

9/9/05

Message from Rosario Acero, INRENA

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you very much for the information you provided regarding the imports of mahogany that have entered your country. It is very important for us to be in communication in order to maintain effective control over the volume of wood that is authorized in Peru.

I would like to inform you that we have completed verification of the Annual Operative Plans (POA) for 2004 in the forestry concessions in the Departments of Madre de Dios and Ucayali, in the months of February, June and July, respectively [however, the message references two Departments not three]. Based on these results, we have determined that out of 27 concessions, 13 are not in compliance with the POAs with regard to the existence of mahogany trees in relation to the volume of wood being moved, and there is now a process of evaluation and sanction as appropriate. All of this information has been published in newspapers with major national circulation (see enclosed).

The mahogany quota has been reached, and the exporters are requesting an increase and applying significant pressure because according to them, this species accounts for a major portion of their income and allows them to look for other wood species. For this reason, we have been called to the office of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Production and the Congress of the Republic in order to come up with a solution.

The position of INRENA is very clear – it will continue to respect the quota and continue working on verifying the concessions on the ground. It will also continue to combat corruption that exists in the timber industry in the falsification of transport guides. This commitment was published in an official newspaper the day before yesterday (see enclosed).

Thank you for your attention and warm regards.

Rosario Acero