

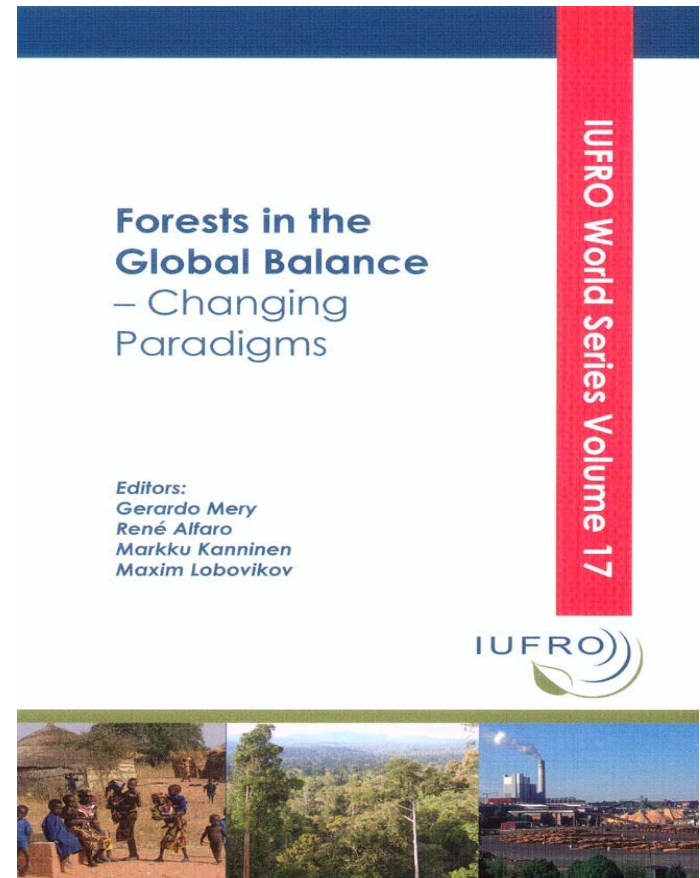
# Results of IUFRO's Special Program on Forests, Society and Environment

## Phase I (2002 – 2006)

Heidi Vanhanen

IUFRO Division VI Symposium August 15-17, 2007

Mery, G., Alfaro, R., Kanninen, M, and Lobovikov, M. (Eds.). 2005. ***Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms.*** IUFRO World Series Vol. 17. Helsinki, 318 p

