

Congress: Sustainable futures in a changing climate

Workshop: Forests and climate change: from global trends to local landscapes

Motto: ... something is happening here, but you don't know what it is. Do you, Mister Jones? (Bob Dylan, Ballad of a Thin Man)

Organizers: Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), University of Helsinki and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

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Workshop description:

This workshop aims at bringing together scholars and practitioners to analyze rapid changes both in the political and institutional “landscapes” of actors and processes and in the ‘physical’ landscape of forests and other land uses. How much do we know about what is happening in these landscapes, and what does it mean for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Forests play a key role in global climate change, being important for both, mitigation of climate change through storing and sequestering atmospheric carbon, and for adaptation to climate change through the provision of ecosystem services to the human society, such as water, that are essential in the adaptation to future climate change. Global processes, national policy making, and local decisions on land use will need to be looked at together to understand what drives change in the specific landscapes forests are part of.

In this workshop we would like to contribute to such a holistic approach and present papers and discuss the following topics:

Big picture - Analysis of global processes and understanding of dynamics and trends in forest resources

- Changing coalitions: Who is debating what in global and national climate change arenas? How powerful are these calls?
- Changing resources: What is the current status of forest resources globally? In recent time, we have observed both large-scale deforestation and fast regrowth and re-greening of landscapes.

Landscapes in transformation - Analysis of actors and processes at local level

- What are the challenges in making multi-level governance work for sustainable forest management and reduced deforestation? Is multi-level governance an opportunity and how can it be realized?
- Can growing demand of wood products in developing countries boost forest-based rural development towards green economy? What are the barriers and opportunities?