Governing natural resources sustainably is a continuing struggle, and major debates occur over what types of policy “interventions” best protect forests. Ostrom synthesizes the findings from a long-term, interdisciplinary, multiscale, international research program that analyzes the institutional factors affecting forest management. This program analyzes satellite images, conducts socioecological measurements on the ground, and tests the impact of structural variables on human decisions in experimental labs. Results support a new research frontier and move the debate beyond the boundaries of protected areas into larger landscapes where government, community, and co-managed protected areas are embedded.

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Wednesday, January 10, 2007 • 1:00 PM
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The Wrigley Lecture Series is funded through the generous support of Julie Ann Wrigley. For more information, call 480-965-3973 or go to http://sustainable.asu.edu.