



## Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn

c/o ICRAF – World Agroforestry Centre, PO Box  
30677, Nairobi, Kenya 00100 GPO  
Phone: 254 20 524 000  
Fax: 254 20 524 001  
E-mail: [asb@cgiar.org](mailto:asb@cgiar.org)  
Web: <http://www.asb.cgiar.org>



### A Hard Look at the Evidence on Forests and Water

For years, land management strategies and policies have been based on particular understandings about the relationships between forests and hydrology in tropical watersheds. Some of these suppositions, while plausible, are based on inadequate or misunderstood scientific evidence.

The World Bank - Netherlands **project on forests and biodiversity** was a comprehensive assessment of hydrology in tropical forest basins, using a nested suite of hydrological simulation models to understand the nature, magnitude, and geography of hydrology-biodiversity-forest relationships.

This study's results highlight the gap between the popular and scientific conceptions of forest and water links – and provide the scientific evidence necessary to inform policies that address the impacts of deforestation and land cover change on key hydrological processes. For these findings to translate to policy reform, they must be made locally relevant. Policymakers need an opportunity to discuss the results with experts and among themselves, to understand them in the context of local issues and opportunities.

*bringing  
together  
policy  
makers and  
experts on  
forests and  
water*

## Debunking Myths about Forests and Water: A Policy Briefing Road Show

### At a Glance...

For the past decade, the Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn (ASB) consortium has been identifying and developing sustainable land use systems that balance economic and environmental objectives. A significant part of this work involves linking science to policy. Recently, ASB contributed to a major study about hydrology-biodiversity-forest relationships, which found that many policies are based on an inadequate understanding of the relationships between forests and hydrology. These findings have enormous potential to improve livelihoods and natural resource management through policy reform but in order to do so, the results must be communicated with

policymakers. ASB is preparing a series of *Policybriefs* to convey these results – and we want to take them on the road. A **series of regional workshops** will bring policymakers together with global experts on forest / water relationships; this interactive communication strategy will not only improve policymakers' understanding of the research results but also provide them the opportunity to explore policy implications and options for their particular situations.



### Connecting Regional Policymakers with the Best Information

ASB is seeking support to hold workshops that will bring global experts together with regional policymakers at each of our benchmark sites in the humid tropics.

The first of these meetings will be held in Bogor, Indonesia, in December 2004, with future workshops to be held in benchmark sites across the tropics.

These workshops will:

- put forward **conclusions** of the forests and biodiversity project, including case studies at different scales;
- present **cutting-edge ASB research** on tropical forests and water supply, deforestation and local watershed hazards, hydrological effects of reforestation, watershed conflict management, and other topics;
- explore the functional links between **biodiversity conservation** and hydrology; and
- engage policy makers and global experts in **discussing local implications** of this new understanding of forest / water relationships.

ASB estimates **\$50,000** is required for each policy briefing.

Contact: Dr Thomas Tomich, ASB Global Coordinator, Nairobi, [asb@cgiar.org](mailto:asb@cgiar.org), or connect to the ASB website: [www.asb.cgiar.org](http://www.asb.cgiar.org) in English, with mini-sites in Spanish, French, and Portuguese (in preparation) and a searchable data base of ASB publications (more than 500 entries).