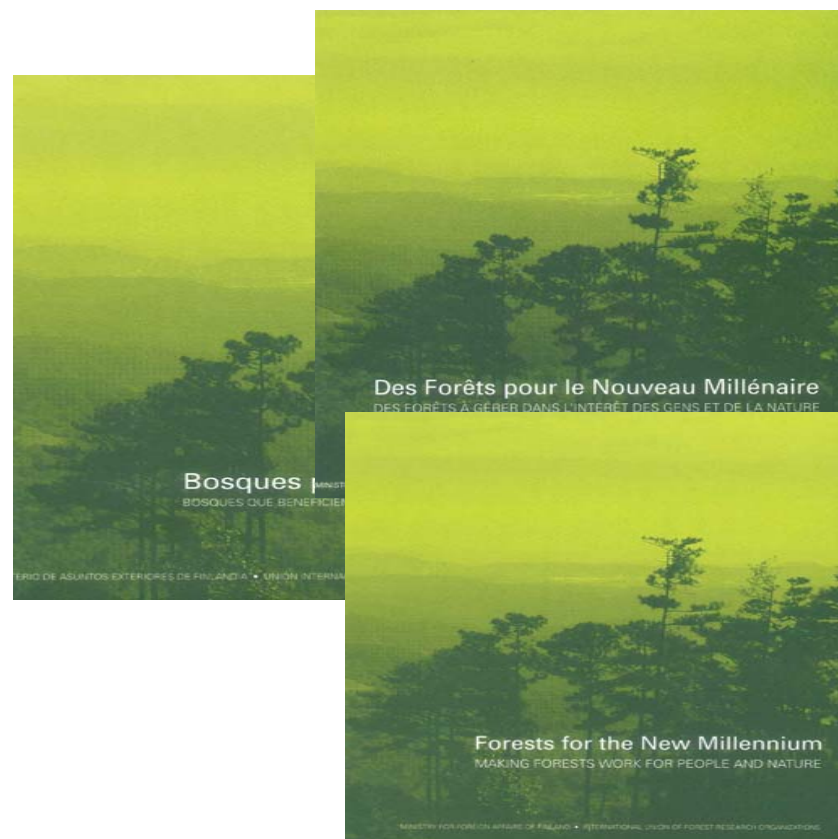


All articles available at  
[www.iufro.org/special/wfse/wfse-achievements/](http://www.iufro.org/special/wfse/wfse-achievements/)  
Also summaries of articles as  
capacity development material

Mery, G., Alfaro, R., Kanninen, M., Lobovikov, M., Vanhanen, H. and Pye-Smith, Ch. (Eds.). 2005. ***Forests for the New Millennium - Making Forests Works for People and Nature.*** The Ministry for Foreign Affair of Finland and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Helsinki, 36 p.

Policy Brief available at  
[www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/wfse-achievements/](http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/wfse-achievements/)

in English, French and Spanish



## More than 150 authors involved...

...from 10 partner organizations and over 50 other universities, research institutes, public sector organizations and NGOs

This is only one possible presentation of the results...

# Changing paradigms in how forests perceived, conserved and used

- Forests not only a source of timber but provide diverse products and services
  - for environmental needs
  - for livelihoods
  - for social and cultural needs

Rate and pace of change in paradigms differ in time, by region, and by locality

# Regional and global perceptions on forests changing

- Demographic changes
    - ✓ rural/urban and past versus future
  - Increased and diversified demands
    - ✓ social, economic and cultural demands
    - ✓ climate change and biodiversity concerns
  - Globalization and plantation forestry
    - ✓ now 25-35% of industrial timber from plantations
    - ✓ timber production and demand from North to South, West to East
  - Political and value changes
    - ✓ pressures for equitable socioeconomic development
- ▶ A sensitive equilibrium between sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources

## A more pluralistic vision of forests...

... with global policy focus on reducing poverty and hunger

Globally critical issues in changing paradigms were identified as:

- Governance
- Environmental services
- Plantation forests
- Livelihoods

Plus cross-cutting issues

Plus articles by continent

## Older models of forest governance:

- ✓ command and control policy instruments
- ✓ ‘top down’ policy making
- ✓ the state dominates decision-making and defining goals

For healthy forests and equitable distribution of benefits,

## new models of governance:

- ✓ participatory decision-making by civil society
- ✓ the state in the role of coordinator

## Main drivers of the shifts in forest governance

- The increased variety of actors, interests and values in forest-related issues
    - also across sectors; conflicting land uses
  - The complexity of relationships between the actors
  - Strengthened and politically mobilized civil society
  - Expanded trading relationships and multi-national corporations
- 
- ▶ New governance structures and institutions
  - ▶ Prerequisite for interaction: trust between actors

# Forest policy goals and governance debates differ between countries

## ■ **Industrialised countries with low forest cover:**

- ✓ environmental sustainability
- ✓ focus more on forest services than timber production

## ■ **Industrialised countries with high forest cover:**

- ✓ sustainable development
- ✓ more polarized views

## ■ **Developing countries with low forest cover:**

- ✓ subsistence and poverty reduction
- ✓ more consensus over policy objectives

## ■ **Developing countries with high forest cover:**

- ✓ economic development
- ✓ forestry debates tend to have international links

# Examples of new modes of governance

- National forest programs (NFPs)
  - initiate an open-ended dialog process
- Certification
  - through certification civil society governs itself
- Decentralization
  - ✓ the emergence of participatory democracy
  - ✓ increasing local control over forests
  - ✓ local authorities may have better knowledge of local needs
  - ✓ local authorities may be able to better represent local populations

# Ecosystem use must be understood to be subject to choice of local society

## Local livelihood strategies are determined by local motivations and decisions

- ✓ some biodiversity may need to be sacrificed if jobs and income are higher priorities for people
- ✓ local vs. global demands
- ✓ payments from rich countries inadequate to meet the costs of maintaining ecosystem services (PES, CES?)

