



Towards a new international regime on forests
Wednesday, 5 July 2006, 10:00 – 12:00
International Environment House II, Ground floor

Major new developments have recently taken place in the international negotiations on forests. Last January, an agreement was reached on a new 10-year treaty on the international trade of tropical timber, with modified objectives and broader scope. In February, delegates to the United Nations Forest Forum took the decision to develop new working modalities and to launch negotiations on a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

Against this evolving backdrop, what are the inter-linkages between the different issues and processes? How will the Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Forum on Forests contribute to achieving the various goals, and what will be the role of each institution? Where do the synergies lie? What should the international community do to ensure the negotiations are coherent and complementary?

You are cordially invited to join us at today's roundtable to explore these issues in the presence of the secretariats' senior officials.

Agenda

- 9.30 Coffee
- 10.00 Welcome by Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional Representative for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- 10.10 Introduction by the moderator, Franz Xaver Perrez, Head, Global Affairs Section, International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment of the Swiss Confederation

Presentations by the panel members:

- Pekka Patosaari, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests, New York
 - Amha bin Buang, Assistant Director, International Tropical Timber Organization, Yokohama
 - Wulf Killmann, Director, Forest Products and Economics Division, FAO, Rome
- Presentations by the discussants:
- Christopher F.L. Prins, Chief, Timber Section, UN Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva
 - Jürgen Blaser, Intercooperation, Bern

- 11.00 Discussion with panelists and participants
- 11.50 Wrap-up by the moderator
- 12.00 End



Towards a new international regime on forests Speaker biographies

Jürgen Blaser has worked in the field of development cooperation since 1982 with Swiss Development Cooperation and Intercooperation. In 2001 and 2002 he chaired the International Tropical Timber Organisation and co-chaired the negotiations for a successor to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) within UNCTAD. From 1997 to 2001 Mr. Blaser served as Senior Forest Advisor in the World Bank's Environment Department.

Amha bin Buang is Assistant Director for Economic Information and Market Intelligence with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), based in Yokohama. He previously served with the Administrative and Diplomatic Service of Malaysia, holding posts such as Under-Secretary (Other Commodities Division) and Principal Assistant Secretary (Forestry and Timber Division) in the Ministry of Primary Industries.

Wulf Killmann has promoted technical cooperation projects on forestry and forest products issues since 1976 in countries such as Liberia, the Philippines and Pakistan. Since 1999 he has served as Director of the Forest Products and Economics Division in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome. Mr. Killman also coordinates FAO's interdepartmental work on climate change issues.

Pekka Patosaari, a forester by training, has headed the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) since October 2002. Before joining the UN, Mr. Patosaari worked at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, serving as Director in several forest policy fields, including those of international affairs and intergovernmental negotiations on forests.

Franz Xaver Perrez is Head of Section, Global Affairs in the International Division of the Federal Office for the Environment of the Swiss Confederation. He was formerly legal advisor in the WTO Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and legal counsel to the Department of Public International Law in the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs.

Christopher Prins has served with the UN Economic Commission for Europe since 1993. As Chief of the Timber Branch in the ECE Trade and Timber Division, he promoted a partnership with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe. Since the early 1990s he has also served as Secretary of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

Frits Schlingemann was appointed Regional Representative and Director of the Regional Office for Europe in Geneva in 1996, prior to which he worked as Assistant Executive Director and Director of the Division for Policy and External Relations at UNEP Headquarters. Earlier, he held various senior positions in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served as Senior Policy Adviser to the Minister for Development Cooperation on sustainable development issues.



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

International Tropical Timber Agreement

By

**Amha bin Buang
Assistant Director (Economic Information and Market Intelligence)
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
Yokohama, Japan**

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)



- International commodity agreement (ICA) under aegis of UNCTAD
- Unconventional
 - No economic provisions
 - No price stabilization measures
 - No trade measures
 - Not an administrative ICA
- Legally-binding
 - Mild obligations, penalties, sanctions
- Developmental
 - Policy development
 - diagnostic missions, studies
 - normative work
 - feview, reporting, periodic assessment
 - Project activities
 - implementation oriented
 - capacity-building
 - enabling conditions
 - Three key areas
 - promote expansion and diversification of trade
 - promote processing in producing countries
 - promote sustainable forest management
 - Sustainable development
 - ITTO Objective 2000

