

## **INTRODUCING CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND AUDITING FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON**

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The improvement of internal and external control mechanisms for timber enterprise activities contribute essentially to the effective implementation of good forest management practices. Under the principle that sustainability is a key value for good forest management, criteria and indicators (C&I) are ideal tools to assess sustainability through the development of simple and viable monitoring and auditing system.

The development of C&I was identified as one of the essential components of a research and demonstration project in the Brazilian Amazon under the leadership of EMBRAPA Eastern Amazon and CIFOR. Four steps were envisaged: (1) Definition of a preliminary list of regionally adapted C&I; (2) Evaluation and refinement of this list by four key stakeholder groups (researchers, government officials, managers, and local actors); (3) Development of monitoring and auditing prototypes (including management recommendations) based on the assessment results, and (4) Validation of the defined instruments through supervised application in different forest enterprises and auditing entities.

As part of this process, an international expert workshop as well as a field test of a preliminary list of C&I by stakeholder groups confirmed the high practicability of C&I based control activities as well as the need and potential of participatory methods in the development process. Further analysis confirmed that practical work on C&I systems will have to focus more at the verifiers level. Social and ecological Verifiers need to be more specific and practicable methods for their assessing will have to be developed.