

What future for concessions in the sustainable management of tropical forests?

Experiences from the Amazon Basin, the Congo Basin and South East Asia

Monday 7th September 2015, 19:45-21:00 – Hall 3BC

Background and purpose

Management of tropical forest in concessions has been the tenure approach that has dominated since the start of tropical forest management. Recently, in 2007, Brazil introduced a concession system for the management of public forests for timber production. The forest concession model became the central element for sustaining the forest sector's contribution to national economic development, especially in the form of jobs, taxes and rural development. The success of this model of sustainable forest management, however, has been under debate: (1) its contribution to increase the living standards of the local population is often considered insufficient; (2) it does not always ensure the long term sustainability of some tree species or certain forest types. In addition, the large-scale forest concession model faces competition not only from other management systems (e.g. smallholder forest management) but especially from other uses of forest land uses, such as clearing for plantations, mining or family farming that offer attractive financial returns.

After all these years of forestry in concessions, this event proposes to evaluate the future prospects of concession-based forestry, firstly based on an analysis of specific challenges the forest concession forestry now faces in the three major tropical forest regions (Amazon Basin, Congo Basin and South East Asia) and, secondly by comparing the design and implementation of forest concessions in these three regions.

Session plan

The proposed content for the event is:

- Issues and challenges of the concession system for the sustainable management of tropical forests: the end of a single system to manage forest areas? Are concessions the solution or the problem?
- What future for forest concessions in the tropics?

Concessions have been the model widely applied in tropical forests, but it faces new challenges that call for new alternative model for the sustainable management of forest areas.

- Social sustainability: concessions and rural poverty (and local government)
- Environmental sustainability: forest management plans do not necessarily secure the sustainability of some species and forest types
- Forest concessions including uses other than commercial forestry? The Brazilian model

- Forest concessions in interaction with other land use systems within landscapes for sustainable development?
The Indonesian model

TIME	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
19:45 – 19:50	Opening remarks	<i>Plinio Sist (moderator)</i>
19:50 – 20:30	Experiences, issues and challenges of forest concession systems in tropical countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indonesia – Congo Basin – Peru 	<i>Speaker from SE Asia (tbi)</i> <i>Guillaume Lescuyer</i> <i>Gustavo Suárez de Freitas</i>
20:30 – 20:55	Discussion panel - Questions to/from the audience	Facilitator: <i>Robert Nasi</i> Panelists: <i>Joberto Veloso de Freitas</i> <i>Steve Johnson</i> <i>Roberto Waack</i>
20:55 – 21:00	Closing remarks	<i>Plinio Sist</i>