



COMMENTS ON IFM

**A view from the
Government's perspective**

HONDURAS

What does IFM do ?

**Monitor official forest
law enforcement**

**Conduct field investigations
to observe and evaluate
the actions of the government
and the private sector.**



IFM independent investigations help to:

- evaluate government employees**
- protect government employees**
- improve government actions**

For a workable relationship

The Government must understand the mandate and respect the independence of IFM.

The level of Government commitment affects the level of the results obtained but low Government commitment should not deter actions in this area which has strong public support.

For a better relationship

The Government must be truly committed to the control of illegal logging and be patient with the IMF monitor agency, especially at the beginning.

The IFM monitor agency must understand that sometimes the government agency can have an alternative option based on a different perspective. Many problems do not have one absolute solution.

BEWARE

The fact that the cooperating host organization becomes committed to controlling illegal logging activities does not necessarily mean that the head officers are honest.

- obligation to say yes**
- corruption related to illegal logging is often by lower level officers.**

For a successful program the monitor agency must already have credibility

**(in Honduras is the person(s)
not the agency**

Credibility is a MUST

You can gain technical and administrative capacity.

Because of its credibility, the monitor agency increases the willingness of the public to report illegal activities.

If there is good coordination, this credibility rubs off on the government agency.

As any program, it can improve

- **Its first impression – open mind**
- **Its analysis – look at big picture**
– **Be fair, value change**
- **Its scope – look at other agencies**
- **The dissemination of information**

**MFI is supposed to produce
FACTUAL evidence and present it neutrally**

**However, sometimes observations based on
unsustained information are added.**

**In these cases, the reports point out
real problems but do not
have the legal evidence
necessary for action.**

**This is fine, if the IFM
persons understand
the situation**



Sometimes IFM does not get the total picture, listens to one side only and does not present all the facts and issues.

IFM should compare the present situation with the past and look at all the issues.



**IFM evaluations concentrates on
the Forest Government Agency (ICF) which is
responsible for Administrative sanctions**

**It does not consider sufficiently the Public Ministry
which is responsible for the penal sanctions.**

**It does not consider the Justice System
which is often responsible for the final decision
regarding many sanctions.**

**Then there is the question of the armed
forces and the police**

**The dissemination of information
must be improved**

**INTERNET IS FINE BUT LIMITED
add summary charts to INTERNET**

**use radio and newspapers
Radio= general public
Newspaper= decision makers**



SUGGESTED AREA FOR FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

- 1. Land Titling - Government Actions**
- 2. IFM and ICF are now concentrating on controlling the results. Need to also work on identifying and reducing the causes.**
- 3. IFM and ICF need to concentrate more on the buyers of illegal wood and wood products.**
- 4. IFM should also monitor the actions of the other government agencies.**

SUGGESTED AREA FOR FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

5. Independent funding

IFM and ICF should work with the donors involved in the forestry sector to create independent funding schemes.

**Independent Forest Monitoring
is a welcome addition to the control
of illegal logging practices in
Honduras.**

**It is a welcome ally to honest
government officers and concerned
citizens.**

**In Honduras, we need to increase
the scope and number of persons
executing the IFM Program.**

IFM WORKS

- Produces Results
- Raises Awareness
- Increases Public Involvement
- Improves the performance of the Government



IFM does help reduce corruption and illegal logging

¡Muchas Gracias!

