



Call for Papers:



Forests as the Basis for Pathways to Shared Prosperity

Globally, forests are reservoirs of astonishing levels of biodiversity, the repository for more than a thousand gigatons of carbon, and a source of livelihoods to hundreds of millions of poor peoples. Historically, they played a strategic importance in the rise of empires, and in contemporary periods have been central in the improvements of the national incomes of both higher and lower income countries. But stronger evidence is needed on how forests contribute to reducing poverty and enabling greater prosperity for those who depend on them. Greater prosperity for households, communities, and national economies relying on forests occurs along a range of pathways, and is dependent on existing levels of income and wealth, types of landscapes, the nature of demographic transition, and forms of available technology and skills.

IFRI is developing a Community of Practice, Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) network which aims to advance the state of knowledge regarding forest-based livelihoods. By bringing together representatives of key stakeholders – donor organizations, environmental and social NGOs, development agencies, and research organizations – we will build on and leverage existing expertise and efforts to share and advance cutting edge knowledge and conversations on forest-based livelihoods. The goals of FLARE are to generate usable information and methodologies for collecting it; develop, promote and share the findings of the group; implement such tools, knowledge, and methods to improve monitoring efforts and, ultimately, the efficacy of forest-dependent livelihood interventions around the world.

Together with the Program on Forests of the World Bank (PROFOR) and the Musée de l'Homme Research Group on Social and Natural Evolution, IFRI will launch the [FLARE network with an exciting conference event](#) in Paris, just prior to the Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP). One of the themes for the FLARE Network's November meeting is Forests and Pathways to Shared Prosperity.

We invite abstracts for papers on Pathways to Shared Prosperity for Forest Users and Forest-Reliant Economies. Papers will strengthen available evidence and knowledge about the conditions under which forests have historically been the source of prosperity and reductions in poverty, and how they can in future serve to improve livelihoods and increase welfare and wealth. Papers may be based historical/more recent evidence or use simulations, may focus on local to national/global levels, and may use conceptual approaches from the social or the ecological sciences. Papers will be particularly attentive to concerns of generalizability and representation of key social, economic, and cultural processes that can lead to greater prosperity from forest-related activities.

Selected paper authors will be invited to present their work at the [FLARE network conference](#) November 27-30, 2015, at the Musée de l'Homme. Relevant travel and participation expenses will be covered by IFRI and PROFOR, and a final set of papers will be published as a special issue of a major peer-reviewed journal. Authors will also receive \$3,000 USD for the paper.

Abstracts should be sent to watkinsc@umich.edu by **July 31, 2015**, with the subject line, "Pathways to Prosperity full paper abstract". Abstract guidelines can be found [here](#). Selected authors will be notified by August 7, 2015 (after which registration for the FLARE conference will be open). Draft papers will be due October 1, 2015.