

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AS A MEANS OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGING THE AMAZONIAN RAIN FOREST

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Sustainable management of traditional commodities in Amazonian forests, such as timber and non-timber forest products, faces a variety of limitations that often lead either to unsustainable land uses, to failure to sustain the local human population, or both. Environmental services of Amazonian forest, such as maintaining biodiversity, water cycling and avoiding global warming, are worth much more to human society than are the traditional commodities that can be obtained by either managing or destroying the forest. Monetary flows derived from the value of environmental services can serve as supplementary income streams in systems that sustainably manage the forest for products. These flows can also operate on a wider regional scale that includes the value of standing forest that is not under management for traditional commodities. Progress continues on quantification of environmental services, accounting methods and modeling the benefits of different policy options. Most needed is creation of institutional mechanisms to reward the environmental services of forest maintenance.



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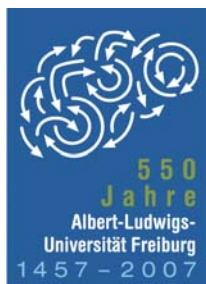
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