



NAVIGATING THE JUNGLE:

Assessing the Diversity of Monitoring Approaches to Forest Carbon Stocks and Good Forest Governance

An Interdisciplinary Expert Workshop

Lund University, 07 May 2013

The strategic research area of BECC¹ organises this interdisciplinary expert workshop to discuss the growing complexity of monitoring and assessment approaches at the intersection of forestry and climate change.

The choice of monitoring systems that allow for the credible measurement, reporting and verification of forests and forest protection policies is a highly sensitive issue. This goes in particular for policies in the context of climate change, i.e. approaches to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation or to enhance carbon forest stocks. There are on-going debates within and across disciplines about appropriate toolkits to measure not only the natural effects of such policies (for carbon stocks and biodiversity), but also their social and economic impacts, e.g. with regard to questions of justice and cost-effectiveness of forest governance instruments.

These controversies are spurred by a high degree of openness and inconclusiveness of international forestry governance: due to the absence of a global forestry regime, a patchwork of very different institutions have come to discuss and apply a plethora of monitoring approaches - ranging from international climate negotiations (UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol) to multilateral development institutions (World Bank, UNDP) to public and private forestry institutions (International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Stewardship Council).

These approaches vary significantly in terms of their selected thematic scopes (and respective goals), methods and scales of monitoring - and this diversity has, in turn, severe implications. Not only does it create an overall uncertainty about appropriate ways of monitoring carbon forest stocks and forest governance. Also, every individual approach entails its own specific uncertainties, due to the choice - or neglect - of the dimensions to be measured. Moreover, there are mutual impacts and path dependencies across natural and social dimensions of monitoring. For instance, predominantly ground-based measurement of carbon stocks raises questions of sovereignty, legitimacy and accountability (Who is entitled to measure what? Who is excluded?). These path dependencies reflect overlaps or even conflicts across carbon-storage, ecological, economic and social goals.

¹ BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) is a collaboration between Lund University and University of Gothenburg. It is a strategic research area that strives for a better understanding of the impacts of climate change and land use decisions on terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, addressing the consequences of ecosystem changes for human beings and socio-economic systems.

But while both natural and social dimensions of monitoring forestry governance face similar challenges of growing complexity and choices (scope, scale, conflicts of goals, different schools of thought), a cross-disciplinary research approach is so far strikingly absent. Toolkits to capture different dimensions of forestry governance were largely developed independently from each other – and no systematic effort has been taken to address the inter-linkages between natural and social monitoring approaches.

Against this backdrop, this expert workshop seeks to navigate the jungle of monitoring approaches, by

- Discussing major monitoring and assessment approaches (and the links between them) in the fields of
 - National forest inventories
 - Remote sensing
 - Economic incentives
 - Good forest governance
- Discussing the environmental, economic and social implications of the dominant approaches across these fields:
 - Which topics and problem structures are stressed, which ones are blanked out?
 - Which actors are advantaged, which ones disadvantaged?
 - Which institutions favour which type of approach – and how does this affect the relations among forest institutions and their effectiveness?
- Bringing together different research communities across disciplines from various fields of forestry-related monitoring and assessment.

Register [here](#) by February 25

Workshop organisers:



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Warmly Welcome





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Draft Programme

8.45	Registration
9.00	Welcome <i>Fariborz Zelli, Lund University, Department of Political Science</i>
Morning session	Monitoring Approaches – Status and Possibilities <i>Moderator: Lars Eklundh, Lund University, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science</i>
9.15	Presentation on National Forest Inventories <i>Göran Ståhl, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management</i>
10.00	Presentation on Social Safeguards <i>Constance McDermott, University of Oxford, Oxford Centre for Tropical Forests</i>
10.45	Coffee Break
11.00	Presentation on Remote Sensing and modelling approaches <i>David Turner, Oregon State University, College of Forestry</i>
11.45	Presentation of Economic Aspects of Monitoring Forests <i>Eskil Mattsson, University of Gothenburg, Department of Earth Sciences</i>

12.30	Lunch (catered)
Afternoon session	<i>Interdisciplinary Challenges – Practice and Research</i> <i>Moderator: Fredrik Lagergren, Lund University, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science</i>
13.30	Presentation on Challenges of Different Monitoring Approaches – a Practitioners' View <i>Hillevi Eriksson, Swedish Forest Agency (tbc)</i>
14.00	Presentation on Lessons from Inter-disciplinary Research on Forests <i>Lennart Olsson, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies</i>
14.30	Coffee Break
14.45	Short Presentations on BECC Research on Monitoring Natural Aspects of Monitoring <i>Wilhelm Dubber, Lund University, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science</i> Social Aspects of Monitoring <i>Tobias Dan Nielsen, Lund University, Department of Political Science</i> Economic Aspects of Monitoring <i>Anna Nordén, University of Gothenburg, Department of Economics</i>
15.45	Discussion in Break-out Groups
16.45	Coffee Break
17.00	Concluding Discussion in Panel <i>Moderator: Lennart Olsson, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies</i>
18.00	End of Workshop

Registration

Last day of registration: 25 February 2013. Register [here](#).