History of the development of community forestry in Mexico and its contribution to economic development

Next Generation of Forest Agency Leaders seminar.
Oaxaca, Mexico, July 15th, 2015
Community forestry: An institutional innovation

Picture: Kwira.org
## Traditional versus Community forestry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional forestry</th>
<th>Community forestry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest production units, oriented to supply local (non-monetized) markets</td>
<td>Forest business owned by communities, oriented to also address community needs (energy, housing, work, income, food, health…)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A local human group sets access, use and benefits sharing rules and institutes means to enforce such rules</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and harvesting are controlled through customary mechanisms, including taboos and formal word agreements</td>
<td>Professional foresters hired and working for the community. Positive legal requirements are observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LONG TERM, TRANS-GENERATION BIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In Mexico, 19 of 25 million hectares of accessible forests may be managed through customary systems</td>
<td>In Mexico, Community forestry businesses are non-timber, timber and services businesses</td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Industrial versus Community forestry

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<th>Industrial forestry</th>
<th>Community forestry</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oriented to generate tax income, make profits to a concessionaire industry and increase its capital if possible.</td>
<td>Forest business, owned by communities oriented to also address community needs (energy, housing, work, income, food, health…).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The (federal) government sets laws, conditions and safeguards to the concessionaire industry</td>
<td>A local human group sets access, use and benefits sharing <strong>rules</strong> and institutes means to enforce such rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional foresters hired and working for the concessionaire industry</td>
<td>Professional foresters hired and working for the community. Positive legal requirements are observed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME HORIZON CONSTRAINED BY CONCESSION LIFETIME</strong></td>
<td><strong>LONG TERM, TRANS-GENERATION BIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE</strong></td>
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<td>In Mexico, industrial forestry has been linked to big investments for paper mills and wood industries</td>
<td>In Mexico, Community forestry businesses are non-timber, timber and services businesses.</td>
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## Main economic incentives

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<th><strong>Industrial forestry</strong></th>
<th><strong>Community forestry</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Under-report harvest rates</td>
<td>Maximize community benefits (energy, housing, work, income, food, health…)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce costs</td>
<td>Prone to consume any surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comply with regulations as cheap as possible</td>
<td>Maximize equity and self-regulation through peer surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use crony capitalism advantages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid long-term investment, maximize monetary capital returns</td>
<td>Avoid risks, maximize natural capital returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last 20 years in Mexico, paper mills and big wood industries have reduced their</td>
<td>In the last 20 years in Mexico, Community forestry businesses have maintained their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>operations</td>
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</table>

In the last 20 years in Mexico, paper mills and big wood industries have reduced their operations.
San Jerónimo, México State
Legal timber production in Mexico

Cubic meters

Years


0 2 4 6 8 10 12

Industrial Forestry
Legal timber production in Mexico

Cubic meters

12
10
8
6
4
2
0


Years

Industrial Forestry

Civil society emergence
Legal timber production in Mexico

- Cubic meters
- Communities mobilization
- Crisis
- NAFTA
- Industrial Forestry
- Civil society emergence
- Zapatist uprising
- Years
Legal timber production in Mexico

- Cubic meters
- Communities mobilization
- Crisis
- NAFTA
- Community forestry spring
- Industrial Forestry
- Civil society emergence
- Zapatist uprising

Years:
- 1965
- 1970
- 1980
- 1990
- 2000
- 2010
Community forestry is an economically viable option, if some requirements are met.
Community forestry is an economically viable option, if some requirements are met.

- 10 Hectares → 1 job position
- 30 million hectares under Comm. Forestry → 3 million permanent jobs

Community forestry is an economically viable option, if some requirements are met.
1. (Re) build vibrant communities territories in 23 million hectares

With citizen organizations involvement
2. Develop culturally-sensitive forest management schemes, building on traditional systems.
3. Develop *fair* national and international market linkages. Take advantage of independent certification systems.
4. Develop *genuine* payment for environmental services, including –but not limited to- REDD
5. Incorporate 19 million hectares to community forestry or traditional forestry
Back the stewards of bio-cultural diversity!