

Work in tropical forests

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The importance of forest ecosystems for biodiversity and ecological issues has been shown in many scientific studies during the recent years. Human activities in the forests are often described as the most severe threat to these ecosystems. Yet according to the ILO, the forest supplies employment to 13.7 million *formal* workers, and the *informal* employment is approximately just as large. A large majority of forestry employees work in tropical forests. Their employment is often characterized by poor working conditions, inadequate occupational safety and health and low pay. Forestry workers in tropical forests are often unskilled, work with inadequate equipment on poorly organized work sites with minimum social security. Under such conditions it is no wonder that little concern is given to the ecological implications of the actions performed in the forests. If tropical forest ecosystems are to provide food, shelter and income to the local population in a sustainable way as well as being a useful source for biodiversity in the future, it is of utmost importance that the people working with this resource are well educated and trained and working under decent working conditions. In Springer's book series "Tropical Forestry" a book entitled "work in tropical forests" is under preparation which will gather knowledge required to establish decent working conditions. The book is mainly aimed for professionals in leading positions in the tropical forest sector. It will provide up-to-date scientific knowledge in work science related to work in tropical forests and is expected to be released during 2013.