



Implications of the SDGs for Forests

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- Implications of the SDGs for forests
- Findings in “Forests under pressure: local responses to global issues” (IUFRO–WFSE) relevant to the SDGs
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Contribution forests can make to the SDGs

- Leading up to the SDGs: Many articles were published that highlight the actual and potential role of forests in achieving the SDGs
- Targets were suggested to track variables relating to contributions forests and trees can make to the SDGs:
 - Income, jobs, tenure, food security, status of forest resources, biodiversity, water, energy, etc.

African cases: Encouraging results in different contexts, generating an array of benefits

- On-farm agroforestry for wood and non-timber products to natural forest management and control of invasive species
- Benefits included:
 - Enhanced livelihoods, income generation, employment opportunities
 - Funds for community development, for example, education & infrastructure
 - Biophysical: forest conservation, rehabilitation of deforested areas and degraded lands & enhancement of ecosystem services
- Results indicate viability of smallholder and community-based forestry and agroforestry in diverse contexts

Community-based and household forestry and agroforestry and the upcoming SDGs

- The cases illustrate that C-B forestry can make meaningful contributions to several SDGs
- Examples
- Poverty alleviation, food security & employment: SDG 1, 2 & 8
- By generating income, improve health care and educational opportunities: SDG 3 & 4
- Foster social inclusion and gender equality: SDG 5 & 16
- Produce sustainable energy: SDG 7
- Mitigate climate change: SDG 13

Less attention has been placed on the implications of the SDGs for forests

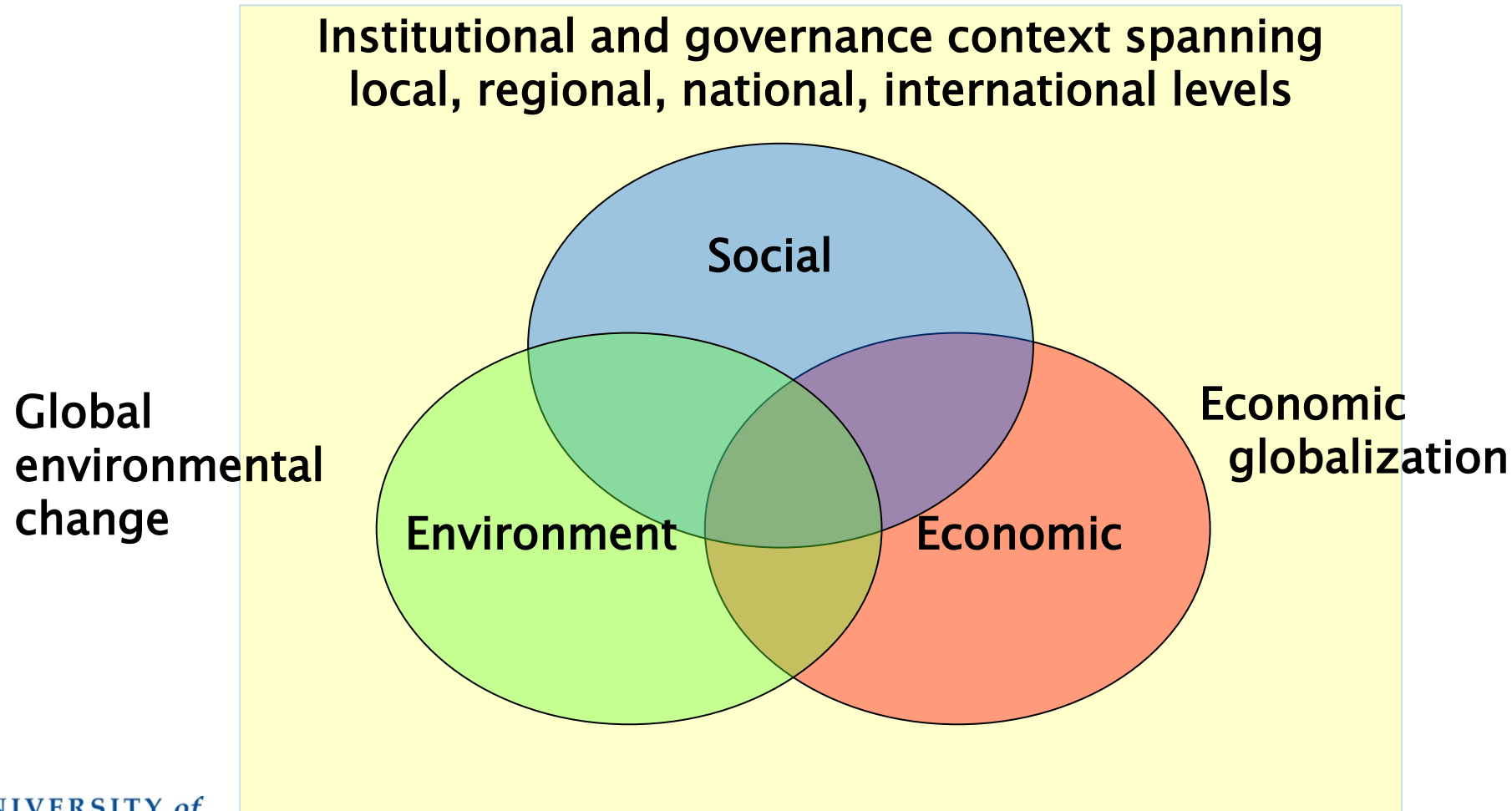
THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



