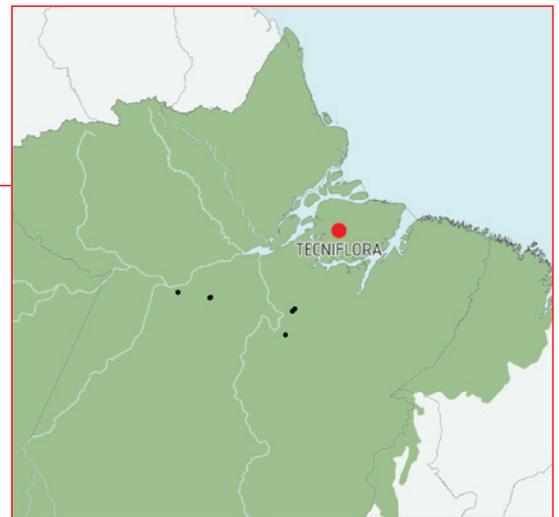


The Amazon's silent crisis

CASE STUDY 5

TECNIFLORA LTDA



Logging Authorisation (AUTEF)	2281/2012	Expiry date	13/07/2013
Rural Environmental Licence (LAR)	2143/2012	Type of Ipê	Not declared
Total area of property	8,652.94ha	Number of Ipê trees declared in Annual Production Unit (UPA)	1,109
Sustainable Forest Management Plan (PMFS) area	6,016.19ha	Total volume and density of Ipê trees declared in UPA	5,892.56m ³ (1.46m ³ /ha)
Net area authorised for harvesting under AUTEF	5,164.76ha		
Specialist (forest engineer) responsible for PMFS proposal	Eduardo Costa Coelho		
Property owner	Tecniflora Ltda and others		



A truck loaded with timber on the Curuá-Una road after crossing the River of the same name, near Santarém, Pará State. 03/26/2014 © Marizilda Cruppe / Greenpeace

Evidence of logging in Uruará, Pará State. 03/29/2014 © Marizilda Cruppe / Greenpeace



An environmentally sensitive application

The Marituba estate is located in the municipality of Anajás (Pará State), in the centre of the island of Marajó at the mouth of the Amazon.

Tecniflora began the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (PMFS) application process in August 2011 and obtained a Logging Authorisation (AUTEF) in July 2012.¹ The company was authorised to harvest some 152,000m³ of timber, on approximately 5,150ha of the 8,650ha estate.

According to SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application, the estate is situated inside an Environmental Protection Area (APA),² and is only 8km from the Mapuá Extractive Reserve (RESEX),³ created in 2005 and under federal management.

In addition, consideration is being given⁴ to designating the area as a Conservation Unit (UC),⁵ while the State Environmental Secretariat (SEMA) is attempting to get the whole island of Marajó designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.⁶ For these reasons Tecniflora's PMFS application was referred by the SEMA to the state Protected Areas Directorate, which however made no objection to it.⁷ Accordingly, after a technical inspection the SEMA approved the PMFS and issued the first AUTEF.

The forest engineer responsible for the Tecniflora PMFS previously represented another company (Agropastoril Eldorado Indústria e Comércio de Madeiras Ltda), accused by IBAMA of illegally deforesting 650ha of native vegetation.⁸

Evidence of forest fraud

The Marituba estate is located in the centre of the island of Marajó. The island consists mainly of low-lying wetland areas⁹ that flood periodically, as a result of which there are only small quantities of commercially viable tree species (which occur only in drier areas). Nonetheless, the inventory included with AUTEF 2281/2012 for Tecniflora's PMFS consists predominantly of species typical of drier habitats. The document also claims densities for species such as Ipê far above what would be expected on the basis of the scientific literature. Furthermore, forest inventories produced for the Brazilian Geological Agency¹⁰ show no Ipê or other dry land species in the region.

When Greenpeace researchers overflowed the management area in September 2013, they observed no logging activity, log yards, dragging tracks or even access roads for the transportation of logs. This indicates that the credits generated by this management area were used to legitimise illegal timber coming from elsewhere – a conclusion that was confirmed by an official investigation.¹¹

Subsequent to the issuing of the AUTEF, another technical inspection had been scheduled for April 2013 with the aim of evaluating the compliance of the harvesting activities with the AUTEF.¹² However, the SEMA's agriculture and forest management division (GEPAF) requested that the inspection be rescheduled due to illness, and it was then suggested that it should be conducted only after the start of the rainy season in July.¹³

In July, an inspection mission was finally scheduled for September.¹⁴ This 6-month delay gave Tecniflora a period of respite during which it could continue to use its timber credits issued for Marituba to launder timber illegally harvested in other areas. After the inspection, the State Environmental Secretariat announced on its website¹⁵ that it had uncovered evidence of the illegal transfer of timber credits from the PMFS on the Marituba estate.

