

**PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION (ITTO)
Endorsed by the Government of BRAZIL**

TITLE: Bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in the Brazilian Amazon: long-term studies of population dynamics and regeneration ecology towards sustainable forest management.

SUMMARY

This Project will contribute directly to the Joint ITTO-CITES Timber Project (Latin America region) Outputs 2.2 (improved management) and 2.3 (promoting nondetrimental utilisation) by extending through 2008-2009 the longest-running research programme dedicated to bigleaf mahogany currently underway in South America. Transforming current logging practices in Amazonia into sustainable management systems will require comprehensive scientific understanding of how mahogany life history attributes interact with ecosystem processes to facilitate growth and recruitment in natural forests. This Project seeks to establish a biological foundation for sustainable forest management systems for bigleaf mahogany across southern Amazonia (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru) based on long-term studies of growth, reproduction, and regeneration by natural populations in primary and logged forests. Activities and specific outputs will include: recensus during the 2008 and 2009 dry seasons of four natural mahogany populations under study since 1995/2001 in southeast and southwest Amazonia; publication of scientific and technical syntheses of observational and experimental field data addressing both basic (demographic) and applied (silvicultural) management issues; technical extension through participation in CITES Working Groups; and continued protection and conservation of extremely valuable yet vulnerable natural mahogany populations in remote Amazonian regions.