The Center for International Forestry Research is a non-profit, global facility dedicated to informing human wellbeing, environmental conservation and equity. We conduct research that enables more informed, and equitable decision making about the use and management of forests in less developed countries.

Our research and expert analysis help policy makers and practitioners shape effective policy, improve the management of tropical forests and address the needs and perspectives of people who depend on forests for their livelihoods. Our multidisciplinary approach considers the underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation which often lie outside the forestry sector: forces such as agriculture, infrastructure development, trade and investment policies and law enforcement.

Science for forests and people

Forests matter

Forests provide fuelwood, food, shelter and medicine to more than one billion people.

Forests are home to more than half the Earth’s terrestrial species.

Forests help to stabilise soils, discourage erosion and maintain a steady supply of clean, fresh water.

Forests underpin the economies of many developing countries.

Forests lock up atmospheric carbon, helping to stabilise the Earth’s climate.

Forests provide income and employment to millions of people.

Science for forests and people

Forests are home to more than half the Earth’s terrestrial species.

Forests, our home to millions. [Image -9x-15 to 2731x718]

Our research spans governance, poverty and environmental issues. How do we manage forests in ways that enable us to mitigate and adapt to climate change? How can the people who depend on smallholder and community forestry improve their livelihoods? How do we manage the trade-offs between conservation and development? How do we manage the impacts of globalised trade and investment? How can tropical production forests be managed sustainably?
The Center for International Forestry Research is one of 15 research centres within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

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Locally based, globally relevant

CIFOR conducts collaborative research and shares knowledge with governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations and local communities around the world.

Cover photo by Vick Fisher

Thinking beyond the canopy