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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



Picture: Kwira.org

Community forestry: An institutional innovation

Traditional versus Community forestry

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

Industrial versus Community forestry

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



Ixtepeji, Oaxaca

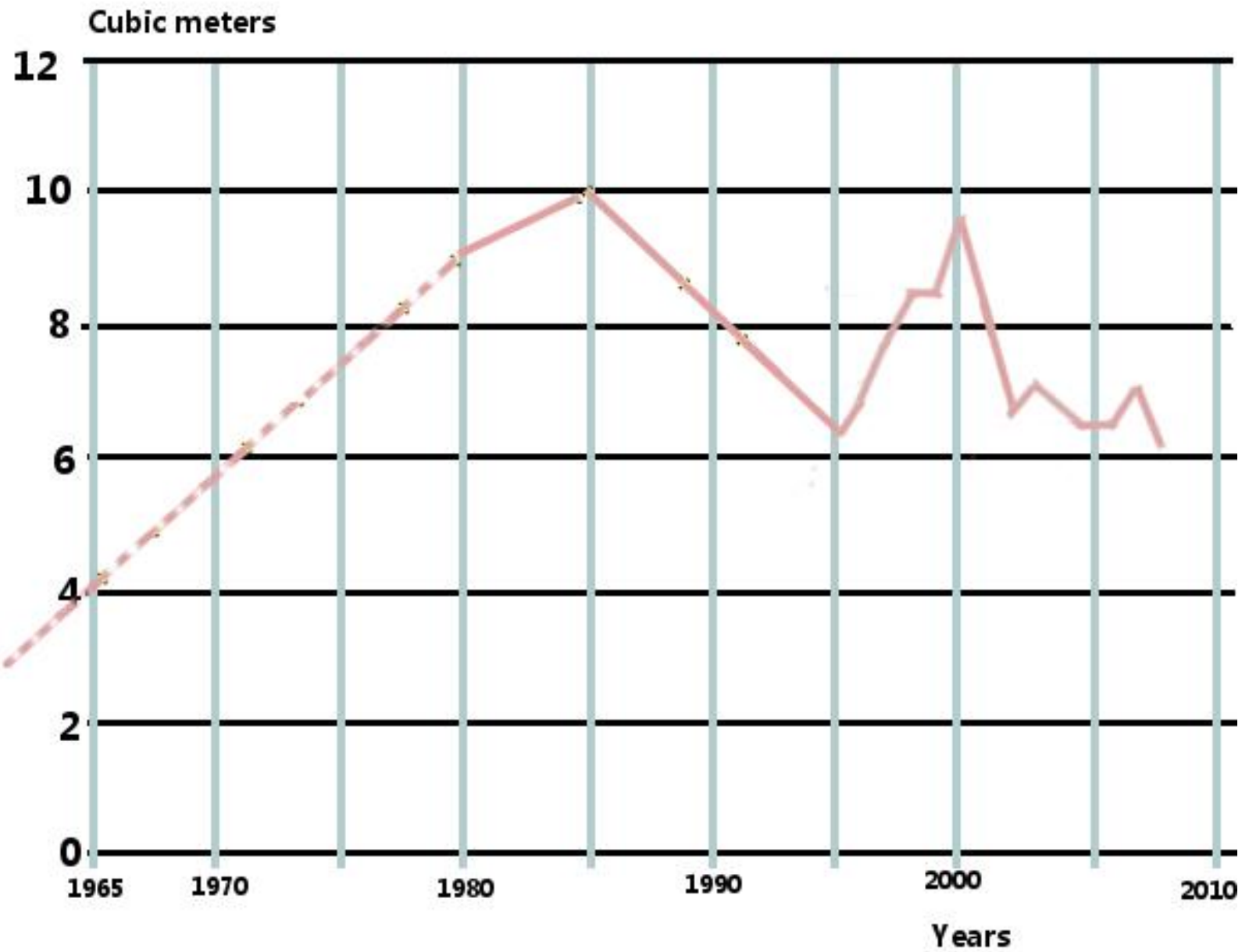
Main economic incentives

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

