Intensively managed planted forests: reflections for dialogue

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Reflection 1:
Maria would be happy!
Reflection 2
The IMPF discourse: focus #1
Economic benefits & costs

- undoubted economic benefit/ advantage in particular circumstances, but some caveats
  - few comprehensive regional economic studies where IMPF are important (analyses often confounded & limited)
  - here: a good start with UNEP study & follow-up commitment

- aggregate economic benefits associated 1° with processing, though benefits to farm enterprise may be significant
  - here: empirical evidence of farm enterprise benefit

- environmental services’ economic potential mostly unrealised
  - here: yet to be realised
Reflection 3
The IMPF discourse: focus #2
Environmental benefits & costs

- The relationship between IMPF & natural forests: IMPF as a necessary but insufficient condition for conservation?

- Biodiversity: at landscape, local & stand scales: many + possible through good design at various scales, & good management practices (but not business-as-usual)

- Here - an example of limitations & potential through design

- A range of genetic risk issues: manageable with good practice? - here, yes

- Water yield & quality: significant impacts (+/-), though particular expression; knowledge base often inadequate, & playing field not level …

- Here - a significant issue which needs anticipatory research?

- Soils: mostly but not always manageable with good practice - here, yes
Reflection 4
The IMPF discourse: focus #3
Social benefits & costs

- judgements are value- & context-dependent: though some ethical & moral bottomlines?
- partly dependent on economic and environmental impacts: some may be judged “unacceptable”
- here - these observations seem true
- strongly dependent on distribution of benefits & costs: advantaged & disadvantaged to varying degrees; political as well as operational dimensions
- often confounded by broader social change processes: IMPF as manifestation rather than cause
- may also be confounded by individual/ cultural preference
- here - various issues exemplify: choices communities/ individuals make; labour force & mechanisation
Reflection 5
The IMPF discourse: moving forward

- Dimensions have to be integrated:
  the role of politics (→ political economy, decision processes ...)
- Recognition of alternative values, & complexity, necessary:
  discourse → dialogue
- here - both elements strongly evident, but challenging!
- IMPF neither inherently good nor bad:
  but technologies for meeting human needs/wants, with +/-
- IMPF proponents can be leaders or laggards (examples of both):
  here - proponent seeking to lead
- Most participants offer qualified support for IMPF,
  based on broad interpretation of sustainability - eg WWF 2002:
  maintenance of HCVF; multifunctional forest landscapes;
  good environmental management; respect for peoples’ rights;
  positive social impacts; proficient regulatory & governance frameworks