

Integrated Conservation Strategy for industrial plantation landscapes

Taking a landscape approach to ensure that costs and benefits of social and environmental services, are internalized

John G. Poulsen

This paper will describe an Integrated Conservation Strategy (ICS), a framework and a process for integrated conservation of biodiversity and other natural resources. It takes into careful consideration socioeconomic, ecological and technical/management issues, and is based on/backed by research. The focus is on large-scale industrial plantation landscapes, and describes a holistic approach to ensure that the real costs and benefits of socioeconomic and ecological services of the landscapes are taken into account, at least in a qualitative manner.

Conservation in large managed/plantation landscapes is most effectively achieved through appropriate management and design of natural forest corridors and other natural areas set aside from production, paying attention to both a) the connectivity of such areas at the landscape scale, and, b) the broader landscape context. The latter is particularly important, as many plantation concessions are not contiguous and are scattered over a very large area.

The ICS is an approach to mainstream conservation into the management of plantation companies and the organization as a whole, in part through improved understanding of the economic implications/incentives associated with conservation measures – long versus short term economic issues will be emphasized.

It applies participatory system dynamic models as a tool to discuss and reach common/mutual understanding, among departments across management levels, and with stakeholders, the benefits and costs provided by various elements of the wider landscape in which the plantations are located.

A participatory monitoring and assessment program/system of the performance of the conservation measures is described.

The approach taken assumes and implies that maximization of production will be sought at the level of the overall concession rather than at the level of more or less autonomously managed sectors of the concession. This allows optimization of production goals, and takes into account potential trade-offs between sectors regarding production and conservation.