

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Landscape forestry in the tropics: moderating between close-to-nature and close-to-people-paradigms?

S1.1 Close-to-nature silviculture for global change adaptation and mitigation

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Abstract: Demographic trends, global economic development and climate change are putting tropical ecosystems and societies under extreme pressure with open questions about consequences for biodiversity conservation and human welfare. For a long time, identifying best management practices from close-to-nature silviculture was frequently considered as guideline for forest management. However, even the tried-and-tested principles of stand-based management or species-site match, are being shaken to its foundations by the rapid changes in the natural environment and society. New challenges require new principles. In this talk I will identify and critically discuss existing paradigms of management and tropical silviculture from first a close-to-nature and secondly a close-to-people perspective. Can landscape approaches moderate between these antagonistic poles under the light of global change? This includes questions of how to address spatial and temporal scales at the human-environment interface and how to reconcile forest user needs and practices with societal goals in a changing world. As part of the LaForeT-project (www.la-foret.org) a total of 500 forest inventories and 4000 interviews with households and focus groups of rural communities were carried out in 36 landscapes in Ecuador, Zambia and the Philippines. Based on different case studies from this project potentials and limitations of the landscape forestry concept will be discussed with respective implications for silviculture and forest landscape restoration. In addition, it is discussed whether the panarchy theory can provide an accompanying theoretical framework for both adaptive management and landscape approaches that combine human and natural dimensions.