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Three dimensions of sustainability



Primary reference to forests in the SDGs is Goal 15: Life on land



- Forest protection and restoration: Vital contributions of forests to biodiversity, food, fuel, water, carbon and soil conservation
- Specific reference to SFM: Contributions to livelihoods while generating the services referred to above
- Forests are also mentioned in the goal relating to water

Overall, references to forests are rather limited in the Agenda for SD – missed opportunity according to Palm (2015)

Here we are exploring the implications of the SDGs for forests

- The SDGs stress both forest protection and sustainable use
- So, I will explore the implications of the SDGs for both strict forest protection and for SFM (integrates sustainable use and conservation)



Assumption: SDGs are implemented in an effective fashion – progress towards goals is attained



Goal 1: End poverty

- Would often imply more emphasis on SFM and less on strict protection
- For example, attention to developing forest-based activities to generate income and employment, but
- Could also result in efforts to create employment and incomes in other sectors that could can undermine SFM and increase pressure on forests



Tomaselli & Kozak



Goal 2: End hunger (food security, nutrition and sustainability)

- Could favor forest protection and use rights to ensure sustainable access to food originating in forests – safety net in some countries
- Or in other cases, land use change to convert productive land under forests into agricultural production
- Combination, land use planning – multifunctional landscapes leading to a mosaic of different uses



Goal 4: Quality education (equitable & lifelong learning)

- Education and capacity building is essential for SFM, but
- May lead to greater public concern for deforestation and loss of ecosystem services
- Favoring public support for forest protection at the expense of management and use of forests



Goal 6: Water and sanitation for all (availability and sustainable management)

- Would generally favor forest protection in water catchment areas and in riparian zones, reducing forest areas for production



Goal 7: Affordable and sustainable energy (reliable & modern)

- Could lead to pressure to convert forests to renewable energy plantations
- Or, lead to greater area in tree plantations for energy production

Area of great concern in many countries around the world, surprisingly no reference to forests





Goal 10: Reduce inequality

- Many rural inhabitants would gain tenure and/or use rights to forests
 - Perhaps leading to less strict protection and more sustainable management of forests
 - Perhaps more deforestation if lawful owners can convert their forest land to agriculture
- Finally, if this means raising incomes of the poorest, could imply less pressure on forests due to decreasing dependence on them for livelihoods and e.g. energy



Goal 13: Climate action

- Would result in the protection of greater areas of forest for mitigation
 - Could undermine local benefits stemming from SFM, depending on tenure of carbon rights
 - Could increase forest area through reforestation

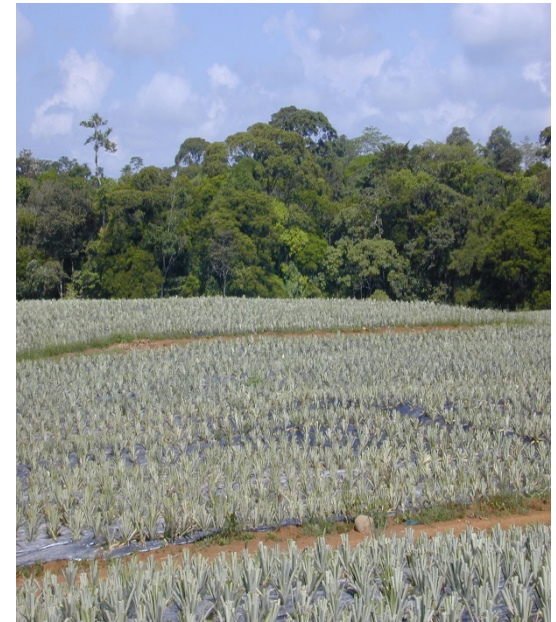


Goal 15: Take care of the Earth

- Increased forest areas under protection and other forests subjected to sustainable management

Implication: Potential synergies and trade-offs

- Effective implementation of the SDGs will lead to variable impacts on forests and their use



“Forests under pressure: local responses to global issues”

- Our last book (IUFRO–WFSE), applied common analytical framework across 28 case studies from around the world
- Posed questions related to important conditions for local, forest-based development – many are considered essential in the Agenda for SD



Relevant findings

- *Global discourses often do have an impact* (although the magnitude varies) on shaping certain processes occurring locally – significant for the SDGs
- But, outcomes depend on the *interaction of a number of conditions in specific, local contexts*
- Positive outcomes appear to be favored by the *synergies and alignment among different conditions*

