



**UNITED NATIONS  
FORUM ON FORESTS**



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# **National and International Initiatives and Their Links to the SEEA**

International Conference  
“Global Implementation  
Programme for the SEEA”

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UNHQ NY

# Economic Contributions of Forests: Formal/Cash, Informal/Non-Cash Poverty Alleviation, Livelihoods



# Cash/Formal Contributions

- **\$468 billion per year\*** ~1% of global GDP
- Employment: **60 million** people in formal sector
- Non-wood Forest Products (NWFPs)
  - Highly variable by “tradable” value
  - Largely non-cash (directly used or bartered)

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\* from formal industries, including roundwood production, wood processing and pulp and paper (FAO 2010)

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# Non-Cash Contributions

- Forest products that are directly consumed
  - E.g. NWFPs, ecosystem services, medicinal uses, tourism, and cultural benefits
- Difficult to quantify and monetize
- Often invisible in GDP data



# Non-Cash Non-wood Forest Products

- 3 – 5 times of cash contributions
- Women & children: the most common consumers of forest foods
- Data challenges: difficult to disaggregate at the household and community levels



# Poverty Alleviation

- Reduce the vulnerability of households
- Increase livelihood resilience
- In rural households, especially...
  - Direct consumption, in addition to cash. e.g.
  - Energy security, shelter and furnishings, medicinal use, food, nutritional security, & health
  - E.g. Uganda, the Comoros, Thailand

Indirect yet reliable pathways out of poverty

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# The Need for Integrated Policy-Making

- Promote cross-sectoral and cross-institutional collaboration through a landscape approach
- Integrate SFM into national economic planning
- Enable greater understanding of the full range of forest values
  - Better data and information collection/analysis
  - Natural resource accounting



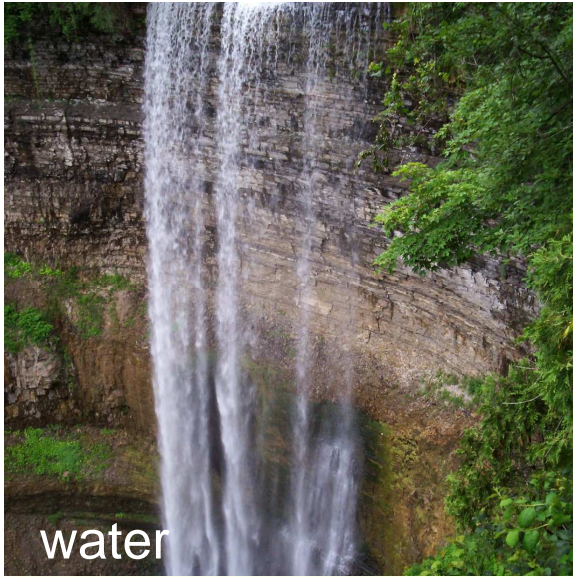
# UNFF10 Resolution called for action on:

- Information and Data gaps: improved data collection, analysis, reporting – including non-market based approaches; scaling up national and local research and education capacities; developing databases and knowledge management networks.
- Valuation & accounting: development of valuation methodologies for forest goods and services; including monetary, non-monetary and non-market values; and including non-wood forest products; strengthen integration of forests using accounting approaches & natural capital accounting including WAVES.
- Cross-sectoral approaches: strengthening linkages with other sectors, and integrated approaches to land management; including integrated non-market based approaches to achieve SFM.

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water



transport



energy

## Forests... Interconnected to Other Sectors



agriculture



climate change



health

# Forests and Agriculture

- Large-scale commercial agricultural production has led to conversion of forests to pastures for livestock and crops
- Opportunities... increased agricultural productivity, landscape reforestation  
– e.g. India, China and Vietnam



# Forests and Water

- **75%** of freshwater is provided through forested catchments
- **Payments for watershed service schemes** can improve efficiency of watershed management, e.g. Costa Rica, Mexico and China
  - # of schemes worldwide: 8 (1999) – 47 (2008)
  - Total transacted value in 2008: \$7.8 billion



# Forests and Energy

- **3 billion+** people worldwide rely on fuelwood for cooking and heating
- **~90%** of the consumption of fuelwood and charcoal is in developing countries
- **Biofuel** and its growth...a wild card for future



# Forests and Health

- **65 - 80%** population relies on medicines derived from forest products for primary healthcare
- **70%** of all new drugs introduced in the US in the past 25 years...derived from natural products sourced from forests



# Challenges

- Core values are often overlooked
  - e.g. livelihood and subsistence benefits
- Some benefits/values are hard to quantify
  - e.g. Ecosystem services
- Data gaps
  - Current data doesn't consider values that are
    - not exchanged for cash
    - in the informal sector
    - not recognized by trade or finance authorities
  - Particularly on the non-cash and informal benefits



# Key Opportunities

- **Landscape level planning** at a national and sub national level... to balance competing needs
- **Data/info improvement**
  - NWFPs and ecosystem services values are significantly larger than cash-based products



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense tropical rainforest. The canopy is a rich, vibrant green, with numerous tall trees visible. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the forest. The text "Thank You" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank You