

## **Chair for Territorial Forest Management**

We coordinate and execute research, lead graduate education processes and publish the journal *Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente* [Natural Resources and Environment].

CATIE'S Territorial Forest Management Chair was created in 1999 through a donation made by the Swiss Development Cooperation (COSUDE) to the Foundation for Education and Research in the Development and Conservation of Natural Resources in the American Tropics (FUNDATROPICOS), which is the administrator of the funds that finance the Chair.

This chair is responsible for coordinating and conducting research, leading graduate education processes and participating in a wide range of outreach activities, collaborating extensively with partners inside and outside of CATIE.

### **Areas of Work**

For this chair we focus on three areas of action: research, education and outreach.

### **Areas of research**

#### 1) Governance surrounding forest resources and landscapes

- Strategies for governance in local, national or regional settings
- Analysis and promotion of enabling conditions for sustainable forest management
- Networks, partnerships and participatory planning
- Strategies for improvement of livelihoods
- Organization figures for management, production, marketing and processing

#### 2) Technical tools for the management or regulation of ecosystem services

- Sustainable forest management for generating timber and non-timber products
- Sustainable management for the generation of intangible services
- Space/time integration of forest production for improved profitability and increasing the value of forests

- Participatory planning and management of territories based on their ecosystem services

### 3) Financial and value chain analyses

- Innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms to promote sustainable management (Sustainable Income Forestry)
- Optimization strategy for livelihoods
- Forest/environmental economics
- Economic analysis of production systems, management technologies and markets
- Analysis and promotion of alternatives for the marketing, processing and improving of value chains in general
- Advising and analysis of technical and financial proposals for forestry investment, operating under the modality of the Center for Advanced Technology in Forest Management (CATMAN) as a service unit
- Economic effects of policies (regulations and incentives) on production systems, rural landscapes and proposals for change

### 4) Monitoring and evaluation for sustainability

- Concerted and simplified standards for principles, criteria and indicators (P, C & I), accessible on a landscape and management unit scale
- Simplified certification processes that are equitable and accessible
- Innovative mechanisms for participatory monitoring
- Promotion of periodic reports on the status of local development as territorial governance tools

### 5) Enabling policies for sustainable management

- Policy analysis at local and national scales
- Study of innovative mechanisms for participation and decentralization
- Analysis of political elements that do or do not favor sustainable management
- Analysis of changes needed to maximize the contribution of forests to national development and the international agenda

## **Area of education**

The Latin American Chair for Territorial Forest Land Management is responsible for the following graduate courses at CATIE:

- Introduction to integrated management for production and conservation

- Management of natural forests
- Forest Policy and governance
- Economics of forest investments

Every year the members of the chair also participate on the advisory committees of various master's theses with approaches related to their priority thematic areas within the masters for forests as well as other masters programs at CATIE.

### **Area of outreach**

In the area of projection, the chair supports many training initiatives on subjects related to its experiences and research, aimed primarily at technicians linked to the management of forests and natural resources in Latin America.

-Annual organization of the Strategic International Course on Diversified Management of Natural Tropical Forests.

-Collaborates with the Strategic International Course on Protected Areas (which has been given since 1987).

-Assumes the organization, or rather works on the development of other training initiatives and shared analyses in forest and territorial governance, forest policy, forest culture, aspects related to climate change, forest development plans and conflict resolution, aimed primarily at stakeholders in management processes in several Latin American countries.

-The chair's officers are also involved in technical forums to promote sustainable forest management, such as the Agro-environmental Agenda in Costa Rica, the National Commission for Forest Sustainability of Costa Rica, the Forest Stewardship Council and even private forums.

-Within the activities for knowledge dissemination, the chair publishes the quarterly journal *Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente* [Natural Resources and Environment], with an integral biological, social and economic perspective of the use and conservation of natural and planted forest ecosystems and their relation to territorial development. The journal has a Latin American geographical setting and serves as a forum where models and relevant work experiences are proposed and

analyzed for technicians, producers, entrepreneurs and decision-makers from local governments and state authorities.