“Forest-smart” is a development approach that recognizes forests’ significance for sustaining growth across many sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and water. It transforms how sectors operate by identifying opportunities for mutual benefit and creating practical solutions that can be implemented at scale. Forest-smart solutions support development outcomes such as improved food security, green growth, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Why Make Mining Forest-Smart?
As extractive industries continue to grow in forest-rich countries, the World Bank has recognized the need to implement long-term development that does not adversely impact forests and the services they deliver. Supporting forest-smart interventions will not only ensure that adverse impacts on forests and their biodiversity are avoided or minimized, but will also identify opportunities to increase the productivity and resilience of other sectors. The World Bank’s multi-donor Program on Forests (PROFOR) is therefore helping the World Bank to develop practical tools and policy recommendations for Forest-Smart strategies that promote growth of the mining sector without destroying the public good value of forests.

How PROFOR is Promoting Forest-Smart Policies in Mining
PROFOR is part of the global effort to improve knowledge sharing and monitoring of results for more effective interventions in the forest sector. To that end, PROFOR is funding a program on Extractive Industries in Forest Landscapes: Balancing the Trade-offs and Maximizing the Benefits.

The program seeks to develop practical tools and policy recommendations to promote ‘forest-smart mining’ to enable client countries and the World Bank to make informed decisions when implementing development strategies that promote forest sustainability and poverty reduction alongside the growth of the mining industry.

What Approach is PROFOR Using?
PROFOR has selected to examine four thematic pillars in mining:

1. Resource corridors: involves a sequence of investments and actions to leverage a large extractive industry investment in infrastructure, goods, and services into viable economic development and diversification along a specific geographic area.

2. Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM): refers to the largest employing mining activity in most developing countries. Because of the often informal nature of ASM, its impacts—both direct and indirect—are difficult to regulate and mitigate than those of large-scale mining.

3. Climate-resilient development: refers to well-planned and regulated mining policies that promote the systematic integration of climate change considerations to address issues related to the extractive industries and ecosystems’ vulnerability, such as through REDD+.

4. Mine reclamation: involves creating useful landscapes that can restore productive ecosystems and create industrial and municipal resources.

PROFOR will develop case studies around each one of these pillars to examine the existing best and bad practices, and come up with recommendations to address the opportunities and challenges in creating forest-smart policies.

PROFOR will then consolidate knowledge on these topics through research reports, toolkits, policy papers and specific recommendations, as well as through multi-stakeholder dialogues, workshops, webinars, and round table discussions.

For more information about this program, visit http://profor.info/

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The Forest-Smart Mining Program is co-managed by the Energy and Extractives and Environment and Natural Resources Global Practices of the World Bank.