

SELECTION OF FORESTRY SPECIES FOR THE RECOVERY OF ALTERED LANDSCAPES  
IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON REGION<sup>1</sup>

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1- INTRODUCTION

In developing countries, the inadequate use of natural resources, for different purposes, is causing a gradual elimination of tropical forests, with irreversible loss of the genetic diversity of some species, soil erosion and abandonment of extensive areas, after depletion of its ephemeral fertility.

In Brazil, particularly in the Amazonia, satellite images indicate that around 415.000 Km<sup>2</sup> of primary forests have been felled until 1990. It is estimated that 60% of this area, i. e. 250.000 Km<sup>2</sup>, are under different stages of degradation and need to be recovered, as an alternative for further deforestation.

The use of trees in abandoned and/or degraded areas is an important measure to avoid soil erosion and loss of nutrients, which result in the soil degradation.

In order to select the most suitable forestry species for this purpose, the "Centro de Pesquisa Agroflorestal da Amazônia Ocidental" - CPAA/EMBRAPA - has started, since 1991, different experiments whose preliminary results are presented here.

2- MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiments are located at Manaus, State of Amazonas, at an altitude of 50 m above sea level, 3<sup>o</sup> 8' south latitude and 59<sup>o</sup> 52' west longitude. The climate is of the Af type, according to the Köppen classification, with 26,0<sup>o</sup>C of annual average temperature and 2.500 mm rainfall.

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