



news

www.cifor.cgiar.org

March 2008
Number 45

Forest Day: A Day to Remember!

The fact that over 800 people attended the first ever 'Forest Day', organized by CIFOR and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), reinforced the extent to which forests have moved to centre stage in the global climate debate.

Nobody who attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in Bali in December 2007 was left in any doubt about the importance of forests. If we are to successfully tackle global warming, we have to change the way we manage and exploit forests.

At present, deforestation and degradation account for around 20 per cent of all carbon emissions, and the Bali Conference made it clear that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) will be an important element in future climate-change negotiations (see *Do Trees Grow on Money?*, p.3, for more information about REDD).

Forest Day attracted experts, enthusiasts and decision-makers from national delegations, government departments, non-government organizations, research and academic institutions, community groups, the media and the private sector.

"I never dreamt that so many people would attend," says Markku Kanninen, Director of CIFOR's Environmental Services programme. "Forest Day enabled us to promote the issues that we believe really matter: getting forests into the climate-change negotiations and ensuring that REDD projects not only reduce deforestation, but provide livelihoods for the rural poor."

During the opening plenary Indonesia's Minister of Forestry, M.S. Kaban, officially opened Forest Day on behalf of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Short contributions followed from: Frances Seymour, CIFOR's Director General; Wangari Maathai (via video), winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Kenya Green Belt



Photo: Eko Prianto

Movement; Katherine Sierra of the World Bank; Victoria Tauli-Corpuz of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Rudy Rabbinge, Dean of Wageningen Graduate Schools, Wageningen University and Research Centre; and Ernesta Ballard of Weyerhaeuser Company.

The main feature of the day comprised four parallel panel discussions, each focusing on a theme crucial to forests and climate change: Setting the Baseline & Estimating Forest Carbon; Markets and Governance; Efficiency vs Equity; and Adaptation to Climate Change.

24 side events provided a range of interactive fora addressing these and other issues surrounding forests and climate change.

The key points to emerge during Forest Day were summarized by Frances Seymour, CIFOR's Director General, during the closing plenary. This summary pointed to those areas where there exists significant consensus, as well as those areas that require further research and debate. Although significant methodological challenges remain, there appears to be enough information to design successful mechanisms for REDD. Issues of governance pose the greatest risks for investors in REDD schemes, as well as the local communities affected by them.

Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, responded
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"Congratulations on what has been a hugely successful event. If you can achieve this much consensus in one day, you should have my job."

- Yvo de Boer,
UNFCCC
Executive
Secretary

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The Bali Road Map - Highway or Cul-de-Sac?

"I realize that you have been waiting a long time for this moment and I can assure you that it was well worth the wait. We have a Roadmap! I am delighted to say that we have finally achieved the breakthrough the world has been waiting for: the Bali Roadmap!"

Rachmat Witoelar's address to the closing plenary at the UNFCCC 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) was predictably upbeat. Having presided over one of the most anticipated and highly charged political gatherings in recent memory, Mr Witoelar was understandably anxious for a fairy tale ending. Eager to assure the world that reports of emotional walk-outs and diplomatic stalemates had been overcome.

In fact, the wording of his closing address was positively Churchillian at times, with phrases like "responded decisively", "remarkable spirit of cooperation" and "true vision and leadership".

But is this really the case? Has this Bali Roadmap really "envisioned and charted a new climate-secure course for humanity", as Witoelar went on to say? What does it mean for the host country, Indonesia, and other developing nations? What does it mean for the world's forests and for the people who depend on them? What is the future for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)?

there were nearly 200 countries present, and that discussion of REDD is relatively recent" added Seymour. "The important thing from CIFOR's point of view is that an agreement was reached – which it was – and that this agreement included a significant focus on forests – which it does."

"The important thing from CIFOR's point of view is that an agreement was reached – which it was – and that this agreement included a significant focus on forests – which it does."

- Frances Seymour, CIFOR

"The key now is to ensure that forests remain high on the agenda, and that any global climate strategy is informed with the most relevant, up-to-date and thorough research possible. This will inevitably be a slow process, but under the circumstances, that is not such a bad thing."

The Bali Action Plan acknowledges that forests cannot be ignored in any future strategy to combat climate change, and that REDD also has enormous potential to deliver biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation outcomes. Like much of the document, however, the provisions included for REDD are notably lacking in specific, measurable targets. Rather than committing to REDD, the COP has committed to *investigating the possibility of committing to REDD*.

But as Seymour stated, taking things slowly is not necessarily a bad thing. Exercising caution and prudence in the design and implementation of such a significant global development can help to ensure that complex issues are properly addressed, appropriate governance mechanisms are put in place and, we hope, past mistakes are not repeated.

Crucially, the Bali Action Plan does acknowledge many complex issues that have been at the heart of CIFOR's research, including indigenous land rights, methodological impediments and the need to consider indirect drivers of deforestation.

There were a number of other key developments over the course of the two week negotiations, including the launch of the Adaptation Fund, which will provide funds for climate change adaptation projects in developing countries, and the staging of the inaugural Forest Day, which provided a tangible demonstration of just how pivotal forests are to the global climate agenda.

Dr Daniel Murdiyarto, a Senior Scientist with CIFOR's Environmental Services and Sustainable Use of Forests Programme and one of Indonesia's foremost authorities on climate change, was excited to see so many people come together for a common cause.

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Oil palm plantation in Sumatra, Indonesia.
Photo: Ryan Woo

According to Frances Seymour, CIFOR's Director General, the conference is likely to prove an important step towards developing a strategy for addressing climate change and reinforced just how important forests will be to this strategy.

"The links between forests and climate change are indisputable, and this recognition was reflected in the level of attention forests received in Bali," said Seymour. "So it was important that CIFOR had a significant presence during the conference, which we certainly did, most notably at Forest Day."

"While some people were dissatisfied with the level of detail agreed upon in the Action Plan, we must remember



CIFOR's Frances Seymour, Markku Kanninen, Christiane Ehrlinghaus, Daniel Murdiyarto & Johnson Nkem launch the report "Do Trees Grow on Money?" at the UNFCCC COP13 in Bali
Photo: Eko Prianto

Do Trees Grow on Money?

As the world's leaders gathered to discuss the anticipated adoption of REDD, CIFOR took the opportunity to release an in-depth report, 10 years in the making, which warns that this new push is imperiled by a routine failure to grasp the root causes of deforestation.

High on the agenda at the 13th Conference of the Parties in Bali was how to reduce the 1.6 billion tons of carbon emissions caused each year by deforestation, which amounts to one-fifth of global emissions and more than the combined total contributed by the world's energy-intensive transport sectors.

A new study from CIFOR - entitled "Do Trees Grow on Money" - argues that although there is ample opportunity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), this will only be successful if financial incentives are sufficient enough to flip political and economic realities that cause deforestation.

"After being left out of the Kyoto agreement, it's promising that deforestation is commanding center-stage at the Bali climate talks," said CIFOR's Director General, Frances Seymour. "But the danger is that policy-makers will fail to appreciate that forest destruction is caused by an incredibly wide variety of political, economic, and other factors that originate outside the forestry sector, and require different solutions."

In other words, Seymour said, stopping deforestation in Indonesia caused by overcapacity in the wood processing industry is a completely different challenge from dealing with deforestation stemming from a road project in the Amazon or forest degradation caused by charcoal production in sub-Saharan Africa.

Forces such as fluctuations in international commodity prices; agricultural and, more recently, biofuel subsidies; and roads and other infrastructure projects can encourage forest clearing.

For example, according to the study, Indonesia, which is estimated to lose 1.9 million hectares of forest each year, has emerged as one of the world's leading sources of carbon emissions, in part due to a global spike in prices for palm oil and a surge in China's demand for wood pulp. Together, these forces have pushed deforestation into carbon-rich peatlands that are being cleared and drained to make way for oil palm and pulpwood plantations.

Meanwhile, CIFOR notes that in South America, the loss of 4.3 million hectares a year is driven in part by meat consumption that encourages conversion of forests to pasture lands throughout the region. In sub-Saharan Africa, fuelwood extraction and charcoal production are factors behind the continent's loss of 4 million hectares a year.

Markku Kanninen, one of the authors of the report, said "policies that seek to halt deforestation will need to be crafted to address diverse local situations and target activities such as agriculture, transportation and finance that lie well beyond the boundaries of the forest sector."