According to an article published on the Brazilian G1 news website¹⁶ in September 2013:¹⁷

Tecniflora, a company whose Forest Management Plan had been approved by the SEMA and which had been given a logging authorisation and timber credits, came under investigation when the inspectors from the secretariat identified signs of the irregular use of the credits.

... The environmental crime was confirmed when the SEMA team went to the forest management area in the municipality of Anajás armed with reports produced by the secretariat's monitoring department, containing an analysis over time of satellite images and data on the sale of credits in the System for Commercialization and Transportation of Forest Products (Sisflora), and confirmed various irregularities in the execution of the management plan, the main one being that less than 5% of the forest had been harvested, proving that there had been no sale of timber but rather a sale of forest credits.

... Regarding the analyses of the use of forest credits, the data from the monitoring department of the Environmental Secretariat showed that for the volume of 151,943.48 cubic metres of authorised native timber, 830 transport documents (GFs) were issued, of which 33 were used for consignments of timber that were shipped exclusively by road, which would not have been possible [if they had come from the Marituba estate], since the area is accessible only by river, with the nearest road being 54km away as the crow flies.

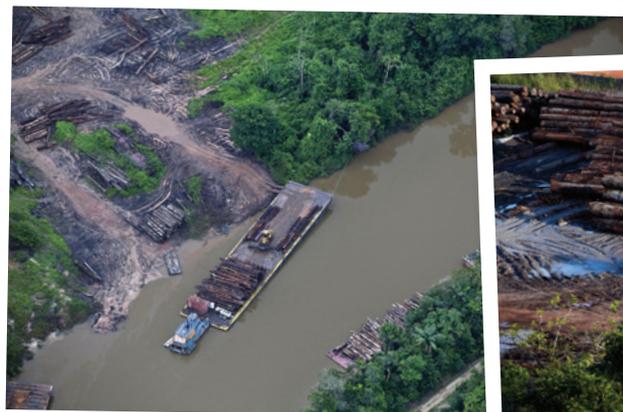
In addition, the satellite images showed untouched areas where logs were supposed to have been removed. Other cases show shipping partly by river and partly by land of quantities so large (for example 752.9m³) that they could not have been shipped in less than three days by a single truck, from Anajás to Moju, for example. It was evident therefore that the timber [from the Marituba estate] had not been physically sold, since besides the large volume, the time claimed for delivery of the timber was insufficient.

Given all the irregularities found, which also included the non-existence of companies that had supposedly purchased the timber (in practice, only credits were purchased), the SEMA not only fined the companies [that had purchased the credits], but also blocked their registration in the Forest Product Producer and Consumer Registration System (CEPROF).

Some of the companies who had laundered wood using Tecniflora credits subsequently went to court to reinstate their CEPROF registrations, since their activities had been brought to a complete halt. The case went to the Brazilian Supreme Court, where on 12 March 2014 the Minister and President of the Court Joaquim Barbosa refused to reinstate their registrations.¹⁸

Barges loaded with timber in the river Curuá do Sul, Pará State.
03/28/2014
© Marizilda Cruppe / Greenpeace

