

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

TITLE: Ecology and silviculture of mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla King) in the western Brazilian Amazon.

SUMMARY

In Brazil, although mostly confined to Public Forests, especially to Indian Reserves, mahogany is still a species of great interest to forest managers and to entrepreneurs. A great challenge still persists of how to sustainably manage mahogany forests. Until quite recently, only one project was officially approved by the country's CITES Authority – IBAMA located in Rondônia State. A second project, which is the target of the present proposal, has just been approved. Partnership of forestry researchers with timber producers creates an excellent opportunity to develop sound forest management practices to the mahogany species.

Notwithstanding the advancements achieved several research initiatives, most of the knowledge generated concerned to mahogany seedling ecology and abundance in natural populations. The more practical part of the project related to silviculture of mahogany forests has not been well addressed due to discontinuation on provision of funds. This is then another opportunity to tackle an old research problem which is how to manage mahogany forests on a sustainable way. The support from a timber company and the support from ITTO will be of paramount importance to achieve the projects objectives.

The project aims at establishing best silvicultural practices for mahogany in natural forests and to improve the present government regulations concerning forest management plans to ensure that international trade meets CITES' requirements for sustainable management and conservation of the species.