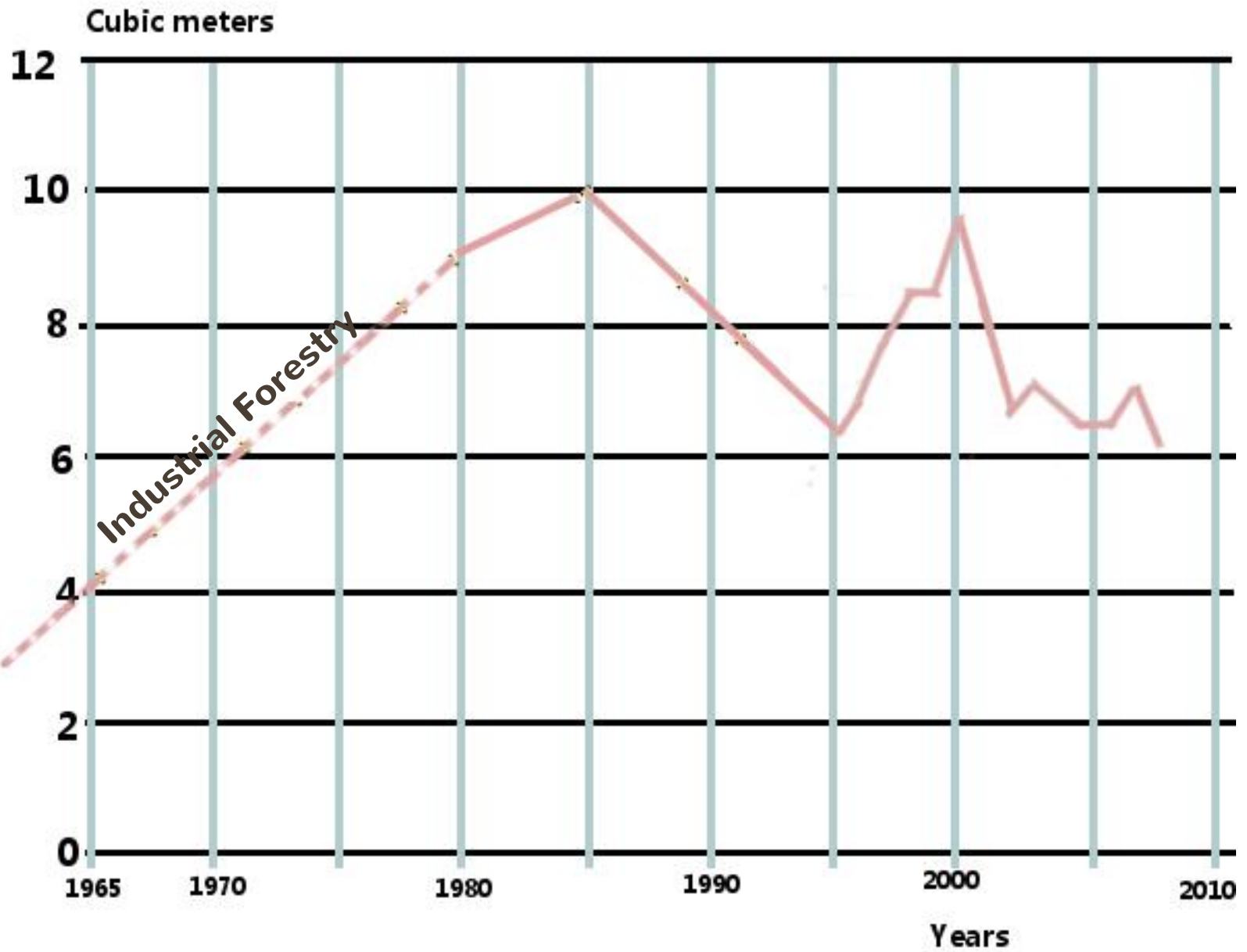


San Jerónimo,
México State

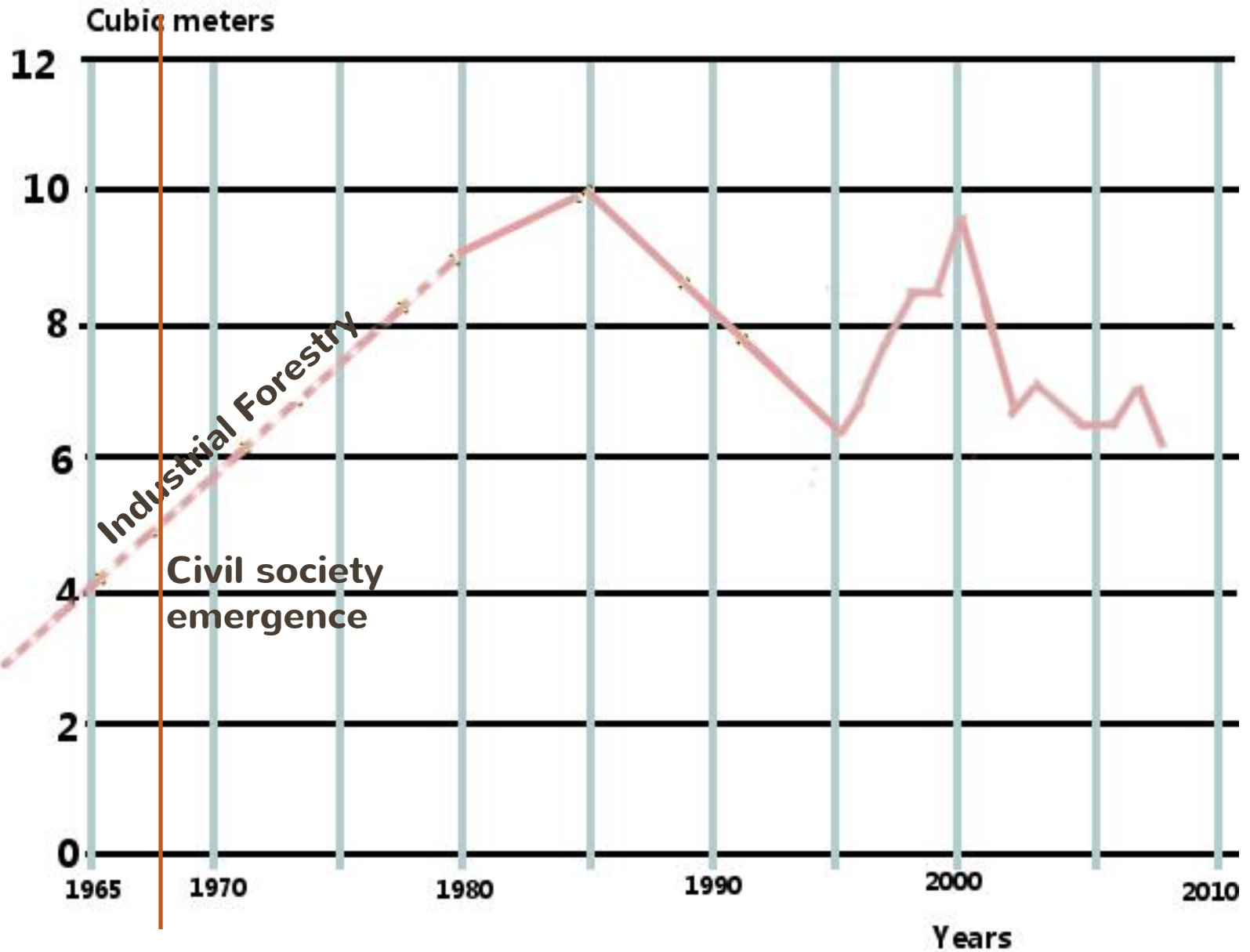
Legal timber production in Mexico