"The perverse subsidies that provide incentives for clearing forest must be removed and efforts to secure property rights for local forest communities should be encouraged," Kanninen said.

"Policies that seek to halt deforestation will need to be crafted to address diverse local situations and target activities in areas such as agriculture, transportation and finance that lie well beyond the boundaries of the forest sector."

- Markku Kanninen, CIFOR

The report also sees promise in the increasingly popular notion that deforestation can be addressed with financial incentives that compensate landowners for "environmental services." Seymour said discussions in Bali to fight deforestation by compensating forest stewards for protecting the carbon-storage capacity of forests through what is now a multi-billion dollar global market for carbon credit are potentially powerful.

"Such payments to individual land-users have the potential to "flip" financial incentives from favoring forest destruction, as they now do, to favoring conservation," Seymour said. "But the key question is whether or not REDD incentives will be sufficient to flip political and economic decisions at the national level that drive deforestation."

Story by Jeff Haskins, Burness Communications

Youth Make Cool Change for Climate!

"While the older generation writes policies for the world, it is the youth who set trends which shape these policies. We may not be the policy makers yet, but we can shape policy through society. The effort to combat human induced climate change is a long-term effort and it is the youth today who will carry the stick and continue the run."

These are the words of young leader, Ibnu Najib, who has joined with others across Asia through the Asian Young Leaders Climate Forum (AYLCF), realizing that they are the ones most vulnerable to, and most responsible for, our global climate future.

In December 2007 Najib joined 34 other young leaders from 14 countries across Asia to attend the inaugural AYLCF workshop at CIFOR Headquarters in Bogor. Here they were empowered and equipped to take action against climate change.

British Council initiated AYLCF in partnership with CIFOR and WWF to establish a passionate and pro-active network of young leaders who will lead the way in climate-related initiatives for generations to come.

According to Ibnu the passion for environmental conservation was contagious at the December meeting. Colourful experiences were shared and minds were expanded as the group developed a three year Action Plan that includes specific targets for engaging the media, education, government, community, and corporate sectors.

Eight delegates were then selected to present this strategy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 13) in Bali, December 2007.

"The only way to effectively mitigate the risks of climate change is to act together now," said Ibnu, 26, who was among the delegation in Bali. "Going to the COP has given me the confidence and the energy to play my role in making sustainable development a reality in Indonesia."

Since the event, AYLCF has received over 700 new registrations and has featured widely in regional, national and international media. Many AYLCF members have



Photo: British Council

"In the end what matters is passion and innovation, a change to the status quo that will alter the world as we know it."

- Ibnu Najib, Asian Young Leader (Indonesia)

already begun implementing projects, realizing that the climate's future not only depends on them, but their future depends on the climate.

With forests high on the agenda of any discussions around climate change, CIFOR said it is delighted to work with British Council and WWF to pioneer this crucial initiative.

"CIFOR's research shows that the world's poorest people are the group most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and many of these people live in Asia," said Frances Seymour, CIFOR's Director-General. "So it's imperative that this vast region be actively engaged with the global climate agenda."

Eni Hidayanti from Sumbawa Besar, Indonesia, believes that deforestation is the most pressing concern around Climate Change in the 21st century.

"Forests are the most important resources for sustaining life, not only human life but also for other living creatures," Eni, 23, said. "Indonesia is home to some of the most magnificent forests in the world, and preserving these forests is one vital factor to climate security."

AYLCF is currently developing an Advisory Board with a broad range of expert members to act as mentors to the Young Leaders, promote their successes, connect them to funding sources and assist with project development.

In Ibnu's words, "in the end what matters is passion and innovation, a change to the status quo that will alter the world as we know it."

For more information on AYLCF, go to <http://community.britishcouncil.org/aylcf>

Story by **Clare Rawlinson**, CIFOR and Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS)

Reggy Hasibuan, AYLCF participant from Indonesia, hands a replica of the Kyoto Protocol to Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, at the UNFCCC COP13 in Bali.
Photo: The Jakarta Post



(From p.1) Forest Day: A Day to Remember!

to Seymour. "Congratulations on what has been a hugely successful event" said Mr de Boer. "If you can achieve this much consensus in one day, you should have my job." He went on to say that the feedback he had received from delegates had been overwhelmingly positive, and that the Forest Day summary would help to inform the negotiating process.

In practical terms, what did Forest Day achieve? "I don't want to claim that we definitely influenced the UNFCCC negotiations," says Kanninen, "but there is undoubtedly a correlation between our recommendations and the Bali Road Map." This text recognises that forests cannot be ignored in future climate change negotiations, and that the focus should not just be on curbing deforestation, but on forest degradation as well.

"What this means," reflects Kanninen, "is that sustainable forest management will be included in the final agreement, and this paves the way for introducing measures which will benefit the livelihoods of forest-dwelling people."

Story by **Charlie Pye-Smith**

(From p.2) The Bali Road Map . . .

"For a climate change scientist, Bali was a real buzz. To see so many passionate people, from so many diverse fields, made me confident that we do have a chance," said Murdiyarso. "Sure, it wasn't always harmonious, but what's the point of harmony if there's no action?"

"The only way we're going to tackle climate change is if we work together – scientists, politicians, community groups, businesses," he added. "You can have all the ideas in the world, but this is useless unless you have the platform to do something with these ideas. At the same time, you can have all the political power in the world, but this needs to be backed up with solid ideas."

"There was no shortage of ideas in Bali, that's for sure. The hard part now is working out the good from the bad. It'll be a long, winding road, and the devil will lie in the detail. But I do think Bali will prove to be an important milestone leading to Poznan and then Copenhagen."

So Witoelar may have been a little emphatic in his closing address, he may have overstated the solidarity of the conference participants and the clarity of the conference outcomes.

But the Bali COP never sought to determine a detailed strategy to address climate change, merely to negotiate an agenda for further negotiations. That may sound excessively bureaucratic, but finding any consensus among 189 parties was always going to be a major challenge.

And he hit the nail on the head when he declared that "the road from Bali to Poznan and Copenhagen must be paved not with good intentions but concrete actions and rigorous implementation".

This is the challenge for us all.

Story by **Tim Cronin, CIFOR and AusAID**



Photo: Edmond Dounias



Photo: Tim Cronin



Photo: Linda Yuliani



Photo: British Council

Joint Biodiversity Platform: Looking Beyond the Forests to Save Them

In December 2007, as the Bali Conference of Parties took centre stage in the global fight against climate change, another group of scientists was gathering just across the Lombok Straits to prepare for a different fight - the fight to save the world's biodiversity.



Photo: Manuel Boissiere

As more of the world's forests rapidly disappear and become increasingly fragmented, conservation efforts have focused on establishing protected areas to conserve these key ecosystems that support a diverse array of flora and fauna. More recently, conservationists and scientists have observed that protected areas are necessary but not sufficient for the conservation of biodiversity.

In this context, the role of multifunctional landscape mosaics, especially those surrounding protected areas, has become increasingly important. These landscapes include everything from agricultural land, agroforests, and settlements to patches of remaining forest dotting the terrain. What has shaped, and continues to shape, these mosaics are human activities, often communities who are driven by the need to sustain their livelihoods in the face of poverty.

It was because of the need to develop an integrated strategy to address these complex and often conflicting ecological and social dynamics that forty scientists from CIFOR, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and affiliated organizations converged on Lombok, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2007.

The objective of the meeting was to finalize the guidelines for the Landscape Mosaics Project; a project that will research and develop pathways for the better integration of improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation into land use management in five countries: Tanzania, Laos, Madagascar, Cameroon and Indonesia. The

Landscape Mosaics Project is also the inaugural project of the Joint Biodiversity Platform, an initiative between CIFOR and ICRAF that was launched in 2006.

"All of us are influenced by our personal as well as our technical background, so we look at problems or research needs from different perspectives," said Dr. Jean-Laurent Pfund, CIFOR Coordinator of the Platform and Landscape Mosaics Project. "Global meetings such as this one generate lively discussions and innovative ideas, largely as a result of these varied perspectives."

"In Lombok the consensus was to minimize the emphasis on comparative research through standardized data collection in favour of impact-oriented research through more participatory ways of compiling information and supporting negotiations" added Pfund.

Four complementary themes have been identified for the project: biodiversity and livelihoods; landscape patterns; landscape governance; and rewards for biodiversity conservation. Based on these themes, an information base will be developed with local communities and relevant government institutions so that they may negotiate a common vision for the future, one which incorporates both an improvement in their wellbeing as well as that of their environment.

