



news

September 2004
Number 36

www.cifor.cgiar.org

Understanding local people's needs vital for forest development

Plantation schemes are often used to extract timber, leaving local communities worse off.
Douglas Sheil

Understanding what really matters to local people is essential for effective land resource management in forests. Without this knowledge, concerned groups like governments, development organizations and private companies may have difficulty tailoring development and regional management priorities to suit local people's priorities and needs in their efforts to develop a region.

Between 1999 and 2001 CIFOR researchers Douglas Sheil and Imam Basuki assessed the state of the land resources in the Malinau river region of East Kalimantan. Their research involved a range of biodiversity, biophysical and ethnographic data and also compared their findings with the knowledge of the local people.

"Imam and I were very interested to consider how variation in soil and other land conditions might influence the land-use choices of local people. We treated this both as a biophysical question and by assessing the views and judgments of the local Merap and Punan communities," Sheil said.

CIFOR's research clearly demonstrates that most of the region is unfertile and largely unsuited to sustainable agriculture. Results from 200 sample locations showed that lands with the potential for sustainable intensive farming and plantations are found in only a limited number of more fertile riverside locations, and even these are susceptible to occasional catastrophic flooding.

Beyond these flat riverside areas, low nutrients, shallow soil, poor drainage and high rainfall limit the development of large plantations. Further, the steep topography makes most of the land very susceptible to erosion.

In essence, then, some of the areas sampled may be suitable for developing dry land rice and coconut. But, overall, the region is not suited for large-scale agricultural activities, such as planting pepper, coffee, cocoa, candlenut, and rubber or oil palm.

"An especially interesting aspect of the research was learning how local people have learnt to live in such infertile conditions. The Merap and Punan people employ a shifting cultivation system in which temporary nutrients are generated by clearing and burning woody vegetation cover, but even in this system the farmers consider it important to evaluate the potential of the land by observing vegetation and soil conditions," Basuki said.

According to Basuki and Sheil, the people who have traditionally lived in or around the forest know that 'tana tiem', or black soil, found on alluvial plains and areas still covered by forest, is the most fertile and productive for farming. Similarly, they know that most swamps and the extensive regions of steeply sloping land offer little but poor infertile soils.

With their local knowledge and low population density, the people can fulfill their daily living needs by using the natural resources around them. The Merap appear to use almost all the limited fertile land available to them, while most of the unfertile land is left as forest. The Punan, who tend to reside in even more marginal areas, generally rely on augmenting the produce from their small-scale swidden agricultural activities by collecting products from the forest.

"In a very real sense, both our research and the centuries old traditional knowledge of the local people confirm that development possibilities outside the forestry sector are limited. Apart from using the native forest for small livelihood activities, the only feasible alternatives for sustainable land are probably agroforestry, low-impact timber felling and nature conservation," Basuki said.

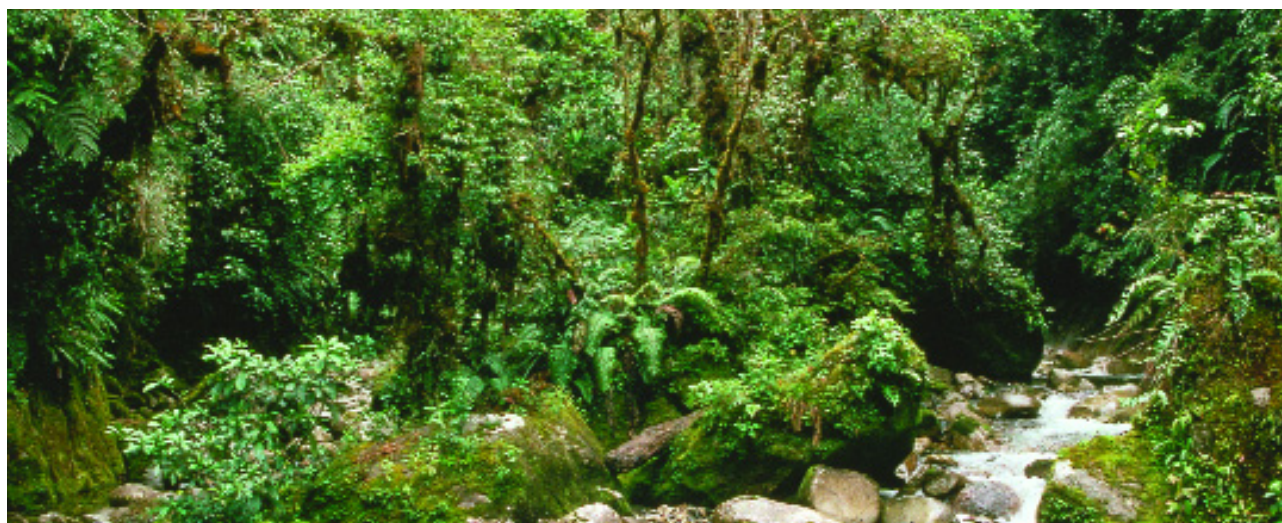
It is this combination of hard science and traditional knowledge that can help policy makers make better decisions regarding forest landscapes and how they can best support local livelihoods.

(continued on page 5)

CIFOR's soil research in East Kalimantan, Indonesia involved close liaison with local communities.
(Photo by Douglas Sheil)



Photo by Andre Bartschi, WWF



CIFOR support for forest rehabilitation in Peru

Peru has over 10 million hectares of the world's estimated 850 million hectares of degraded forest, and in Peru the amount is increasing every year. In April 2004, CIFOR organized a meeting with its local host Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Extensión Agraria (INIA) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) to report on its research on the degraded forest lands of the Ucayali Region in the central Peruvian Amazon lowlands. But as CIFOR's Cesar Sabogal remarked, the meeting achieved much more than just merely reporting a set of research findings.

"The event could very well be held as a model for future partnership research. It was an extremely productive way of disseminating research results and getting stakeholders involved in defining research priorities and analyzing research results and implications," Sabogal said. Sabogal also said the meeting would go a long way towards fostering policy dialogues and the uptake of research results by decision makers.

Some 60 participants from over 20 organizations attended the workshop on degraded forests and forest rehabilitation. They included regional government representatives, members of farmers and indigenous organizations, national and international conservation and development non-governmental organizations, and research and educational agencies.

On the first day participants reported results from relevant research efforts and local experiences. However, the most significant achievements came out of the second part of the workshop when participants worked closely together.

People worked in groups to examine the degradation process, its causes and how they occur in certain areas. They also looked at the responses various actors had come up with, the results of these responses and the reasons for their success or failure.

Based on these discussions the groups formulated key conclusions, recommendations and proposals for immediate action in the Ucayali development strategy. These were then presented at a high-profile forum that included such major decision makers as the Director of the Directorate for Natural Resources of the Regional Government, and the Director of the Committee for Development of the Ucayali Region.

"The workshop suggested it was important to complete the land use classification process currently

available for only a small part of the region," said Wil de Jong from CIFOR, and one of Sabogal's collaborators. "But even when it is completed it would be wrong to think of it as a substitute for land use decision making. After all, decisions about land use require a social and political process and should involve all relevant sectors."

Forest rehabilitation projects are extremely important, but they are only part of the response to forest degradation. Strengthening farmer organizations, improving land titling systems, clarifying the ownership status of forests or agroforestry plots and building environmental awareness are also crucial for forest rehabilitation.

A second workshop was held in the San Martin Region. In addition to ICRAF, CIFOR's partners included local NGO Centro de Desarrollo e Investigación de la Selva Alta (CEDISA), and INCAGRO, a government programme that promotes innovation and competition in the agricultural sector. Thirty six participants from 29 organizations discussed the main strategies and policy implications for the rehabilitation of degraded lands.