Evolution of ITTA



| | ITTA, 1983 | ITTA, 1994 | ITTA, 2006 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Adoption: | 18 November 1983 | 26 January 1994 | 27 January 2006 |
| Entry into force: | 1 April 1985 | 1 January 1997 | 1 February 2008 (targeted) |
| Duration: | 5 + 2 + 2 years | 4 + 3 + 3 years | 10 + 5 + 3 years |
| Extension: | 1 April 1990 – 31 Mar. 1992 1 April 1992 – 31 March 1994 21 January 1994 – 31 December 1996 | 1 January 2001 – 31 December 2003 1 January 2004 – 31 December 2006 | -- -- |
| Expiry: | 1 January 1997 | 1 January 2007 | -- |
| Membership: | 43 [19 + 1 C] + [23 P] (at expiry) | 59 [25 + 1 C] + [33 P] (current) | -- |

Salient Features



ITTA, 1983

- Scope on tropical timber
- 8 objectives
- Balance between development and environmental objectives
- Balance between policy and project and among 3 technical fields
- Special Account as Financial Mechanism

ITTA, 1994

- Scope on tropical timber except on statistics, studies, information, annual review and assessment, reporting
- 14 objectives
- Balance between development and environmental objective
- Balance between policy and projects and among 3 technical fields
- ITTO Objective 2000
- Bali Partnership Fund as additional Financial Mechanism
- Provision for non-discrimination
- Commitment on sustainable

ITTA, 2006

- **Scope on tropical timber except on statistics, studies, information, biennial review and assessment, reporting**
- **2 over-arching, 19 specific objectives**
- **Scope expanded covering topical and emerging issues (forest law enforcement, illegal logging and trade, non-timber forest products, environmental services)**
- **Innovative changes to administrative account –
Basic costs: 50:50
Core operational costs: 20:80
Overall: 42.5: 57.5**
- **Thematic programme sub-account of Special Account (for unearmarked funds) as additional Forest Mechanism**
- **Committee on Economic, Statistics and Markets**
- **Biennial Review and Assessment of World Timber Situation**
- **Longer duration (10 + 5 + 3)**

Some Consideration of ITTA's Future



- ITTA's niche on tropical timber and forests remains highly relevant
- ITTA likely to remain the only legally binding instrument on forests
- ITTA, 2006 provides platform for enhanced capacity and capability to meet future challenges;
 - expanded scope covers priority and emerging issues
 - broadened base for funding
 - duration provides for stability and continuity
 - provisions for greater efficiency and effectiveness of operations
- While pursuing own objectives and mandate, ITTA is well placed to:
 - fit in to existing and future arrangement/regime on forests
 - cooperate, collaborate and become partner in such arrangement/regime specialising in trade and sustainable forest management of tropical forests



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

Thank you

www.itto.or.jp

Mr. Pekka Patosaari

Director

**United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

The outcome of the Sixth Session of the UN Forum on Forests and the draft ECOSOC resolution

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the recent landmark development in the international forest policy process. Three months ago, the sixth session of the UN Forum on Forests successfully completed the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, and adopted a draft ECOSOC resolution. The draft resolution contains a package of measures to greatly strengthen the international arrangement on forests, providing clear guidance on how to continue the work for the advancement of sustainable forest management worldwide, and setting up a new timeframe until the year 2015. This draft resolution reaffirms ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35, which established the UN Forum on Forests as a high-level UN body focusing on the issues of international forest policy.

The draft resolution expanded the scope (i.e., principal functions) of the international arrangement on forests to:

- Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals;
- Encourage and assist countries to implement forest conservation strategies and increase the area of forests under SFM; and
- Strengthen interaction between the Forum and regional and sub-regional organizations and major groups.

Four Global Objectives on Forests agreed upon

In order to advance sustainable forest management, curb deforestation and enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of international development goals, the UN Forum on Forests agreed on four shared Global Objectives on Forests.

The Four Global Objectives seek to:

- Reverse the loss of forest cover and prevent forest degradation worldwide;
- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

- Increase significantly the area of protected and other sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and
- Reverse the decline in official development assistance and significantly increase new and additional financial resources from all sources for SFM.

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests agreed upon

The member States of the UN Forum on Forests also agreed to develop and adopt a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of the Forum in April next year. This decision is regarded as one of the biggest leaps forward in the international forest community since the “Forest Principles” were adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Such an instrument is expected to mobilize more political commitment; generate more actions at global, regional and national levels; and enhance cooperation and coordination from all sides.

Strong commitment to forest law enforcement and governance reaffirmed

To support a stronger international forest regime, the member States of the UN Forum on Forests also reaffirmed their strong commitment to forest law enforcement and governance. At the sixth session of the Forum, countries were urged to develop and implement plans to address illegal practices and illegal international trade in forest products, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance. Issues of land tenure schemes and their relationship to sustainable forest management, as well as forest governance at the local level, will be important aspects to help achieve this goal. At the same time, building closer partnerships between regional processes, among others, will be critical to ensuring a complete and coherent international approach to the issue. The mandate provided by the sixth session will undoubtedly make illegal practices and illegal international trade in forest products an important topic in the future deliberations of the Forum, featuring prominently within its new Multi-Year Program of Work to be adopted at its next session in 2007.

Guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue, with enhanced collaboration

The UN Forum on Forests also continues to provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. It calls for improving enhanced collaboration and policy and programme coordination and to further developing partnerships with the multi-lateral environmental agreements, instruments and United Nations bodies. The CPF members should work actively to harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, and in this way, to reduce the reporting burden on countries.



FAO and International Forestry

Wulf Killmann

*Director, Forest Products Division
Forestry Department*

Roundtable on forests, 5 July 2006, Geneva

A graphic element in the bottom right corner showing a stylized landscape with green hills and a yellow sky. The word 'Forestry' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline, positioned over the hills.

Forestry



FAO Forestry Mission

Enhance human well-being by
helping member countries
implement sustainable management of
all forests and trees



Forestry



FAO Mandate

- **Data and Information**
- **Concepts and Definitions**
- **Policy Advice**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Neutral Forum**

A graphic of a forest with green trees and a yellow sun or light source behind them, positioned above the word 'Forestry'.

Forestry



Programme Priorities

**Policy and
institutional
strengthening**

Information

**Conservation,
management,
sustainable
utilization**

**International
processes**

Forestry



Key Outputs – Work Areas



- Forest Resources Assessment 2005
- Forest Products Yearbook
- Forest Sector Outlook studies
- Forest Codes: Planted Forests; Fire Management, Harvesting
- Best practices: Law enforcement

Forestry



...Key Outputs – Work Areas

- Non-wood forest products as source of food
- Training on climate change - CDM in forestry
- Country information on web
- Forests economics and finance
- National Forest Programmes





Support to international agreements

- Rio Conventions on
 - biodiversity, climate change and desertification
- ITTA/ITTO
- UNFF
- Regional: ACT, CCAD, COMIFAC, MCPFE
- Millennium Development Goals

Forestry

Collaborative Partnership on Forests



UNFCCC



World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



Venue

- For development and discussion on



- **Policy and Practices**





Global

- Ministerial Meeting on Forests
- Committee on Forestry
- World Forestry Congress
- CPF

Regional

- Regional Forestry Commissions

Technical Statutory Bodies

- paper & wood products; poplars

National

- National forest programmes



Forestry



From Dialogue to Practice

Venue for dialogue



Support to other processes

CPF

Forestry



Thank You!

Forestry



Forest dialogue at the regional level: Europe

Kit Prins
UNECE/FAO Timber Section



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Structure of the presentation

- Characteristics of the European forest sector
- Main regional policy issues
- Institutional architecture in Europe
- Conclusions



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The European forest sector

- Stable and relatively prosperous region
- Wide range of forest types, climatic conditions, management objectives
- Largest exporting region in the world, strong wood industries
- About half forests privately owned
- Society's priorities are biodiversity and recreation
- Weak economic viability of forest management



