



# DENI DEMARCATION 2003

## GREENPEACE



### INTRODUCTION

## Illegal Logging and Indigenous Land in the Amazon

Greenpeace is well known for exposing problems, naming polluters, bearing witness and forcing change to industrial and even social practices in order to increase environmental protection.

But why has Greenpeace been involved for over four years with the demarcation of the Deni Indian lands in a remote area of the Amazon rainforest?

In the last few decades, millions of Brazilians were encouraged to move to the Amazon by government initiatives aiming to occupy what was considered to be an “empty but key frontier for national development”. These government programs, many of them funded by multilateral financial institutions, in general resulted in the destruction of Indigenous nations and cultures, invasion of areas traditionally used by rubber-tappers and other forest dwellers, invasions of public land, deforestation and forest degradation, violence and corruption. These “decades of destruction” resulted in an uncontrolled assault against forest resources that led to loss of biodiversity, fires, water and air pollution, the privatisation of millions of hectares of forests based on fraudulent documentation, the opening of illegal roads, and the flooding of millions of hectares by large dams.

And it didn't bring was the expected “progress” to the region, nor to the majority of the people who went there in the search of better opportunities. The UN's index of human development (IHD) for most of the Amazon is lower than elsewhere, comparable only to areas of misery in Northeast of Brazil and Africa.

Today some 20 million people live in the Brazilian Amazon. Some of 350,000 of them are Indigenous – the survivors of the millions of Indians who occupied the region before the invasion of “the colonizers”. More than 15% of the Amazon rainforest has gone – an area larger than France lost in just 30 years –, and more than 20% of the deforested area is so degraded that is has been abandoned. And large areas, still unmapped, continue to be degraded by logging and mining.

Greenpeace is calling for the demarcation of all Indian lands in Brazil. Today, 20% of the Brazilian Amazon is indigenous territory, but still many of them are not yet officially recognised by the Federal Government. Without appropriate protection, large-scale destructive industrial activities such as logging are being undertaken on Indian lands.

Greenpeace's aim in the Amazon, as well as in all other Ancient Forests in the world, is to promote ecologically sustainable and socially responsible forest use, which includes large networks of protected areas. Zoning must be based on balancing conservation values with other values, and developed in consultation with and on the basis of informed consent with indigenous peoples and other traditional forest dwelling communities. This means the adoption of participatory land use planning.

Greenpeace also proactively promotes sustainable use of forest areas, for timber and non-timber use. Sustainable use refers to the use of the forest in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the loss of the standing forests or its long-term decline of biological diversity. Timber and non-timber forest products should be harvested according to strict criteria of responsible management that are transparent, including ecological, social and economic parameters, such as those certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Ecologically responsible and sustainable use also includes the



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protection of traditional knowledge and the encouragement of customary uses of biological resources in accordance with sustainable traditional cultural practices.