



Forest Lands: More than Just Trees

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Many developing countries face a dilemma

- Must forest lands be cleared for higher incomes
- Must forests be cut to ensure food security?
- Do forest conservation and food security present a zero-sum trade-off?



Deforestation and forest degradation rates remain high

- Significant decline in global *net* rate of deforestation
- Net decline largely due to expansion of planted forests
- Increased pressures on forests for production of more food
- Considerable regional variation in rates and drivers





The reality: Forest resources are essential to the daily livelihoods of a billion people



Forests and Livelihoods



- **CIFOR's Poverty and Environment Network (PEN) is the largest study of forests and rural incomes to date**
- **Forest income contributes >20% of total household income for people living in or near forests**
- **With other "environmental" income, >25%; more than from planted crops**





Within that global picture are many other stories

- Sissili Province, Burkina Faso, typical of dry W Africa
- Women have few sources of direct income
- In two case study villages, women derive 53% and 46% of their income respectively (in the third only 12%) from forest products





Why are forest contributions not valued?

- Existing tools for assessing poverty and income – do not capture their importance
- Much of the activity falls between sectors and is thus “illegible”
- Many forest people and their livelihoods are “invisible”





Forests need to be valued:

They are a nutritional bounty

- The importance of forest products becomes clear if food security defined as more than calories
- Studies show a positive correlation between % forest cover and dietary diversity
- Vitamin A & iron among the important micro-nutrients supplied by forest products.



Forests, nutrition, and deforestation



- 5 million to 6 million tons of bushmeat eaten annually in the Congo Basin
- This is roughly equal to the total amount of beef produced each year in Brazil
- For many communities up to 80% of their intake of protein and fats.



But the direct contributions of forests are eclipsed by their services to agriculture

- Water filtration and regulation
- Pollination services
- Temperature regulation
- Aquatic resources
- Temperature regulation
- Genetic resource





What can we do to address food and income security while protecting forests?



No “silver bullet”

- Agricultural intensification on land already under cultivation is essential.
- Sustainable increases in productivity require improved practices, services, and infrastructure, and sustained funding for research
- But increases in crop yields alone will not protect forests
- A “landscape approach” is particularly promising



Good forest governance is a key

- Investments in agriculture must be coupled with improvements in forest use and governance.
- Decisions to convert forests must include the interests of people who depend on them
- Decisions must into account the environmental services that forests provide to the agriculture and society at large.

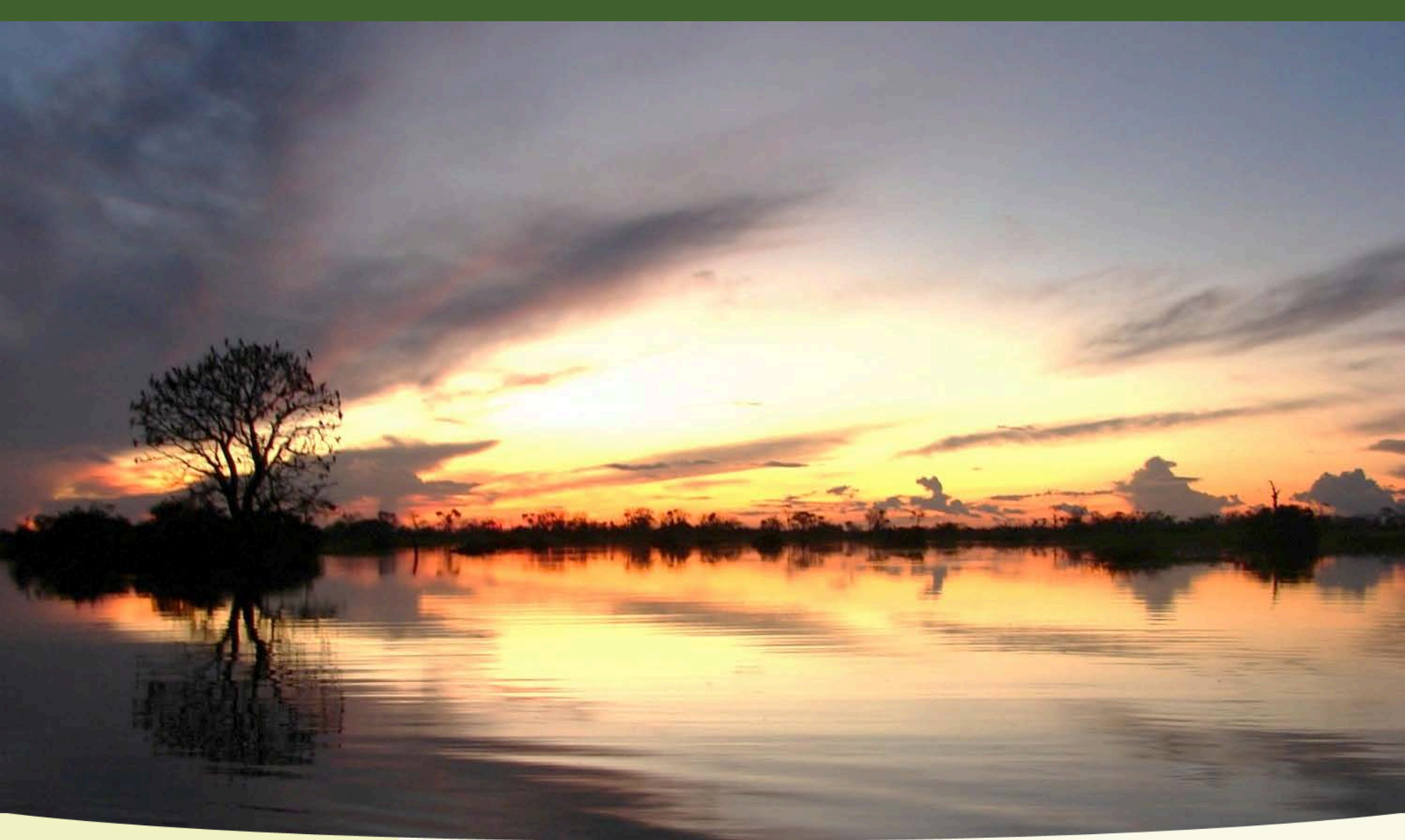




Forest lands are more than trees -- and more than lands

Keeping forests as forests
within the context of functional landscapes
will be the best way to maintain the services they provide
including both direct and indirect contributions to food security.





Thinking beyond the canopy

Center for International Forestry Research



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