

SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES IN TROPICAL FORESTRY TODAY

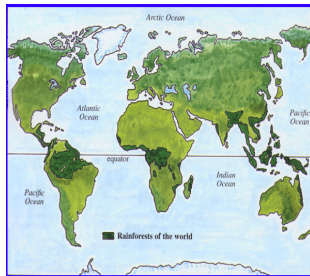
Lecture at the Forestry University
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 1 September 2006

Dr. James K. Gasana
Intercooperation
Switzerland

Why are tropical forests important?

Tropical forests cover only ca 10% of the earth's land surface (compared, i.e. to 14.5% of boreal forests):

- four countries contain more than half of tropical forest: Brazil, Indonesia, Zaire, and Peru;
- Between one-half and two-thirds of the world's species inhabit the tropics;
- They are capable of storing and processing large quantities of carbon;
- As a consequence, even small changes in tropical forests have major impact for global change.




Forests at the cross-roads

- Multiple benefits and constituencies
- Conflicting demands
- Linkages with other sectors:
 - Agriculture (oil palm, cocoa, rubber wood, coffee, farm land, etc...), energy, water, health and tourism
- Linkages with other issues:
 - meeting human needs, economic development and poverty reduction
- Multiple dimensions:
 - local, national, trans-border and global
 - multi-generational

Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Why are Tropical Forests Important ?



- **Forests are important for rural livelihoods and poverty reduction**

60 million
totally
dependent
(indigenous
people)

350 million
highly forest
dependent
communities

1.2 billion
dependent on
agroforestry
resources

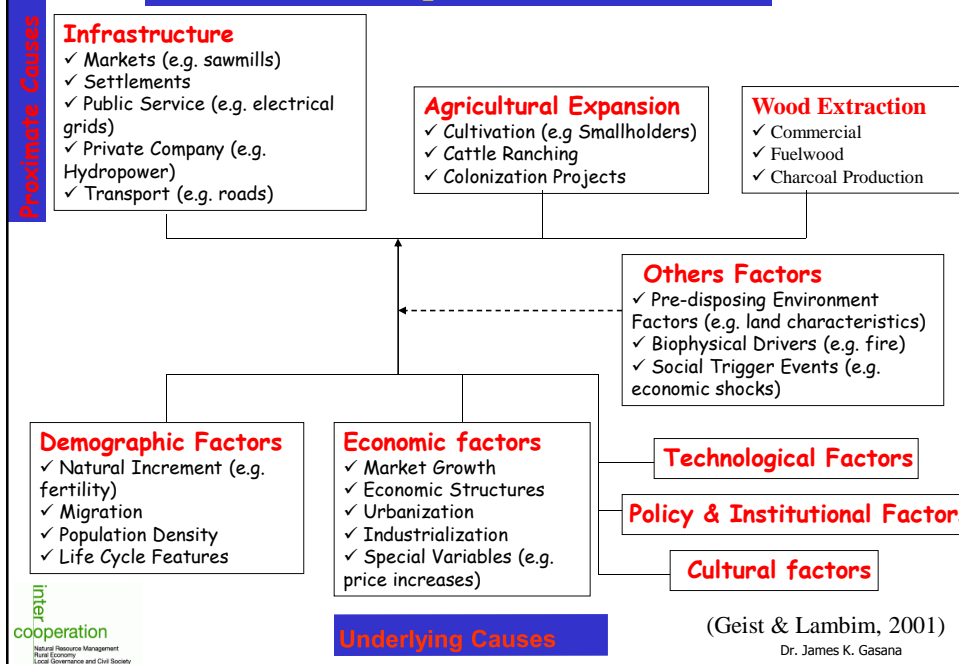
inter cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Of global concern: Tropical Deforestation

- About 13 million ha per year are deforested;
- Could be in excess of 1,000,000 ha per year in countries like Indonesia.
- Very soon forests may become limited to only forest reserves and inaccessible sites.

What Drives Tropical Deforestation?