According to CIFOR's local consultant, Abel Meza, the use of ecological-economic land zoning as a key tool in planning and decision-making regarding land use again featured highly in the discussions. Meza said of particular importance was that, "although technologies for land rehabilitation seem to be more developed in San Martin Region, sometimes they are too complicated for farmers and very little extension work had been done."

Participants at both workshops agreed regional governments and institutions like the National Institute for Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture should play a strong leadership role in promoting and implementing any forest legislation that includes rehabilitation of degraded lands. (CS, WDJ, AM, PS)

Training Peru's loggers

Until recently, Peru's forests were very badly managed. Under a 1975 forestry law, short-term harvesting contracts were awarded to large numbers of itinerant loggers who moved from area to area, cutting down trees without the slightest consideration for the sustainable management of the forests. This system ended with the introduction of a new forestry law in mid-2000. Now the government awards long-term concessions, mostly to associations of small-scale forest extractors, and requires applicants to submit management plans as part of the process.

But replacing a bad law with a good one was not itself enough to ensure good forest management. That is why a group of organizations got together to support the new forestry regulations through a comprehensive training project. The partners in the project include CIFOR, the Peruvian National Resource Management Agency (INRENA) and the Forest Development Fund (FONDEBOSQUE).

The project has concentrated its efforts on three government departments which account for 80 percent of the production forests in the Peruvian Amazon. The first phase consisted of four workshops attended by over 130 forestry professionals who advise or work with timber concessionaires. These resulted in a set of guidelines for forest management plans, which were published in September 2003 by INRENA.

The second phase consisted of a number of training courses for professionals and technicians on the planning, application and evaluation of good forest management techniques. Over 230 professionals and technicians attended. The third phase introduced the techniques involved in reduced impact logging to 51 chainsaw and tractor operators. The final phase of the project involved plans for a long-term programme on training and extension and the publication of field manuals for trainers.

According to Cesar Sabogal, CIFOR Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the researcher responsible for the initiative with INRENA and FONDEBOSQUE, the project immediately created a number of expectations from different forestry actors and stakeholders.

"Just the large number of people who got together to develop new regulations for forest management plans and take part in the fifteen training courses is a good measure of the success of this project," Sabogal said.

"The project managed to create the interest of colleagues and forest extractors alike. They considered some really valuable ideas and experiences during the process and in developing the final products we delivered. For Peru, the two manuals are the first of their type to support forest management in the Amazon region."

Sabogal said the project's achievements benefited from a study lead by CIFOR and supported by USAID inquiring into the constraints and opportunities for the adoption of good forest management practices in Amazon forests - a study that was also carried out in Bolivia and Brazil.

Chainsaw and tractor operators have acknowledged that due to a lack of training opportunities in the past, they were not very aware of sustainable forest management principles. They simply focused on raising production regardless of the environmental cost. But now planning plays an important role in their forest operations and they say they have found it easy to apply reduced impact harvesting techniques.

According to Oscar Melgarejo, a Forest Engineer working for a timber concessionaire in Ucayali, the project's manuals will greatly support the work of forest professionals and technicians as well as timber operators in applying sustainable forest management with methods that are applicable or adaptable to the local reality. (PS, CS)

Training courses run by CIFOR and its partners are improving logging practices. (Photo by César Sabogal)



Women crucial to future of forests

Although Brazil has a number of active environmental NGOs with powerful lobbies in Brasilia and networks across urban and rural Amazonia, there is still a striking lack of information regarding the value of forest biodiversity for local livelihoods.

Earlier this year in Belem, Brazil, the National Advisor on Gender for the National Federation of Social and Educational Assistance, Maria das Graças Costa, called on CIFOR to promote greater awareness of forest issues among women.

"Forest communities, particularly women, need the science that you offer. Without it, they will continue to lose their forest. They need to be empowered with information," Costa said.

CIFOR responded by cosponsoring a seminar in March called *Women and Natural Resources in Amazonia* that looked at the role of forests in the lives of families and how women can play an active role in forest management decisions. Attended by 100 women from rural areas, as well as decision makers, NGOs, and researchers the seminar was one of CIFOR key events in Brazil for 2004.

An important component of the seminar was the launch of the documentary, *Women of the Forest*, by New York cinematographer, Trilby MacDonald. *Women of the Forests* is particularly significant for the way it brings home to the urban viewer just how brutally Amazonian forest communities are affected by deforestation and how some of them are starting to fight back.

The film is based largely on a project that began with the International Center for Research on Women and which has continued with CIFOR through the support of the Overbrook Foundation and the International Research and Development Center (IDRC).

One of the organizers of the *Women and Natural Resources in Amazonia*, CIFOR ecologist Patricia Shanley, spoke of the research that the film depicts.

"Women are the caretakers of their family's health and nutrition. They can be disproportionately affected by logging and timber sales because they lose access to critical sources of food and medicine," Shanley said.

CIFOR researcher Gabriel Medina said the film conveys a sense of hope "by showing how women in various communities are exerting their influence over the fate of their forest resources."

"This fitted very well with seminar's emphasis on the importance of biodiversity to women, how community associations are responding to conflicting land uses and how women can gain access to social programs to influence public policy," Medina said.

One of the seminar's key presentations was made by three women from communities along the Capim River who presented long-term data showing how fruit consumption had declined following numerous logging activities. The research, assisted by CIFOR, also shows how logging has increased the distance local people must travel to collect fibers and hunt game.

According to participant Dona Ana, from one Capim River community where successive timber logging and sales have degraded the forest, "women were not consulted about the timber sales. My sons no longer bring me forest fruit. We have no fiber to construct brooms nor

(continued on page 10)



Maroca from a village on the Capim river, carries Cecropia palmata, a forest product used for treating coughs and stomach aches.

(Photo by Patricia Shanley)

CIFOR and Ministry launch tree adoption

Celebrating Earth Day at the Darmaga Research Forest, CIFOR, Bogor

CIFOR and the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry joined hands in a unique celebration of April 22's International Earth Day at the Darmaga Research Forest surrounding CIFOR Headquarters in Bogor. Covering 58 hectares, the Darmaga Research Forest is an important site for researching the introduction of new species, practicing new forestry techniques, as a source for germ-plasm and as a home to a range of animal and plant species.

It contributes to the important role forests around the world play in reducing global warming. And in addition to its research and environmental uses, the Darmaga Research Forest adds great beauty to the environs of Bogor and is a wonderful source of recreation for locals and visitors.

Sadly, recent years have seen the research forest facing increasing urban pressure through local population growth and the sale of nearby rural land for residential projects. To help ensure the forest's survival, the Ministry and CIFOR developed a tree adoption program that encourages local residents, as well as CIFOR staff, to take 'ownership' of individual trees within the forest.

The program encourages people who care about the environment to contribute a donation towards adopting the trees to help ensure they continue to remain strong and healthy in the face of encroaching urbanization. The tree adoption program is especially aimed at encouraging the people living nearby to care for the forest. With greater community participation in the caring and protection of the Darmaga research forest, it will remain an important research site, a vital home to many plants and animals and remain a wonderful source of recreation.

CIFOR is supporting the adoption program by contributing US\$5,000 to local community groups so they can adopt trees and take an active part in protecting the environment. Additionally a number of CIFOR staff and Members of CIFOR's Board of Trustees have also put their hands in to their pockets to adopt trees. In return, adopters get a plaque on the tree of their choice, a guarantee from the Ministry that the tree will be well-maintained for the next five years, a certificate of adoption and periodical updates on the tree's progress.

