In the context of a fight against deforestation, the forest landowners of Costa Rica have been benefiting since 1997 from “payments for environmental services” for their actions in four fields: carbon sequestration, water supply, biodiversity and beauty of the landscape. Research work is under way on the creation of this programme and its real impact both on the forest environment, particularly the biodiversity, and on the living standards of the small-scale farmers who use the forest.

Maintaining biodiversity
The strategies now being implemented have the objective of preserving the emblematic biodiversity of the tropical rainforests (feline species, great apes and so on) but not forgetting the more “ordinary” organisms (flowering plants, bacteria, insects and so on), particularly in the environments exploited by man.

In the context of a fight against deforestation, the forest landowners of Costa Rica have been benefiting since 1997 from “payments for environmental services” for their actions in four fields: carbon sequestration, water supply, biodiversity and beauty of the landscape. Research work is under way on the creation of this programme and its real impact both on the forest environment, particularly the biodiversity, and on the living standards of the small-scale farmers who use the forest.

In the context of a fight against deforestation, the forest landowners of Costa Rica have been benefiting since 1997 from “payments for environmental services” for their actions in four fields: carbon sequestration, water supply, biodiversity and beauty of the landscape. Research work is under way on the creation of this programme and its real impact both on the forest environment, particularly the biodiversity, and on the living standards of the small-scale farmers who use the forest.

Did you know? The FAO estimates that in Latin America and the Caribbean 14% of the surface area under forest is principally given over to conservation and wildlife biodiversity. These forests are essentially located inside the protected areas.

The tropical rainforests harbour between 50% and 75% of the terrestrial biodiversity.

20% of the tropical forests are devoted to conservation of the biodiversity, notably with the creation of protected areas. This protection is not always sufficient for maintaining the biodiversity and can generate conflict with local populations who extract resources from them.

The international negotiations currently envisage placing an economic value on the services forests provide by paying for practices that favour forest ecosystems and vice versa, in other words imposing a form of taxation in case of degradation of the environment and loss of biodiversity.