

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## **Introduction to the session poverty alleviation and forest integrity in tropical dry forests**

T4.16 How to reconcile poverty alleviation with forest integrity in tropical dry forests: ecological research gaps and paradigm shifts for sustainable management.

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**Abstract:** Tropical dry forests are heavily threatened by deforestation, degradation and climate change. They are particularly affected by fuel wood extraction, exploitation of high value timber species, grazing and browsing, and conversion into agricultural land. Additionally, they are increasingly exposed to fires, as consequence of climate change and land use pressure with severe consequences for water availability, food security and livelihoods. Especially in poor countries and rural areas TDF are an essential basis for livelihoods. More than 2 billion people depend on wood fuel for their daily cooking and heating. While TDF are frequently considered as safety net for the poorest, others see TDF as a poverty trap. There is an urgent need to fill ecological and management research gaps and develop strategies towards a paradigm shifts for sustainable management. In this presentation we give an introduction to the session, highlighting the most important research question which shall be addressed: Is there evidence for management practices in TDF which foster livelihoods, maintain forest integrity and enable long term sustainable development pathways?