

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

TROPICAL RAINFORESTS AND AGROFORESTS UNDER GLOBAL CHANGE

October 5 – 9, 2008
Bali, Indonesia

Jointly organized by:

Georg-August-University of Göttingen and University of Kassel (Germany)
Institut Pertanian Bogor and Universitas Tadulako (Indonesia)

THEMATIC SCOPE

Tropical rainforests disappear at an alarming rate causing unprecedented losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Despite an increased recognition of the value of these goods at national and international levels, rainforests continue to be seriously threatened by human-induced global change such as agricultural intensification and climate change. Understanding these processes needs an integrated scientific approach linking ecological, economic and social approaches at different scales, from the household and village level to landscapes and regions.

The global human population is expected to increase further in the near future with the probable consequence of an **expansion and intensification of agriculture** and the associated destructive impacts on the natural environment. These impacts will particularly happen in regions where agricultural intensification is a relatively recent process such as frontier zones in the humid tropics. Currently, too little is known how to control this process and to identify ecological-socioeconomic trade-offs or synergies of land use and conservation. Land-use systems need management decisions based on the assessment of environmental costs and benefits and a thorough knowledge of ecosystem properties.

Human-induced climate change is already causing changes in extremes of temperatures and precipitation and is likely to continue for many centuries affecting tropical forest growth and carbon stocks. Climate scenarios predict a warming trend and more frequent occurrence of droughts of increasing severity. Such scenarios are of serious concern for the future of the rainforest and agroforestry that depend on irrigation or regular rainfall. Assessments of land-use practices need to be linked to sustainable alternatives with concepts and data-driven models of large-scale land-use change in tropical, human-dominated landscapes.

OBJECTIVES

This international symposium provides an open platform for all scientists from socio-economic and natural sciences interested in the effects of global change on tropical rainforest and agroforestry resources. Interdisciplinary papers that strive to integrate environmental, technological and socio-economic issues are especially welcome. We will invite some of the excellent papers for a synthesis book of an international publisher. The symposium will feature the following three interconnected thematic foci of interdisciplinary research.

FOCUS 1: Agroforestry management in an ecological and socio-economic context

Low-intensity agroforestry may support high biodiversity stabilizing ecosystem functioning, in particular when shaded by natural trees and neighbored by natural forest. In contrast, high-intensity agroforestry with planted shade trees and in an agricultural landscape context may be characterized by less environmental benefits and high agrochemical inputs. Papers presenting the ecological and socio-economic benefits of different management practices comparing and relating them to patterns and processes in natural forests are welcome.

FOCUS 2: Climate change effects on tropical rainforests and agroforests

Human-induced climate change is already causing changes in extremes of temperatures and precipitation and is likely to continue for many centuries. First evidence is appearing that changes in temperature extremes can affect tropical forest growth and indirectly forest carbon stocks. Furthermore, annual precipitation has declined over much of the humid tropics during the 20th century. Papers presenting climate change effects on rainforests and agroforestry integrating socio-economic and ecological consequences are most welcome.

FOCUS 3: Integrated concepts of land use in tropical landscapes

Rain forest margins around the world comprise a variety of land-use systems, with forest gardens, annual crops in slash-and-burn and agroforestry systems. An understanding of the dynamics of land-use change and related resource degradation under various policy scenarios is required, and strategies to reduce and potentially reverse degradation processes are to be developed. Papers presenting spatially explicit models or scenario analyses are especially welcome.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kamaljit S. Bawa (University of Massachusetts-Boston, USA)

Sampurno Bruijnzeel (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Meine van Noordwijk (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Bogor, Indonesia)

Susan Page (University of Leicester, UK)

MANAGING BOARD FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

Teja Tschardtke, Christoph Leuschner, Edzo Veldkamp, Heiko Faust (Göttingen University, Germany), Edi Guhardja (IPB Bogor, Indonesia) and Arifuddin Bidin (UNTAD Palu, Indonesia).

DATES & DEADLINES

Registration is available as of **February 25**, 2008.

Early bird registration closes: **March 30**, 2008. The specially arranged conference rates and room availability in the conference hotel are only guaranteed until March 30. October is high season in Bali and hotel accommodation is at a premium.

Final reload of abstracts to appear in Proceedings: **May 30**, 2008.

Notification of acceptance of paper/poster: **June 30**, 2008.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

www.GlobalChange-2008.org

