

Integrating objectives and approaches to support a forestry decision process in the framework of the Rio Conventions

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In the context of international environmental agreements, the so-called Rio Conventions, which include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), have recognized the importance of establishing synergies. Different decisions and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels are enhancing cooperation. But cooperation in the development of advice, methodologies and tools for synergies in implementing the Rio Conventions are needed at the local level. The objective of this research is to describe how we have integrated different objectives and approaches to support a forestry decision process in the framework of the Rio Conventions. First, we have explored the process of implementing synergies among the Rio Conventions at the global, regional and national levels. Second, we have identified, at the global level, different decisions and technical documents which recognize that forestry is a sector in which objectives of the three conventions could be addressed simultaneously. Third, we have identified social, economic and environmental forestry criteria, which have also considered global objectives. Thus, a set of forestry criteria have been proposed through a questionnaire to forestry experts (policymakers and scientists) who are knowledgeable about the Rio Conventions and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The aim was to validate criteria and understand the importance stakeholders provide when evaluating forestry projects. Fourth, factor analysis has been used to understand the correlation between criteria and factors which are the most dominant. Finally, we will explore the application of the multicriteria analysis to classified forestry projects considering objectives from the Rio Conventions. Through different approaches we will be able to better support a decision process and contribute to a global issue, which is also a local concern, when trying to implement synergies among the Rio Conventions and evaluate forestry projects.