Forest (Land) Accounts: Some insights from the work in Latin America

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Why forests?

Global agendas
• Halting Deforestation Is Essential for Climate Stability
• Forests Offer More, Cheaper, Faster Emission Reductions

National agendas
• Enhanced revenues from forests from TFP and NTFP
• Tourism - Ecotourism
• Food security – Agriculture nexus
• Forests and other uses of land
• Community forest management
• Illegal logging and certification

Source: CGDEV
Policy relevance
Policy relevance

- What is the real contribution of forests to the economy?
- What are the linkages between forest and other sectors?
- Is economic growth causing degradation of the resource and could limit future growth?

- What are the tradeoffs?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- What are the priorities?
- Local aspects to be considered?

- Is the policy contributing to sustainability?
- What is the impact of non-forest policies?

- How to better allocate financial resources?
- What is the distribution of benefits?
Scope of the accounts:
Implications for Production, Use and Institutions

- Land cover types
- Scope of the resource based forest account
- Scope of the ecosystem based forest account

Urban land
Agricultural land
Forest land

Shared area of analysis

Individual resources

Ecosystems

Forest ecosystem 1
Forest ecosystem 2
Urban ecosystem
Agricultural ecosystem
Pathways and steps to compile the accounts

**MAPPING AND ASSESSING THE FOREST AREA AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL**

**Characterization of the forest resources/forest asset and creation of forest ecosystem classes**

**FOREST ASSETS/RESOURCES**
- Location
- Extent
- Condition

**FLOW OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**
- Provisioning
- Regulating
- Cultural

**BENEFITS PROVIDED BY FORESTS**
- MARKET forest benefits
- CONTRIBUTION to other sectors
- NON-MARKET benefits

**DEFINITION OF THE POLICY QUESTION THAT THE ACCOUNTS HAVE TO ANSWER**

**Benefits from forest ecosystem services**

**Flow of ecosystem services from the forest asset**
How have the accounts been used?

Colombia
How have the accounts been used?

Guatemala forest accounts implementation

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Policy impact analysis
Key messages

Forest Accounts (FA) are useful tool as management tool and as monitoring tool

- Management of TFP and NTFP and other forest ecosystem services

FA are useful as an instrument to inform the broader development agenda

- Understand the contribution of forests to growth and sustainable development and the impacts of sectoral policies in forests. Food security, energy and climate change issues are key in development agendas.

FA are feasible to compile even in countries with data constraints

- Depending on the context, countries will usually start with the

FA are related to other accounts

- There is a need to reconcile SEEA CF and SEEA EEA
MAKING WAVES
If you are interested in sharing your experience in natural capital accounting, or in learning more about how to implement it, we would love to hear from you. Please contact waves@worldbank.org

Find out more about WAVES at www.wavespartnership.org

Available in Spanish at www.wavespartnership.org/esp

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