Story by John Watts, CIFOR and AusAID.

The Joint Biodiversity Platform

The Joint Biodiversity Platform was launched in 2006 as a joint initiative of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). The platform was launched in recognition of the role that multifunctional landscape mosaics have in preserving biodiversity, both within and outside of protected areas.

Tree cover in multifunctional landscape mosaics preserves important habitats and can play a crucial role in maintaining connectivity between large reserves, which has been demonstrated to be essential for the survival of many species. The occupation and use of these landscapes by many peoples, however, require that any conservation efforts in these mosaics consider the social dimensions of the use and conservation of biodiversity, in addition to their biophysical dimensions and dynamics.

The Joint Biodiversity Platform draws on the wealth of experience and expertise from CIFOR and ICRAF. This collaborative approach enables the Platform to bring together highly-qualified multidisciplinary teams, drawing scientists from the natural and social sciences, as well as GIS and Spatial Analysis experts.

"All of us are influenced by our personal as well as our technical background, so we look at problems or research needs from different perspectives."

- Jean-Laurent Pfund, CIFOR

AFP: From Strength to Strength

The Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), which was initiated in 2002 to promote sustainable forest management through a regional forum for forest stakeholders, has renewed its commitment for a second phase of eight years (2008-2015), at the 7th Annual Meeting in Yokohama, Japan, November 2007.

The partnership has aligned its agenda for sustainable forest management in line with current international trends and opportunities.

The Government of Japan, the Government of Indonesia, CIFOR and the Institute for Global Environmental Services (IGES) co-hosted the meeting and CIFOR has agreed to continue hosting the AFP Secretariat, optimistic about the new mandate and its capacity to effect positive change.

The goal of the new mandate is "to promote cooperation and catalyze action" among government and other forces, while enhancing the provision of forest products and ecosystem services. Reducing forest loss and degradation and combating illegal logging will be key themes in pursuit of this goal.

CIFOR's AFP Coordinator Teguh Rahardja believes that AFP's revised goal for its second phase is a much broader vision with the promise of more action than the first phase.

"In the past, information sharing through AFP has been very beneficial to CIFOR and other partners, but by strengthening

our commitment and broadening our horizons this new mandate can take AFP to a new level of success," Pak Rahardja said.

Over 130 participants from 32 countries gathered in Yokohama to discuss key themes and functions for AFP, including Illegal Logging and Forest Governance; Forests and Climate Change; Networking and Partnerships; Country Initiatives and Reporting.

"Having Australia, New Zealand and some of the Pacific Islands get on board the partnership shows how wide reaching and powerful AFP can be, while also empowering smaller stakeholders to achieve greater success."

- Yemi Katerere, CIFOR

Among the participants was a broad range of relevant stakeholders including representatives from governments, civil society, NGOs, academic institutions and the private sector. Ideas and opinions were exchanged through 27 unique presentations on a variety of forest-related issues.

Yemi Katerere, CIFOR's Deputy Director General, shared Pak Rahardja's optimism. "Having Australia, New Zealand and some of the Pacific Islands get on board the partnership shows how wide reaching and powerful AFP can be, while also empowering smaller stakeholders to achieve greater success" Katerere said.

"Information sharing can benefit stakeholders in many ways," he added. "The majority of research conducted by CIFOR in Asia is focused on Indonesian forests, so CIFOR can really benefit from sharing research about other Asian forests to help us maintain a good balance."

AFP will aim to pay greater attention to the protection of forest-dependant people and to improving forest governance, with increased synergy among projects, multistakeholder dialogue and information sharing.

Story by **Clare Rawlinson**, CIFOR and Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS)



Sunset from Majang village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia
Photo: Ryan Woo

Asia Pacific Forestry Week - Hanoi, Vietnam, 21-26 April 2008

The first-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) will be staged from 21-26 April in Hanoi, Vietnam.

APFW will bring together upwards of 500 individuals from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, the private sector and the media.

CIFOR will have a major presence at APFW, through a range of events and activities including co-hosting two key plenary sessions:

i. Forests and Climate Change (Wednesday, 23 April), in collaboration with FAO

ii. Dialogue on Timber Trade, Forest Law Compliance and Governance (Thursday, 24 April), in collaboration with AFP, DFID, IGES, TNC and the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia.

CIFOR will also launch several publications, while Frances Seymour, Director General, will make a presentation at the Tuesday plenary session, *People, Forests, and Human Well-being: Managing Forests for People in a Period of Rapid Change*.

For more information about APFW, go to <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/44755/en/>

Poverty Alleviation in China: The Case of Bamboo

Perhaps never before in history has a nation seen such rapid economic development and social change as China has in the past 25 years. This spectacular economic growth has led to an unprecedented rise in living standards, yet China still has over 100 million people living in poverty.

Since October 2006 Australia's Nick Hogarth has been based in China, seeking to understand the relationship of forests and forest-products to the livelihoods of the rural poor.

His research is part of CIFOR's Poverty and Environment Network (PEN) project and focuses specifically on the case of bamboo in Tianlin County, Guangxi Province, with the aim to determine its potential as a natural resource for poverty alleviation.

Nick is also supported by AusAID, Charles Darwin University (Australia) and Guangxi University.

In accordance with PEN methodology, his research has taken place at multiple scales of analysis. This has consisted of detailed household income surveys (cash and non-cash) conducted quarterly, two village surveys and two annual household surveys. 240 households were randomly selected across 6 villages.

In addition, the project has involved a review of the institutional arrangements, laws, rules, regulations and policies that impact on forest use.

"In recent years Guangxi's economy has languished behind that of its wealthy neighbour (the province of Guangdong), with high levels of poverty, especially in remote mountain communities that are made up largely of ethnic minority groups," said Nick.

"To conduct the field-work I established my site in northwest Guangxi, about 150km from the Vietnamese border," he added. "I assembled a team of 10 postgraduate students from Guangxi University, who I trained in the methodology, and then we made regular trips to Tianlin County where a strong relationship was fostered with the local Forestry Department."

Classified as a 'non-timber forest product' (NTFP), bamboo is one of the most utilised forest resources in the world. The shoots are used as food, while the timber serves as material used in building, paper pulp, clothing fibre,

charcoal, furniture, utensils, flooring, fence posts, musical instruments, woven mats and baskets. Bamboo plants are also used for wastewater treatment, and as windbreaks, shelterbelts, dust barriers, fuel wood and forage crops.

Throughout Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, a coastal province located in the southwest of China, there exists an estimated 160,000ha of bamboo. While several bamboo species are cultivated or wild harvested to supply shoots for local processing factories, the majority of bamboo products are produced by small-scale, family owned enterprises.

(continued page 17)



Photo: Nick Hogarth

"Over the past two decades bamboo has been increasing in importance as a forest resource in China, but the growth of the sector has not kept up with the demand."

- Nick Hogarth,
CIFOR

The Poverty & Environment Network (PEN)

What is the current role of forests in poverty alleviation, and how can that role be enhanced through better policy formulation and implementation?

The Poverty and Environment Network (PEN) is an ambitious, global project that seeks to address this question through the systematic collection of socio-economic data in a variety of tropical ecosystems, using similar data definitions and methodologies.

Launched by CIFOR in 2004, PEN is the world's first global comparative and quantitative review of the role of tropical forests in poverty alleviation. In January 2008, 45 PEN partners and resource persons descended upon Barcelona to launch the second phase of the project.

PEN by numbers . . .

1 project; **2** phases; **3** continents; **4** quarterly surveys; **5** thematic groups; **26** countries of fieldwork; **38** PEN studies; **364** villages or communities surveyed; **9,100** households surveyed; **40,950** household visits by PEN enumerators; **294,150** questionnaire pages completed; **17,348,734** data cells in the PEN global data base.

Adaptive Research, Adaptive Management: Research Thrives in Nepal Despite Conflict

Field work in developing countries can be challenging at the best of times, but with Nepal in the grip of a Maoist insurgency, a research project into community forest management became an exercise in ingenuity and courage for all involved.

CIFOR's three-year research project, "Improving Livelihoods and Equity in Community Forestry in Nepal: the role of adaptive collaborative management (ACM)", started out ordinarily enough in 2004.

The objective was to better understand the dynamics entrenching social inequity in Nepal's world-leading community forestry management program, and test the viability of a more collaborative approach.

