	Net present value (U.S. dollars)	Total investment outlay (U.S. dollars)	NPV/investment
I. Economic analysis A. Base case	-2,824,000	5,143,700	-0.55
B. Sensitivity analysis1. Cattle prices assumed	a de la companya de l	0,110,700	0.50
doubled 2. Land prices assumed rising 5%/year more than	511,380	5,143,700	+0.10
general inflation rate II. Financial analysis A. Reflecting all investor in-	-2,300,370	5,143,700	-0.45
tions, and subsidized loans B. Sensitivity analysis Interest rate attacking	1,875,400	753,650	+2.49
climinated 2. Deductibility of losses against other taxable in-	849,000	753,650	+1.13
come eliminated	-658,500	753,650	-0.87

income tax holiday is irrelevant. Since the project never generates a taxable income itself, its eligibility for charges, and depreciation) are assumed to be fully deducted against other tax codes, are depreciated by the straight-line method over a six-year ing costs, every other year. Fixed assets other than land, under Braziliar income taxable at the marginal corporate income tax rate of 40 percent. period. Tax losses (operating revenues less operating costs, interest

of all cash flows to the investor over the project life, at a real discount rate investment's profitability from the private investor's perspective. of 5 percent. Expenditures financed from outside tax liabilities, theretied to the project at negative real interest rates adds substantially to the fore, are not costs to the investor, and the availability of credit financing The investor's financial analysis examines the discounted present value

the investor is \$1.87 million. This represents a return of 2.5 times the intrinsic unprofitability, the discounted present value of net cash flows to and government loans instead. As Table 6.11 shows, despite the project's only \$0.75 million, less than 15 percent of total project investment costs, because the investor can defer his own contribution and use tax credits In the base case, the present value of the investor's own equity input is

The Brazilian Amazon

uneconomic and environmentally damaging activities. their effect of drawing private and – even more – public resources into indication of the distortions created by these incentive programs, and project loses more than half the capital invested in it. This is a strong investor's equity, despite the fact that, from a national perspective, the

subsidies make such livestock investments attractive to private entreequity input. A further sensitivity test found that without deductibility of preneurs. \$0.65 million, nearly equal to his entire investment. Only government discounted present value of the investor's returns becomes a net loss of tax losses against other taxable income and without credit subsidies, the to \$0.85 million, but still represents a 13 percent return on the investor's present value of the project to the private investor is reduced by over half, rate, the same rate used for discount present-value analysis. The net nominal interest rate of 31 percent, 6 percent above the general inflation was assumed that interest rate subsidies were withdrawn by charging a vate investors would be reduced by removing particular subsidies. First, it Sensitivity analyses explored how much this perverse incentive to pri-

economic loss estimated in Table 6.11. Its actual loss per ranch is twice and concessionary credits is \$5.6 million dollars, which is \$0.5 million burdensome as well as economically and environmentally costly. that, most accruing to private investors as profits. Such policies are fiscally lating private investment, it would have lost \$2.8 million per ranch, the had the government invested directly in these ranches rather than stimumore than the total investment costs of the project itself. In other words, base case financial analysis, the net present value of foregone tax revenues provide generous returns to the private investor as well. In fact, in the heavy, because they offset the intrinsic losses incurred in the project and The fiscal cost to the government of these subsidies and incentives is

stitute for private capital that would undoubtedly be raised in part from survey found that only 18 percent of the SUDAM ranches recovered reasons for this divergence are likely. First, government subsidies subcent of the non-SUDAM ranches surveyed had marketed timber. Two forest resources. In contrast to the SUDAM-subsidized ranches, 42 pervelopment policies have given ranchers little incentive to make full use of timber might have little stumpage value, government livestock sector dethe timber. Although it is conceivable that, given transport costs, such merchantable timber in clearing forests. Most ranchers simply destroyed marketable roundwood destroyed in pasture formation. The author's ranches, a complete analysis would also consider the opportunity costs of In addition to the economic and fiscal costs of subsidized loans to cattle

more extensive timber sales. Second, large SUDAM-subsidized land-owners clear forest quickly to demonstrate tenancy and prevent intrusions by land-grabbers and landless peasants, and to demonstrate to SUDAM inspectors that tax-credit subsidies are at work:

SUDAM tax credits allocated to the livestock sector between 1966 and SUDAM-supported ranches alone. This is roughly equal to the amount of social opportunity cost of forest destruction reaches \$1-2 billion on the \$5-\$10 per cubic meter as the social value of timber recovery, then the extracted Amazon timber species other than mahogany, a range of tive estimate of average current (1985) stumpage values for commonly timber, a potential loss of 216,333,500 cubic meters. Taking a conservatimber cut of 263,907,000 cubic meters. Since only 18 percent of these 527 SUDAM-supported ranches, giving an estimated total marketable would be 500,772 cubic meters per ranch. By September 1985 there were (IBDF 1978), the total volume of merchantable timber that could be cut density of "merchantable" roundwood of 43.17 cubic meters per hectare 23,600 hectares (Gasques and C. Yokomizo 1985), where about 11,600 ber, i.e., 43.17 cubic meters per hectare), then 432 ranches marketed no ranches marketed timber (generously presumed to be all marketable timhectares could legally be converted from forest to pasture, at an average cess of ranch implantation may be large. On an average SUDAM ranch of The opportunity costs of marketable roundwood destroyed in the pro-

Small farmer settlement policy and the forest sector

While Brazilian Amazon development policy has emphasized the expansion of large-scale capitalist enterprises, settlement by small farmers also has been significant in regional development efforts and an important cause of tropical forest conversion. Colonization programs have been motivated by four national concerns: a growing landless peasant class, idled by drought and agro-industrial land consolidation (mainly in the Northeast and South); seasonal labor shortages in the Amazon's growing extractive industries; agricultural subsidies to stimulate domestic and export food crop production; and the military regime's desire to secure national sovereignty in a frontier region sharing undefended borders with seven neighboring nations.

The PIN Transamazon directed colonization program

The idea that the Amazon could be an agricultural frontier capable of absorbing the marginalized rural masses of the Brazilian sertão was

embodied in Decreto Lei 1.106/1970, establishing the National Integration Program (PIN). This program's foundation was an ambitious highway-building program to integrate the Amazon with the "economic mainland" of Brazil. The east-west Transamazon Highway and north-south Cuiabá-Santarém Highway projects were planned to bisect the region. The Transamazon Highway was intended to connect the Belém-Brasília Highway with the town of Humaitá in Amazonas, a distance of 2,322 kilometers, and eventually to complete a line of roads from the Atlantic coast at Recife to the Peruvian border at Cruzeiro do Sul, a total distance of 5,560 kilometers. The areas adjacent to these roads were initially reserved for small farmers, most of whom were to be drawn from the populous, drought-beleaguered Northeast.

Colonization along the highway was to take place in a pattern of "rural urbanism," with a three-tier system of central places: agrovilas (small villages of 48 to 66 dwellings) spaced at 10-kilometer intervals, agropoli (settlements of 600 families serving 8 to 22 agrovilas with banking and postal facilities, public schools, and farm cooperatives), and ruropoli (cities of up to 20,000 with communication, medical, and administrative services and agro-industries) at 140-kilometer intervals.

short of initial objectives. Of the 66 agrovilas planned for the Altamira showcase of Transamazon colonization. The rural urbanism plan also fell colonization plans were curtailed by malaria (Marabá) and poor soils minimal, leaving many stretches impassable during the rainy season, so tenance of the Transamazon Highway, a continuous problem, has been highway were finally constructed and only one ruropolis was built. Main-Only 3 of the 15 agropoli planned for the Marabá-Itaituba segment of the project, 27 were actually built and most lacked the promised amenities. mits, no more than 12,800 families were settled through PIN in the Tcheyan 1979). Including families with temporary land occupancy per-7,900 families owned titled farm lots on the Transamazon (Skillings and and about 7,000 by the end of 1975 (Moran 1982). By mid-1978 only tion Project (PIC) areas headquartered at Marabá, Altamira, and Itaituba. tradictory bureaucratic policies and procedures, as well as bad planning that food often must be airlifted to settlements. Complex and often con-(Itaituba). Because of its more fertile soils, PIC Altamira became the Transamazon area (Bunker 1985). In the Marabá and Itaituba PIC areas, (Katzman 1977). These numbers increased to 5,717 by the end of 1974 from the National Colonization and Land Reform Institute (INCRA) hectare lots by 1976. By mid-1974 only 3,700 families had received title The ambitious plan projected the settlement of 100,000 families on 100-The Transamazon region was divided into three Integrated Coloniza-

played a large part in the failure of the program (Pompermayer 1979; Bunker 1985). Yet, underlying these shortcomings was a major policy shift away from small-farmer settlement toward a renewed emphasis on large-scale land development (mainly cattle ranching) that followed from the lobbying of the Association of Amazon Entrepreneurs, a São Paulobased livestock interest group, and led to the POLOAMAZONIA program in 1974 (Pompermayer 1979).