CIFOR's Director General, Dr David Kaimowitz, said CIFOR was proud to assist its neighbouring communities protect the local forest for future generations. "Imagine living in a world where children don't know what a forest is? It's a frightening scenario, but one that could happen in the near future. We must protect the world's forests today if our children and our grandchildren are to live in a world where forests still help reduce poverty and provide important environmental services," Kaimowitz said.

If you would like to inquire about adopting a tree please contact Mr. Sopari Wangsadijaja MM, Forestry Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Management Office, Badan Litbang Kehutanan, Jl. Gunung Batu No. 5, Bogor 16610, Phone: 0251 639059 Fax: 0251 638111.



A model for reducing poverty and sustaining forests

In most developing countries, researchers, NGO activists, planners, policy makers and businesses have been struggling to understand how to reduce rural poverty and at the same time reduce environmental degradation. There is clearly a relationship between rural poverty and loss of forest cover and biodiversity in developing countries, yet there is much we do not yet understand about the cause-effect links between them.

There are understandable reasons for assuming a lockstep linkage between high rates of poverty and rapid deforestation. After all, some of the worst pockets of rural poverty in developing countries are sometimes found in areas of rapid deforestation. Poverty is one important contributor to deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Conversely, losing forest cover can endanger the livelihoods of people who depend on forest resources.

But the real world is far more complex. "We do not yet know in what ways and to what extent poverty alleviation and forest conservation are converging or diverging policy goals," CIFOR scientist William D. Sunderlin said. "I am proposing a simple model that analyzes success and failure in achieving poverty alleviation and forest conservation."

Sunderlin has used a four-way classification table to help better understand how human welfare improvement and natural forest protection are either consistent or inconsistent with each other. This conceptual device examines the conditions under which poverty alleviation and forest cover protection either succeed or fail in a given location by helping to identify the underlying conditions and policies that produce good outcomes. "It will also help us to make educated choices under sub-optimal conditions," Sunderlin said. "Common sense suggests we can't always assume there's a direct link between increased poverty and increased loss of forest cover, or between livelihood improvement and increased quality of forests." Often forests disappear not because people are poor or getting poorer, but rather because they are lifting themselves out of poverty and have greater means at their disposal and a stronger incentive to modify the landscape. In some cases, it is not increased poverty at the level of the household, but rather increased numbers of poor households that increase pressure on forests."

In Sunderlin's model, increased or reduced human well being is charted against increased or reduced forest cover quality, giving four outcomes: win-win; win-lose; lose-win; or lose-lose. New users can quickly understand this model, but real life conditions are never as simple as the model implies. Nevertheless, the model is useful. In developing countries there are clear examples of all four tendencies. "Broadly applied, we can use the model we can use the information to design better policies," Sunderlin said.

The win-win scenario is an often unrealized goal in developing countries. But there are important exceptions, such as the development of agroforestry systems in Peru and the successful regrowth of trees in pastoral systems in Tanzania and Kenya.

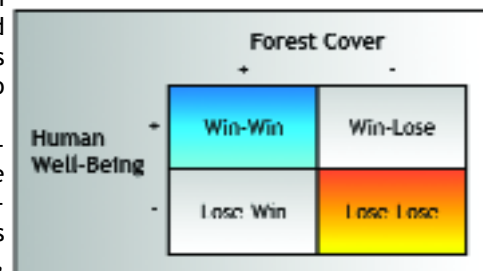
The win-lose result roughly represents the history of agricultural and rural development. Agricultural lands have expanded over time but often at the expense of natural forest cover and biodiversity. The transition from hunting and gathering to swidden agriculture and then to sedentary agriculture and pastoralism has often meant an increased consumption of natural resources - including forests - and increased level of income over time.

An example of a lose-win outcome is when war and conflict harms the farmer's well-being but helps to restore the forest.

The lose-lose situation - already well covered in the environmental literature - describes how poverty causes environmental degradation, and as the environment declines it can support fewer and fewer people.

Unfortunately, there is a tendency in research and policy development to focus on win-win and lose-lose outcomes, almost as if these are the only possible outcomes. Certainly, using knowledge about win-lose and lose-win outcomes is complex, but it can be extremely rewarding. Depending on the underlying circumstances, such outcomes are either unavoidable or remediable. But, according to Sunderlin, "Where some of these outcomes are unavoidable but changeable, improving the situation might require an approach of 'winning more and losing less'." (PS, GC)

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Understanding local people's needs

(from front page)

"Good research and understanding the local people's perceptions of the forest are an important part of bringing about effective and sustainable land and forest resource management in the Malinau region," Sheil said.

Prior to the release of Basuki and Sheil's report, the Malinau Government signed an agreement in March with a Malaysian company to develop an oil palm plantation on 40,000 hectares, due to start within the next two years. The site covers a considerable area of infertile soil covered in natural forest that is an important source of livelihood for a number of villages.

Says Sheil, "We are concerned the plantation will be established on poor soil where all our evidence shows that it will not be economically viable. We are especially concerned this may include areas of forest important to local livelihoods, and with significant cultural value for the local people. And let's not forget the important role such forests play in sheltering the world's biodiversity. We have seen too many plantation schemes used as an excuse to remove valuable timber, but leaving the local communities worse off." (IB, DS, PS, GC)

The great flood myth

When massive flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic killed 3000 people and left tens of thousands homeless late last month, everyone seemed sure who was to blame.

"Haiti's deforestation allows flood water to run unchecked," declared USA Today. Haiti's prime minister pointed the finger at poor farmers for cutting down trees for fuel and to make charcoal. The Associated Press ran touching interviews with the elders of the flood-ravaged Haitian town of Mapou about how they had been forced to fell trees to cook their food even though they knew it would eventually bring about their own destruction. France's foreign minister promised aid to reforest the denuded hillsides.

It was a predictable response. Just about every time there is a major flood anywhere in the world, small farmers and loggers are held to account. Floods in Bangladesh are blamed on forest clearing in the Himalayas. In the late 1990s, loggers took the rap for the thousands who died, and the billions of dollars of damage done, during Hurricane Mitch in Central America, and for the floods along China's Yangtze river. Indeed, the idea that loggers and small farmers help cause devastating floods is so ingrained in most people's minds that few would think to question it.

But the idea is deeply flawed. There is not a shred of scientific evidence to suggest that logging or deforestation play significant roles in massive floods.

And the myth is doing great damage to farmers who need forests to survive.

One reason that politicians, newspaper editors and even conservationists continually get it wrong is because deforestation and logging clearly contribute to more localised floods. If you remove trees, less water evaporates into the atmosphere and flows into the soil, so more of it runs off into streams and rivers. Unprotected soil gets washed into rivers, where it builds up, making them shallower and more likely to overflow. Trees also protect against mudslides by stabilising the soil. Numerous experiments have confirmed all this.

But these experiments focus only on small areas and on moderate floods that occur relatively frequently. None of them has analysed entire regions or the once-in-a-lifetime floods that do the most damage. Whenever scientists have tried to find links between forests and larger-scale, unusually severe flooding, they have consistently drawn a blank.

At the large scale, things like dams and drainage channels and how much water people consume are far more significant. Usually rainfall is fairly localised, but big floods tend to occur on those relatively rare

Beef exports fuel loss of Amazonian Forest

A CIFOR report issued in April this year says much of the recent increase in the loss of Brazil's Amazonian forests is due to the high international demand for Brazilian beef. The report "Hamburger connection Fuels Amazon Destruction," was released to coincide with the Government of Brazil's annual announcement of the rate of deforestation in the Amazonian jungle.