While the program has been generally successful in preserving forest cover, after 20 years it has not entirely met expectations for improving local livelihoods. The benefits have proven relatively low, and marginalised community members – the poor, women, and low-caste - receive a disproportionately small share.

CIFOR teamed up with NewERA, ForestAction, and the Environmental Resources Institute to undertake the research in partnership with governmental, civil and other representatives, and members from 11 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

But as the project got underway, civil strife also peaked. NewERA senior researcher Bishnu Pandit said field teams were under pressure from government and Maoist forces to support their respective political agendas.

Members of CFUGs were personally affected; the Chairperson in one site had his leg broken in an attack and he and his family had to flee to the city. Being caught in the cross-fire if violence broke out was another constant fear.

"Bombs killed one Ranger and two or three were wounded in Sankhuwasaba district," Pandit recalls. "Four to six Range Post Offices—that normally provide service and regulatory support to CFUGs—in Kaski and all in Sankhuwasaba district were either evacuated or burnt. In some areas, especially where local people would disappear, we avoided staying overnight."

While security issues in rural areas impeded travel and the ability to meet with local people, work in Kathmandu was disrupted by demonstrations, curfews, strikes and power cuts. Researchers regularly walked or cycled 90 minutes across the city each way, dodging burning tyres and vehicles, to keep the project going.

But despite the civil unrest, project team leader Cynthia McDougall said local people, including Maoists, valued the pro-poor, equity-oriented nature of the research, and would go out of their way to ensure researchers were kept as safe as possible.

She recalls the time they were warned to leave their hotel early in the morning, only to learn that an adjacent building was blown up a couple of hours later. "On another occasion, Maoists went door to door in the night demanding 'donations' in the village where we were staying, but left the home in which we were staying undisturbed," she said.

Such experiences shed invaluable light on the broader social and political context in which community forest management was struggling to deliver pro-poor benefits.

The top-down, externally driven decision-making approach that excluded the poor and women was reflective of historically-embedded power structures. The civil unrest—although 'equality oriented' in mandate—further marginalised these groups by fragmenting communities and undermining fragile livelihoods.

The research found local forest users groups that adopted ACM introduced more women and the poor into the decision-making processes, thereby creating more livelihood opportunities for them.

For example, firewood collection and trade was previously prohibited to protect trees, but this was the only source of income for many poor households.

The ACM approach, however, created space in the CFUG decision-making for firesellers and other marginalized people and maintained equity on the groups' agenda through 'self-monitoring' processes.

In the case of Ms Manamaya Darji, this led to her CFUG agreeing to give her a firewood collection permit in return for a small fee and a small female pig.

This way, she and her husband were able to supplement the meagre income they earned from tailoring, and were more positive about community forestry. A little compromise – without compromising the overall integrity of forest protection - made all the difference to this family.

Story by **Claire Miller**, CIFOR

"Bombs killed one Ranger and two or three were wounded . . . Ranger posts were burnt, families were displaced and local people would disappear."
- **Bishnu Pandit**

Photo: Bishnu Pandit



The Bush Meat Dilemma in Central Africa

It's a common view along roadsides that border forests in Cameroon: dead monkeys and other wild animals hanging from a stick, for sale. The meat of forest animals - bush meat - is a common dish in many tropical countries, especially in West and Central Africa. For many forest dependent people of the Congo Basin, bush meat is their primary source of protein and of income. But for how long?

Duiker meat (pictured) is the most important source of protein for BaAka pygmies in the Central African Republic
Photo: Marieke Sandker



The scale of bush meat hunting has become so large that some species are now threatened with extinction. Researchers estimate that the current harvest of bush meat in Central Africa is more than 1 million tonnes annually, the equivalent of almost 4 million cattle.

"If current levels of hunting persist, the forests of the Congo Basin will be empty in less than 50 years", says CIFOR Senior Scientist Robert Nasi.

But prohibiting the trade is not a workable solution, says Nasi. "Wildlife management should take into account the needs of rural people. They eat bush meat because there is no alternative source of protein available. And even if Central African countries could produce enough non-bush meat protein, this would present other environmental impacts. Forests would need to make space for agriculture, and 4 million cattle need lots of space."

Apart from providing crucial protein, bush meat also has important social, cultural and economic aspects, says CIFOR's Cameroon-based researcher Nathalie van Vliet,

"Bush meat is offered to guests and used during ritual ceremonies. From an economic point of view, hunting is very profitable for rural families and one of the few available sources of income. Hunting requires little capital investment and brings in a quick return to the primary producer. It can also be combined with other activities, such as agriculture, and fits in well with the family gender system - men hunt, women sell."

Van Vliet says that several factors are contributing to mounting pressure on hunting.

"With the growing population in Central Africa, which is around 2-3% per year, the demand for bush meat is also growing. In addition, patches of previously untouched forests are now accessible to hunters due to the increasing construction of roads and camps by logging and mining companies. These workers eat mainly bush meat and can easily transport it to urban markets", says Van Vliet.

According to Nasi, "the answer to the rapid decline in wild animals is not to criminalize the bush meat sector, but to recognize the opportunities that it presents to contribute to development. Give poor forest dwellers land-rights and include them in the decision-making. This way, a management plan could forbid the hunting of certain species that are particularly vulnerable, but allow the hunting of other species that are abundant in certain areas."

**"The answer to the rapid decline in wild animals is not to criminalize the bush meat sector, but to recognize the opportunities that it presents to contribute to development."
- Robert Nasi, CIFOR**

Both Nasi and van Vliet agree that organizing and regulating the market for bush meat can help make this livelihood option sustainable, by protecting the survival of African forest animals, as well as the food security of African people.

Story by *Janneke Romijn*, CIFOR

An Example of Wildlife Management in Zambia

CIFOR Senior Scientist Robert Nasi contributed to *Spore* magazine with an opinion article on bush meat. Titled 'The Price of a Wild Trade' he offered ideas on how to solve the bush meat crisis in Africa. Nasi received several responses to his publication.

Among them was a reaction from a landowner in Zambia, Charles Harvey, who shared an example of how he manages the wildlife on his property.

Charles Harvey: "When we moved to the property in 2001, little game was left due to uncontrolled poaching. We brought in new game, put up a fence and appointed scouts to protect the animals"

But instead of denying access, Harvey allowed local people to enter the land.

"We encourage school children to walk through the game lands on their way to school and the schools now often involve wildlife in their lessons", says Harvey. "The children can also make free game drives in the park."

Harvey and his team also ensure that local people are involved in the wildlife management.

"If villagers notice an animal outside the fence and report it to us, we give them a sheep. If they report snared or sick animals, we hand out eggs."

"We also encourage local farmers to bring us their soya beans. We extract the oil for them and keep the cake, which we use to feed the animals during the winter months. The farmers now consider the game part of a legal, economic food chain.

"Our approach is not to criminalize the trade in bush meat, but to turn it into a development opportunity for local communities. So that they become aware that the survival of wildlife can benefit them."

Forests & Trade: The Challenge of Selling Tree Products in Africa

In Central Africa, potential profits hang in trees, but often stay there because they can not reach the market. And so fail to bring in badly needed income for rural families. CIFOR and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) recently joined forces to advise rural households how to better take advantage of these hanging profits.

In our globalized world, products can be produced in one country and sold at the other end of the world, often with huge profits. But in Central Africa, poor roads, the seasonality of products, limited knowledge of markets, inadequate networking and lack of education about storage and processing capacity means that income from the sale of tree products often fails to outweigh the costs.

The Farmer Enterprise Development (FED) project seeks to improve farmer household incomes through training in marketing and domestication.



Photo: Diomedee Manirakiza

Njansang

What is njansang?

The Njansang fruit grows on a large tree (up to 40m in height and 1.2m in diameter). Its first fruition occurs four years after planting, with a slow germination rate of 40%, but when exposed to sunlight growth can be very rapid.

Where is it found?

The Lékié division of Central Cameroon is the principal production area for the Njansang.

How is it harvested?

The fallen fruits are gathered from the forest floor and taken to the villages for processing.

Medicinal Value?

The tree bark has a huge range of medicinal values, used as a treatment for gonorrhoea, leprosy, elephantiasis, dysentery, diarrhoea, hernia and syphilis. It can also be used to cure yellow fever, anaemia, malaria and a variety of skin diseases. It is also used as an aphrodisiac.

How is it prepared?