The costs of the National Integration Program are difficult to measure. About \$1 billion was allocated for fiscal years 1971–1974, mostly for roadbuilding, but it is doubtful that more than \$500 million was actually spent (Smith 1981). It has been estimated that highway construction costs were about \$120 million.²⁰ The agrovilas cost about \$425,000 each (\$11.5 million overall), and the direct cost of relocating and settling farmers was about \$13,000 per family (\$103 million overall).

POLONOROESTE and semi-directed colonization in Rondônia

Colonization efforts in Rondônia have had more far-reaching social and forest sector consequences than those in the Transamazon. After nearly three decades of spontaneous settlement, the first federal initiative to bring order to the population explosion in Rondônia began in 1968. Shortly thereafter, INCRA was charged with rationalizing the distribution of land titles and planning the occupation of new frontier zones in the territory. By the end of 1980, 22,650 families had received land titles from INCRA in eight different areas of Rondônia (SEPLAN/Ro 1985). Many others were squatting on public land awaiting titles. The number of title holders increased to 24,748 by 1983. By July 1985, INCRA had deeded 29,944 properties to small farmers (SEPLAN/Ro 1985: 23), most of which were 100 hectares in size.

In 1981 a full-scale regional development program was established for Rondônia and western Mato Grosso. As in the PIN, the Northwest Brazil Integrated Development Program (POLONOROESTE) was predicated on massive investments in highway improvements. About \$568 million (1981) was budgeted to reconstruct and pave the 1,500-kilometer Cuibá–Pôrto Velho highway. Another \$520 million was budgeted for land settlement, agricultural development, and feeder roads. About \$36 million was allocated for environmental protection and support of Indian communities (World Bank 1981: 1). While both PIN and POLONORESTE were based on an exaggerated conception of the importance of interregional transport, they differed in noteworthy ways. Unlike PIN in the Transamazon, INCRA's role in Rondônia has been limited to the demarcation of lots in project areas and issuing of land titles. Although the State Secre-

tariat of Planning prepared urban plans for specific settlement sites, the rural urbanism scheme was not replicated in Rondônia. In the Transamazon, INCRA paid colonists relocation expenses and gave farmers up to eight months of salary (at about \$40 per month) (Moran 1976: 18). Adding housing, local social overhead facilities, and administration, the total per capita cost of PIN was about \$39,000 per colonist. In Rondônia, colonists receive no stipend; in fact, they pay nominal administrative fees for their land titles, and are expected to amortize their moving and groundbreaking costs by marketing timber from their lots. Total POL-ONOROESTE costs for land settlement alone come to about \$10,000 per household.

A second noteworthy difference is the productivity of the soils in the two areas. In neither area are soil conditions ideal for either annual or perennial crops. However, while only about 3 percent of the Transamazon transect has agriculturally desirable soils, 33 percent of Rondônia's soils were classified as "good" for perennial agriculture (Fundação João Pinheiro 1975).

Planners of the Transamazon Highway exhibited little regard for protecting either indigenous communities or biologically rich refugia along the highway's path. While it cannot be said that POLONOROESTE planners have spared no expense to guarantee Indian land rights or conserve pristine wilderness areas in Rondônia (indeed the Brazilian government and the World Bank have been severely criticized for their sponsorship of environmental destruction in this region [Rich 1985]), it is noteworthy that in the POLONOROESTE program the government has supported initiatives to protect 46 different bounded areas (Indian reserves, biological reserves, and protected forest areas). These areas total 5.1 million hectares, or 21 percent of the total area of a state that has one of the world's richest and most diverse tropical ecosystems.

Forest sector impacts

It is virtually impossible to estimate the total forest area that has been converted by small farmer settlement in the Transamazon and Rondônia. However, the direct forest impacts of PIN in the Transamazon were probably substantial. Most of the migrants have stayed in the region, but many have sold their original lots and moved to nearby towns (Moran, in press). Assuming that by 1983 each family had cleared 50 hectares of land from their original 100-hectare lots (the maximum allowed by law), then 640,000 hectares of converted forest can be directly attributed to these settlers. This amount is equal to 14.9 percent of the area reported converted in the state of Pará (where most of the PIN settlement was

gram probably had no direct effect on deforestation beyond 1983. zon. Since the government effectively abandoned PIN in 1975, the procentered) and only 4.3 percent of the total conversion in the Legal Ama-

clearance by farmers in the Rolim de Moura sector of the Gi-Paraná deforested by 1983. Throughout the Amazon region, where 14.8 million typical, then at the state level INCRA beneficiaries had converted 991,267 cleared an average of 19.3 hectares. Assuming that Rolim de Moura is Settlement Project Area of Rondônia, by 1983 the typical farmer had tion in Rondônia would account for only 6.7 percent of the regional total hectares were reported deforested by 1983, direct government colonizahectares, about 71.0 percent of the total area of Rondônia reported (SEPLAN/Ro 1985: 20).21 Based on the author's 1985 research on forest In Rondônia, INCRA had granted 51,361 families farm lots by 1989

ed 11 percent of the Amazonian forest alteration detected by Landsar monitoring by 1983. farmer settlement in both the Transamazon and Rondônia projects total-The direct forest conversion impacts associated with sponsored small

