

# Community forest management and enterprises

## *Global issues and opportunities*

16-20 July 2007, Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil



**I**n the last decade, the Amazonian community of Mamirauá has begun a participatory, low-impact forest management regime that is both increasing the benefits of forestry to local people and reducing its environmental impact.

In Papua New Guinea's Madang province, a group of customary land owners have created their own forestry operation designed to maximize local employment and income and manage the forest sustainably.

Around the world, thousands of indigenous and other local communities are taking control of their forest resources and putting them to use. And, as they do, the evidence grows that community forestry can help alleviate rural poverty and improve forest conservation.

Yet many hurdles still stand in its way – unclear tenure rights, adverse policy and regulatory environments, and a lack of support to build the necessary managerial, technical and financial capacity.

This must change if community forest management and the enterprises based on it are to flourish.

*Community forest management and enterprises: global issues and opportunities* is an international conference that will bring together about 250 leaders of forest communities, public forest agencies, forest industry and conservation groups to share experiences in community forest management and enterprises from around the world. It will explore case-studies from Mamirauá, Madang, El Balcón and more than a dozen other community forests and debate the best ways of assisting the sustainable development of community-based operations.

It will also:

- raise global awareness about the contributions of and challenges faced by community forest management and associated community enterprises;
- generate proposals to strengthen the role of communities in forest management and forest-based enterprises; and
- identify priority steps for governments, industry and international organizations to promote community forest management and associated community enterprises.

The conference is organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Rights and Resources Initiative and the Global Alliance of Community Forestry in cooperation with IUCN – the World Conservation Union. It is hosted by the Government of Acre and the Government of Brazil through the newly created Brazilian Forest Agency. It is open to all people interested in community-based approaches to forest management and forest enterprises. Due to limited resources, preference will be given to participants from community forest enterprises in ITTO producer countries interested in sharing their experiences. Once the participation of communities has been confirmed, we will open space as per local capacity for researchers, non-policy makers and non-ITTO representatives to attend at their own expense.



### *For more information, please contact:*

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