

Small-scale forest policy and institutions: review and cases from the Global South		
Panel 14		
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*Abstract Panel 14 – Small-scale forest policy and institutions: review and cases from the Global South.*

Growing pressure linked to (small-to-large scale) forest use practices in the tropics continues to attract inter-disciplinary and transdisciplinary research attention. This (im)perceptible issue is partly explained by the *modus operandi* by which forests are governed at multiple scales. On a global scale, legally binding and non-binding arrangements have been instituted, including forest certification packages, with diverse nation-to-local-level implementation outcomes. More so, national policy guidelines to shape the upscaling of financial mechanisms (e.g. tree banks) as a contribution to global forest landscape restoration targets are lacking. Crucially, the activities of small-scale forest users whose ‘safety-nets’ are, in principle, forests and forest resources, continue to shape forest management outcomes. These are partly explained by the nature and magnitude of collectivization (cooperatives) in forestry. Furthermore, these processes manifest within the realms of multi-scale institutional change processes, (re)defining forest use and management policy and practice in several countries of the Global South. In this panel, we seek to explore these multi-scale, yet interconnected issues through: (a) a review of forest governance frameworks, policies and policy instruments linked to smallholder forestry in the Global South, (b) the diagnosis of the institutional architecture and how its evolution shapes forest use and management, and (c) an exploration of pathways to (re)design or leverage existing policy frameworks to guide the functioning of small-scale forest enterprises.