

**First Announcement  
of an International Scientific Conference on**

## **Tropical Rainforests and Agroforests under Global Change**

**Sunday, October 5 – Thursday, October 9, 2008  
Located in a conference center on the island of Bali, Indonesia**

**Tropical rainforests disappear at an alarming rate** causing unprecedented losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Despite an increased recognition of the value of these goods at national and international levels, rainforests continue to be seriously threatened by human-induced global change such as agricultural intensification and climate change. Understanding these processes needs an integrated scientific approach linking ecological, economic and social approaches at different scales, from the household and village level to landscapes and regions.

The global human population is expected to increase further in the near future with the probable consequence of an **expansion and intensification of agriculture** and the associated destructive impacts on the natural environment. These impacts will particularly happen in regions where agricultural intensification is a relatively recent process such as frontier zones in the humid tropics. Currently, too little is known how to control this process and to identify ecological-socioeconomic trade-offs or synergies of land use and conservation. Land-use systems need management decisions based on the assessment of environmental costs and benefits and a thorough knowledge of ecosystem properties.

**Human-induced climate change** is already causing changes in extremes of temperatures and precipitation and is likely to continue for many centuries affecting tropical forest growth and carbon stocks. Climate scenarios predict a warming trend and more frequent occurrence of droughts of increasing severity. Such scenarios are of serious concern for the future of the rainforest and agroforestry that depend on irrigation or regular rainfall. Assessments of land-use practices need to be linked to sustainable alternatives with concepts and data-driven models of large-scale land-use change in tropical, human-dominated landscapes.

**Post conference field trips** include exploring the tree diversity of primary forests of Lore Lindu National Park (Central Sulawesi), visiting the Sulawesi Throughfall Displacement Experiment plots and excursions in Bali (organic agriculture, coral reefs, National Park Management, etc.).

This conference will be organized by the Collaborative Research Center STORMA (Stability of Tropical Rainforest Margins in Indonesia, [www.storma.de](http://www.storma.de)).

**Managing Board for the symposium:** Teja Tschardtke, Christoph Leuschner, Edzo Veldkamp, Heiko Faust (Göttingen University, Germany), Edi Guhardja (IPB Bogor, Indonesia) and Arifuddin Bidin (UNTAD Palu, Indonesia).

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**Registration** is open end of November 2007 at [www.globalchange-2008.org](http://www.globalchange-2008.org)