As the title suggests, the report made no bones about the role of cattle farming in causing deforestation in the Amazon. It predicted that in the 12 months to the middle of 2003 the loss of Amazonian forest in Brazil would be similar to the 2.5 million hectares lost during the previous reporting period. As it turned out, the Brazilian government's Space Research Institute (INPE) announced the official deforestation rate for 2003 was 2,375,000 hectares, only slightly less than CIFOR's estimate.

Conducted over several years by CIFOR's Sven Wunder, Benoit Mertens, Pablo Pacheco and David Kaimowitz, the report strongly argues that the recent and rapid increase in the worldwide demand for Brazilian beef has been the major factor in the cutting down of the Amazon forest to clear land for cattle grazing.

"This research provides the first substantial data to support recent speculation about the role international demand for Brazilian beef is playing in Brazil's skyrocketing deforestation rate. There are several reasons for this increase in demand, ranging from the devaluation of the Brazilian currency, concerns about importing beef from countries afflicted by mad cow disease and, possibly, fears of avian flu, which may have led the public to choose beef over chicken," said Kaimowitz. "This may be good for Brazil's beef industry, but it is making mincemeat of the Amazon rainforests."

Between 1990 and 2001 the percentage of Europe's processed meat imports that came from Brazil rose from 40 to 74 percent. Markets in Russia and the Middle East are also responsible for much of this new demand for Brazilian beef. As recently as 1995, Brazil exported less than US\$500 million dollars of beef. By 2003, only eight years later, Brazil was exporting three times as much, US\$1.5 billion dollars, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Between 1997 and 2003, the volume of exports increased more than fivefold, from 232,000 to nearly 1.2 million metric tons in Carcass Weight Equivalent. Meanwhile, domestic beef consumption, which for decades has been responsible for the sector's expansion, developed slowly. For the first time ever, the growth in Brazilian cattle production - 80 percent of which was in the Amazon - is largely export driven.

The total area of forest lost in the Amazon rose from 41.5 million hectares in 1990 to 58.7 million hectares in 2000. In just ten years, the region lost an area of forest twice the size of Portugal, most of it becoming pasture.

"Although the last few years have witnessed a great deal of justifiable concern about the expansion of soybean cultivation into the Amazon, that still explains only a small percentage of total deforestation," according to Pacheco. He also notes that logging contributes indirectly to deforestation, but is "much less important than the growth of cattle ranching."

On March 15, Brazil's President Luis Inácio (Lula) da Silva announced a major new "Action Plan to Prevent and Control Deforestation in the Legal Amazon." The US\$135 million plan focuses on activities to reduce deforestation, including better

occasions when it rains everywhere at the same time. In this case, the soils get completely soaked early on. Once that happens they cannot absorb any more water, so whether there are forests or not the water all runs off into the streams. And while trees may prevent small mudslides, they have little effect on huge landslides.

Given our limited knowledge, we still cannot completely rule out the possibility that removing forests might make major floods marginally worse – perhaps by increasing silt build-up in rivers, for example. However, if such an effect does exist, it is most probably rather small. If you want to limit the damage from large floods, flood control measures such as drainage channels and keeping people out of risky areas are more effective methods than trying to stop people cutting down trees.

You might ask whether it matters that people get it wrong. Why not let people think that cutting down trees causes major floods, if that leads them to protect the environment? There are many solid reasons to conserve forests, and if stretching the truth a little helps to do that, some would argue it is no bad thing.

But there is a very good reason why we should not do this. Many governments have used the myth about deforestation causing major flooding to force poor farmers off their lands and away from forests. Yet most of those farmers have no other way of making a living. After the Yangtze river floods of 1998, for example, the Chinese government imposed a logging ban that put

over a million people out of work. And several south-east Asian governments have used floods as an excuse to prohibit the traditional farming practices of ethnic minorities.

When people hear that logging causes floods they usually demand tougher laws and more arrests. That makes poor farmers' lives more difficult and forces them to pay higher bribes to forestry officials. It rarely benefits the forests. One reason the Dominican Republic has so few trees is that farmers are scared to plant them because they do not know if forestry officials will let them use them. Haiti's government reportedly wants to use the country's 8000 UN peacekeeping troops to keep farmers out of the forest.

That could convert one kind of catastrophe into another.

By David Kaimowitz, CIFOR. First published in the New Scientist June 19, 2004 (www.newscientist.com)



Photo by Benoit Mertens

land use planning, greater enforcement of laws regarding deforestation and the illegal occupation of government lands, improved monitoring of deforestation, more detailed reviews of public infrastructure investments, greater support for indigenous territories and community forestry, increased support for sustainable agriculture, and greater control over credit for ranchers.

"The government's approach goes in the right direction, but unless urgent action is taken, the Brazilian Amazon could lose an additional area the size of Denmark over the next 18 months," said Benoit Mertens, one of the authors of the report working with CIFOR and the Forest Department at CIRAD (the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development).

"The market forces promoting the Amazon's cattle-driven deforestation are enormous and while the newly announced strategy is to be commended, CIFOR feels there are ways to enhance the effectiveness of these measures." (See box: "What can be done?") (GC)

What can be done?

- Prevent land grabbing: The Government's Action Plan addressing land tenure is appropriate, but will require substantial political will, funding and proper mechanisms to stop ranchers illegally occupying government lands.
- Restrict road projects outside already developed regions. The plans for new road projects must be revised. Research clearly shows the key role roads play in deforestation and the difficulty in controlling land speculation and deforestation close to roads.
- Formally register government-owned lands as National Forests to stop the further incursion of ranching into these areas. This will require prioritizing forested areas at greatest risk of being converted to pasture.
- Provide economic incentives to maintain land as forest. Brazil is already planning a compensation program to promote more eco-friendly agriculture. It should also consider direct payments for forest conservation.
- To effectively reduce deforestation will require more resources than the Brazilian government has so far been able to commit. Given Brazil's current recession, it will be difficult for the government to devote more funds and extra international support will be needed.



Participants involve in depth discussion when examine the area of ex-reduced impact logging during fieldtrip. (Photo by Hari Priyadi)

Capacity Building-SFM and Decentralization in Indonesia

A recent capacity building exercise in East Kalimantan has enhanced key stakeholder awareness of how to better approach sustainable forest management (SFM). With control of Indonesia's forest resources being increasingly handed over to local authorities and institutions, training local stakeholders in SFM is particularly timely. Supported by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and conducted in April at the CIFOR research station at Seturan, Malinau, East Kalimantan, the workshop focused on participatory approaches in district forest management.

"The main objective of the training was to ensure that, with increased local government control of forests, local communities, companies and government officials have a good understanding of SFM practices," CIFOR scientist, Petrus Gunarso said.

The workshop also provided a useful forum for different stakeholders to share their different perceptions on how to approach decentralised forestry management. The twenty-two participants included representatives from the Malinau district government, concession holders, village heads and forestry students. Training materials were drawn from the Ministry of Forestry's guidelines on sustainable forestry production and SFM criteria and indicator guidelines from the ITTO, CIFOR and the Forest Stewardship Council. The training also explored participant's perceptions of small forest concession companies, illegal logging and illegal mining in forest areas. Presenters at the workshop included representatives from FORDA, the Malinau District Government and CIFOR.

According to Gunarso, the workshop was not all theory and big talk. It was also very practical and 'hands-on'. For example, a field trip to various sites within the Malinau Research Forest allowed participants to see and explain first hand their own needs and understandings of how forests can be best managed. One of these visits was to a large area of forest that had been logged over using reduced impact logging (RIL) techniques.