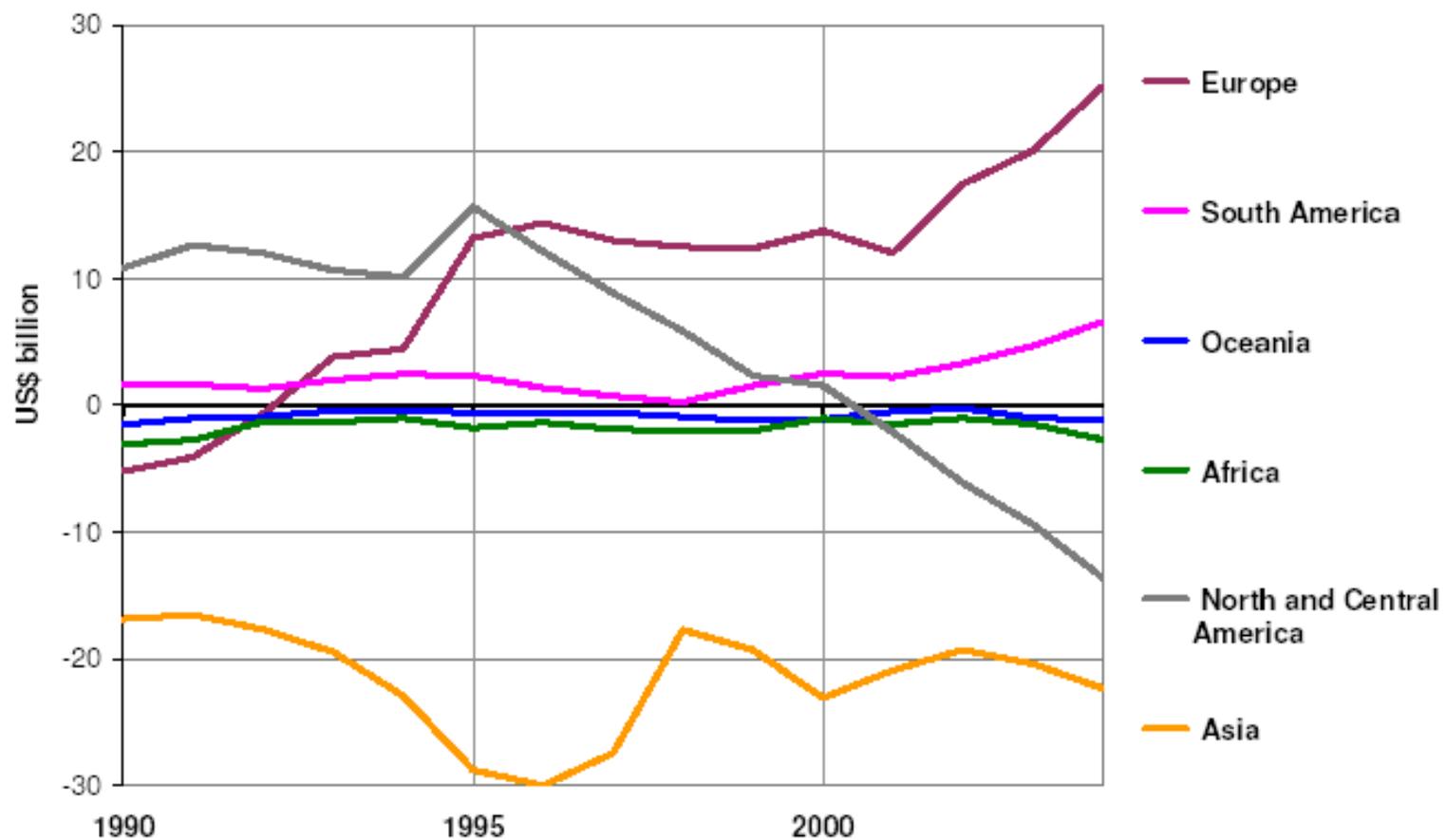
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Figure 4 – Net regional trade in forest products



