 1996 12:37:54 +0100  
X-Sender: fmonitor@gn.apc.org  
To: socioamb@ax.apc.org  
From: fmonitor@gn.apc.org (Forests Monitor)  
Subject: WTK and Samling  
X-Attachments: A:\WTK02.DOC;C:\MSOFFICE\WINWORD\COS\SAM005.DOC;

7th October 1996

Attached to this email are some documents on WTK and Samling. Copies of the original documentation referred to in the summary on WTK (plus others) are available should they be useful to you. If yes, let us know. We have very little information on WTK's operations in Sarawak, where the company is based. However, we would expect them to have created similar problems to those caused by Samling. The political situation in Sarawak is much more sensitive for local people than in Papua New Guinea, where local people have much clearer rights to land. Hence, the document on Samling is meant for information purposes rather than as a campaigning document. However, it may be possible to circulate some of the original documentation. Also, please note that Appendix B Supplementary Information referred to is only available as a photocopy. Again, let us know if this or other Samling documents would be useful for you and we will see what is available.

For information on Samling's operations in Cambodia we suggest you contact Global Witness at gwitness@gn.apc.org

We hope the attached is useful for NGOs in Brazil.

With best wishes,  
Forests Monitor

Attachment Converted: C:\INTERNET\EUDORA\ATTACH\WTK02.DOC

Attachment Converted: C:\INTERNET\EUDORA\ATTACH\SAM005.DOC

Forests Monitor (fmonitor@gn.apc.org)