Subsidy effects

\$3,200 per colonist. cates an implicit land subsidy of \$163 million in Rondônia, or about subsidies to colonists represented by the land grants conferred in both \$31.70 per hectare (based on the author's survey data, Table 6.8), indiprograms. The official value of the land given to colonists was set by INCRA at about \$1 per hectare. However, the market value of the land, (\$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion) tend to overshadow the substantial implicit The social overhead investments in both settlement programs

nists were used, in part, to purchase chainsaws. varied widely in the sample of 70 colonists in the Gi-Paraná colonization once. Although the amounts, interest rates, and terms of these loans with titles had borrowed money under one program or another at least dônia by 1985, an estimated 48.6 percent of the nearly 30,000 colonists sidized money under various government rural credit programs. In Ronchase of livestock, either of which would involve new forest conversion. cash crop over a specific area (e.g., seven hectares of coffee) or the purproject area, most of these loans were tied to the cultivation of a certain Interestingly, nearly one-fourth (23.5 percent) of the loans to these colo-More important, land title has allowed many colonists to borrow sub-

"lumber operations" (i.e., forest resources) did not provide significant In the Transamazon, unlike Rondônia, one researcher found that

> This practice may have encouraged farmers to cut new forest more often newly cleared fields, which produce higher crop yields than older fields Sustaining production required expensive pesticides and fertilizers mental trials undertaken in nontropical conditions outside the Amazon. and forest clearance (Smith 1981). Banks were more willing to loan for the couraged production distortions through inappropriate crop selection income to settlers and that credit programs, while contributing up to 30 Banks were also more willing to lend to farmers for first-year plantings in EMATER (Brazil's agricultural extension service) on the basis of experiproduction of specific cash crop varieties approved by INCRA and percent of farmer income (in the case of upland rice subsidies), had en-

Rondônia who receive rural credit tend to clear about 25 percent more recipients of subsidized financing had cleared more than that. Farmers in was 22.3 hectares. However, 60.9 percent of the sub-sample who were vious. In Rondônia, the mean value of the area cleared by farmers by 1985 forest area than those who do not receive such financing. That cheap financing would encourage forest conversion is almost ob-

and small compared to the Transamazon or Rondônia colonization government subsidy programs. Most of these projects are relatively new are several private colonization projects in Amazônia, some supported by clearly has been a significant cause. Finally, it should be noted that there deforestation attributable to cattle ranching, small farmer settlement exacerbating deforestation. Although it accounts for less than half the farmers to borrow from the government's rural credit programs, further improvements. The regularization of land titles has enabled many titled closely linked to large social overhead investments, especially in transport sify, under economic conditions of austerity. Small farmer settlement is and Rondônia. Migration to the Amazon is likely to continue, even intenpolicy since 1970 and has promoted deforestation in the Transamazon Small farmer settlement has been a feature of Amazon development

Conclusions and recommendations

and animal species. The forests of the Brazilian Amazon alone may conbetween 48 billion and 78 billion cubic meters. Yet, in spite of their enor tain nearly a third of the world's volume of tropical broadleafed timbers: believed to be home to a tenth of the earth's 5 million to 10 million plant The Amazon is the world's largest tropical moist forest region,

mous economic value and essential environmental functions, the rain forests of the Brazilian Amazon are being destroyed at rates that appear to be accelerating exponentially in some areas.

Nearly half the rain forest destruction in the Brazilian Amazon thus far is directly attributable to four government subsidy programs: the SUDAM program for developing the Brazilian Amazon, the Brazilian Central Bank's rural credit program, the National Integration Program in the Transamazon, and the semi-directed program of small farmer settlement in the state of Rondônia. The numbers of beneficiaries, the subsidies, and the forest impacts are summarized in Table 6.12.

Livestock production, expanded largely through government fiscal incentives, has been responsible for the largest proportion – 30 percent – of the forest conversion in the region. While it has been asserted that forest destruction may be justified if alternative uses of forest land bring large and unambiguous benefits, large-scale cattle ranching, without enormous subsidies, is economically untenable in the Amazon, its income covering only about 45 percent of costs. Regardless of the harmful environmental effects of cattle ranching on the Amazon, this activity can be discredited on economic grounds alone.