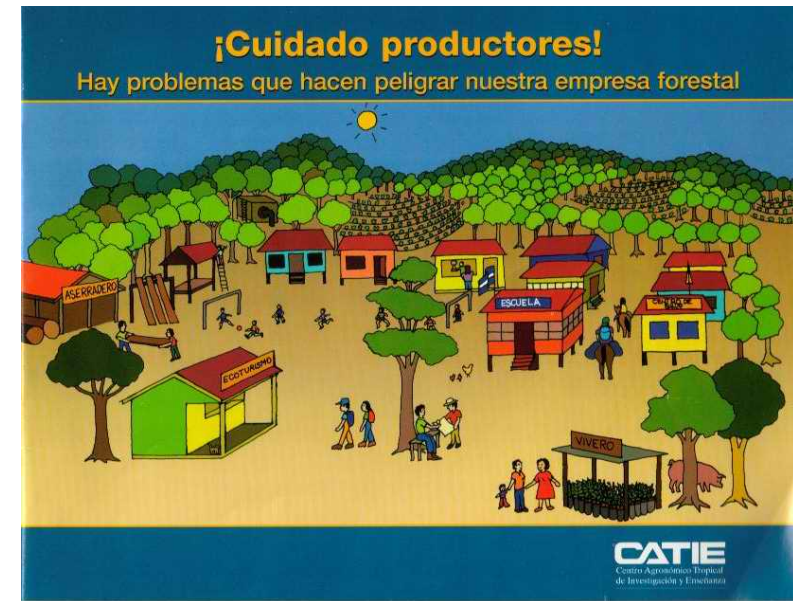
Implications for the SDGs

- Attainment of the SDGs will often involve focusing attention and efforts to create *an “enabling environment”* found to be necessary for SFM
- Therefore, efforts to progress towards SFM, also rooted in the framework of sustainability, *offer many important lessons for progressing in the attainment of the SDGs*
- Indeed, few, if any, other fields have focused on processes of sustainable development in such a holistic, interdisciplinary way

Important findings relating to two other SDGs

Goal 16: Live in Peace (peaceful & inclusive societies, justice, effective, accountable institutions)

- Progress towards SFM requires an adequate degree of security and what is termed “good governance” – common obstacles and challenges associated with this goal



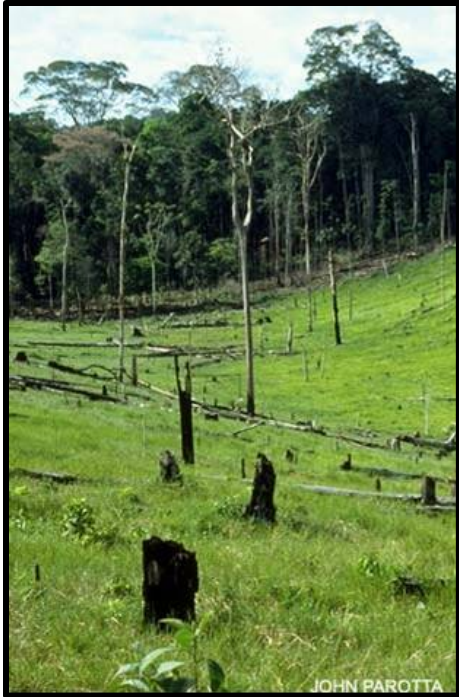


Goal 17: Mechanisms and partnerships to reach the SDGs

- Recognizes that development paradigms have evolved and continue to change: government to governance institutions, multi-stakeholder processes, greater involvement of the private sector
- Public-private partnerships (and others) are being initiated *at every scale*: More emphasis on business development
- The *reference here to scale* is important

SFM offers important lessons for the attainment of the SDGs

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development

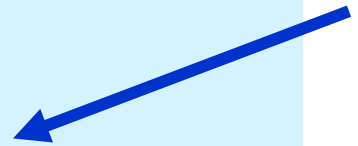


16 PEACE AND JUSTICE



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The icon for SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, consists of five interlocking circles arranged in a circular pattern.



The future?

Population growth

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE

Climate change



Will these pressures lead to more conflicts?

A word of hope

IUFRO World Forests, Society and Environment

- IUFRO WFSE: invaluable initiative since it focuses research on society's efforts to conserve and manage forest resources in diverse contexts around the world
- In other words, on interdisciplinary, multiscale and multi-stakeholder processes that characterize the complex, evolving challenges of sustainable development

Conclusions

- Forests can and do make important contributions to the attainment of the SDGs
- Effective implementation of the SDGs will have variable impacts on forests – multifunctional landscapes
- Research on SFM offers important lessons for present & future efforts to attain the SDGs. As the Agenda for SD indicates, the goals are interconnected, leading to interactions: synergies & trade-offs



Thank you



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