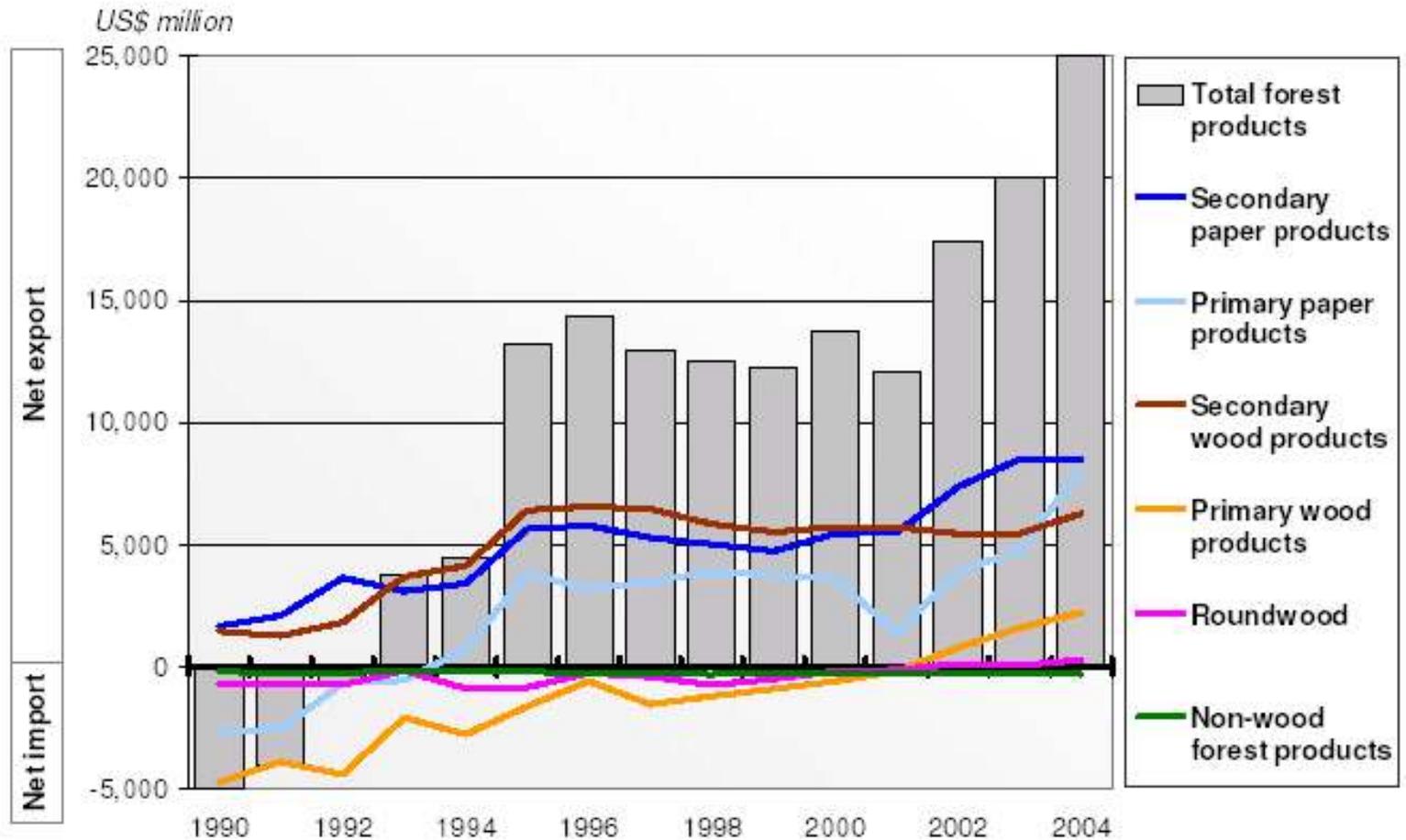
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Figure 6: Trends in net trade of forest products in Europe (at current prices)



