

GFTN-BRAZIL FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

The Amazon is the largest and most biologically diverse of world's remaining rain forests. About 70 per cent of the Amazon lies within Brazil's national boundaries. Its extraordinary landscapes—from savannah to flooded forests—harbour one of the richest assortments of wildlife and one of the most biologically rich places on Earth. The indigenous peoples and local communities of rubber-tappers, river dwellers, fishermen and Brazil nut gatherers rely on the Amazonian forests and other ecosystems for their livelihoods. Residents include 22 million people, 40,000 plant species, over a million insect species, more than 700 fish species and over 300 mammal species—plus millions of species which are yet unknown to science. But Amazonian forests are disappearing at a faster rate than any other forest on Earth. Deforestation does not only result in biodiversity loss, but it also changes the social realities of the people living in the region. In Brazil, the affected area is named the “arc of deforestation” which is steadily pushing into the heart of the Amazon Basin from its eastern and southern flanks, and where the deforestation resulting from timber production, agriculture, mining, road building and settlements marks the landscape.

The forestry sector is among the main economic activities in the Brazilian Amazon—in addition to mining, cattle ranching and agriculture. In Brazil, the processing of tropical roundwood located mostly in the states of Pará, Mato Grosso and Rondônia. The number of logging centres and companies has increased by a migration of logging activity toward new forest frontiers in the west of Pará, South-eastern Amazonas and the extreme north-west of Mato Grosso. Production of tropical roundwood remained relatively stable at 24 million m³ in 2008 and 2009, with dwindling export demand being compensated by strong domestic demand. The United States and Europe are the two largest importers of Brazilian wood products.

WHAT: GLOBAL FOREST & TRADE NETWORK – BRAZIL (GFTN-BRAZIL)

The Global Forest & Trade Network - Brazil (GFTN-Brazil) is a national arm of GFTN to eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests within Brazil and in countries supplying wood to Brazil. Operating through the *Sistema de Implementação Modular* (SIM) or Modular Implementation System using the GFTN stepwise approach, GFTN-Brazil works with companies located in the southwest Amazon region.

WHO: COMPANIES GFTN-BRAZIL WORKS WITH

GFTN-Brazil focuses on the development of domestic buyers, as the majority of the consumers of Brazilian wood are located in the south-southeast states, especially the states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais. The state of São Paulo consumes over 6 million m³ of tropical wood per year, more than all the European countries combined. In addition, GFTN-Brazil works with local producers to achieve credible certification.

QUICK STATS: GFTN-BRAZIL

- GFTN-Brazil works **6** companies employing over **1,100** people
- GFTN-Brazil participants manage **607,341 hectares** of which **565,203 hectares** are credibly certified.
- GFTN-Brazil participants trade **308,770 m³** of forest products.
- GFTN-Brazil participants sell **US\$416 million** of forest products.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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