"Rather than sit in a room and talk about RIL in theory, it was far better to actually take people to an RIL site so they could see the real thing. People had a good look at skid trails and permanent plots and got a good idea of how forests regenerate using reduced-impact techniques," Gunarso said. "Company representatives also added to the practical elements of the workshop by looking at a range of technical aspects such as preparing tactical logging maps, contour mapping, directional felling and opening up skid trails."

Back in the classroom, different stakeholders worked in small groups to develop their own sets of criteria and indicators that took into account each member of the group's different needs and perspectives. An important element of the discussion was evaluating the practical feasibility of implementing different interpretations of SFM.

"The feedback from all those who attended was very encouraging. Most of the participants felt they increased their general understanding of SFM. They also gained an appreciation of how participatory planning enhances understanding of stakeholders' different views of SFM. Everyone remarked on the quality of the instructors and the materials and how the workshop provided an excellent forum for some very useful and vigorous discussion," Gunarso said. It is hoped this will be only the first of many similar workshops, with future training sessions embracing a wider range of issues and including more field trips. (GC, PG, HP)

Interlaken decentralization workshop outcomes

The Interlaken Workshop on Decentralization, Federal Systems in Forestry and National Forest Programmes held in Switzerland last April provided 160 participants from 51 countries an all too rare opportunity to examine the implications for national forest programmes arising from the increasing international trend towards decentralized forest management.

Launched by the Governments of Switzerland and Indonesia and assisted by CIFOR and Switzerland's Intercooperation, the workshop presented a set of recommendations to the fourth United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held immediately after the Interlaken event.

The Workshop concluded that decentralization in the forest sector should be seen as a means to accomplish the broad objectives of poverty reduction, sustainable economic development and the protection of local and global environmental values. Given the right conditions, decentralization enhances efficiency, equity and participation in forest management and conservation. Regrettably, the results have been uneven at best. Workshop participants suggested attempts to decentralize forest management need to acknowledge a number of inescapable facts:

- Decentralization is a complex, dynamic and evolving process that adjusts to changing contexts and thus thorough understanding of each country's unique political, institutional, social, cultural and economic conditions is crucial.
- A form of decentralization that genuinely empowers local communities or even local governments is yet to occur in many countries.
- It is critical to reach consensus through a multi-stakeholder process that provides a clearer understanding of the roles, responsibilities and authority and accountabilities at various levels.
- Decentralization should be based on and enhance information sharing, transparency and accountability at all levels.

- Appropriate political conditions and the provision of financial and technical resources are essential.
- Decentralization must be well-managed if it is to provide sustainable environmental benefits, otherwise it can lead to worse problems.
- Equity considerations are crucial to decentralization's success, including closer consideration for gender equity, education for children and youth, especially girls.

Recommendations to the UNFF included:

- Developing a common understanding of the concepts and definitions to facilitate dialogue on forestry decentralization.
- Promoting dissemination of appropriate information to enhance understanding of forestry decentralization.
- Formulating approaches for maintaining protected areas while enabling traditional use by local people; developing principles to guide institutional choice for equitable representation.
- Promoting the valuation of, and compensation for, forest environmental services.
- Analyzing the implications of decentralization for the development of national forest programmes and strengthening stakeholders' capacity.
- Promoting partnership among various stakeholders and sectors for human and institutional capacity building and the involvement of NGOs and other major groups as equal partners in planning, monitoring and implementation activities.

For full details about the outcomes of the Interlaken Workshop visit www.cifor.cgiar.org

The Interlaken Workshop was co-hosted by the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland, with support from CIFOR and Switzerland's Intercooperation. Co-sponsors included the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Japan, Russia, Uganda, the UK and USA. Additional technical support was kindly provided by the Collaborative partnership on Forests, the FAO, the UN, the World Bank, the International Tropical Timber Organization, WRI, WWF, the UNFF and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Partners building capacity: CIFOR, CI and LIPI

A nine-day training seminar near Jayapura in Indonesia's West Papua has enhanced the capacity of local communities to participate in decision-making processes concerning local forests, and to assist in the creation of a Mamberamo Conservation Corridor.

The first of three planned capacity building exercises, the May 2004 workshop, involved CIFOR, Conservation International Indonesia (Papua Program) and the Indonesian Government's Institute of Sciences (LIPI) working in close partnership to deliver training programs to a range of local forest stakeholders. These included Cendrawasih and Papua Universities, Badan Pengendalian Dampak Lingkungan Daerah (BAPEDALDA) and Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) (Jayapura).

CIFOR's input focused on the use of Multidisciplinary Landscape Assessment (MLA) as a means of surveying and determining, from the perspective of local communities, what is important in terms of landscape, environmental services and biodiversity. Such information can help identify where local communities' interests and priorities might converge with conservation and sustainable development priorities and thus be of great assistance planners and decision-makers.

Apart from building local capacity in MLA techniques, an important side benefit of CIFOR's MLA training in the Mamberamo region was the way the training surveys helped build trust and relationships between various stakeholders through the need to cooperate and work together. Such early cooperation has laid an important foundation for future negotiations concerning the use of local forests.

Ongoing CI initiatives in the Mamberamo seek to strengthen biodiversity conservation and environmental management by informing and building capacity of local communities to participate in decision-making processes. They will also facilitate the creation of a Mamberamo Conservation Corridor, which links currently established protected areas through strategically placed "indigenous forest reserves". Thus the training by CIFOR in MLA methodology helped build the capacity of those carrying out these surveys within this overall conservation and development-planning context. The support for the necessary expertise in training and conducting the initial MLA is being funded through an external grant to CIFOR. (GC, DS)

CIFOR and IFS launch poverty environment network

Since the early 1990s an increasing number of governments at the local, regional or provincial levels have been taking on the role of managing national forests - an area that was once felt better left in the hands of central governments. In at least 60 developing countries, forest management responsibilities now rest in one degree or another with mayors, town councils and local authorities.

CIFOR in collaboration with the International Foundation for Science (IFS) are pleased to announce the launch of the Poverty Environment Network (PEN). The network will focus on the role of tropical forests and forest resources in poverty alleviation. Forests are important for millions of people as poverty safety nets, for supporting current consumption and, in some cases, by offering a pathway out of poverty. But we have only scattered and very limited quantitative information on these functions and are far from being able to provide any comparative and global syntheses. A key element of the network will be a common data bank, based on field data collected by the participants, mainly through household surveys on forest use.

According to the PEN Coordinator, Arild Angelsen a CIFOR Associate Scientist based at the Agricultural University of Norway, "The data will enable the first comprehensive global study on poverty and forests. By providing a realist assessment of the current situation, PEN's research will, on the one hand, temper some of the more unrealistic expectations held by some groups, and on the other hand, help overcome the neglect found in most national poverty strategies." The network will provide guidelines and advice on research methodologies, facilitate exchange of information and experiences among

participants, host workshops on methodologies and syntheses of results, and organize the compiling and publishing of results. In addition to the basic data collected, it is anticipated a great variety of topics will be addressed under the forest-poverty umbrella.

PEN is targeted at doctoral students and young researchers intending to do field research over the next two years. Each participant submitting a data set from his or her study to the common data bank will be paid US\$2,000 for undertaking the extra effort needed to collect the data. The International Foundation for Science (IFS) will provide a minimum of 10 grants of US\$12,000 to undertake the field studies. The first workshop, focusing on data issues and research methodologies, will be held at CIFOR HQ in Bogor, Indonesia 21 - 23 September 2004.

