

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 20 - CAPITALIST FORESTRY, RURAL LABOR, AND LAND INJUSTICES: TOWARDS A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREE PLANTATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY LAND QUESTIONS, AGRARIAN QUESTIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT? RURAL LABOR, THE CORPORATE FOREST REGIME AND THE POLITICS OF LAND USE CHANGE IN SWEDEN, SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL

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Forests are considered a central solution to solve key global challenges: They are expected to contribute to climate mitigation as carbon sinks, provide renewable energy, and increase biodiversity, while simultaneously adapting to climate change. This has far-reaching impacts on how forests and tree plantations (hereafter referred to as forests) are practically managed, and the

politics of forests thereby. This ongoing transition within the global forest sector, and local actions of large forestry companies, are likely to have fundamental effects on the well-being of millions of people and societies living in or around forests. Yet, new approaches to forestry, as represented by climate smart forestry (CSF), often lack an in-depth and critical analysis of the interlinkages between the politics of land use and access, and the role of large forest companies as drivers or barriers for the use of forests for sustainable rural development. This raises a new question regarding the current and future contributions of forests to broader, sustainable rural development, including the provision of conditions for decent jobs and livelihoods. The latter indicates the importance of analysing what we conceptualize in this paper as the corporate forest regime: the structures and ideas through which large, powerful forest companies have a dominating role vis a vis alternative forestry practices, in defining forestry. The paper aims at analysing the corporate forest regime and its potential contribution to rural development, by developing a comparison between key regions for forestry in Sweden, South Africa and Brazil. Thus, the paper aims at analysing the social dynamics between the corporate forests regime and other and alternative forest management practices, with a focus on land use, rural labor and the politics of sustainability transitions.

Palavras-chave: forestry; rural labor; corporate forest regime; politics of land use change; sweden; south africa; brazil.