

# INVESTING IN TIMBER PRODUCTION -

Lessons learnt from plantations, natural forests and silvopastoral systems

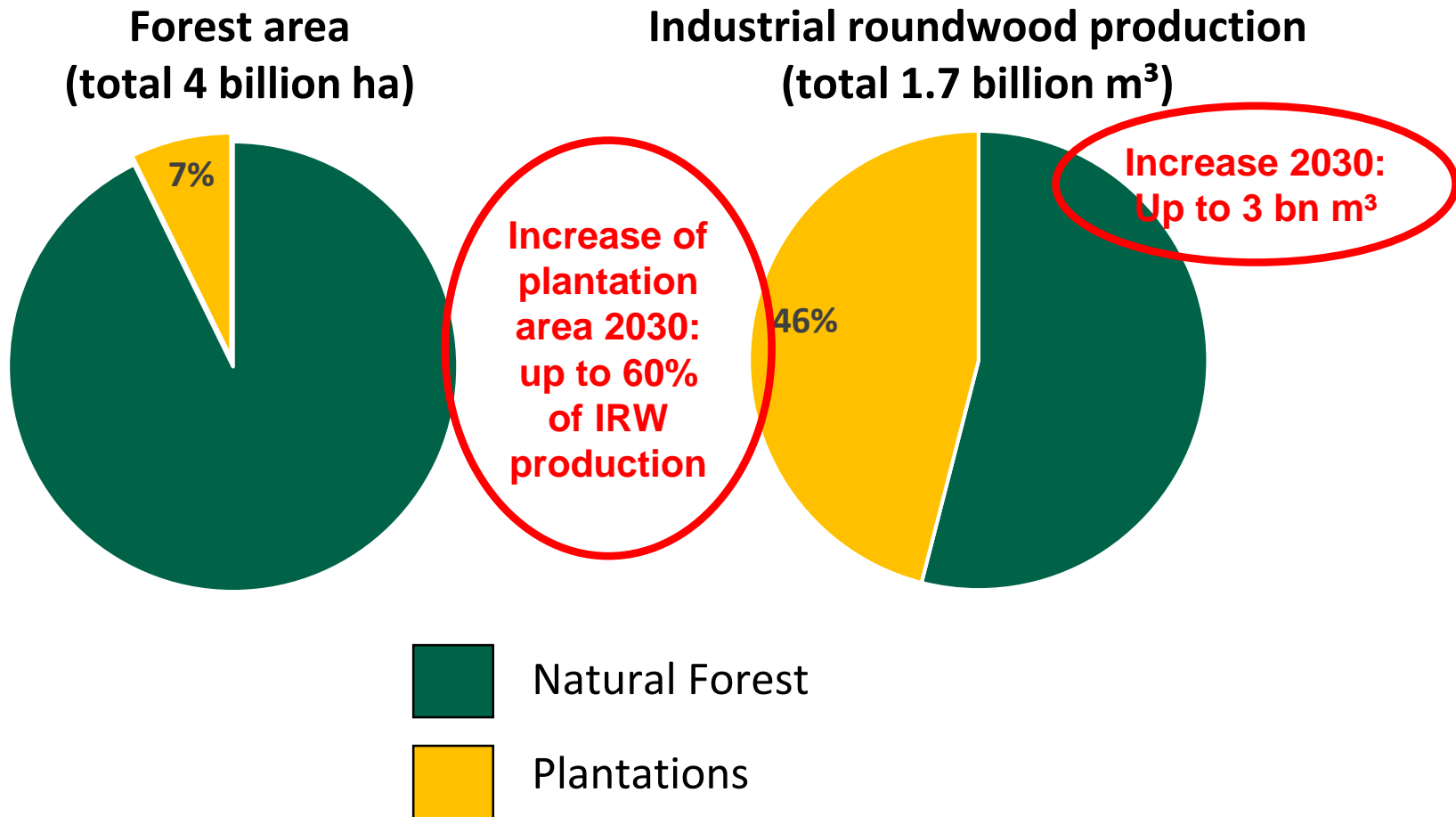
28.11.2017

Christian Held

**ITTO's Annual Market Discussion**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Tropical Timber Council**  
**27 November – 2 December 2017, Lima, Peru**

# SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL ROUNDWOOD

## Forest area and production



# NATURAL FORESTS

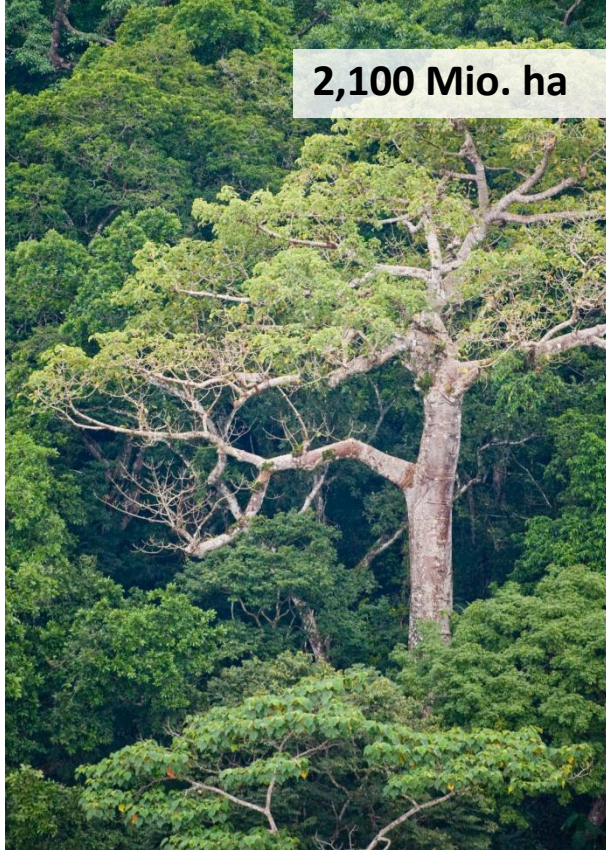
Today



Future

**Tropical and sub-tropical forest land**

**2,100 Mio. ha**



**Conversion to agriculture, pasture, settlements, etc.**  
**400 - 500 Mio. ha (???)**



**Conservation areas**  
**200 Mio. ha (10% target)**



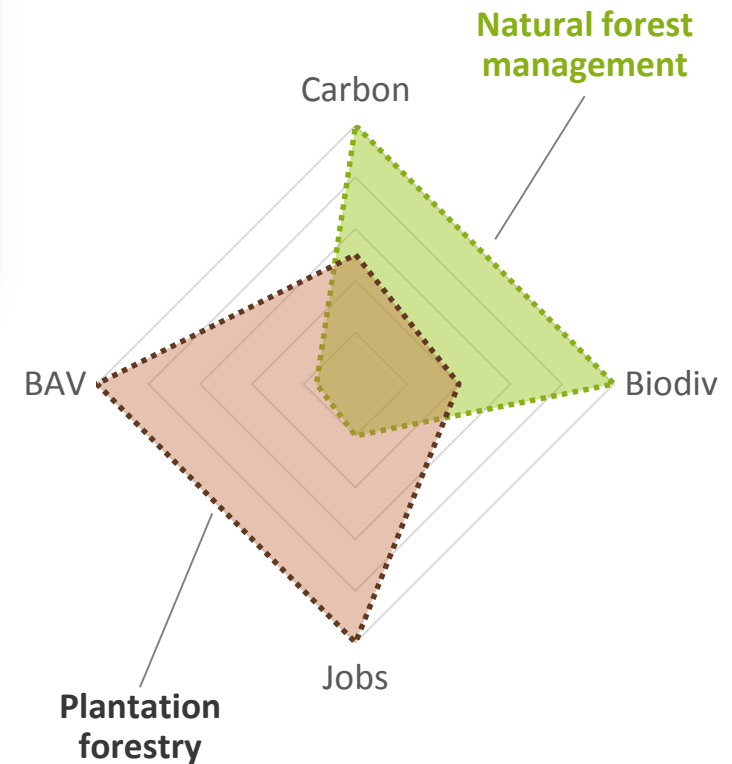
**Natural forest (primary, secondary, degraded)**  
**~ 1,500 Mio. ha**

# PLANTATION VS NATURAL FOREST MANAGEMENT (I)

Plantations win the economic competition while SFM scores ecologically



Average carbon stock	400 tCO <sub>2</sub> /ha	200 tCO <sub>2</sub> /ha
Biodiversity	Highly diverse	Limited diversity
Jobs	5 FTE/1,000 ha	23 FTE/1,000 ha
Biological asset value	660 USD/ha	4,500 USD/ha