"CIFOR is extremely proud to be working with the International Foundation for Science in the newly launched Poverty Environment Network. By Pledging a minimum of US\$120 000 for research grants, IFS is clearly demonstrating its commitment to scientific research and the role it plays in identifying the inter-relationships between forests and poverty reduction", CIFOR's Director of Forests and Livelihoods, Bruce Campbell said. (GC, AA)

For further information about the network and how to join it, contact: cifor-pen@cgiar.org. Also see box page 15.

Women crucial to future of forests (from page 4)

cash to buy them. If I had been present, the sale would never have happened."

The groups represented at the seminar came from a wide geographic area throughout Amazonia and will provide an excellent network for disseminating Shanley and Medina's co-edited volume, *Fruit Trees and Useful Plants in the Lives of Amazonians*. Due for release in November this year, the book synthesizes hard-to-find data on ecology, markets and management regarding over 20 widely used and valued tree and palm species. Over 100 Brazilian and international scientists contributed to the volume, along with scores of farmers and forest residents throughout the region.

One of the key features of *Fruit Trees and Useful Plants in the Lives of Amazonians* is the way it can be used by the semi-literate rural residents of Amazonia - the very people who will determine the future of the local forests.

Through the use of clever illustrations, amply distributed on each page, economics and ecology are rendered easy to read by both non-literate and non-Portuguese readers.

The "Fruit book," as it is commonly known in Brazil, together with *Women of the Forest* could provide two complementary tools for empowering and training forest-reliant communities in managing forests to conserve biodiversity.

According to Shanley, some of the most memorable speakers at the seminar came from the logging frontier

city of Porto de Moz, where small holders are working to create a 1.3 million extractive reserve. Up to 120,000 people could derive livelihood opportunities from the reserve, including fishing, hunting, subsistence agriculture and the harvest sale of forest products.

As part of this effort, the women's association of Porto de Moz has been looking for a forester to help them manage *cipo-titica* (*Heteropsis* spp.), a fiber the women harvest from the forest for making crafts and furniture. After a year-long search they still had not found a forester. According to Maria Creuza, the leader of the association "there are no foresters who understand anything about *cipo-titica*. They only know about extracting timber."

The women decided to pool their shared knowledge, conduct a forest inventory of the fiber resource and to develop their own sustainable management plan. In doing so, they discovered the only synthesis of scientific know-how on *cipo-titica* was in the "*Fruit Trees and Useful Plants*" manual.

As a result, CIFOR scientists have been invited to work with the *Women's Association* and the *Sustainable Development Committee* to help local communities in the proposed extractive reserve to conserve biodiversity through the sustainable use of forest products other than timber. This is a win for all concerned: for the forests and their biodiversity, for local women and their communities, and for CIFOR. (PSh, GC.)

African ministers attend CIFOR book launch

The importance of CIFOR's work in Africa was recently underlined at a major book launch attended by Government ministers from Cameroon, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sao Tome.

As part of the fifth Conference on Dense Humid Central African Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), the launch was organized by CIFOR's office in Yaounde, Cameroon, in conjunction with IUCN, and attracted over 170 people from Central Africa, Europe and North America. Ousseynou Ndoye, CIFOR's Regional Coordinator in Cameroon and Jon Anderson of USAID, Washington, presented four major publications to the dignitaries and members of the international frost community.

The importance of CIFOR's work in Africa was acknowledged by the presence at the launch of some of central Africa's most senior forestry and environmental Ministers, including: The Minister of the Environment and Forestry of Cameroon, Chief Tanyi-Mbianyor Clarkson Oben. The Minister of Land Management, Environment, & Tourism of Burundi, Albert Mbonerane. The Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries of the Central African Republic, Salle Michel. The Minister of Environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Anselme Enerunga. The Minister of Territorial Management, Environment and Tourism of Burundi, Albert Mbonerone. The Minister of Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Sao Tome and Principe Republic Santos Da Argentino, was represented by Pires Santos. The Minister of Forestry Economy of the Republic of Congo, Henri Djombo, was unable to attend due to a flight delay.

The four books launched included: **Forest products, livelihoods and conservation: Case studies of non-timber forest products systems - Volume 2 Africa**. Edited by Terry Sunderland and Ousseynou Ndoye. This is the second of CIFOR's three major volumes containing more than 60 commercial non-timber forest products case studies from Asia (Vol. 1), Africa and Latin America (Vol. 3). Each chapter in the volumes describes all aspects of particular case, from production through to consumption, and ends with a section on conservation and development lessons.

Riches of the forest for health, life and spirit in Africa. Edited by Citlalli Lopez and Patricia Shanley. Throughout Africa, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as plants and bush meat are used daily, providing a crucial resource for local livelihoods. Despite considerable research, there is still a lack of knowledge regarding the importance of NTFPs. Lopez and Shanley's research is a major contribution. It brings to life the people and products behind the research, communicating in a very readable way, the importance of "green social security."

When the Dutch Disease met the French connection: Oil, Macroeconomics and Forests in Gabon. By Sven Wunder. The central hypothesis of Wunder's report is that Gabon's oil wealth has resulted in a series of policies that, along with low demographic pressure, have played a key role protecting Gabon's forests. Wunder examines how the policies accompanying oil wealth have caused agriculture to decline and unintentionally enabled forests to expand.

Nature wealth and power: Emerging best practice for revitalizing rural Africa. By USAID, CIFOR, Winrock, IRG. Building on lessons learned from more than 20 years of natural resource-based development in rural Africa, this document presents principles and action steps intended to serve as a guide to investment in rural Africa. It finds programmes that integrate environmental management (nature), economic concerns (wealth), and good governance (power) show promising results.

As part of CIFOR's commitment to disseminating its research as strategically and as widely as possible, CIFOR arranged for representatives from Cameroon's main media to cover the event, including: Radio Environment, Cameroon Radio Television, Canal 2 International, Cameroon Tribune, The Post, La Lumière, Le Développement, Mutations and La voix du paysan. (GC)



Photos (clockwise from top): Minister of Environment of the Central African Republic, Col. Salle Michel; Minister of the Environment and Forestry of Cameroon, Chief Tanyi-Mbianyor Clarkson; Minister of Lands, Environment and Tourism of Burundi, Mbonerane Albert; Minister of the Environment of Democratic Republic of Congo, Anselme Enerunga. Ousseynou Ndoye, CIFOR's Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa, being interviewed by John Kwende from Cameroon Radio & Television (CRTV). The Minister of the Environment and Forestry for Cameroon, Chief Tanyi-Mbianyor Clarkson makes a key note address. (Photos: CIFOR)

