



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

**Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Pre-Assessment of
Barama Company Limited
in Land of Canaan, Georgetown, Guyana
January 24, 2008**

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance has been asked to conduct a forest management pre-assessment of forest management units of the Barama Company Limited based in Land of Canaan, Georgetown, Guyana. The pre-assessment will be implemented from March 10 - 14, 2008.

Scope of the Certification Pre-Assessment – The forest management certification pre-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the natural forest concessions managed by the Barama Company Limited. The pre-assessment will include the forest compartments 4 and 5, for a total area of 570,000 hectares. The pre-assessment will be done using the draft version of SmartWood's Interim Standards for Guayana, locally adapted for this purpose. The area under the scope of this pre-assessment was previously FSC certified, however that certification was suspended. One function of the pre-assessment is to evaluate the company progress on issues that had raised major corrective actions in the past certification process. In addition, SmartWood aims to use the pre-assessment to plan for an effective and inclusive main assessment, thus much of the fieldwork of the evaluation team will be dedicated to meeting with key stakeholders.

To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about the interim standards adapted for this pre-assessment, please contact SmartWood by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this pre-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Pre-Assessment Team Composition – The pre-assessment team will be led by Jeffrey Hayward, SmartWood Verification Services Manager (Forester and Lead Auditor); with Richard Donovan, Rainforest Alliance Chief of Forestry (Environmental specialist); and a Social Specialist (to be defined); and accompanied by Gerben Stegeman, SmartWood South American Region Office.

Pre-Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the pre-assessment evaluation process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Pre-assessment organization – The SmartWood team will assemble in Georgetown on March 9, 2008.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit forest sites managed by Barama Company Limited on March 10 – 14, 2008.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – During the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Barama Company Limited forest management in villages surrounding the forest area and in a sample of towns and cities pertinent to company operations. This will include private interviews and discussions, and small group meetings with stakeholders.
- ◆ Closing pre-assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Barama Company Limited managers and other parties to present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Reporting – The pre-assessment team will produce a confidential report that will be circulated to the Barama Company Limited. A pre-assessment can not lead to certification, however during a full certification process, a successful certification will be accompanied by a public certification report.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification pre-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Barama Company Limited forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the pre-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the pre-assessment or during the assessment.

Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a SmartWood pre-assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Gerben Stegeman, the SmartWood staff person responsible for coordinating the pre-assessment from the SmartWood South America Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Gerben Stegeman. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and SmartWood staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at www.smartwood.org.

Contacting SmartWood

<p>Gerben Stegeman <i>Regional Coordinator South America, SW</i> gstegeman@ra.org</p>	<p>Jeffrey Hayward <i>Verification Services Manager, SW</i> jhayward@ra.org</p>
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