Yet the Brazilian government, during the bureaucratic authoritarian regime (1964–1985), vigorously pursued expansion of the livestock sector in the Amazon. The explanation for this apparently irrational behavior may be found in Brazil's political economy during this period. Anxious to ensure its legitimacy by appeasing powerful corporate interest groups, the government used the Amazon development program to transfer vast sums of public capital into private hands. Cattle ranching became the pretext for the appropriation of public capital by the large corporations to which the government's policies were, in the main, directed. Although ranches were inherently unprofitable as production operations, their corporate owners could nonetheless obtain large profits through government subsidies. In essence, the SUDAM livestock program has subsidized corporate profits at the considerable expense of the Brazilian taxpayer and the Amazon's forests.

Fearing social unrest in the rural backlands of the Brazilian Northeast and South, where land tenure regimes are highly unequal, the government sponsored two massive colonization programs initially directed toward small farmers with large families. The National Integration Program (PIN) of the early 1970s ambitiously sought to transplant 100,000 farmers to the Transamazon. Hastily conceived and without regard for variable soils, topographical constraints, preexisting indigenous popula-

tions, or public health problems, PIN was doomed to fail. Fewer than 15,000 farmers participated directly.

The enormously expensive Transamazon Highway, conceived partly to open up the region, is in a perpetual state of disrepair, although still in use. Most of the area along the highway cleared by small farmers is now in marginal use as pasture. Weary of trying to survive in a world they did not understand, many of the original farmers have abandoned their farms and moved to nearby towns and cities (the Amazon is the most rapidly urbanizing region of Brazil). Others, faced with tired soils or threats of intimidation by armed land-grabbers, have moved further into the Amazon to clear new forest areas.

The spontaneous settlement of Rondônia has been a different experience from that of the Transamazon, although both were predicated on the highway-based development model. In the Transamazon, colonization was directed by government planners and bureaucrats who selected the farmers to be relocated and determined the design and organization of life in the communities they would live in. In Rondônia, the government races to keep up with the droves of migrants who arrive on their own initiative. By 1985, nearly 30,000 migrants to Rondônia had received definitive land titles. Perhaps a comparable number are squatting on land in anticipation of titles. During the 1970s, as the rural population of Brazil actually declined, Rondônia's rural population exploded at an annual rate of 34 percent. The effects of this population explosion on Rondônia's forest are shocking: in 1975, only 0.5 percent of the area had been deforested; by 1980, 3.1 percent had been converted; by 1983, 5.7 percent; by 1985, over 11 percent.

Government programs to develop the Amazon are leading to its destruction. What can be done to alter this course? Numerous areas of the Amazon are known to be particularly rich in biological diversity. Other areas belong to Indians who have a moral right to live undisturbed by modern development in the lands they have conserved and cultivated for centuries. The natural integrity of such areas should be ruthlessly and tirelessly defended. However, the strictly protectionist approach to the Amazon overall is, in the author's opinion, doomed to fail. Conservation of the Amazon's rain forests must begin with an appreciation of their value as an economic asset, endowed by nature. Like any fund, with responsible stewardship, the Amazon can generate benefits in perpetuity for humans. In accordance with this "use it or lose it" philosophy, which is by no means universally shared among students of the Amazon, the following general policy recommendations are offered:

Table 6.12. Subsidy and forest impacts of selected government programs

Program	Total estimated subsidy (U.S. dollars)	Estimated subsidy rate (percent)	Number of direct beneficiaries	Subsidy per beneficiary (U.S. dollars)	Area deforested (hectares)	Percent of total deforested area in Brazil
Livestock						
SUDAM livestock						
tax credits	597,710,000	540	469d	1.274.000	4,432,050	30.0
Rural credit for pas-				,	-,,	2010
ture formations	65,072,000*	49i	3,511 <i>i</i>	18,500*	1000,088	5.9
Settlement						
PIN	500,000,000m	n.a.	12.800	39,062*	640.000°	4.3
Rondônia			1000		0.10,000	1.5
 POLONOROESTE 	520,000,000#	n.a. '	51,3619	10,124	991,267:	6.7
 Implicit land sub- 			\$4 00 ES		001,407	0.7
sidy	162,800,0004	100	51,361	3,170 ²		-
Implicit timber	150,399,000-		The state of the s			
subsidy	306,779,000	100	27,889*	550-1,100×	<u>~</u>	<u></u> -

aTotal area deforested by 1983 = 14,837,294 hectares (IBDF/PMCF).