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Some major issues

- Wood, biomass, energy
- Water and forests, including payment for ecosystem services
- Mitigation and adaptation of climate change
- Forest law enforcement and governance (FLEGT, certification, public procurement)





Institutions in Europe



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UNECE/FAO

- Partnership between UN regional commission and FAO regional forestry structure: joint programme, secretariat, publications, etc.
- Main outputs:
 - Information, e.g. forest resource assessment
 - Analysis e.g. market review
 - Sector outlook studies
 - Policy forum





Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

- Conferences about every 5 years set policy direction: commitments by ministers
- Work plan, often implemented by partners (e.g. UNECE/FAO)
- Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management



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European Union

- Forestry Action Plan (new)
- No specific forest policy, but actions, with funding, under agriculture, rural development, environment etc,



Conclusions

- Partnerships with differing mandates: but all devoted to sustainable forest management
- Good inter-organisation cooperation
- Mostly non-legally binding (except EU directives), based on voluntary cooperation
- Increasing interaction with non-forest structures at regional and global level
- Complex system, but it seems to work
- Able to transmit messages to global level (through FAO COFO and UNFF)





Thank you for your attention



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**Introduction
by the discussant:
Some facts on forests**

Juergen Blaser
jblaser@intercooperation.ch
Genève, 5 July 2006

Land and Forests 2005

North



1,900 m h
22%



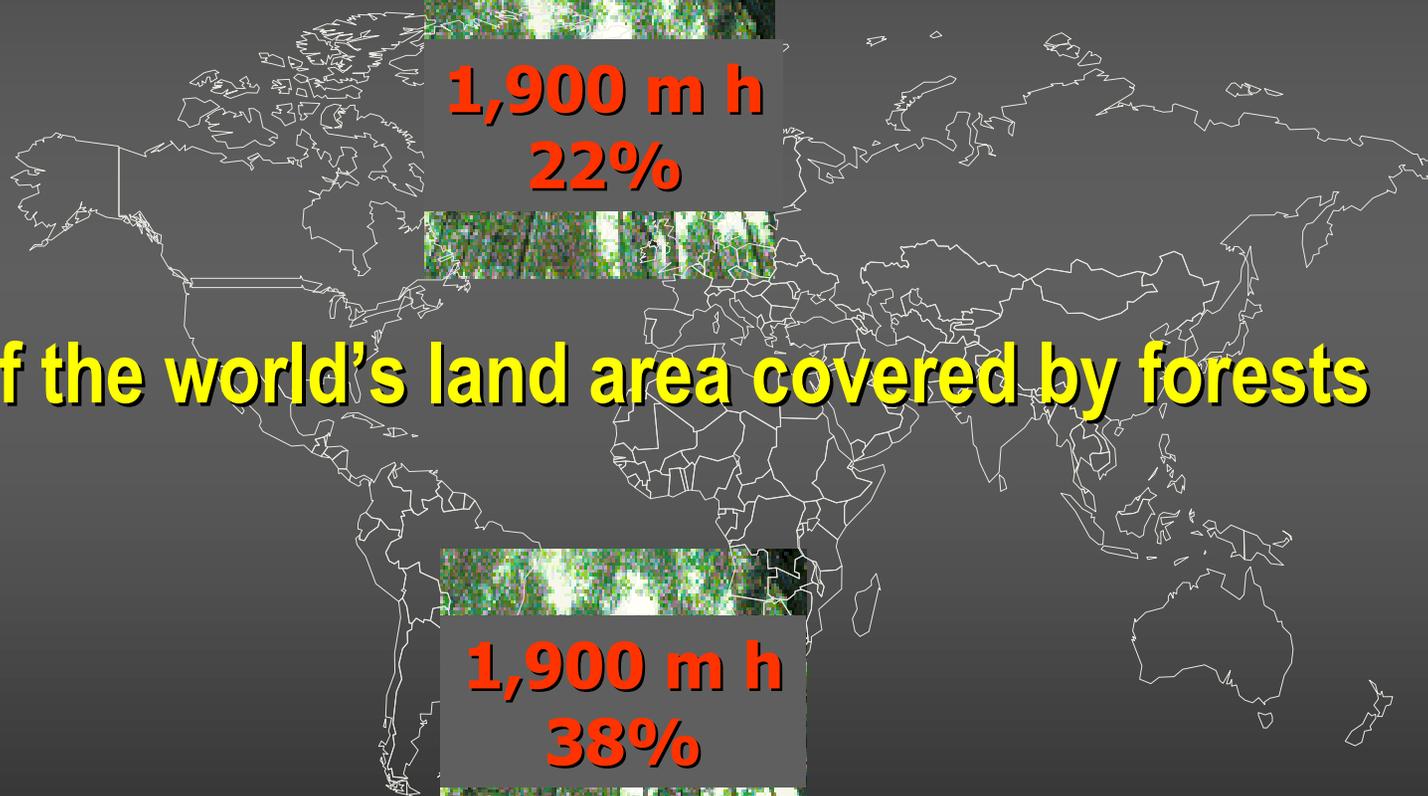
30% of the world's land area covered by forests



1,900 m h
38%



South



Why should we conserve and manage forests?



1,800 m people (1,300 in the tropics) make part of their subsistence out of forests and trees

500 million people directly depend on forest resources for their livelihoods

50 million people (in particular indigenous communities) live within forested areas

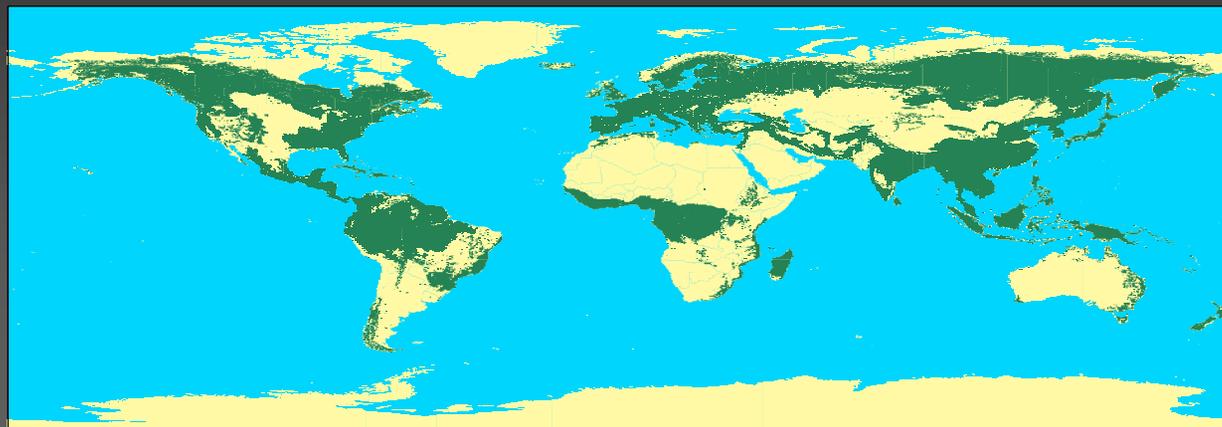
Forest production, in particular timber production values up to \$ 250 billion US\$ annually, which corresponds to 2% of the world's total production value

