

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
FOREST VALUATION & INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS
FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF
TROPICAL FORESTS**

*March 20-21, 2002
Golden Tulip Bel Air
The Hague, Netherlands*

1. INTRODUCTION

For many years the tropical forest ecosystem has been subject of debate at all levels of society, ranging from environmental NGOs, scientists and policy makers, to high level international Conventions and Agreements. Global warming, depletion of natural resources, violation of indigenous peoples' rights, biodiversity loss and soil degradation are major concerns affecting tropical forests. Voices have been raised to protect tropical forests because of their great value for mankind including their potential to contribute to poverty alleviation. But what exactly is this value of tropical forests? Tropical forests sustain a wealth of biodiversity, provide a wide range of ecosystems, services and products, and support livelihoods for millions of people. But if these biological, economic and social values are acknowledged why are forests continuously being depleted? To what extent have appropriate valuation and market mechanisms been developed and implemented? Could they help to revert destructive practices?

Tropenbos International (TBI) is organising a two-day seminar to discuss forest values, and to support the development and implementation of appropriate financing mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests. During this seminar a bridge between policy, management and research will be constructed through debate. Science will state facts, interpretation by the different societal players will differ and current concepts might be challenged. The seminar is organised in the time leading up to CoP 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (www.biodiv.org) which will also be held in The Hague. Forests are one of the major themes of CoP 6.

2. THE PROGRAMME

2.1 Day I (March 20, 2002): The value of tropical (rain) forests

During the first day of the seminar five themes related to forest valuation will be presented. Two scientists will introduce a theme by posing challenging statements supported by scientific evidence. After each statement participants in the discussion forum will be invited to respond.

This forum will consist of politicians, policy makers, forest managers, scientists, and NGO's. Mr. Victor Deconinck will moderate these discussions and stimulate the debate. Prof. Dr. K.J. Beek, President of Tropenbos International, will act as the day's chairman. The day starts at 9:30 (registration opens at 8:00).

Opening

Prof. Dr. K.J. Beek – President Tropenbos International
Opening by a high representative of the Dutch government

Keynote

- Using Forests to Help Solve Global Problems: What Economic Valuation Won't Tell Us
David Kaimowitz
(Centre for International Forest Research)

Theme 1: Rainforests are not forever

- History of the rainforest ecosystem on geological, Quaternary and Human time scales. Are rainforests not for ever?
Henry Hooghiemstra
(University of Amsterdam)
- The role of anthropological processes in the dynamics in space, time and composition of tropical forests
James Fairhead
(University of Sussex)

Theme 2: Tropical forests biodiversity is crucial for the survival of mankind

- The role of tropical forests, as major source of biological diversity
Brian Boom
(Centre for Environmental Research and Conservation, Columbia University)

Theme 3: Tropical forests play an important role in climate regulation

- Amazonian Tropical Forests: Carbon Source or Sink?
Carlos Nobre
(INPE/LBA)
- Tropical forests have a major role in the prevention of natural disasters acting as buffer for water quantity and quality
Ian Calder
(University of Newcastle)

Theme 4: Tropical forests and poverty alleviation

- The role of tropical forests in poverty alleviation
Roger Sedjo
(Resources for the Future)
- People and forests
Paul Richards
(Wageningen University)

Theme 5: Tropical forests are priceless

- The economic valuation and capture of forest values
Camille Bann
(University College London)

Workshop

2.2 Day II (March 21, 2002): Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation

Following the first day, where the values of tropical forests are discussed, the focus of day 2 is on innovative financing mechanisms which are in place or in development to pay for these identified values. Five cases are presented followed by an overview paper including current activities and research needs, also based on the FAO web discussion. The themes for research will be further explored in group discussions. During this open-space discussion, participants can change discussion groups.

Jochen Heuveldop (chair EFRN) and Erik Lammerts van Bueren (director TBI) will chair the meeting.

- Conservation concessions: a new approach to ecosystem.
Dick Rice
(Conservation International)
- Silver bullets or fools' gold? A global review of markets for forest products
Natasha Landell
(IIED)
- Environmental shares in support of sustainable forest management in Colombia
Carmenza Robledo
(EMPA)
- Innovative financing in Africa
Adrian Whiteman
(FAO)
- Valuation of hydrological services provided by forest in Costa Rica
Olman Segura (CINPA)

Key note

- Overview of financing mechanisms
Pita Verweij
(Utrecht University)

Open space discussion & presentations discussion results

Themes:

- Role of International financing institutions
- Promoting market mechanisms
- Financing hydrological services
- Financing carbon sequestration
- Financing biodiversity conservation
- Financing sustainable livelihoods from forests

