Title: A policy nexus approach to forests and the SDGs: tradeoffs and synergies

The transformational potential of Agenda 2030 lies in the synergies to be found among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were designed to be interdependent, requiring enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, and forests have a prominent role to play in their success. However, interventions or policies under one goal can affect the success or failure of others. This presentation utilizes a policy nexus approach to illustrate SDGs’ integration by highlighting how cross-sectoral interactions can be approached, using forests as an example. A review of the literature enables us to summarize linkages between the SDGs and forests across three key policy clusters: (a) ecosystem services and livelihoods; (b) the green economy; and (c) rights, justice, equality and inclusion. While nexus approaches have been used for other sectors (e.g. water/land/food; oceans), this research addresses a gap as — to the best of our understanding — they have not yet been used in the context of forests. We illustrate how the difficult and very real tradeoffs facing policy makers from different sectors, and enhanced policy coherence within each cluster, can support integrated approaches that both benefit from, and provide support for, forests. Forests have a prominent role to play in the success of Agenda 2030, but this will require clear priorities to address key tradeoffs and mobilize synergies with other SDGs. We believe integrated, innovative and inclusive governance systems across sectors will enhance policy coherence within each of the three identified policy clusters.