2/3 of all terrestrial species of fauna and flora live in forests

Forests (biomass and soil) stock between 430-540 Pg of carbon

→ Social, economic and ecological values

Human-induced deforestation: a developmental factor



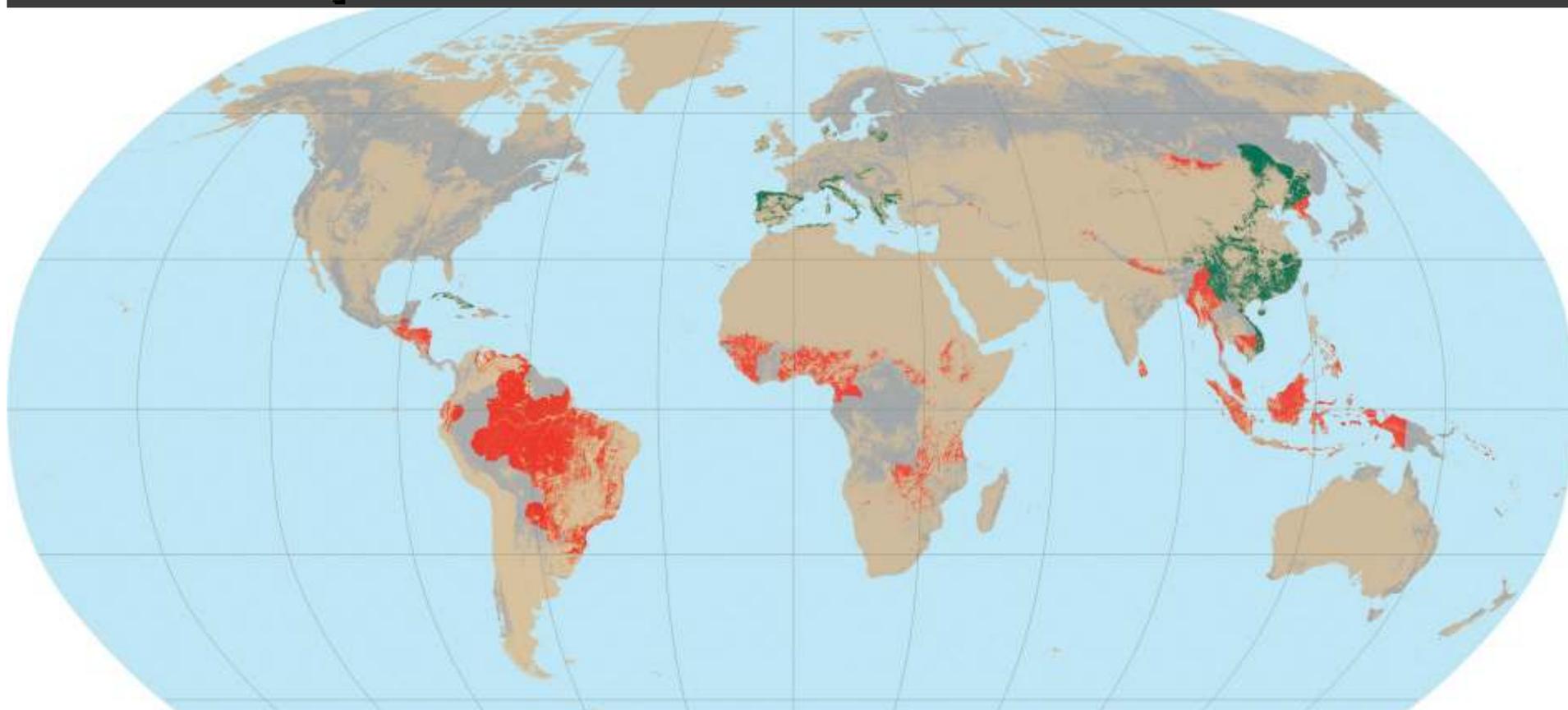
■ Frontier forests, 8000 years ago



Economic and social development is – to a great extent - based on deforestation!

■ Frontier forests, year 2000

Dynamic in forested areas 2000-2005: hotspots of deforestation and forestation



Deforestation in the south, while forests increase in the north.



Source: FAO, 2006

Forests and Development: Creation of agricultural land to feed people

Who can be against that?

⇒ Not all deforestation is undesirable:

- Social and economic pressures make it inevitable that substantial areas of what is still natural forest today will be converted to agriculture and other uses

⇒ However, deforestation should be discouraged when:

- it is not efficient from an economic viewpoint;
- it is non-sustainable – in other words, it is a threat to environmental stability; and
- it leads to social inequities and conflicts.