The fruit is usually boiled until the shell is soft enough to break open and take out the kernels. As soon as the kernels are dried, they can be stored for up to two years as long as they are protected from moisture.

FED is a joint initiative between CIFOR, ICRAF, the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), the Support Service to Grassroots Initiatives of Development (SAILD), the Association pour le Développement Intégral des Exploitants Agricoles du Centre (ADEAC) and the Twantoh Mixed Farming Common Initiative Group (MIFACIG).

It is supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation and applies a combination of: market research; workshops and training; research and development; and networking.

One of the products the project has focused on is njansang, a non-timber forest product (NTFP) produced primarily in Central Cameroon. In conjunction with ADEAC – a local farmer organization - CIFOR organized a series of workshops that brought together farmers and traders.

Abdon Awono, CIFOR Researcher, explains that during the workshops farmers and traders could exchange information for mutual benefit.

“An important element of the workshops was facilitating group sales,” said Awono. “With group sales, farmers could see for themselves that there is a link between the quality of their product and the price they can ask for it. Since the smallholders usually work on a one to one basis with traders, they were not aware of this link.”

“In addition, farmers often go to the markets without prior information about things like price and demand. So they run the risk of paying for transport and taxes without earning enough to cover these costs. Similarly, for the wholesalers, it happens that they may make a difficult and costly trip in search of tree products, without knowing in advance if there will be enough supply” said Awono.

As a result of these networking opportunities farmers were able to sell their njansang for prices 30% higher.

The question is, can this system be sustained on its own? Awono explains that a number of hurdles exist.

“Despite the huge income possibilities for rural households, the bureaucracy of obtaining the right documents for trading NTFP’s is a serious obstacle for small traders” said Awono. “Government support for forest products should be strengthened. That is why CIFOR and partner organizations work together to inform policymakers about the benefits and challenges of the trade in tree products.”

Story by **Janneke Romijn & Abdon Awono**, CIFOR



“Government support for forest products should be strengthened. That is why CIFOR and partner organizations work together to inform policymakers about the benefits and challenges.”

- Abdon Awono, CIFOR

CIFOR Cements Itself in West Africa

The signing of a Host Country Agreement with the government of Burkina Faso has significantly strengthened CIFOR's work in West Africa.

Signed in December 2007, by the Burkina Faso Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Mr Djibrill Yipènè Bassolé, and CIFOR's Director General, Frances Seymour, the agreement formalises the partnership and sets the stage for CIFOR to build on its vital research aimed at reducing poverty through improved management of forests and woodlands in West Africa.

The partnership will be managed from the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou.

"This agreement demonstrates that both parties share a common vision of the importance of research for economic and social development, as well as the importance of forests and woodlands for poverty reduction and improved livelihoods,"

- Daniel Tiveau, CIFOR

Burkina Faso may not have the big trees found in the humid forest zone, but its dry woodlands are crucial for the livelihoods of millions of people. Of all the states in West Africa, Burkina Faso has the highest percentage of its population living in rural areas, and will remain the base for CIFOR's work in both dry and humid areas.

CIFOR will continue to develop knowledge and policy recommendations for States and other stakeholders, both on improved livelihoods and sustainable use of forests. Equitable benefit sharing, stakeholder participation, best



Photo: Daniel Tiveau

practise, integrated management and capacity building are all important objectives.

"This agreement demonstrates that both parties share a common vision of the importance of research for economic and social development, as well as the importance of forests and woodlands for poverty reduction and improved livelihoods," said CIFOR's Regional Coordinator for West Africa, Mr Daniel Tiveau.

"The formalisation of this partnership is enormously important for CIFOR to develop its work in West Africa," he added. "This agreement, in conjunction with CIFOR's new long-term strategy, will provide the tools for efficient engagement that we are confident will make a real difference in the region."

Story by **Daniel Tiveau, CIFOR**

Forest Day - Cameroon, 24 April 2008

Shaping the Debate on Forests and Climate Change in Central Africa
Palais de Congrès, Yaoundé, Cameroon

As forests remain hot on the agenda for any global climate debate, the Central African Congo Basin - the second largest forest area in the world - will play a crucial role in the success of any climate change policy. Proposed new climate initiatives raise questions about the impact and role of these initiatives in the region.

So, following the success of Forest Day in Bali, CIFOR is organizing a Forest Day in Cameroon, to be held on 24 April, in order to help shape the debate on forests and climate change in Central Africa.

Speakers representing a broad range of forest stakeholders will present and discuss prominent forest issues central to the climate change debate. There will be scientists, local and international NGOs, university lecturers, policymakers, communities, experts and others interested in the subject.

Forest Day aims to provide a regional perspective on the discussions surrounding forests and climate change. By debating and analyzing the social, economic, scientific, technological and political issues, Forest Day will provide stepping stones for informed climate policies in the region. Presentations, discussions and debates will focus on:

- *Forests' role in climate change mitigation*
- *REDD and mitigating climate change in Central Africa*
- *REDD, markets and governance*
- *Financing mechanisms*
- *Estimating carbon stock*
- *Pilot projects and their data-related challenges*
- *The carbon market and the forestry sector*
- *REDD and rural poverty*
- *Interactions between REDD and other approaches*



Photo: Daniel Tiveau

A New Dawn for Community Forestry in Bolivia

"Bolivia is moving forward on agrarian and forest reforms aimed at facilitating access to land and forest resources for indigenous people and rural communities . . . The focus is on consolidating community-based forestry management, a process in which CIFOR is playing an important role informing the public policy debate."

Susana Rivero, Bolivian Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment

In early 2006, a leftist government was carried into office in Bolivia on a wave of popular disenchantment with neo-liberal reforms that dated back to the mid-1980s. These policies had failed to achieve the promised economic growth and poverty alleviation, but they did bring some changes for the nation's forests.

In the mid-1990s a new law was passed that sought to bring about sustainable forestry, and to promote forestry decentralization that increased the responsibilities of forest management for municipal governments, primarily by assisting forestry agencies to tackle illegal practices. This new forest law also opened the door for indigenous people to formalize territorial claims, and to gain exclusive rights over the forest resources inside these claimed lands.



A community logging crew in Guarayos, Bolivia. Photo: Peter Cronkleton

"The outcome was an agenda, which was agreed upon by the central government and social organizations, that outlines key elements and priorities for forest policy reform."

- Pablo Pacheco, CIFOR

However, this policy has had contradictory implications. For example, forest users with greater access to assets and better market positioning have benefited from the situation, but it tended to discriminate against the rural poor, including smallholders and indigenous communities. Furthermore, sustainable forestry management was further undermined by policies aimed at making agricultural commodities competitive in international markets and legalizing large-scale agricultural encroachment onto public lands.

In 2006, the new government embarked on a new approach. Its so-called "agrarian revolution" included distributing available public lands, mechanizing small-scale agriculture, and expanding organic crops. It also set out to institutionalize community forestry, but under models developed by community-based organizations. These policies can have negative impacts by increasing the pressure on forest resources to generate local income, but they also constitute an opportunity to take into account local and indigenous needs, as well as integrated perspectives on forestry management.

Given this context, CIFOR entered the national policy debate with a broad perspective on how forests contribute not only to ecosystem conservation, but also to local economic growth and poverty alleviation. CIFOR engaged with key social organizations and drew on science-based arguments and policy research in the region.

CIFOR has used this information to advance forest reform in Bolivia by drafting ideas for policies and programs that will assist the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment (MDRAyMA) to refocus its rural development priorities to emphasize community-based forest management. These ideas recognize the value of non-timber forest products, as well as timber; promote vigorous, small-scale forestry enterprises; strengthen community capacity for forest management; and value the local forest users' knowledge and cultural diversity.

(continued page 17)

Thank You!

Partners

Susana Rivero, Minister MDRAyMA
Jaime Villanueva, Forestry Director DNRF
Jose Landriel, Forestry Superintendence (SF)
Augusta Molnar, Rights and Resources (RRG)
Albert Bokkestijn, Netherlands Development Org, SNV
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Donors

David Kaimowitz, Ford Foundation
Rene Boot, Tropenbos International
Gonzalo Flores, FAO, National Office Bolivia
Gerard Raessens, Jatun Sach'a Project

REDD & PES: CIFOR's Sven Wunder Breaks Down the Acronyms

With so much talk lately about reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), CIFOR's Sven Wunder – Principal Scientist with the Forests and Livelihoods program – draws on his experience with Payments for Environmental Services (PES) to discuss some of the key issues that will need to be addressed if REDD is to be successfully implemented.

