

Forest Management by Private Small-Medium Forest Enterprises in the Peruvian Amazon

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Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprise the majority of firms in most countries, and their contribution to employment, innovation, and economic growth is increasingly being recognized. A very important subset of SMEs for many countries, whether developed or developing, consists of businesses engaged in forestry operations, and are referred to as *small-medium forest enterprises* (SMFEs).

In Peru, private small-medium forest enterprises (PSMFEs) have become the new actors in the permanent production forests of the country since 2002, with the implementation of the forest concession system for more responsible timber management. However, no information on their performance and capacities is available. This poster addresses the deficit of evaluative information about PSMFEs in Madre de Dios, Eastern Peru, by: (1) presenting a discussion of the context of formation of these enterprises, and (2) providing a detailed descriptive profile of currently active PSMFEs and the factors influencing their performance and sustainability.

Structured interviews and ethnographic work examine the 10 PSMFEs receiving technical support by the CEDEFOR/WWF Project during 2005. Despite their contribution to the local economy, PSMFEs suffer limitations such as a lack of human, financial, technical, and managerial capacities. The performance and success of PSMFEs in achieving more responsible forest management is also constrained by a lack of control, manpower, and financial resources of INRENA (the National Institute of Natural Resources), and the corruption of some of their personnel.

Keywords: private small-medium forest enterprises, forest management, Peruvian Amazon.

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