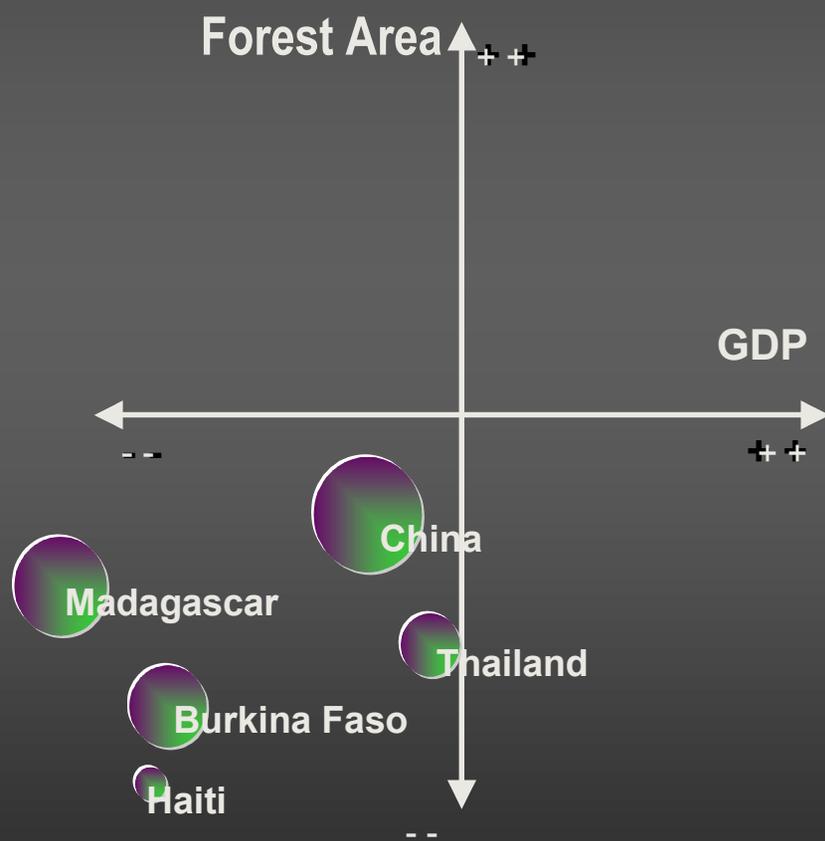


Varying perceptions - Forest rich/low GDP situations



- Forests often seen as cheap development capital or as a physical barrier to development
- High level of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Main Issues:
 - ❑ deforestation impacting both, national economies as well as local standards of welfare
 - ❑ extent of biodiversity loss takes global significance
 - ❑ forest dwelling populations often excluded from decision making and resource use rights.

Varying perceptions - Forest poor/low GDP situations



- Forests serve very basic needs such as land reserve, fuelwood, fodder.
- Remaining forest cover is important for retention of soil, water and biodiversity values.

Main Issues:

- critical role of ecological factors in terms of impact upon human well-being and survival
- important relationship between forests and land productivity
- often lack of institutional capacities and mechanisms to engage local populations effectively

There is no global program on conserving and managing forests, but

- ⇒ MDGs (Goals 1 and 7)
- ⇒ UNFF 2006 resolution
 - 4 Global objectives
- ⇒ New ITT-Agreement 2006
- ⇒ ITTO, FAO policies & project work
- ⇒ CIFOR's programmatic work
- ⇒ UNFCCC – CDM Forests, Avoided deforestation, CC Adaptation
- ⇒ CPF as a joint force
- ⇒ CBD Forest WG
- ⇒ GEF (forests?)
- ⇒ Multi-institutional approaches (GFLR, RRI...)
- ⇒ (Multi)national NGOs, Private sector, media, ...



→ A lot of leverage on the stage

Fundamental Transitions Underway

- ⇒ **Changes in forest ownership**
(from state to community owned)
- ⇒ **Changing demand and supply**
(increased demand in DC, increased supply of plantation wood)
- ⇒ **Growing value of forest ecosystem services** (carbon, water, biodiversity)
- ⇒ **Changes in forest policy**
(decentralization, new values considered: Governance, thinking beyond trees)



→ **Challenges, and opportunities for conservation, improvement in livelihoods and economic development**

Remarks on the presentations by the discussant

⇒ ITTO

- Legally binding agreement, embedded in GFR, focused (trop. for.), balanced (economic/environmental), dynamic, links policy work and development
- Lack of commitment by members

⇒ UNFF

- Follow-up process of Forest Principles, towards a «soft forest convention»?
- Strengthening the institutional structure to support a global forest regime: Pillar/umbrella for global SFM – but national forest policies? CPF GB obj.?
- Participation, tools, instruments, convening power enough to achieve the objectives (including linking forests to development goals)?

⇒ FAO

- Technical leader in forestry, support to IR; role not always recognized
- Forest Resource Assessment: responsibility, credibility (?) → funding
- CPF coordination as the greatest challenge (institutions *versus* policy)

- Many players, difficult (but existing) coordination
- No « real » global forest regime – forests remain a national good
- UNFF/CPF institutions vs. countries: « Politicization » of forestry