

Recent Developments in International Forest Policy Debate

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Global forestry issues

1. **Climate change, biodiversity, desertification.**
2. **Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+).**
3. **Payments for Environmental Services.**
4. **Carbon trading.**
5. **Bio-economy (Green Economy)**

Global forestry issues (cont.)

6. Forest governance/illegal logging and trade.

7. Forest Tenure & Rights of indigenous peoples.

8. Financing SFM.

9. Forests and Food security (and bio-energy)

10. Forests and gender.

1) Climate Change

Annually, 13 million hectares of forests converted to other uses (e.g. agriculture, mining), or lost to natural causes (e.g. fire and insects)



An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a thick canopy of trees. The text is overlaid on this background.

“Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global C.C. mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development.”

***Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,
Fourth Assessment Report, 2007.***

BUT

Forests are more than *Carbon*.

REDD+

“Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in *developing countries*, including conservation, sustainable management of forests (SMF) and carbon stock enhancement”.

REDD+ is a *Concept*, not a *Mechanism*

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Phases of REDD+ Implementation

1. *Readiness,*
2. Results-based *Demonstration* activities,
3. Fully measured, reported and verified (*MRV*) results-based actions,
4. Methods to receive, manage and disburse *Payments.*

GLOBAL AGREEMENT ??????

REDD + Issues

Principles


- **Baselines**
- **“Additionality”**
- **Leakage**
- **Permanence**

Constraints

- **Finance**
- **MRV**
- **Tenure rights**
- **Safeguards**

Costs of REDD+

- **Costs of halving emissions from forestry sector by 2030 estimated at \$17-30 billion annually (Eliasch, 2008).**
- **Should come from co-financing: Public and Private.**
- **Tapping market mechanisms to finance REDD+ considered at UNFCCC CoP, but not agreed yet.**
- **Payments for REDD+ based on Opportunity Cost is not flawless.**

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a thick canopy of trees. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Restoration of degraded forests offer best environmentally compatible, economically feasible and socially beneficial approaches to enhancing forest biomass, hence enhanced carbon stock (*plus other essential forest goods & services*).



2) Payments for Environmental Services (PES)

“A *voluntary* transaction in which a *well-defined* environmental service (ES), or a form of land use likely to secure that service, is bought by at least one ES *buyer*, from a minimum of one ES *provider*, conditional on provider continues to supply that service and buyer continues to pay for the service”.

Sven Wunder, CIFOR

Some generic PES issues

- PES will only work if all parties agree and tenure is secured,
- Market-based PES mobilised finance more cost-effective than state-funded programs,
- Legal, policy and governance base critical,
- Institutional complexity addressed,
- ODA: subsidise transaction costs; negotiation, payments and certifiers, etc.

3) Emissions Trading ("Carbon Markets")

- Under Kyoto Protocol, countries with spare Emission Credits may sell surplus to countries exceeded their targets, thereby creating an international emissions market.**
- Intended to deliver a cost-effective way of reducing emissions and to encourage investment in greener technologies.**
- Volatile C markets detrimental.**

4) GREEN (Bio-) ECONOMY; *background and state of play*

- **Attempts to sustainably govern global environment , manage world economy and achieve MDG's without destabilising crises are still disconnected.**
- **Need transition to a green low carbon economy and green society to address climate change and eradicate poverty.**
- **Sustainable development rests on integration and balanced consideration of social, economic and environmental goals and objectives .**

Definition of Green Economy

- No internationally agreed definition yet.
- For example, UNEP (2011) defined Green Economy as *“one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive”*.

Greener Forests, Forestry and Forest Industries

- Economy become greener when more products consumed are based on photosynthesis.
- Wood products are Green when produced from sustainably managed forests.
- National and global economies become greener with increasing use of “green wood”.
- A green economy is a process, not an end state.

Global forest policy dialogue

- “Forest Principles” Rio 1992
- IPF 1995-1997
- IFF 1997-2000
- UNFF 2000-2005 and 2006-2015
 - NLBI 2007, Finance stumbling block, *future international arrangements on forests beyond 2015 ?????*
 - Canada and “*like-minded countries*” LBI ??
 - European LBI; in progress ??

National and international challenges for forestry policy development

- Declining political support,
- Emerging issues and shifting priorities,
- Fragmentation among sectors and agencies,
- Declining national budgets for forest development,
- Decreasing investment and donor support,
- Multiple stakeholders in decision-making.

Forestry / agriculture linkages (figures and facts)

- Global forest cover 4.1 bil. ha; crop land 1.5 bil. and pasture 2.8 bil., *i.e.* forests and agriculture cover 2/3 of land surface.
- Deforestation contributes 17% and agriculture 14% of global GHG emissions annually.
- Agriculture main driver of deforestation:
 - > 90% of deforested land converted to agriculture.
 - > 80 % converted from Rainforests.

Forestland conversion

- **Industrial agriculture responsible for 10-12% of GHG emissions .**
- **Subsistence agriculture and shifting cultivation not significant contributors to deforestation.**
- **Conversion may be legitimate to feed the poor but not to satisfy greed of large scale agri-business .**

Forestry and Agriculture Policies

- **Agricultural production need to increase by 70% by 2050, plus *ca* 20% for yield loss to Climate Change.**
 - **Vertical expansion (intensification), but has a ceiling.**
 - **Horizontal expansion, almost limitless.**
- **Ensuring that food production and forestry do not compete for land use.**
- **Maximizing synergies between forestry and agriculture policies essential (*e.g.* Bioenergy).**

International institutions dealing with forestry

1. UN and other inter-governmental organizations/bodies; (FAO, UNE P, UNDP, World Bank, ITTO,.....)
2. Secretariats of UN Conventions (CBD, CCD, UNFCCC)
3. Forums (UNFF, CPF)
4. Research bodies (CIFOR, ICRAF, IUFRO, Universities, ..),
5. INGO's (IUCN, TNC, WWF, WRI, Greenpeace,...)
6. Programs and Funds (PROFOR, FIP, UN-REDD Programme, etc..)
7. Major Groups (Private sector, Forest owners, Scientific Community, Indigenous People, Youth, Women),
(<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/participation.html>)

- **Most environmental negotiations characterized by a divide between the interests of the North (developed countries) and the South (developing countries).**
- **Polarization stems from differing distribution of finances, natural resources and technical capacity; (divergent priorities).**
- **A critical factor in international negotiations is scientific evidence and information.**
- ***Nevertheless, significant strides toward SFM around the world.***

Forestry on the global stage: Missed or “*Messed*” opportunities

- 3 main Conventions, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals.
- Voluntary and commissioned research to “inform” policymakers and negotiators; low impact.
- Forestry issues high on global agenda, but remain splintered.
- Need to communicate/coordinate with other sectors.

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are tightly packed, creating a textured canopy of various shades of green. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The text "Thank you" is centered over the forest in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Thank you