Forests are on the international agenda

- Growing international trade
- Biological diversity
- Carbon sequestration
- Wildlife habitat
- Watershed forests
- Forest fires
- Human health




cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Of global concern: climate change

Reduction of the potential of CO₂ fixation

↓



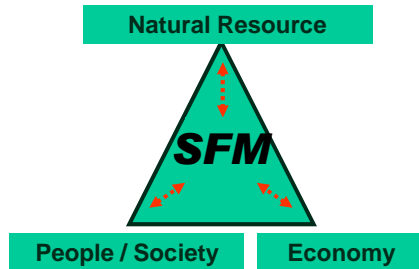
Increase in atmospheric CO₂

↓

Green house effect

Dr. James K. Gasana

An important issue: Sustainable Forest Management



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

- SFM not in isolation but for sustainable development
- Forest management brings the balance between utilization of resources and conservation, to meet the needs of different stakeholders
- Market demand for SFM

Dr. James K. Gasana

Of growing importance: certification

- For consumers – concern for tropical deforestation
- For the forest industry – fears of consumer boycotts and timber bans
- For NGOs – dissatisfaction with governmental inaction, corruption
- Certification as a way to improve trust?

inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

The basis for certification: Criteria and indicators for SFM

- Extent of forest resources
- Biological diversity
- Forest health and productivity
- Productive functions of forest resources
- Protective functions of forest resources
- Socio-economic functions
- Legal, policy and institutional framework

Decentralization and Community Forestry

- **There is a converging interest in increased decentralization of government and in collaborative forest management.**
- **Most donor funded forest projects seek to combine bottom-up development with sustainable forest, forest protection and wildlife conservation.**

Community participation

- **Community participation in decision making and implementation**
- **It is estimated that 45% of forests are projected to have community involvement by 2015**



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Forestry and gender equality

- Easy access to **fuelwood** increases girls' enrollment to schools
- Both **men and women** can make use of forest-based livelihoods
- Deciding on the use of a community forest is an issue concerning **both** women and men
- Can a woman **own** (forest)land?



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

An emerging issue: Forest Law Enforcement and Governance

- Forest policy instrument together with market-based solutions
- Important challenges outside of the forest sector
- Effective forest governance lacking in many countries
- Ministerial processes to address forest crime
- Indicative list of action to be taken



CC BY-NC-SA
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

In some African countries commercial bushmeat hunting is a major problem:

Total African harvest:
1 to 5 million tons
per year -
equivalent to 5 to
20 million cattle.



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Growing awareness on the need to restore degraded forest landscapes

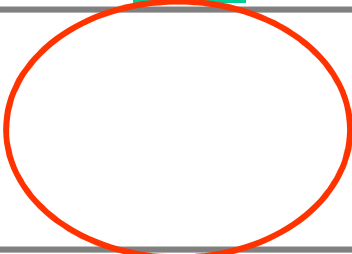


Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration



Investing in People and Nature

Importance of degraded Tropical Forest Landscape

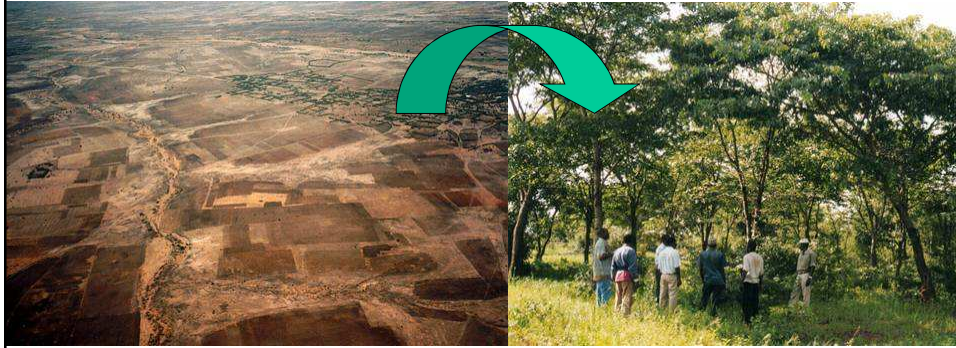
500 m ha	850 m ha	120 m ha	400 m ha
			
Non-accessible primary forest, Protected Areas	Degraded primary forests, Secondary forests, Degraded forest land	Timber production forests, under Concessions "managed forests"	Trees outside forests, forest plantations, agroforests, etc.
150 m people	300 m people	700-800 m people	

cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Example of a success story of FLR

Clarifying Property and access rights allowed the return of the forest to 250,000 ha in Shinyanga – Tanzania – in 15 years.



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

Addressing violence in forested regions

Cases of countries that have been affected include:

Cambodia
Chiapas (Mexico)
Colombia
Democratic Republic of Congo
Liberia
Nepal
Philippines.

inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana

The case of Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo

Timber revenue has been used to fund armed conflicts and instability in Liberia, DRC and Cambodia, Colombia etc. resulting into the breakdown of rule of law in forest sector



inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Georges Gobet / AFP - Getty Images file

Dr. James K. Gasana

Forestry is expected to contribute to the MDGs

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equity and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

CO
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana



© HEINZ PLENSE © HEINZ PLENSE © HEINZ PLENSE

Thank you very much !

inter
cooperation
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society

Dr. James K. Gasana