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New Haven, Conn.—A Yale book that explores the ability of the marketplace to reverse global forest destruction has won the International Studies Association's 2005 Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for the best book of the year on environmental policy and politics.

Governing Through Markets: Forest Certification and the Emergence of Non-State Authority, by Yale professor Benjamin Cashore and his two former masters students, Graeme Auld and Deanna Newsom, analyses a 10-year, multimillion-dollar effort by nongovernmental organizations to transform global environmental governance by embracing marketplace incentives, rather than governments, for rule-making authority.

The selection committee lauded *Governing Through Markets* for its "excellent empirical research" and for "breaking new ground on one of the hottest topics in both the practice of and scholarship on international environmental politics."

Published by Yale University Press in 2004, the book developed an innovative framework designed to trace the competition for legitimacy between the Forest Stewardship Council certification program, which has widespread support from many of the world's leading environmental groups, and alternative programs initiated by industry and forest owner associations.

The authors uncovered significant differences across several industrialized nations both in support for forest certification programs, and in what was required of companies to be recognized as environmentally and socially responsible. Their analysis, they argue, points to the need to conduct systematic research into the effects of different approaches in improving forest ecosystem structure and function, and the communities who depend on them.

Cashore, who is also Director of the Program on Forest Certification at Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, said that it was "wonderful to receive recognition from our peers for tackling such an important, but complex, policy innovation," and praised his two co-authors for their hard work and determination on this four year collaborative effort. All three authors emphasized that the book's innovative analytical framework was a key ingredient in its successful analysis of highly dynamic historical processes.

The result of this approach, Auld explained, was that the book uncovered practical lessons for those who care about reducing global environmental deterioration. Newsom, who, upon graduating was hired by the New York-based Rainforest Alliance, noted that the book's

findings have already had an important and positive impact in assisting change-oriented environmental groups.

The 2005 Sprout award was announced March 4 at the International Studies' Association's annual conference, "Dynamics of World Politics: Capacity, Preferences, and Leadership," in Honolulu, Hawaii. Established in 1972, it is awarded annually by the association's environmental studies section to recognize books that make a "contribution to theory and interdisciplinarity, show rigor and coherence in research and writing, and offer accessibility and practical relevance."

Previous winners include: Edward Parson (2004), author of *Protecting the Ozone Layer: Science and Strategy*, and Elinor Ostrom (1992), *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*, Cambridge University Press.

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Further information

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