CN: “The ideal PES recipient is the guy who has enough capital to buy a chainsaw, and is on the verge of putting it to work” (POLEX). May that also happen with REDD schemes?

SW: Indeed! Most REDD compensations will need to pay people that are seriously planning to deforest, and leverage a tightly monitored change in their ‘business plan’. Otherwise, REDD risks becoming another ‘feel-good’ market, producing PR for buyers, yet achieving no real reduction in emissions. This well-justified fear of exploiting the system was a major reason behind REDD’s exclusion from the Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period. For comparison, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has also largely paid ‘bad guys’ (high-polluting developing countries). Some people expect REDD to create lots of cash for rewarding benign forest users’ good stewardship. That may be illusionary – except, for example, when REDD is extremely cheap and creates large “environmental rents”.

were to come from international carbon markets. I think REDD will need to walk a fine line between efficiency and fairness. Some rewards for good stewardship are surely needed, but REDD incentives must focus on the highest returns for protecting carbon stocks, otherwise they will simply not perform.

“Some people expect REDD to create lots of cash for rewarding benign forest users’ good stewardship. That may be illusionary.”

- Sven Wunder, CIFOR

CN: Can you explain how REDD would reduce illegal logging?

SW: You cannot pay the illegal logger for not logging, and paying even one could perversely attract others. But in situations of illegal or quasi-open access, REDD can finance improved command-and-control systems: more forest guards, better remote-sensing monitoring, and more efficient judiciary systems to prosecute and convict offenders. This also concerns illegal land clearing, even if there is no rightful owner to compensate. Obviously, sharper controls could increase local tensions, by leading to the capture of more ‘small fish’ while the big, politically influential offenders continue to go free. In my opinion, however, that should not be an argument against doing it – rather one for doing it better.

CN: How easy will it be to implement REDD locally?

SW: I think the implementation challenges are being underestimated. Current REDD debates focus on fundraising and transfer mechanisms, while few people are considering how this money can be spent to actually deliver REDD results. First, deforestation champions like Indonesia or Brazil are mega-countries: should funds go to distant central governments, or newly decentralized provinces and federal states? Second, how can one sensibly distribute REDD funds when nobody has clear titles or control over the land? Third, how do we deal with illegal and informal land uses without providing perverse incentives? Broadly speaking, REDD will only succeed where the predominant ‘land-abundance inertia’ – the mentality of exploiting one plot and moving on to the next – can be changed. But closing a society’s ‘agricultural frontier’ is complex, and probably time-consuming. This will raise REDD transaction costs, and lower success rates. REDD still very promising, but early experimental action is needed to tease out where, how, and how much avoided deforestation the REDD money will really be able to buy.



A local timber forester in Iwokrama, Guyana. Photo: Doug Sheil

CN: Could this potentially unfair scenario become an impediment to REDD / carbon schemes?

SW: Sometimes, yes. If people see REDD as radically unfair, it will be politically unviable. An example from Brazil: an environmental NGO consortium - assisted by CIFOR and the Amazon Initiative - recently proposed a REDD system for Mato Grosso state, which is currently dominated by aggressive deforestation on commercial soy and cattle farms. In response, there was an outcry from the social sector - “How can you propose to pay ‘the bad guys’, the ones that have always destroyed the environment???” This REDD scheme was initially to be financed by Brazilian taxpayers, which raises legitimate expectations for equitable outcomes – much more so than if the funds

Quo Vadis Indonesian Forestry?

Once among the world's leaders in round wood and plywood production, today the country's logging and woodworking sectors are in steep decline. CIFOR's Krystof Obidzinski – Principal Scientist with the Forests and Governance program – looks at the causes of illegal logging in Indonesia, the progress made towards combatting it, and the next steps required.

Indonesia's forestry sector is in deepening crisis. During the last three years, the export of plywood decreased by nearly 75% while the export of sawn timber products fell by nearly 50%. Production and export reductions of such magnitude have had significant economic and social impacts in terms of shrinking foreign earnings and employment loss.

The reasons for this situation are many, but they start with the uncontrolled expansion of timber processing industries in Indonesia in the 1980s and the subsidized promotion of pulp and paper mills in the 1990s – all without ensuring a sustainable supply of timber. The resultant supply-demand imbalance has continuously been dogging Indonesia's forestry sector and is the key underlying structural problem that drives illegal logging and the movement of illegal timber within and out of Indonesia.

Over the years, the excessive demand has taken its toll on Indonesia's forest resources, resulting in increasing deforestation that has hovered around 2-3 million hectares annually for the last seven years. The increasing timber scarcity, rising production costs, log smuggling, stiffening competition from other countries producing tropical timber, intensifying international scrutiny of forestry practices in Indonesia and the subsequent forest law enforcement (FLE) actions by the Indonesian government (e.g. Wanalaga I-III, OHL I-III) have all placed the forestry sector under pressure. In the early 1990s, there were nearly 600 forest logging concessions in Indonesia. Today, there are less than 300. In the province of East Kalimantan, the leading log and plywood producing province in Indonesia, the number of HPH forest concessions dropped from the all time high of 200 in 1993 to 56 in 2006.

Tackling Timber Smuggling – Is It Enough?

Timber smuggling, seen as one of the main factors undermining Indonesia's competitiveness on the international market by supplying the competitors with under-priced logs, has been one of the main targets of FLE operations in Indonesia. For instance, the Ministry of Forestry estimates that in 2006 alone about 10 million m³ of timber left Indonesia without any documentation. As a result, since 2001 government security agencies have undertaken regular FLE operations in key timber producing parts of the country.

By all accounts, these operations have had a significant impact. According to CIFOR research, in 2006 cross-border timber trade in Kalimantan decreased by as much as 70%.

Despite this decline, the Ministry of Forestry reported that in the same year the illegal logging caused by the supply-demand gap, driven mostly by the pulp and paper industry, stood at 52 million m³.

What Next?

This demonstrates that real progress against illegal logging in Indonesia is possible. In addition to continued FLE operations to keep timber smuggling in check, a number of parallel steps are necessary.

One important first step is to implement existing bilateral agreements aimed at reducing timber trade discrepancies associated with illegal logging. Indonesia has signed a number of such agreements, including with China, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea. But their actual implementation has been limited. The recent establishment of a China-Indonesia government working group on illegal logging is an encouraging sign.

Ratifying and implementing the recently negotiated FLEGT-VPA agreement with the EU for timber trade would also be a positive measure. VPA is expected to provide the access for Indonesian producers to premium timber markets in Europe and will also provide extensive capacity building opportunities for the producer countries.

Coordination between FLE enforcement agencies on the common understanding of the recently revised timber legality standard - in line with the VPA process – should also be a priority. But the standard must be applied consistently in evaluating the activities of timber concession holders. This will help prevent the kinds of misunderstanding seen in the Adelin Lis illegal logging case in Sumatra.

Indonesia's anti money laundering laws with their inclusion of forest-related crimes are unparalleled anywhere else in the world. But, along with anti-corruption legislation, greater use needs to be made of the anti-money laundering legislation in prosecuting illegal logging cases and increasing the probability of convictions.

Enforcing a greater degree of public transparency and accountability for new investment in the forestry sector would also help by curbing excessive and potentially unsound development of timber production and processing capacity.

Of course, all of these measures need a solid foundation from which to operate. It's therefore important that a feasible and sustainable timber plantation development policy be developed. In late 2006, the Indonesia government announced a target of nine million hectares of new timber plantation to be developed by 2016. Timber plantations are crucial to solving the illegal logging problem in Indonesia, but the challenge is to do it in an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable manner.

Finally, over the coming years it will be important to explore, through policy framework analyses and pilot projects, how REDD schemes can become a catalyst for sustainable forest management in Indonesia and how they can provide a viable incentive to reduce illegal logging.



Photo: Charlie Pye-Smith

"The supply-demand imbalance has continuously been dogging Indonesia's forestry sector and is the key underlying structural problem that drives illegal logging."

- Krystof Obidzinski, CIFOR

Acknowledging Excellence

In December 2008, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) convened in Beijing for its Annual General Meeting. In recognition of their outstanding work, CIFOR nominated a number of its scientists for prestigious awards.

