



# Making informed choices about ecosystems and poverty

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# A political economy approach to ecosystem services



Measuring  
Ecosystem  
Services



Valuing  
Ecosystem  
Services



Negotiating  
Ecosystem  
Services



# Negotiating ecosystem services

- ▶ **Trade-offs between stakeholders**
  - ▶ Because interests differ: fuelwood versus paper industry.
  - ▶ Over rules access, and boundaries.
  - ▶ Due to differences in power
- ▶ **Indian context for ecosystem service trade-offs**
  - ▶ ‘Indian political system must be ready to make tough choices and trade-offs’: Jairam Ramesh January 2011
  - ▶ ‘Tough choices’ – livelihoods, agriculture, mining, forests, biodiversity, carbon, urbanisation, water ... and growing numbers
  - ▶ These are political choices, no easy ‘techno-fix

# Winners and losers from ecosystem change – its not always 'win-win'

- Changes (improvements?) in ecosystem management often involve the exclusion of groups (e.g. Protected Areas & displacement)
- Improvements in ecosystem services (e.g. drinking water) may be captured disproportionately by the wealthy/powerful
- Negative impacts affect actors unequally, and are often hidden; we need to look for these!
- Those directly affected are often highly vulnerable and lack adaptive capacity (especially women)



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