

## Forests and Forestry: Do they Matter?

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### Presentation outline:

- What is CIFOR?
- Why forests matter
- Evidence that forests don't matter much to decision-makers
- Four propositions



### A quick introduction to CIFOR:

- One of 15 centers in the CGIAR
- Focus on forest policy research
- Headquarters in Bogor, Indonesia
- Staff also based in Brazil, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Zambia
- Research activities in more than 40 countries throughout the tropics



### CIFOR's global research agenda:

- Forests and climate change
- Small-scale and community forestry
- Sustainable management of production forests
- Conservation and development at landscape scale
- Impacts of trade and investment on forests

## Why do forests matter?

### Forests are significant for national economies

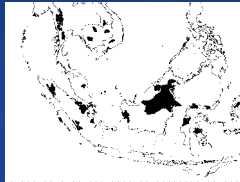
Example of Indonesia:

- 3-4% of gross domestic product (forestry, wood products, paper)
- One-fifth of the industrial sector
- 9% of total export value
- > \$50 million/year NTFPs exports (rattan, resins)
- 600,000 formal sector jobs (of which one-third furniture)



## Forests matter for biodiversity

Western Indonesia showing 'frontier forests' (1999)



Borneo < 1% of the earth's land area

- 6% of the world's
- Flowering plant species
- Bird species
- Mammal species



## Forest biodiversity is important to local people

Field survey results (200 plots in East Kalimantan):

15,430 plant records  
> 2,100 species

3,642 specific uses  
1,449 species

119 non-substitutable



## Forests provide a variety of ecosystem goods and services

- Timber
- Fuelwood and forage
- Fruits and vegetables
- Bushmeat and medicines
- Materials for handicrafts
- Hydrological services
- Pollination services
- Climate regulation



## Freshwater fish in Kalimantan



## Fuelwood in India



## Bamboo in Laos

## Forests are important to human health



- clean water
- nutritious food
- traditional medicine
- disease control



## Forests are important to human health

### Forests provide safety nets for vulnerable individuals

Bushmeat provides an important source of protein for AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa



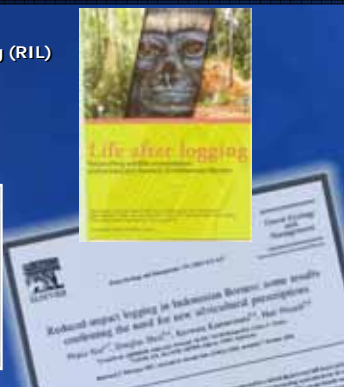
## Evidence that forests don't matter much to decision-makers

### Continued tolerance for destructive logging practices



### ...despite practical alternatives

- Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and "beyond RIL"
- Small-scale alternatives



### Continued over-investment in wood processing capacity



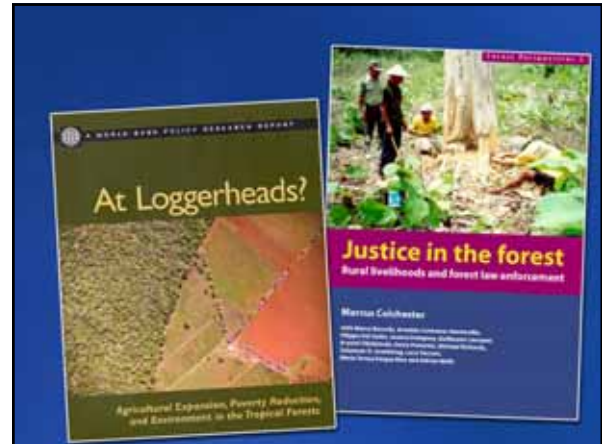
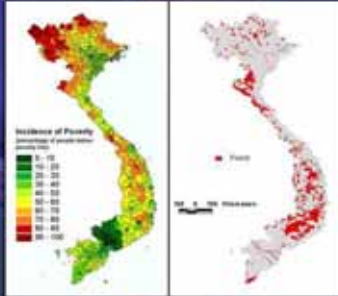
- In Indonesia, industrial wood demand is ~ 3 x the sustainable harvest level
- Since early-1990s, US\$ 15 billion invested in pulp & paper mills without a secure plantation base