Sources: UNIQUE (2016): Sustainable natural forest management in the tropics. Best practices and investment opportunities for large-scale forestry; World Bank (2017): Harnessing the Potential of Productive Forests and Timber Supply Chains for Climate Change Mitigation and Green Growth (elaborated by UNIQUE and Climate Focus); Results from UNIQUE due diligence on plantation investments in Africa and Latin America

# PLANTATION VS NATURAL FOREST MANAGEMENT (II)

Supply target perspective equalize the socio-economic valuation for SFM

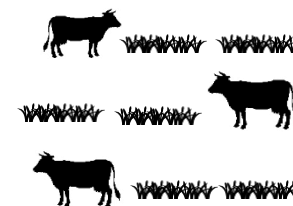
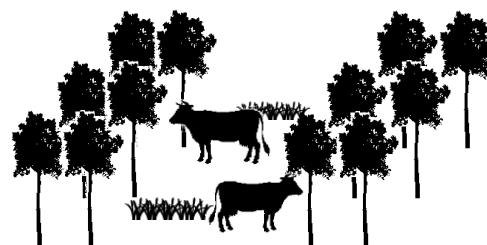
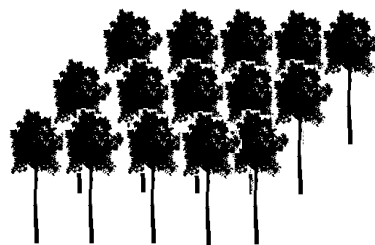
Impacts of producing 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> industrial roundwood (sawlogs):

	Plantation	SFM tropics
MAI (m <sup>3</sup> /ha/a)	~30 (15 – 50)	~5 (2 – 10)
Area required (ha)	3,333	20,000
Employment (FTE)	77	100
Carbon sequestration (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	666,600	8 million
Biological asset value (USD)	14.9 million	13.2 million

Sources: UNIQUE (2016): Sustainable natural forest management in the tropics. Best practices and investment opportunities for large-scale forestry; World Bank (2017): Harnessing the Potential of Productive Forests and Timber Supply Chains for Climate Change Mitigation and Green Growth (elaborated by UNIQUE and Climate Focus); Results from UNIQUE due diligence on plantation investments in Africa and Latin America

# PLANTATIONS VS SILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS VS PASTURE

Silvopastoral systems combine attractive return profile and socio-ecological benefits



Plantation forestry

Silvopastoral systems




Traditional cattle breeding

Stocking (head/ha)	--	0.6-0.9	1.0-1.5
Density (trees/ha)	1,000 to 200	714 to 200	--
MAI (m <sup>3</sup> /ha/yr)	35-40	30-35	--
Weight gain (kg/ha/yr)	--	100-150	150-250
Return on invest	13-16%	12-15%	6-10%
Cash flow positive after	7 years	4 years	2-3 years
Job generation per 1,000 ha	25-30	25-30	2-4
Carbon balance (ha/yr)	-8 tCO <sub>2</sub> -eq	-5 tCO <sub>2</sub> -eq	+2 tCO <sub>2</sub> -eq



# UNIQUE IN PARAGUAY

## Sustainable timber production systems

	Natural forest	Silvopastoral system	Plantation
			
<b>Area under management</b>	5.600 ha	3.200 ha	2.600 ha
<b>MAI</b>	6 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/a	33 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/a	38 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/a
<b>Production cost</b>	42 USD/m <sup>3</sup>	17 USD/m <sup>3</sup>	16 USD/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Revenues on timber</b>	58 USD/m <sup>3</sup>	42 USD/m <sup>3</sup>	42 USD/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Profit</b>	95 USD/ha/a	850 USD/ha/a	950 USD/ha/a

# Conclusions

- Sustainable supply with timber is long-term global challenge, which has to be addressed taking into account local conditions and assets (land/resources availability, with a view on natural forest resources and degraded areas, markets, policy framework).
- Economically viable timber production is possible in plantations (large scale and small scale) **and** other production systems, i.e. natural forest, silvopastoral systems (and agroforestry).
- Plantations are the most attractive production system economically and in terms of efficient land use, but require substantial investments compared to natural forests.
- Natural forest management, though challenging, offer a competitive package of economic, social and ecological returns.
- Silvopastoral systems are competitive for their resource efficiency, upsides for food production and economic performance.





Schnewlinstr. 10  
79098 Freiburg, Germany  
Tel: +49 761 208534 – 0

[unique@unique-landuse.de](mailto:unique@unique-landuse.de)  
[www.unique-landuse.de](http://www.unique-landuse.de)