

Call for Papers
Environmental Conservation Thematic Issue on
Forest Ecosystem Services

Forests are under increasing pressure from globalization, population growth and rapid urbanization. To manage the diverse values from shrinking natural forests, the creation and adoption of institutions and instruments to manage competing values will be of particular importance. There is growing evidence that market based approaches may be particularly effective at incentivising practices that ensure forests are managed to deliver highest and best values to stakeholders. However, there are also weaknesses in market based approaches, the full extent of which is not well understood.

Environmental Conservation is calling for papers from around the globe which highlight the state of the practice on forest ecosystem services. The aim of this thematic issue will be to expand practical and theoretical understanding of the development of forest ecosystem service arrangements. This issue will target scholars, policy makers, practitioners, industry and NGOs involved in forestry, conservation, and, given the social dimension of forest ecosystem services, development. Priority will be given to empirical and conceptual papers that are interdisciplinary in nature and that draw on real experiences in the development of forest ecosystem services and other related market based approaches to conservation.

Potential topics include:

- What is the state of the art in the design of payment for forest ecosystem services arrangements?
- What rules and institutions are optimal in the development of forest ecosystem service programs such as REDD+, to support local forest values and local livelihoods?
- How does land and forest tenure security affect the development of forest ecosystem services, and what kinds of institutional and governance changes are necessary to support principles of equity, efficiency and effectiveness?
- How are forest ecosystem services supported within international and domestic legal systems, and where not supported, is this important?
- What has been the experience and effect on forests between voluntary and regulatory programs, such as the development of carbon markets?
- How are forest ecosystem service arrangements integrated with other market-based approaches such as water markets?
- What complementary market and non-market programmes can be developed to enhance more robust outcomes from forest ecosystem service arrangements, including bundling of services, eco-tourism and social learning activities?
- What are the different cultural perspectives on more market-based approaches to forest ecosystem services and how can institutional arrangements bridge any divide to promote these programmes?

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Submission Guidelines: only original and unpublished high-quality papers are considered and manuscripts must be in English. Submitted papers have to (1) follow the Instructions for Contributors (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/envcon>), (2) be submitted via the journal web submission route (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/envcon>) and (3) in the cover letter indicate that the submission is for the “Forest Ecosystem Services” theme. Papers not fulfilling these conditions or submitted late, or insufficient in number for a substantial theme, may be published by the journal as regular submissions. All papers whether solicited or not are subject to rigorous peer-review.

Important Dates: Manuscript submission deadline: 1 September 2015, provisional publication date of themed issue: June 2016