## Forests and poverty

### Most people who live in forests are poor, but...

- Most poor people don't live in forests
- Correlation of high poverty rates and forest cover likely due to remoteness
- Conversion of forests can sometimes provide a path out of poverty



## Forest protection can hurt the poor

- Resettlement out of national parks and reserves
- Restrictions on logging, hunting, and burning
- Law enforcement targets the poor

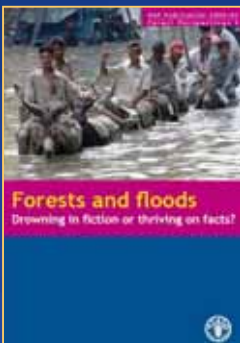


## The poor may benefit from converting forests

- Many colonists become better off
- Rural roads consistently help the poor while leading to forest loss



## Forests and floods



- Recent research using national level data shows correlation between forest cover loss and flood risk and severity
- BUT
- Popular understanding that deforestation causes flooding remains unproven for large-scale flood events
- Controversy likely to continue

## Forests and climate mitigation

- Some 20% of emissions from forest and landuse change
- Indonesia now a globally-significant source of emissions due to peat fires



### Forests and climate adaptation



- Climate change is likely to bring a higher probability of high intensity rainfall events, which in turn increase the risk of landslides
- Maintenance of forest vegetation can help stabilize the slope for some types of land movement



There is too much focus on *foresters and forestry* to provide solutions to forest problems

### Most causes of deforestation and degradation originate outside the forest sector....infrastructure development



### Forest conversion



### Licensing and finance of processing capacity



### Foresters and forest institutions

...have focused on growing trees and regulating exploitation



**...while we also need expertise in areas such as**

- Community organization and enterprise development
- Economics, finance, and global markets
- Facilitation of transparent and participatory decision-making



**There's a need for fundamental changes in forest governance**

**Need to align...**

- Decision-making authority with accountability
- Rights and responsibilities for forest stewardship



**Aligning authority and accountability**

**Opportunities include:**

- Strengthening the capacities and accountabilities of local governments
- Strengthening the rights and responsibilities of local communities

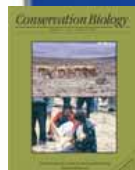


**Aligning rights and responsibilities**

**The Efficiency of Payments for Environmental Services in Tropical Conservation**



**The promise of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) requires clear property rights on the "seller" side**



**New interest in forests due to climate change provides an opportunity to shift the political economy of forests**

## Outcomes of COP13

- “Road map” to including REDD in the global climate protection regime
- Adaptation fund



Money may finally grow on trees left standing

## Potential for “win-wins”:



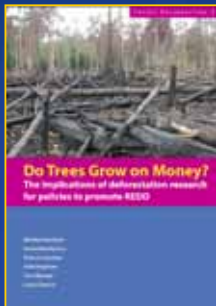
- With local livelihoods
- With biodiversity conservation
- With improved forest governance

## Why might REDD succeed?

- Volume of finance sufficient to shift the political economy of drivers of deforestation and degradation
- Political attention and engagement at the national level
- Alignment of the interests of multiple constituencies
- Performance-based finance



## ...but serious challenges ahead



- Need for “REDD readiness”: governance mechanisms and institutional capacity
  - Decide on payments
  - Transfer payments
- Need to manage risks and trade-offs
- Need to establish legitimacy
  - Inclusive process
  - Equitable outcomes

## Summary

- Forests matter
- Decision-makers behave as if they don't
- Four propositions:
  - Some roles of forests oversold, others under-appreciated
  - Too much effort has been focused on foresters and forestry
  - Need for fundamental changes in forest governance
  - The new politics of forests and climate presents an historic opportunity for change

<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org>