*\$65,072,000 = total disbursements of \$132.8 million from 1969 to 1982 to ranchers in the "North Region" under Permanent Pasture credit program multiplied by the nominal subsidy rate of 49 percent effective in 1975 (assumed median rate for period), as indicated in Table 6.6.

1975 subsidy rate embodied in rural credit loans as specified in Table 6.6.

Complete data are not available. From 1977 through 1983, 3,511 Permanent Pasture loans were executed to cattle ranchers in the North Region.

*Average nominal U.S. dollar value of per capita Permanent Pasture loans, adjusted by subsidy rates given in Table 6.6, from 1977 through 1981.

Derived from total Permanent Pasture loan disbursements of \$132.8 million (nominal) made from 1969 through 1983 to cattle ranchers in the North Region divided by average forest clearance and pasture formation costs of \$150.95 per hectare as indicated in Table 6.8.

*Approximate total expenditures of PIN Transamazon program.

"Total PIN expenditures divided by maximum number of known beneficiaries.

°Assumes that by 1983 each of the 12,800 PIN beneficiaries cleared a total of 50 hectares of forest, the legal limit on a 100-hectare lot (12,800 × 50).

*Portion of POLONOROESTE budget for 1981-86 for land settlement, agricultural development, and feeder roads.

⁴Number of families receiving permanent and provisional titles to 100-hectare lots in seven colonization areas of Rondônia by 1983 as indicated by SEPLAN/Ro (1985: 20).

r\$520 million (land settlement, agricultural development, feeder roads) of total POLONOROESTE budget divided by 51,361 INCRA beneficiaries in Rondônia.

'Based on author's 1985 survey of 70 colonists in Gi-Paraná PIC of Rondônia in which the typical colonist had cleared 19.3 hectares by 1983 multiplied by total 1983 beneficiaries (51,361).

'Implied subsidy equivalent to \$31.70 per hectare (average 1984 market price for unimproved Amazon land indicated in Table 6.8) multiplied by 100 hectares per beneficiary and 51,361 beneficiaries.

"\$31.70 per hectare land subsidy multiplied by 100 hectares per beneficiary.

"Implied subsidy equivalent to \$550-1,100 per beneficiary of a 100-hectare lot multiplied by 27,889 beneficiaries (54.3 percent of 51,361 total beneficiaries) who marketed an average of 110 cubic meters of timber with an estimated stumpage value of \$5-10 per cubic meter through 1984 as reported by 70 colonists surveyed by author in 1985.

"Number of colonists who marketed timber occurring on their 100-hectare lots in Rondonia through 1984.

*Based on an average of 110 cubic meters marketed per beneficiary multiplied by \$5-10 per cubic meter (range of stumpage values from 1978 to 1984) expressed in nominal U.S. dollars.

^bTotal SUDAM tax credit assistance to the livestock sector from 1965 through September 1983 expressed in nominal U.S. dollars.

Average tax credit share of total capital costs of a sample of 18 SUDAM-supported cattle ranches.

⁴Number of cattle ranches receiving SUDAM tax credit financing from 1965 through September 1983.

^{&#}x27;Total estimated subsidy divided by beneficiaries.

[/]In mid-1985, the average SUDAM ranch was 11 years old and had cleared 9,450 hectares, which, multiplied by 469 ranches, is 4,432,050 hectares.

^{6&}quot;Rural credit" refers to Permanent Pasture formation loans only. Numerous other credit lines were used for deforestation as well, but these are not trackable. Hence, rural credit data given represent the minimum.

N out over a five-year period. SUDAM. For existing cattle projects in the Amazon, all fiscal incentives (i.e., tax credit financing and income tax deductions) should be phased No new livestock projects should be approved for tax credit financing by

دن: ment on ranches in the tropical zones of the Amazon. Central Bank to prohibit new lending for fixed and semi-fixed invest-Similarly, the various rural credit programs should be amended by the

sustaining economic utilization of the Amazon's fertile várzea floodufacturing enterprises; and (d) projects that would promote the selfnomic use of degraded clearings in the terra firma areas; (b) large-scale projects are directly linked to Brazilian-based final wood product manmercial timber species (i.e., "forest enrichment"), especially when those tained-yield cropping and selective reforestation of appropriate comagroforestry projects; (c) industrial wood projects that are based on susfour categories of projects: (a) those that would reclaim and make eco-Instead, it is recommended that priority SUDAM financing be given to

with an incentive to maximize the salvage of forest resources (timber, stroyed by the project. Theoretically, this would provide corporations and replacement cost value of the forest resources that would be dejusted upward in an amount equal to the estimated present market value SUDAM projects has been determined, the private share should be adfor SUDAM financing that ensure the maximum possible recovery of of dense or transition forest should be subjected to certain requirements fuelwood) or minimize the forest area they would convert. forest resources. After the ratio of public-to-private matching shares of Any project that would involve the conversion of more than 50 hectares