Douglas Sheil

Communicating Science Award (Nominee)

Douglas and his team have worked tirelessly to ensure the voices of remote and marginalized forest dwellers are heard. They've spent months in isolated villages learning which aspects of the landscape are of livelihood, cultural and environmental value to local communities, as well as carrying out more technical assessments.

Douglas has developed creative ways to communicate these findings to various stakeholders in order to improve forest management, with his innovative approach going well beyond the traditional media of books, reports and journal articles. For example, noting the local popularity of Bollywood posters in Malinau, his team produced and distributed 400 of its own 'open-book' posters, with vibrant forest features accompanied by simple text, reflecting the local communities' views.

Noting the popularity of local Bollywood posters in Malinau, Doug and his team produced and distributed 400 of its own 'open-book' posters with vibrant forest features accompanied by simple text, reflecting the local communities' views.

Douglas and his team have used many other unique communication methods, and have recently published a peer review article demonstrating that it has significantly influenced the views of villagers, towns-people and civil servants.

Sven Wunder

Outstanding Scientist Award (Nominee)

Sven is a passionate, productive scientist, consistently producing cutting-edge research that tackles the difficult questions. His insights are integral to the design of CIFOR's forest-poverty research agenda, and he is a leading force in ongoing quantitative work on a large global-comparative scale. His work at CIFOR in the fields of forests and poverty, deforestation and payments for environmental services (PES) is among the most cited on the links between deforestation, forest conservation and poverty, in both scientific and popular media.

Sven conceived and pioneered CIFOR's Poverty and Environment Network (PEN) – the innovative collaboration of 40 PhD students producing what will arguably be the most comprehensive database for global public goods research on forest-based livelihoods.

His most landmark research publications "Hamburger connection fuels Amazon destruction" and "Does oil wealth help conserve forests?" have both received worldwide attention, and his 2001 World Development article "Poverty alleviation and tropical forests – what scope for synergies?" is now the single most cited source on "forests and poverty". Sven's total publication count already reaches 65.

Cynthia McDougall

Outstanding Partnership Award (Nominee)

Cynthia's project - "Improving Livelihoods and Equity in Community Forestry in Nepal" - was nominated for its formidable, highly-engaged partnership base between CIFOR, three Nepali research organizations and numerous governmental, civil and local institutions. Despite a backdrop of civil uncertainty, this unique partnership has succeeded in addressing fundamental challenges to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods. It has had a potent impact in policy change, forest governance, poverty alleviation and enhancing sustainable livelihoods.

The project's success has not only been shared by the partners involved but also by many marginalized groups, including women, poor and low caste people. The project delivered lessons from 165 community forest user groups, and has seen the balance of benefits begin to shift towards the most marginalized people.

For example, poor women whose livelihoods depended on fuelwood sales have said that they no longer felt persecuted or the need to steal fuelwood. "We could raise our voices," one woman said. "These days we have different options." The project also strengthened the research system by breaking down the barriers between key national forestry stakeholders, opening the door to more inclusive and effective policy research.

Daniel Murdiyarso

Outstanding Climate Change Communications Award (Nominee)

When it comes to the topic of climate change, Dr Daniel Murdiyarso is one of Indonesia's most respected scientists. He effectively communicates his knowledge both within and beyond the scientific community, with far-reaching impacts. Daniel is a sought after speaker, leading author and a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Daniel was one of the early scientists to grasp the idea that human induced climate change and its effects need to be dealt with, and has spent the last two decades devoted to researching and communicating this reality to the world. He played a crucial role in Indonesia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and recently proposed an idea for Indonesia to convene an "F8" – an alliance of eight developing countries with tropical forests – to discuss forest management and opportunities to reduce global warming. This advice was communicated to President Yudhoyono and Indonesia has since initiated the alliance, expanding it to 11 developing nations.

Daniel is frequently quoted in local and international media and major newspapers seek his opinion pieces. He is a regular participant in panel discussions, talkback sessions and media briefings, providing accurate information for journalists and the general community.



(From p.8) Poverty Alleviation in China ...

"Over the past two decades bamboo has been increasing in importance as a forest resource in China, but the growth of the sector has not kept up with the demand," said Nick. "And although China currently leads the world in bamboo research, exploitation, production, and management, there are many constraints to the growth of the sector in Guangxi," he added.

"Initial observations indicate that most households throughout Guangxi are predominantly agrarian, but all use forest products to varying degrees. Natural forest use is minimal, mainly due to central government policies, so plantation forest products – like bamboo – are very important."

"There is real potential to improve the utilisation of the available bamboo resources and to expand the resource as a means to improve income and employment for many people, however there has been very little research and development work done. This is what I am trying to remedy" said Nick.

Story by **Widya Prajanthi**, CIFOR

(From p.13) A New Dawn in Bolivia ...

In 2007 the Ministry - in collaboration with CIFOR, the Forest Superintendence (SF) and the Bolivian Confederation of Indigenous People (CIDOB), - held a three-day workshop on the future of community forest management in Bolivia. Other supporting institutions included the Ford Foundation, FAO, SNV, Tropenbos, RRG, PROMAB, ForLive, Jatun Sach'a Project and CERES.

Aproximately 180 people attended, including 69 indigenous and colonists representatives, as well as leaders from community-based management initiatives, government agencies, NGOS, and other forest-based institutions from Bolivia and around the world. Forest management experts from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Brazil shared their ideas and experiences, revealing a wide range of different approaches, strategies and challenges.

The outcome was an agenda, which was agreed upon by the central government and social organizations, that outlines key elements and priorities for forest policy reform. CIFOR's role in informing and facilitating the public debate was explicitly recognized by Susan Rivero, the Bolivian Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment.

Story by **Pablo Pacheco**, CIFOR

(top) A local villager weaves a basket in Pilon-Lajas Biosphere Reserve, Bolivia. Photo: Sven Wunder

(centre) Mamiraua, Brazil. Photo: Doug Sheil

(bottom) Dr Daniel Murdiyarto, from CIFOR's Environmental Services programme. Photo: Widya Prajanthi



Global Community Exceeds the Billion Tree Challenge

An indigenous pencil cedar, or perhaps an African olive tree, planted in the Horn of Africa has become a living symbol of enduring hope, optimism and action for communities and countries determined to combat climate change and revive biodiversity.

The ambitious goal of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Green Belt Movement, the Prince Albert II Foundation and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) to take a step towards combating climate change through planting one billion trees in a year reached its target in late 2007.

Now that figure is approaching two billion trees, the momentum is getting stronger by the day, and the organisers couldn't be happier.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, said he was delighted that an initiative to catalyze the pledging and the planting of one billion trees has achieved and indeed surpassed its mark.

"This is a further sign of the breathtaking momentum witnessed this year on the challenge for this generation—climate change."

"Some said it would never happen, and others couldn't at first see the *raison d'être*. But citizen after citizen, community after community and country after country, have proved the doubters wrong and demonstrated an abiding truth in 2007," he added.

The billionth tree planted is believed to have been in Ethiopia where, as part of the country's Millennium Commemoration 2007, close to 700 million trees have been planted alone.

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Green Belt founder, Noble Laureate and co-patron of the campaign, said she was elated beyond words at the global interest and action that was motivated by the Billion Tree Campaign.

"We called you to action and you responded beyond our dreams. Thank you very much! Now we must keep the pressure on and continue the good work for the planet. Plant another tree today in celebration!"

The enthusiasm of individuals to make a difference is underlined by figures collected by UNEP which indicate that half of all those who planted are private citizens or households planting one to three trees. Significantly, another 13 percent have been planted by the private sector, which participated actively in the initiative. Pharmaceutical company, Bayer, for example, has pledged to plant 300,000 trees across the world as a major partner in the campaign.

World Agroforestry Centre Director General, Dennis Garrity, said this milestone shows clearly that the global community has the spirit and the substance to unite in achieving ambitious targets to create a better environment for all.

The campaign was embraced in earnest by community groups, NGOs, governments and private corporations all over the world, reflecting the spirit of collaboration and positive action that is needed to address an issue as immense as environmental degradation.

Ahead of the United Nations climate change conference in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, planted the first of a planned one billion trees in his country, showing Indonesia's willingness to deal with climate change issues is coming from the highest level.

In Armenia, 535,000 trees were planted by the Armenia Tree Project as part of the campaign. Across the country, local people have become involved in propagation, planting and educational activities; reforestation projects providing alternative incomes to deforestation.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, jointly established by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization, and winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, has concluded that the global impacts of climate change are likely to be devastating, in many cases, but cost-effective solutions are available.