## Forests do not have to be pristine to be rich in biodiversity

- ✓ many agroforestry systems are rich in biodiversity
- ✓ even some plantations can be valuable in conserving biodiversity

# Global forest ecosystem use for livelihoods

- **2 billion** people rely on fuelwood
- **1.2 billion** people use trees on farms  
or manage remnant forests for food and cash
- **350 million** people next to dense forest rely on them for subsistence and income
- some **60 million** indigenous people are heavily dependant on natural forests
- some **60 million** people are employed in forestry and wood industries.

# Sustainable development is achieved only through decent work and employment

Poverty is largely – this far – a rural phenomena

In developing countries,

- 10-30% of rural cash incomes from varied environmental resources
- forest-based enterprises provide 13–35% of rural non-farm employment
- ▶ Together with increased agricultural productivity, forest and trees provide assets and opportunities for rural development and poverty alleviation.

“... varied environmental resources”

## Most rural people live in mixed ecosystems

including agriculture, trees, forested and

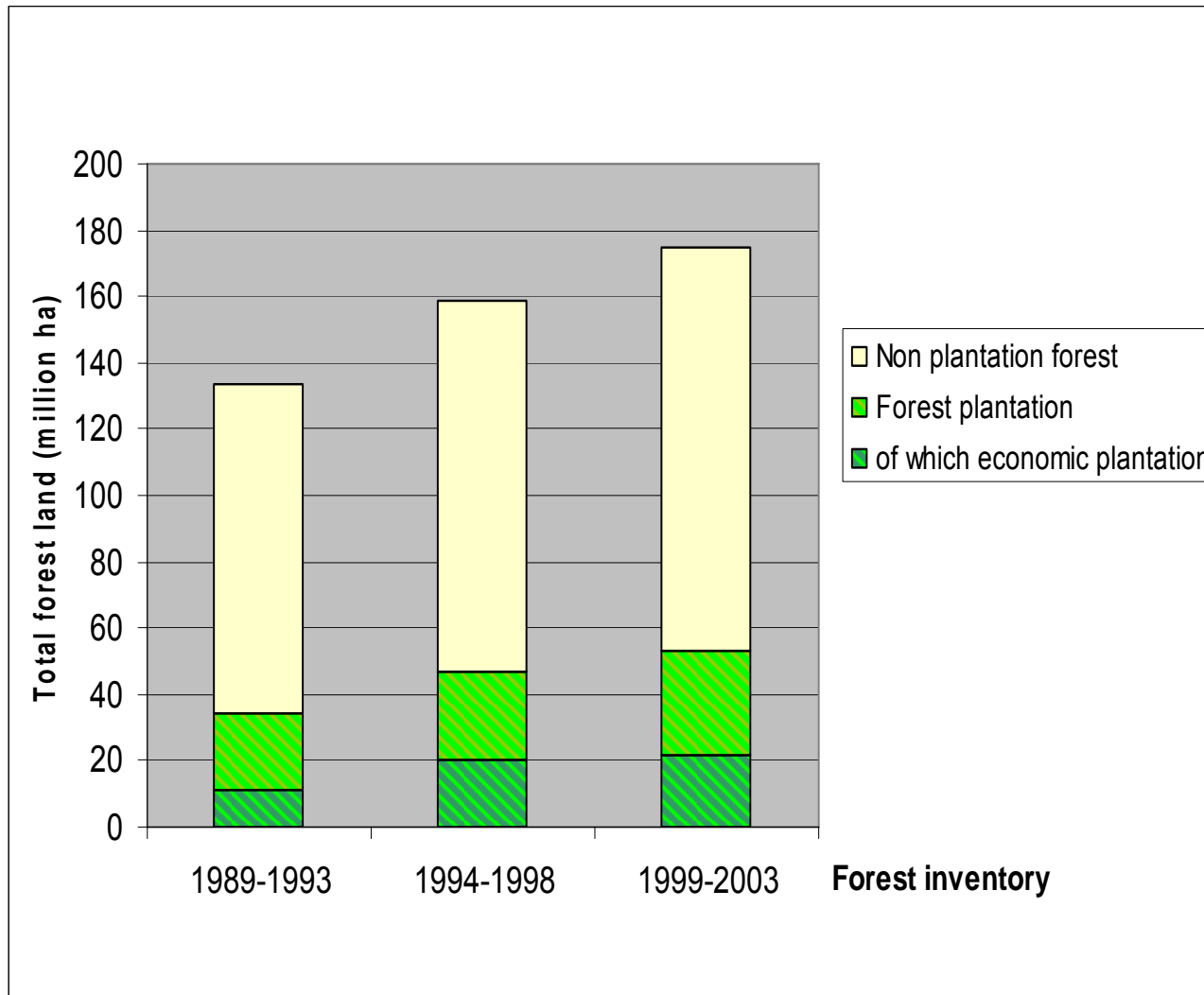
non-forested areas and degraded forests

(not forgetting i.a. the 60 million indigenous people in natural forests)

## Forests, woodlands and trees are essential for

- livelihood diversification
- providing increased non-farm activities
- off-farm employment opportunities

# Tree planting increase China's forested area and small farmers' incomes



Forested land:

1989-93 13.9%

1994-98 16.6%

1999-03 18.2%

‘Economic’  
plantations:  
NWFPs like  
bamboo, tea, oil,  
nuts, fruits, spices

# 'Economic' forests cover some 40% of plantation forests

...and 12-13% of all forested land in China

- more easily integrated with small-scale agriculture
- non-wood products considered as agricultural products
- sale of timber may carry taxes and fees up to 60-70%

## Agricultural reforms:

- ✓ mid 1980's over half of collective forests to households for private management
