



Interdisciplinary Seminar (5 session course)

Toward sustainable use of forest resources: importance of evaluating intervention strategies

By: Dr. Claudia Romero
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Date: 7-9 November, 2016

- Session 1: Monday, 7 November 14:45-16:15 【 # 24-Part1/5 (1) 】
- Session 2: Tuesday, 8 November 14:45-16:15 【 # 25a-Part2/5 (1) 】
- Session 3: Tuesday, 8 November 16:30-18:00 【 # 25b-Part3/5 (1) 】
- Session 4: Wednesday, 9 November 14:45-16:15 【 # 26a-Part4/5 (1) 】
- Session 5: Wednesday, 9 November 16:30-18:00 【 # 26b-Part5/5 (1) 】

Venue: Shishukan Hall (HIGASHI ICHIJOKAN, basement floor)

<Summary>

This special **5-session Interdisciplinary Seminar** (three afternoons, **November 6, 7 and 8**) will contribute to the analysis and discussion of research results on the *environmental, socio-economic, and policy impacts of policies that aim to maintain and enhance tropical biodiversity and other ecosystem services while fostering improvements in local livelihoods and governance*. It will contribute to develop the capacities of participants to recognize the quality of evidence presented in studies that aim to assess the extent to which they had an on-the-ground impact.

The success of the learning objectives of this seminar relies on the active participation of students through active learning. Results of studies on the science of teaching reveals that students learn better when they work in cooperative groups and when they have opportunities to discover information for themselves that is relevant. The success of this mode of learning strongly depends on class participants being prepared for each session. Generally, this preparation involves reading of the assigned articles and other materials.

Participants in the sessions will be able to:

- a. Maintain a critical perspective on the instruments designed to promote conservation and poverty alleviation in the tropics through reductions in emissions of atmospheric heat-trapping gases and other related interventions.
- b. Understand the roles researchers can play in conservation, particularly in the evaluation and enhancement of efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- c. Familiarize themselves with recently developed tools that track forest cover change and implications for biodiversity, carbon, and hydrological services to target conservation, and to perform policy analyses.
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Session 1. Basic Economics Concepts for Non-Economists (Monday, 7 November 14:45-16:15)

A great part of global-scale environmental changes is being driven by a range of economic factors. The regular training received by future professionals interested in promoting social adaptability and increased resilience with a lens of natural resources sustainability requires a better understanding of major economic drivers of resource loss and degradation. This module is designed towards that goal.

Session 2. Examples of Interventions Aimed at Reducing Natural Resources Loss and Degradation (Tuesday, 8 November 14:45-16:15)

Nature preservation efforts have been in operation for several decades in a range of geographies and following diverse motivations. Protected areas are the best example of this management regime. Within the last couple of decades, other types of interventions and programs have been designed to consider the biodiversity and other values of managed landscapes. This module will examine, with a historical and comparative perspective, these different conservation and development initiatives and discuss their advantages and limitations based on several case-studies.

Session 3. Discussion and Comparison of Several Types of Interventions and Introduction to Thinking about Recognizing Impacts (Tuesday, 8 November 16:30-18:00)

A limited number (6-8 depending on the number of Seminar participants) case-studies on different interventions will be examined in detail by small groups of students. Analysis will focus on recognizing the problem each intervention aimed to address, issues of design and implementation, identification of social actors and other agents involved and other programs/activities ongoing in the site/region, and type of data collected during the study. Different groups will examine the same case-study but will emphasize different types of information (social versus ecological) using complementary published literature sources to identify relationships between types of outcomes (tradeoffs).

Session 4. Case-Study Discussion and Identification of Evidence Gaps (Wednesday, 9 November 14:45-16:15)

This session will begin with short presentations contrasting the case-studies discussed before-hand and identifying the impact research questions that emerged and other that can emerge from their analyses. Specific tradeoffs among desired outcomes will be highlighted. Throughout the discussion bottlenecks to establish their potential flaws (e.g., design, of definition of the problem and others) will start to be identified. Impact of the interventions in their stated desired outcomes will be examined in light of the potential existence of evidence gaps. An open discussion will be held to intuitively motivate potential research-based ways toward building that evidence.

Session 5. Process and Impact Evaluation of an Intervention (Wednesday, 9 November 16:30-18:00)

This last Session will help participants build a basic understanding of the principles that guide evaluation of interventions and programs that aim to enhance local rural well-being without sacrificing natural resources. The session will highlight different approaches taken using examples and participants will critically assess their limitations and benefits.

<Activity type>

Lectures, group and class discussion and group presentations. This interdisciplinary seminar adopts the up-to-date theory and methods of active learning towards transdisciplinary learning to promote effective communication skills.

<Obligation of attendee>

Participation in all five sessions are highly desirable. If you must miss some sessions, please attend both sessions in a given day (Sessions 2-3 on Tuesday, Sessions 4-5 on Wednesday). This course fully adopts active learning methods, and it will not be optimal if you pick and choose the topic.

<Registration>

All interested in participate should e-mail Dr Kaoru Kitajima (kaoruk@kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp) by November 4 with the following information.

- Your name
- Whether you are GSS program students (yes or no)
- Your student ID (if applicable)
- Your college and division
- Your e-mail address
- Sessions you plan to attend (all, 1, 2-3, 2-5, etc.)

Claudia ROMERO is a Courtesy Assistant Professor of the University of Florida and also a Research Associate of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). After receiving PhD in Botany from the University of Florida, she received additional training in natural resource economic, econometric analysis and impact evaluations. She has published widely in both basic ecological topics and applied conservation and policy issues. She is the lead authors for publication titles such as, *“Bark: structure and functional ecology”*, *“Effects of commercial bark harvesting on Adansonia digitata (baobab) in the Save-Odzi valley (Zimbabwe) with considerations for its management”*, *“Helping curb tropical forest degradation by linking REDD+ with other conservation interventions: a view from the forest”*, *“Conservation and development in Latin America and southern Africa: setting the stage”*, *“An overview of current knowledge about the impacts of forest management certification”*.