4

and it has failed. Now it is time to try something new. the livestock sector, has been tested in the Amazon for more than 20 years, tion of the Amazon's rain forests. The growth pole approach, based on consumer markets. Moreover, it has been the principal engine of destrucshortages of beef and dairy products that periodically beleaguer Brazilian slaughterhouse and meat-packing industries. Nor has it obviated the employment. It has not stimulated collateral development, except in the generated in revenues and has contributed little to permanent regional investment, the livestock sector has absorbed more in subsidies than it has was selected as the leading sector. Yet, after more than 20 years of public on "growth pole" theory, which holds that investment in a leading sector propels development in other related sectors. In the Amazon, livestock The development model of the Amazon region has been largely based

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of Pará, Amazonas, Acre, Rondônia, and Amapá and the federal territory of 1. The Brazilian Amazon region (BAR) is commonly defined in two ways. The "North Region" (defined by IBGE, the Brazilian census agency) includes the states text, as necessary. this paper is drawn from both IBGE and SUDAM, both definitions are used in the Grosso state and large parts of Goiás and Maranhão states. Since information in dência do Desenvolvimento da Amazônia) includes the North Region plus Mato Roraima. The "Legal Amazon" (the definition used by SUDAM, the Superinten-

d.b.h.) per hectare. (southern Amazônia) indicates that 90 percent of the species in this so-called which 134 different species of trees (15 cm. d.b.h. or more were found). Mercado forest" (alta floresta) in the Tapajós National Forest area of central Amazônia in individual per hectare) is based on an inventory of 36 hectares of natural "high (UFRRJ 1985b: 139) in an inventory of the Jamari National Forest in Rondônia "transition forest" (*floresta aberta*) occur in densities of less than 1 tree (10–35 cm. 2. This estimate (84.3 percent of tree species represented by less than one

stantial annual interest income may be earned if responsible sustained-yield cropcubic meters multiplied by the average cost of roundwood production, estimated this notion to be practical. of the region's tropical timbers in the short term (e.g., 5-10 years) is too limited for ping practices are followed. In any case, the world's capacity to absorb the entirety forest resource must be regarded as a capital endowment fund from which submeet pressing national economic exigencies (e.g., foreign debt). Brazil's Amazon that this entire stock of biomass should be auctioned off or quickly harvested to by Browder (1986: 232) at \$21.87 per cubic meter. The author does not suggest 3. The \$1.7 trillion estimate is based on Knowles' (1966) estimate of 78.3 billion

ing, used as inputs to final demand manufacturing processes (excluding industrial fuelwood). In the Amazon, the sector mainly consists of lumber mills. 4. "Industrial wood" includes sawnwood and pulp at various stages of process-

only available standard, regularly updated measure of deforestation in the Braicisms, most researchers, including Fearnside, use the Landsat information as the Second, evidently the Landsat technology has difficulty distinguishing primary nearly 40 percent of the region's area, were not included in the 1983 estimates. mates of deforested areas are low. First, 1978-1983 data for three of the nine (virgin) forest from secondary growth. Third, Fearnside maintains that Landsat is federal units of the Legal Amazon (Amapá, Roraima, and Amazonas), totaling handicapped in detecting small forest clearings. In spite of these legitimate crit-5. Fearnside (1985a) gives three reasons for believing that Landsat-based esti-

sat image interpretation are being resolved, according to IBDF consultants. zilian Amazon. Furthermore, some of the apparent technical deficiencies in Land-

aggravate deforestation due to frontier migration and small farmer settlement as may constrain the pace of deforestation due to cattle ranching, it is likely to their apparently exponential upward spiral. While general economic difficulties be reduced. In this case, recent trends in deforestation rates may not continue rent economic crisis in Brazil, subsidies for Amazon development projects might push factors" become more intense. 6. It is conceivable that as government resources become strained in the cur-

section of the text are abstracted from Fearnside (1985a). 7. The assertion that "deforestation is linked to longstanding economic patterns in Brazil, such as high inflation rates" and several other points made in this

Amazon development policy-makers, and the role of foreign markets, see Hech 8. For an excellent discussion of the preference given to the livestock sector by