- ✓ mid 1990's long-term tenure, ownership to planted trees, liberalization of trade and investments

Ownership, access rights and tenure have a strong influence on who benefits from forests – and who loses out.

However, there is no such thing as a right or wrong system of ownership or tenure.

# Success of forest-based development depends on good inter-sectoral coordination

- Landscape is a natural and social entity
  - ✓ mirrored through e.g. traditional knowledge
- There is a clear need for landscape level integrated land-use planning and management
  - ✓ full recognition of diverse forested landscapes (OWL, TOF, agroforestry)
  - ✓ focus on diversified land
  - ✓ focus on the interactions between different land uses
- ▶ Well-coordinated policies and implementation requires capacity building and innovative development of new inter-sectoral actors and institutions

## Integrated approach for multifunctional forest management and research needs to consider:

- larger temporal and spatial scales
- biophysical and socio-economic interactions among different components of the landscape
- different sectoral policies and decision making processes
- conflict resolution mechanisms

# What more is required from forest research...

...in resolving the complex problems of natural resources management:

- cross-sectoral approach
- multidisciplinary research
  - also understanding other knowledge systems, like in traditional knowledge
- view to the future
- long-term partnerships
  - skills in communication and public relations, moderation, and the management of networks

# Forests and trees for productivity, soil conservation and fertility

In the long term, the life-supporting benefits from forests may be more essential than increasing the absolute incomes from 1 US\$ per day?



## Activities in the next phase 2006-2010

- Regional Policy Briefs (Latin America and Europe 2007; Africa, Asia, Northern America 2008 - 2009)
- Scientific publication on forests and human welfare (2010)
- Capacity building material (2009 - 2010)

Anyone interested, do join in!

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