New CIFOR Publications

1. CIFOR. 2004. *Annual Report 2003: Science for forests and people*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 72p. (Available in Spanish)
2. Scherr, S.J., White, A., Kaimowitz, D. 2004. *A new agenda for forest conservation and poverty alleviation: making markets work for low-income producers*. Washington, D.C., USA, Forest Trends and CIFOR. 174p. ISBN: 0-9713606-6-9. [online] URL: www.forest-trends.org/resources/pdf/A%20New%20Agenda%20Book.zip.
3. Nambiar, E.K.S., Ranger, J., Tiarks, A., Toma, T. (eds.). 2004. *Site management and productivity in tropical plantation forests: Proceedings of workshops in Congo, July 2001 and China, February 2003*. 226p. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. ISBN: 979-3361-41-7.
4. Suyanto, S., Chokkalingam, U., Wibowo, P. 2004. *Kebakaran di lahan rawa/gambut di Sumatera: masalah dan solusi: prosiding semiloka, Palembang, Sumatera Selatan, 10 - 11 Desember 2003*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 175p. ISBN: 979-3361-49-2.
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6. de Jong, W. 2004. *Retos y perspectivas del nuevo regimen forestal en el norte amazonico boliviano*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 152p. ISBN: 979-3361-45-X.
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8. Patlis, J.M. 2004. *A rough guide to developing laws for regional forest management*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 24p. ISBN: 979-3361-44-1.
9. Patlis, J.M. 2004. *Pedoman umum penyusunan peraturan daerah pengelolaan hutan*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 29p. ISBN: 979-3361-43-3.
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11. Xiufang Sun, Nian Cheng, White, A., West, R.A., Katsigris, E. 2004. *China's forest product import trends 1997-2002: Analysis of customs data with emphasis on Asia-Pacific supplying countries: China and forest trade in the Asia-pacific region: implications for forests and livelihoods*. Washington, D.C., USA, Forest Trends and CIFOR. 74p. ISBN: 0-9713606-8-5. [online] URL: www.forest-trends.org/resources/pdf/China%20Import_Working%20Paper.pdf.
12. Cardenas, M., Becerra, M.R., eds. 2004. *Guerra, sociedad y medio ambiente*. Bogota, Colombia, Foro Nacional Ambiental. 545p. ISBN: 958-8101-17-4.
13. Palmer, C. 2004. *The role of collective action in determining the benefits from IPPK logging concessions: A case study from Sekatak, East Kalimantan*. CIFOR Working Paper. No.28. 23p. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.
14. Nalvarte, W., Sabogal, C., Galvan, O., Marmillod, D., Angulo, W., Cordova, N., Colan, V. 2004. *Silvicultura en la Amazonia Peruana: Diagnostico de experiencias en la region ucayali y la provincia de Puerto Inca*. Pucallpa, Peru, CIFOR, INAENA, INIA, Universidad Nacional de Ucayali. 105p. ISBN: 9793361395.
15. Pokorny, B., Sabogal, C., Kramer, F., eds. 2004. *Forum sobre florestas, gestao e desenvolvimento: Opcoes para a Amazonia*. Belem, Brazil, CIFOR. 174p. ISBN: 979-3361-37-9.
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17. Sayer, J. and Campbell, B.M. 2004. *The Science of Sustainable Development: Local Livelihoods and the Global Environment*. Cambridge University Press, 268 p. ISBN: 0-521-82728-0 (hb), 0-521-53456-9 (pb).
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19. Tacconi, L., Obidzinski, K. and Agung F. 2004. *Lessons to Promote Forest Certification and control Illegal Logging in Indonesia*. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 88p.

Journals

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2. Dounias, E., Kishi, M., Selzner, A., Kurniawan, I., Levang, P. 2004. *No longer nomadic: Changing Punan Tubu lifestyle requires new health strategies*. *Cultural Survival* 28(2):7p. [online] URL: www.culturalsurvival.org/publications
3. Garcia-Fernandez, C., Shanley, P. 2004. Forests and people: Safeguarding the natural heritage in Brazilian Amazon. *Bois et Forêts des Tropiques* 280:104-105.
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Research that communicates

It's all very well to produce hundreds of research reports, papers and technical guides on local livelihoods and sustainable forest management. But what use are they if those who can use the literature to implement sustainable forest management practices don't speak the language the documents are written in? English may well be the language of international diplomacy, business and trade. But that is not always the case when it comes to end-users working in the areas of agriculture and forestry.

Students at Japan's Kyoto University recognised this need when they recently took on the challenge of translating into Japanese one of CIFOR's key publications from 2003. This decision followed the translation and introduction of the first chapter of *Fast-Wood Forestry - Myths and Realities* at an English language lecture at Kyoto University in 2003 by student, Ms. Yukiko Mukai. After her presentation, students in the class showed interest in the topic and proposed translating the other chapters.

Professor Ohta sought the advice of CIFOR's Dr. Takeshi Toma's on translating *Fast-Wood Forestry* and CIFOR gave the project its enthusiastic endorsement. Six students committed themselves to the task and worked closely with Professor Ohta and Dr. Toma to produce a thoroughly reviewed and revised translation for publication.

CIFOR's Fast-Wood Forestry - Myths and Realities, by Christian Cossalter and Charlie Pye-Smith, is an interdisciplinary review of all the arguments for and against fast wood plantations, examining the myriad environmental, social, and economic perspectives forming the often hotly contested debate surrounding fast-wood plantations. This multi-disciplinary approach makes *Fast-Wood Forestry* an excellent choice for sharing important forestry information among a wide range of scientists and researchers.

As Dr. Toma says, "Research is only as good as its dissemination and implementation. In this instance it was important to translate a book that had practical value and which could attract a diverse range of

readers. This is particularly important for Japan."

According to Toma, a vast wealth of literature is disseminated by many international organizations to institutions and individuals around the globe, usually in English and, to a lesser extent, French and Spanish. But despite these good intentions, they often fail to acknowledge the daunting language barrier faced in many countries where the research could be of enormous benefit.

In 2003, CIFOR researched the effectiveness of its Forest Policy Expert, POLEX. POLEX is a regular email message written by CIFOR Director General David Kaimowitz and distributed to major forest stakeholders around the world. Summarizing the most recent and key forestry publications, its attraction to readers has been its ability to provide forest experts with a short, succinct and highly-readable analysis of the latest findings in forest research.

What has made it particularly effective has been its translation into Spanish, French, Indonesian, and Japanese. Research by CIFOR's Hiroaki Kuramitsu clearly demonstrated that POLEX recipients appreciated receiving the brief but important POLEX messages in their native language. As Mr. Morita of the Japanese Forestry Agency says, "it is difficult, if not impossible for me to read all the messages that are sent in English. So the presence of the POLEX Japanese version is useful for the purpose of saving time and collecting the most updated information concerning forest policy". (HK, GC)



Books

Poverty Alleviation and Forests in Vietnam

By William D. Sunderlin - CIFOR, and Huynh Thu Ba - School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

In Vietnam, as in many developing countries, there is an emerging interest in knowing how poverty alleviation can be achieved through the use of forest resources, and to what extent poverty alleviation and maintenance or expansion of forest cover are compatible goals. "Poverty Alleviation and Forests in Vietnam" by William D. Sunderlin and Huynh Thu Ba provides a comprehensive summary of the knowledge on this topic currently available from a broad range of secondary literature. The review addresses a range of issues, including: the usefulness of forest resources in past poverty alleviation, the usefulness of forest resources for future poverty alleviation, and the degree of compatibility between poverty alleviation and plans for massive reforestation. By examining these issues, the review serves as a crucial point of departure for addressing the linked issues of poverty alleviation and improved forest management.

"Poverty Alleviation and Forests in Vietnam" will be launched in Vietnam later this year in both English and Vietnamese.

Further information: Ms Titin Suhartini at CIFOR: t.suhartini@cgiar.org. "Poverty Alleviation and Forests in Vietnam" was supported by DFID - the UK's Department for Forests and Development, and SANREM - the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource

Mengeksplorasi keanekaragaman hayati, lingkungan dan pandangan masyarakat lokal mengenai berbagai lanskap hutan

By Douglas Sheil *et al*

CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 101 pages
ISBN 979-3361-29-8.



CIFOR has just published the Indonesian language version of its book on methods for multidisciplinary landscape assessment. The MLA method book with its groundbreaking approach to understanding how local people value their landscape was first published in English in 2002. High demand led to a second edition in 2003. The Indonesian version is proving just as popular, with 1600 copies already distributed.

