

# Peer Review Summary Document

(10/29/2013)

## Peer Review Plan

[http://www.usgs.gov/peer\\_review/docs/fortini\\_amazon-acai-forestry.pdf](http://www.usgs.gov/peer_review/docs/fortini_amazon-acai-forestry.pdf) [18 KB PDF]

## Title and Authorship of Information Product Disseminated

The economic viability of smallholder timber production under expanding açai palm production in the Amazon Estuary, By Lucas Fortini (U.S. Geological Survey) and Douglas Carter (University of Florida, Gainesville).

## Peer Reviewers Expertise and Credentials

Peer Reviewer #1 – Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Management. Expertise in environmental and resource economics, including estimating and mitigating invasive species risk from international trade.

Peer Reviewer #2 – Ph.D. in Biology, Clifford G. Morrison Professor in Population and Resource Studies. Expertise in ecology of terrestrial ecosystems in Hawaii and Pacific islands.

Peer Reviewer #3 – Anonymous reviewer (selected as part of the journal peer review process).

Peer Reviewer #4 – Anonymous reviewer (selected as part of the journal peer review process).

## Charge Submitted to Peer Reviewers

The reviewers were asked to make an objective evaluation of the research.

## Summary of Peer Reviewers Comments

Peer Reviewer #1: Overall, the reviewer provided encouraging, specific feedback. Detailed comments focused on computational aspects of the economic analyses. The reviewer also provided suggestions for improving clarity of the conclusions.

Peer Reviewer #2: Overall, the reviewer found the manuscript to be an excellent paper needing only minor revisions, mostly to clarify intended meanings for the general reader. The reviewer's comments helped identify passages in the content that could be made clearer, and amplified the general context of crop forestry within regions also having high native biodiversity.

Peer Reviewer #3: Overall, the reviewer thought this was an important paper that provided copious useful information. The reviewer provided extensive commentary on technical aspects of the economic models used and associated results.

Peer Reviewer #4: Overall, the reviewer believed the manuscript reflected a comprehensive treatment of a subject with results that have strong relevance to Amazonian crop production. The reviewer suggested more complete description of survey methodology.

### **Summary of USGS Response to Peer Reviewer Comments**

The introduction and conclusions were revised for clarity in response to comments from Reviewers #1 and 4. All technical issues raised by Reviewers #1, 2, and 3 were addressed. In response to Reviewer #4 comments, the description was revised to provide more detail regarding the survey design process and parameters.

### **The Dissemination**

The published information product will be released in the open literature as an article published in the *Journal of Forest Economics*.