The loss of natural forests around the world contributes more to global emissions each year than the transport sector. Planting trees is just one solution to storing carbon and offsetting carbon dioxide emissions that are causing changes to the earth's climate. Other solutions include increased energy efficiency, reduced energy demand, better transport and the use of green energy.

The Billion Tree Campaign, inspired by a remark by Wangari Maathai, was launched at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on 8 November 2006 and looks set to continue well past the two billion tree mark.

For more information, visit the campaign website at www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign

Story by **The Communications Team**, ICRAF

"We called you to action and you responded beyond our dreams. Thank you very much! Now we must keep the pressure on and continue the good work for the planet. Plant another tree today in celebration!"

- Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate

Message from the DG

Welcome to the first edition of CIFOR News for 2008.

As we find ourselves already a quarter of the way through the year, sustainable management of the world's tropical forests is as high as ever on the international agenda. And as ever-growing demand for timber and agricultural land contends with increasing appreciation for biodiversity and environmental services, the challenges of forest management have never been more complex.

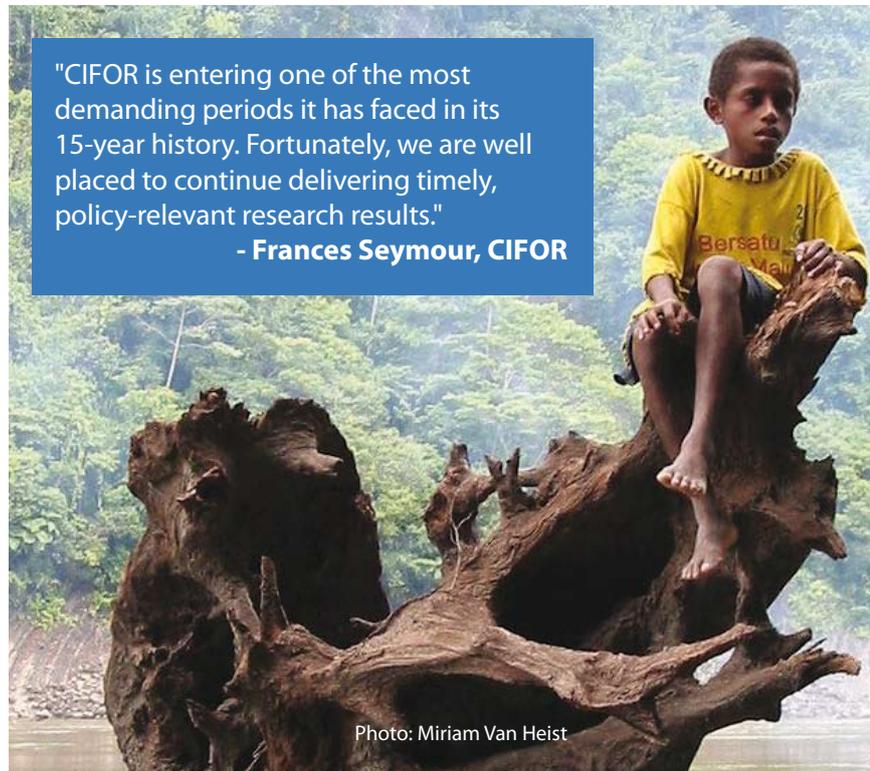
Forests are now receiving a level of international attention not seen since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, due almost entirely to the recent and intense focus on the links between deforestation and climate change.

As a result, CIFOR is entering one of the most demanding periods it has faced in its 15-year history. Fortunately, we are well placed to continue delivering the timely, policy-relevant research results that our stakeholders expect from us.

In December 2007, CIFOR's Board of Trustees endorsed a new strategy, which will ensure that we have the necessary focus and resources to meet the challenges ahead. This strategy reflects extensive consultation with staff, board members and our extended family of partners.

The new strategy builds on the vision that has guided CIFOR to become one of the world's most highly regarded forest research centers. Governance, livelihoods and environmental services will remain CIFOR's key program areas, and while the new strategy will be characterized by clear continuity with the past, it will nevertheless usher in a number of changes worth noting.

In addition to linkages already in place among CIFOR's programs, 2008 and beyond will see even greater emphasis on interdisciplinary research. To provide just one example, understanding and enhancing the role of sustainable forest management in climate protection requires research that



"CIFOR is entering one of the most demanding periods it has faced in its 15-year history. Fortunately, we are well placed to continue delivering timely, policy-relevant research results."

- Frances Seymour, CIFOR

Photo: Miriam Van Heist

addresses the intersection of biophysical, socioeconomic, and governance issues.

CIFOR's research relevant to climate change goes back many years, but it's fair to say that the last twelve months has marked a significant step up in our commitment. 2007 saw the launch of CIFOR's *Climate Change and Forests Initiative*, the release of *Do Trees Grow on Money?* – a major report examining the challenges in implementing schemes for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) – and CIFOR's hugely successful Forest Day at the UNFCCC COP 13 conference in Bali.

While our current emphasis on research related to climate change mitigation and adaptation is topical and appropriate, these are only two of six priority research domains outlined in CIFOR's new strategy. So, expect to see more cutting-edge research into forest-related trade and investment, small-scale and community-based forestry, biodiversity conservation and development, and sustainable management of production forests.

Although we are excited by the opportunities that this year presents, 2008 has begun with a tinge of sadness, as we have said good-bye to a number of long-serving and senior staff as well as several dedicated board members. But every ending is a new beginning, and I extend a warm welcome to all of the new additions to the CIFOR family. The bar has been set high, but the quality of CIFOR's incoming recruits promises to maintain the Center's consistently high level of performance and dedication.

Frances Seymour
Director General

Upcoming Events . . .

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

Hanoi, Vietnam; 21 - 26 April

Forest Day, Cameroon: Shaping the Debate on Forests and Climate Change in Central Africa

Yaoundé, Cameroon; 24 April

CIFOR Board of Trustees meeting

Bogor, Indonesia; 12 - 16 May

Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9)

Bonn, Germany; 19 - 30 May

The twenty-eighth session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 28)

Bonn, Germany; 4 - 13 June

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ISSN:1022-0992

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Printed at SUBUR Printing, Jakarta

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Welcome!



Feby Litamahuputty, a long time staff member, is now CIFOR's Board and Program Development Administrator. She has a Bachelors degree in French Literature from Pajajaran University, Indonesia.



Sharat Kumar joined CIFOR in January 2008 as Director of Human Resources. Prior to joining CIFOR, Sharat was the Director of Corporate Services with IWMI, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has a Masters Degree in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India.



Catur Wahyu Andhito was appointed to the position of Communications Assistant for the Information Services Group (ISG) on January 1, 2008. Catur has been a consultant to ISG since July 2005.



Dien Fiani Ratna Dewi was appointed to the position of Programmer for ISG on January 1, 2008. Dien has been a consultant to ISG since June 2004.



Edwin Yulianto was appointed to the position of Multimedia Web Administrator for ISG on January 1, 2008. Edwin has been a consultant to ISG since May 2006.



Rizka Taranita Razuani was appointed to the position of Communications Assistant for ISG on January 1, 2008. Rizka has been a consultant to ISG since June 2004.



Samsudin joined CIFOR on January 1, 2008, as a Guest House Assistant attached to the Finance & Administration Division.



Dr. Bruno Locatelli, a Researcher and Lecturer with CIRAD, France, joined CIFOR in February 2008 as a Seconded Scientist in the Environmental Services and Sustainable Use of Forests Programme. He will conduct research on forest ecosystem services and will be involved in the TroFCCA project.



Isnan Franseda joined CIFOR in February 2008 as a Programmer for the TroFCCA project. Isnan has a diploma in Computer Science from the Bogor Agricultural Institute.



Kumar Tumuluru joined CIFOR in March 2008 as Director of Finance and Administration. Prior to joining CIFOR, Kumar was Head of Finance and Administration with IFPRI's Africa Programme. Kumar has an MBA from Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and a B.Tech from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India.

Farewell!

Michael Hailu, Dr. Doris Capistrano, Dr. Yurdi Yasmi, Haris Iskandar, Agung Saeful Alamsyah, Kresno Dwi Santoso, Dr. Chimere Diaw, Henny Saragih, Fiona Chandler, Piia Koponen.

We thank them all for their contributions to CIFOR and wish them every success.

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Photo: Ryan Woo