A "first-of-its-kind", the MLA method book brings together a suite of effective research methods to guide decision makers in how to assess the needs of local communities and biodiversity in landscapes. These methods can be used to guide future research and to make recommendations on options about land use and policy. They also provide the foundation for ensuring more effective dialogue with forest communities.

Spanish and French versions will be soon available.

A rough guide to developing laws for regional forest management

By Jason M. Patlis. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 2004. 31 pages
ISBN 979-3361-44-1



Indonesia has experienced a rapid change in governance since the fall of President Suharto, with a profound shift to regional autonomy and decentralised management. This has had significant implications for the management of forests across Indonesia. In exercising their new authority, districts and municipalities have a responsibility to develop laws in the public interest and to follow the principles of 'good governance' to ensure the nation's natural resources are used sustainably. Regrettably, there are few meaningful details on how regional governments are to implement those principles in real-life situations. This publication provides basic guidelines for developing regional legislation to manage forestry resources. It first describes the responsibilities of regional governments and some of the more important principles that should be applied in lawmaking. It also outlines a methodology for developing new legislation and feasible ways to implement new laws.

Available in Indonesian.

Who pays for and who benefits from improved timber harvesting practices in the tropics? Lessons learned and information gaps

By Grahame Applegate, Francis E. Putz, Laura K. Snook. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 2004. 43 pages
ISBN 979-3361-42-5



Tropical foresters are generally very supportive of Reduced-Impact Logging (RIL) techniques. But often that is not the case with loggers. One of the main reasons loggers often seem slow in adopting RIL techniques is the belief that these techniques are costly. Although there are reasons to doubt that many forest operators are fully aware of the various component costs of their operations, it must be admitted some aspects of RIL come at a cost for some forest stakeholders over some time periods. Bearing this in mind, this publication disaggregates RIL into its components and analyses the costs and benefits of each from different perspectives. For example, if timber harvesting companies only obtain a portion of RIL's benefits, they may feel it is inappropriate to pay all of RIL's supplementary costs. *Who Pays for and Who Benefits from Improved Timber Harvesting Practices in the Tropics?* examines four RIL components on the basis of who pays the costs of implementation and who derives the benefits. The four components are stock and topographic mapping, directional felling, road planning and construction, and skid trail and road closure. This

information should prove useful for identifying timber harvesting practices that may require incentives and those which can reasonably be considered the responsibility of the timber harvesting company or contractor.

Site management and productivity in tropical plantation forests.

Eds. E.K.S. Nambiar, J. Rangeer, A. Tiarks, and T. Toma. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. 2004. 226 pages. ISBN 979-3361-41-7



Sustainable plantation forestry can only succeed if the right balance is found between economic, environmental and social goals. Recognizing this need, CIFOR established an international network research project covering 16 sites in eight countries. The network's plantation research covers a range of areas,

including biophysical environments, species diversity, logging residue, slash management and nutrient cycling. *Site Management and Productivity in Tropical Plantation Forests* contains the proceedings of a series of inter-related workshops held in the Congo in 2001 and in China in 2003. This set of papers focuses on the network's research into inter-rotation management. Good management of the inter-rotation phase - the phase between harvesting and tree establishment - is critical for successful plantation forestry. *Site Management and Productivity in Tropical Plantation Forests* is an important reference for foresters, forest harvesting companies and decision makers alike. In particular it is valuable for its site-specific information, covering inter-rotation techniques implemented at plantations in a range of countries, including Australia, Brazil, China, the Congo, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Vietnam.

For further information about these books email: n.sabarniati@cgiar.org

CIFOR and CIRAD renew MOU

CIFOR's long standing and fruitful relationship with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) received a boost with the May renewal of their MOU. Under the MOU, CIFOR and CIRAD continue to work together in researching the role of tropical and sub-tropical forests in improving the well-being people and societies, and for local and global purposes.

CIFOR and CIRAD's complementary work in the areas of rural development, agriculture and forestry provides exciting and innovative opportunities for the two organizations to develop numerous activities in partnership. Past partnership arrangements have seen the two organizations working together to compile and widely disseminate knowledge on forests in Cote d'Ivoire and Central Africa, assessing the impact of the development of large pulp mills using forest resources and, most recently, improving stakeholder coordination in the sustainable management of forest plantations.

The CIFOR-CIRAD MOU embraces a wide range of joint activities, including:

- Planning and implementing research and training programmes.
- Preparing and submitting research and development project proposals.
- Organizing study leave, training visits and other capacity building activities.
- Sharing scientific information and equipment.
- Organizing major conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Facilitating scientist and staff exchange programmes.
- Undertaking collaborative research projects with each other and agreed-upon third parties.

In signing the agreement the Director General of CIRAD, Benoit Lesaffre said the new MOU confirmed the common vision CIRAD and CIFOR "have on tropical forests, their resources and the services they may render to the sustainable development of Southern countries."

Applying for a PEN research grant

IFS is an NGO that supports developing country scientists to conduct high quality research on the management, use, and conservation of biological resources and their environment in the developing world. IFS believes the interests of both science and development are best served by promoting and nurturing the research efforts of young science graduates. Since 1974, IFS has provided support to over 3,200 scientists in 100 developing countries. Through the Poverty Environment Network (PEN), IFS will be offering grants to researchers according to the following conditions:

- The researchers must meet the standard IFS eligibility criteria.
- Following the workshop, researchers who wish to be considered for a grant must submit a research proposal to IFS on a standard IFS application form.
- The research proposals must be of high quality and be recommended for support by one of IFS' independent Scientific Advisory Committees.



ISSN: 1022-0992

Editor: Greg Clough

Design and layout by
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Staff Update



Imam Basuki was appointed as a Research Assistant in the Environmental Services and Sustainable Use of Forests programme in April. Imam has worked for CIFOR in a variety of positions since 2000 and holds a Bachelor degree from Bogor Agriculture University.

Chetan Kumar joined CIFOR's Forests and Livelihoods programme in May. Based in New Delhi, Chetan will work with CIFOR staff and coordinate "Forests that benefit the poor", a three year CIFOR-IFAD project in Nepal, India and China. Chetan has a Masters degree in Forestry Management and a M. Phil. in Environment and Development.



Melling Situmorang joined CIFOR's Information Services Group in May as a Computer Systems Assistant. Melling has a degree in Computer Science from Bogor Agriculture University and has assisted CIFOR with several different projects since 2002.

Riskan Effendi joined CIFOR in July 2004 as the Field and Forests Manager of CIFOR's Malinau Research Forest in East Kalimantan. Prior to joining CIFOR, Riskan was the Head of the Silviculture Researchers Group at the Forest Research Institute of Kalimantan. He has a Masters degree in Environmental Forestry from the University of Wales.



Moving on:

Several colleagues have left CIFOR during the past six months. We thank them sincerely for their contribution to CIFOR and wish them every success.

Ronny Syam finished his assignment in April 2004 following 14 months as a GIS Specialist in the Decentralization project within CIFOR's Forests and Governance programme.

Agus Salim recently moved to Australia to take up a post-doctoral position at the Australian National University, following five years with CIFOR as a Statistician.

Harinurdi Hadiwijoyo recently stepped down from his position as CIFOR's Property Manager, after some five years service with the Center. He is now with Kellogg Brown and Root, Jakarta.

Theo Zacharias resigned in June 2004, following 18 months as a Research Assistant and Programmer with CIFOR's Forests and Governance programme.

Contributors

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