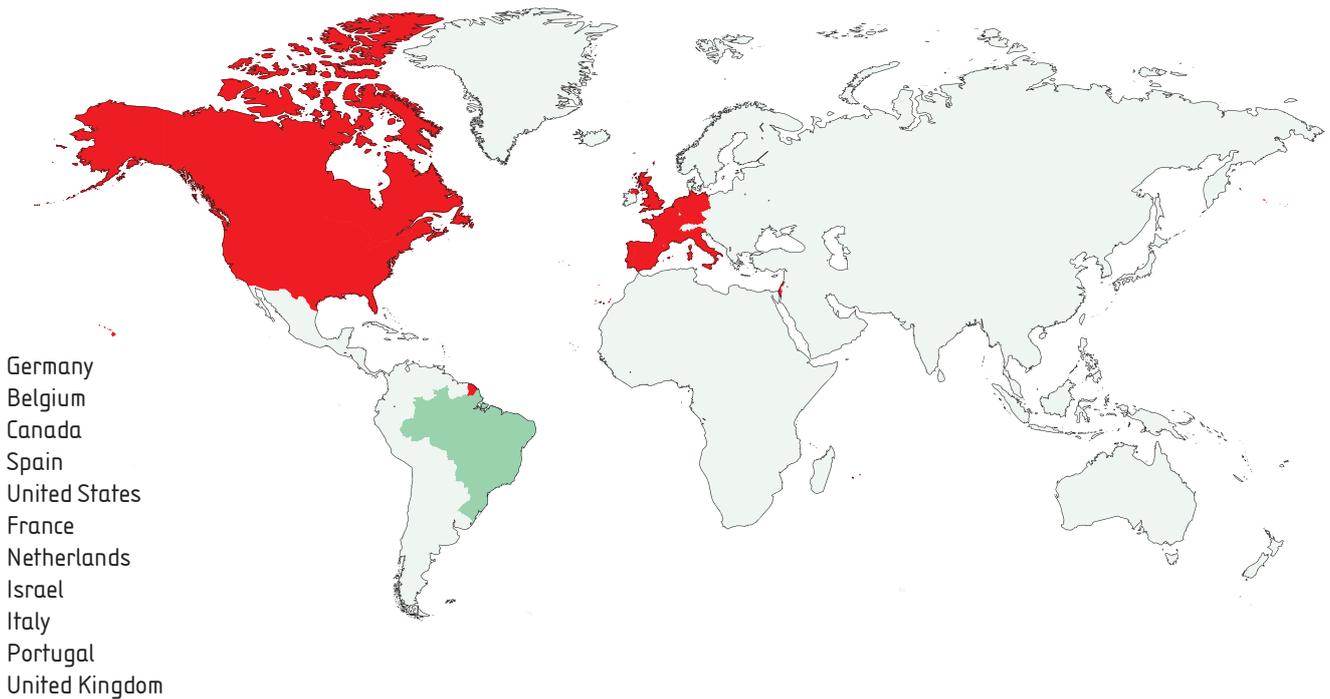
Timber is seen in the yard of a sawmill named Alecrim, in Santarém, Pará State.
03/26/2014
© Marizilda Cruppe / Greenpeace



International customers for suspect timber

According to Greenpeace's investigation, Tecniflora traded 99.9% of the credits generated by AUTEF 2281/2012. The company sold timber claimed to be from the Marituba PMFS area to nine sawmills.¹⁹ These mills are known to have had dealings with no fewer than 40 export companies, which between them have shipped timber to at least 13 countries including Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain the UK and the USA.

Tecniflora Ltda's tainted markets



Endnotes

- SEMA (Pará) case no. 2011/0000025438. <http://monitoramento.sema.pa.gov.br/simlam/>
- A type of protected area in which low-impact activities are permitted, and where private land can remain in private ownership.
- According to Article 18 of Law 9.985/2000, 'The Extractive Reserve is an area used by traditional extractive populations whose livelihood is based on extraction and, additionally, on subsistence farming and ranching of small livestock, and has as its basic objective to protect the livelihoods and culture of these populations, and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources of the unit.'
- As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of

- Tecniflora's PMFS application. <http://monitoramento.sema.pa.gov.br/simlam/>
- A Conservation Unit is an area of public land where economic activities are forbidden or highly controlled. It is a much more restrictive form of protected area than the APA.
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application.
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application.
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application. IBAMA case no. 02018.008412/2005-47 www.mma.gov.br/port/conama/processos/D20C5F9D/84121.pdf
 - Valente, R. (2011) Arquipélago do Marajó, in Valente, R. et al. (eds.) Conservação de aves migratórias neárticas no Brasil, Conservação Internacional, Belém, pp78-81.

- www.conservation.org.br/publicacoes/files/avesmigratorias/norte/Aves_marajo.pdf
- As part of the RADAM Project – see http://daac.ornl.gov/data/bluangel_harvest/MJG_V1/pre_LBA_CDROM/radam/radam0.html
 - G1 (2013) Mais de 50 empresas são autuadas por comércio ilegal de madeira no PA, 20 September. <http://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2013/09/mais-de-50-empresas-sao-autuadas-por-comercio-ilegal-de-madeira-no-pa.html>
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application.
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application.
 - As described in the Pará SEMA's analysis of Tecniflora's PMFS application.
 - SEMA, Pará (2013) SEMA autua mais de 50

- empresas por comércio ilegal de madeira no Pará, web page, 20 September. www.sema.pa.gov.br/2013/09/20/sema-atua-mais-de-50-empresas-por-comercio-ilegal-de-madeira-no-para/
- Original in Portuguese. Translation by Greenpeace.
 - G1 (2013) Mais de 50 empresas são autuadas por comércio ilegal de madeira no PA, 20 September. <http://g1.globo.com/pa/para/noticia/2013/09/mais-de-50-empresas-sao-autuadas-por-comercio-ilegal-de-madeira-no-pa.html>
 - Supremo Tribunal Federal do Brasil (STF) Diário Oficial (2014) 14 March, p20. www.jusbrasil.com.br/diarios/67555110/stf-14-03-2014-pg-20
 - MPF Para, Investigation Procedure number 1.23.000.001187/2013-31