Browder (1986: 139-40, fn.). 9. The estimated value of corporate income tax exemption declared by Amazon industrial wood producers between 1970 and 1984 is \$1.2 billion (1984). See

ner, Castro and Barros, São Paulo, Brazil, and Robert Repetto, World Resources Institute, Washington, D.C. 10. Personal communication from Dr. Fabio Monteiro de Barros, Senior Part-

tween 1976 and 1983 were US\$987 million in nominal terms. given that total rural credit disbursements to the Amazon's livestock sector be 1983 (\$691 million divided by \$150.95 per hectare). These estimates seem realistic million hectares (31 percent of the total area reported deforested by Landsat) by rural credit programs to the livestock sector were responsible for conversion of 4.6 (\$691 million) was spent only on forest clearance and pasture formation, then wide) \times 0.024 (share of total disbursements to North Region)]. If this amount of rural credit disbursements for pasture formation would be about \$691 million for which disbursements are not trackable. A more likely estimate of the total use credit line (permanent pastures) and excludes the various special credit programs ments (\$132.5 million). The latter is clearly a minimal estimate derived from one cludes both SUDAM indirect tax credits (\$598 million) and rural credit disbursethe livestock sector in the Brazilian Amazon is difficult. The \$730.5 million inspecific credit lines), estimating with exactitude the volume of disbursements to [\$147.1 billion (total disbursements) imes 0.196 (share to the livestock sector nation-11. Given the proliferation of rural credit programs during the 1970s (over 100

sponsible for 38 percent of the area deforested. de Garcas area of northern Mato Grosso, found that SUDAM ranches were reinstance, Tardim et al. (n.d.), in an exhaustive study of 760,000 hectares in Barra stock factor is a considerably more important determinant of deforestation. For sidized cattle ranchers (by September 1983). At the microregional level, the liveextrapolation from the author's sample of 8.5 percent of all 469 SUDAM-sub-12. This estimate, 29.99 percent of the total area deforested by 1983, is a direct

(IBGE, Censo Agropecuária, 1980). ment listed in livestock production (becuária) has been estimated at 872 hectares traditional IBGE North Region and Mato Grosso, the average size of establishfrom 18,126 (SUDAM 1983) to 28,860 hectares (Pompermayer 1979). For the 13. Other estimates of the average area of SUDAM livestock projects range

> on his 1980 market study for the Atlas Meat Processing Company. 14. Personal communication from Alberto Oliveira Lima Filho in 1984, based

to be obtained therefrom are large and unambiguous" was made by Robert F. POLONOROESTE program in Rondônia. Cited in Hemming (1985). Skillings, former chief of the Brazil Division, World Bank, and proponent of the 15. The statement "Deforestation is justified only when the economic benefits

and soil productivity (Herrera et al. 1978; Falesi 1976, 1980; Seubert et al. 1977; and Buschbacher (1986). More detailed studies have focused on nutrient cycling well et al. 1983); species extinction (Gomez-Pompa et al. 1972; Pires and Prance tic effects (Sioli 1978; Woodwell 1978; Salati 1980; Kuklas and Gavin 1981; Wooderosion (Daubenmire 1972; Fearnside 1980b; Abreu Sa Diniz et al. 1980); hydro-Alvim 1977; Serrão et al. 1979; Fearnside 1980a; Hecht 1982); soil porosity and py (1984), the Sioli and Fearnside chapters of Hemming (1985), Tangley (1986), deforestation, see Goodland (1975), Myers (1980), Lugo and Brown (1982), Gupal. 1983; Myers 1985); and threats to native populations (Davis 1977; Posey 1983) 1977; Prance 1982; Lovejoy and Oren 1981; Lovejoy and Salati 1983; Lovejoy et Friedman 1977; Salati 1980; Gentry and Lopez-Parodi 1980); atmospheric-climalogic cycles and rainfall (Molion 1975; Villa Nova et al. 1976; Marques et al. 1977; 16. For a general review of the major environmental issues involving tropical

only to area in pasture (11,600 hectares). hectares), while all other capital and operating costs (\$383.12 per hectare) apply 17. Land purchase price (\$31.70 per hectare) applies to entire ranch (49,000

18. More recent SUDAM policy is to limit the value of the land to 10 percent of

the private investor's equity contribution.

Brazilian Amazon, see Browder (in press) and Mahar (1979: 128-129). 19. For an additional discussion of the social costs of timber destruction in the

20. Derived from Moran (1976: 81), who obtained a Transamazon unit road-

building cost of \$53,710 per kilometer.

settlement program. Twenty-nine percent of the colonists surveyed in the authdefinitive titles and who should be considered beneficiaries of the Rondônia or's sample did not have definitive land titles. had received temporary land occupation licenses from INCRA in anticipation of 21. This number includes 24,748 families with titles and 26,613 families who

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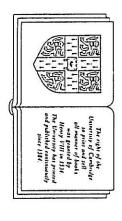
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