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Concessions and contracts in forest management

Governance principles for concessions and contracts in public forests. 2001. FAO Forestry Paper No. 139. Rome, FAO.
ISBN 92-5-104612-3.

In managing public forests, governments use various types of agreements, permits or concessions to establish the rights and responsibilities of both the forest user and the government. These contracts can be with private businesses, communities, individuals or public enterprises. Important social, environmental and economic goals can be advanced through the judicious use of well-crafted concessions. Poorly prepared concessions can have the opposite effect and, at times, yield regrettable results.

This report reviews the diverse types of concessions used in the management of public forests. It analyses concessions for forest utilization and the acquisition of forestry-based goods and services. The report underscores the importance of effective institutional and legal frameworks and gives special attention to establishing transparency in the awarding and administration of contracts in public forests. It clarifies the link between policies to advance sustainable forest management and the effective administration of concessions so as to contribute to transparency and accountability in the forest sector.

The report may be of special interest to those concerned with designing and administering forest utilization or procurement contracts. Communities, businesses and individuals can draw from it new insights into how the contracting mechanism can be used to broaden the benefits of forest management.

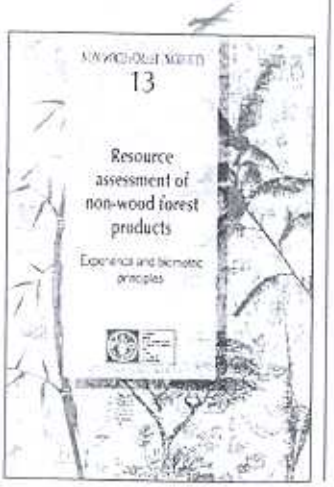
Assessing NWFP resources

Resource assessment of non-wood forest products: experience and biometric principles. J.L.G. Wong, K. Thornber and N. Baker. 2001. Non-Wood Forest Products No. 13. Rome, FAO. CD-ROM included.
ISBN 92-5-104614-X

The last decade has witnessed a steep increase in interest and activities concerning non-wood forest products (NWFPs). Although there is often considerable indigenous knowledge regarding specific NWFPs, formal resource assessment of NWFPs, especially in tropical countries, is relatively new and has received little attention to date.

The purpose of this publication is twofold: to raise awareness on the importance of accurate and precise resource assessments and to provide guidance on the design and selection of appropriate methods for resource quantification in different situations and for different NWFPs. This reference text overviews and analyses biometric issues in the design of NWFP inventories such as the relevance and biometric adequacy of particular approaches.

The book builds mostly on experiences in forest ecosystems in tropical countries; however, it is relevant for all regions and all NWFPs. The prospective audience of this publication includes practitioners, researchers, natural resource managers and all development workers with an interest in sustainable forest utilization. The CD-ROM that accompanies the book includes other literature resources on NWFP assessment and the entire FAO NWFP Web site off-line.



Are deforestation rates linked to progress in agricultural technology?

Agricultural technologies and tropical deforestation. A. Angelsen and D. Kaimowitz, eds. 2001. Wallingford, UK, CABI Publishing.
ISBN 0-85199-451-2.

Do improvements in agricultural technology protect or endanger tropical forests? This book examines this controversial issue. Economic theory is used to organize the main arguments into a consistent framework and derive hypotheses that can be empirically tested. Case studies explore the role of several factors that influence the link between technological progress in agriculture and rate of deforestation: type of technology, farmer characteristics, output markets (e.g. farmers' access to markets, size and demand elasticity of markets), labour market (wage rates, ease of hiring, etc.), credit markets, property regimes and agro-ecological conditions.

The book is organized by