

Environmental input-output analysis in developing countries: Assessing the cross sectoral impacts of forest use in Guatemala

Topic:

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The research examines the forestry sector in Guatemala within a macroeconomic perspective. We use information provided by the Hybrid Supply and Use Table (SUT) from the Guatemalan System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA), developed by a team of experts of which we were part of. The paper assesses the cross sectoral impacts under different scenarios of economic trends and forest use using a Hybrid Input-Output Table (HIOT). The contribution of the research is twofold. On one hand, there is a methodological contribution in constructing the required SUT and HIOT, as to our knowledge this is a first application in the Central American region and possibly in Latin America. On the other hand, policy relevant questions are answered: (i) what are the impacts in the economy and in forests due to present trends of growth, trying to specifically model the rapidly growing sugar and African palm industries?, (ii) what are the cross sectoral impacts of forest resource dynamics now and in the near future?, (iii) what are the implications of new policies that prioritize growth over sustainable forest use?