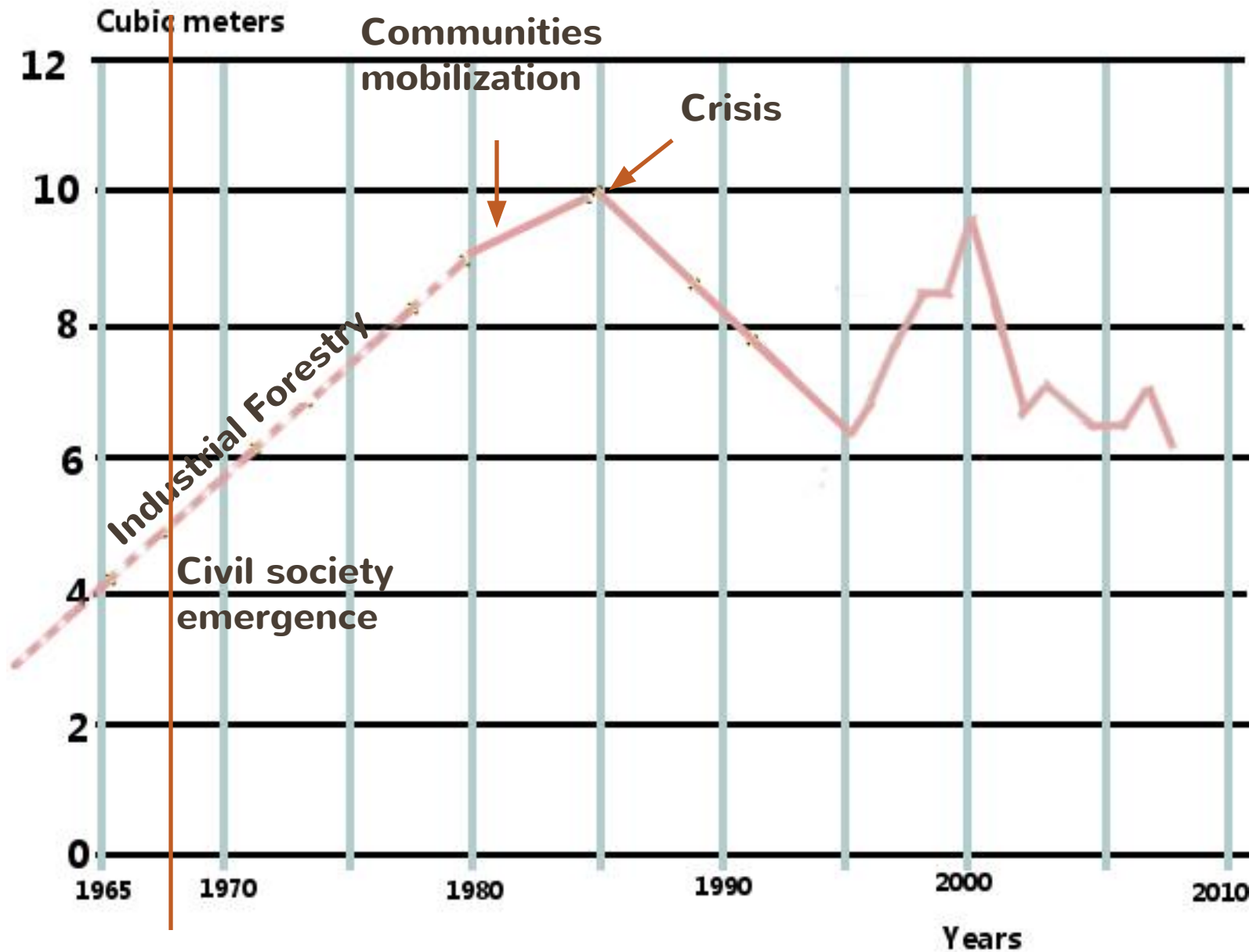
Legal timber production in Mexico



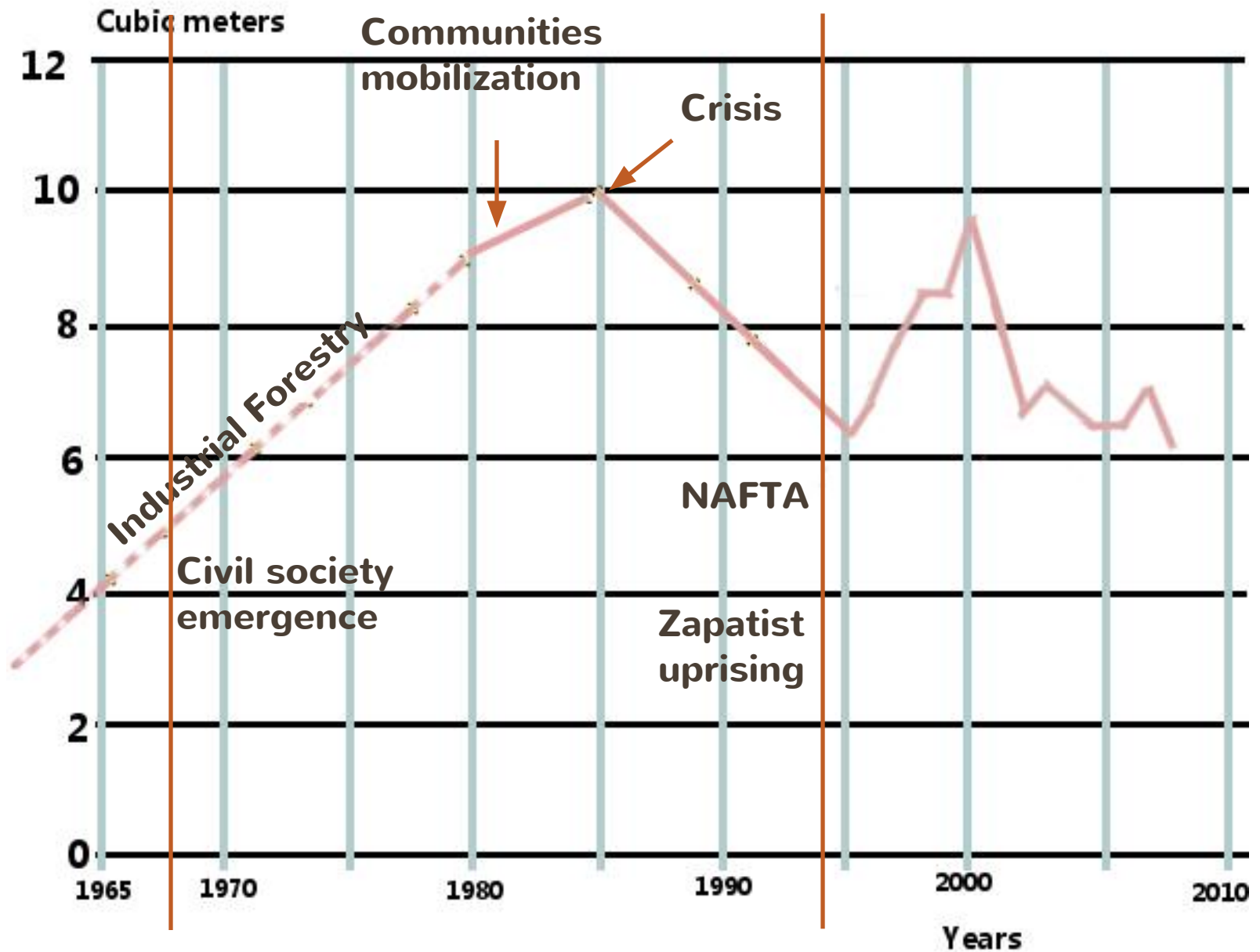
Legal timber production in Mexico



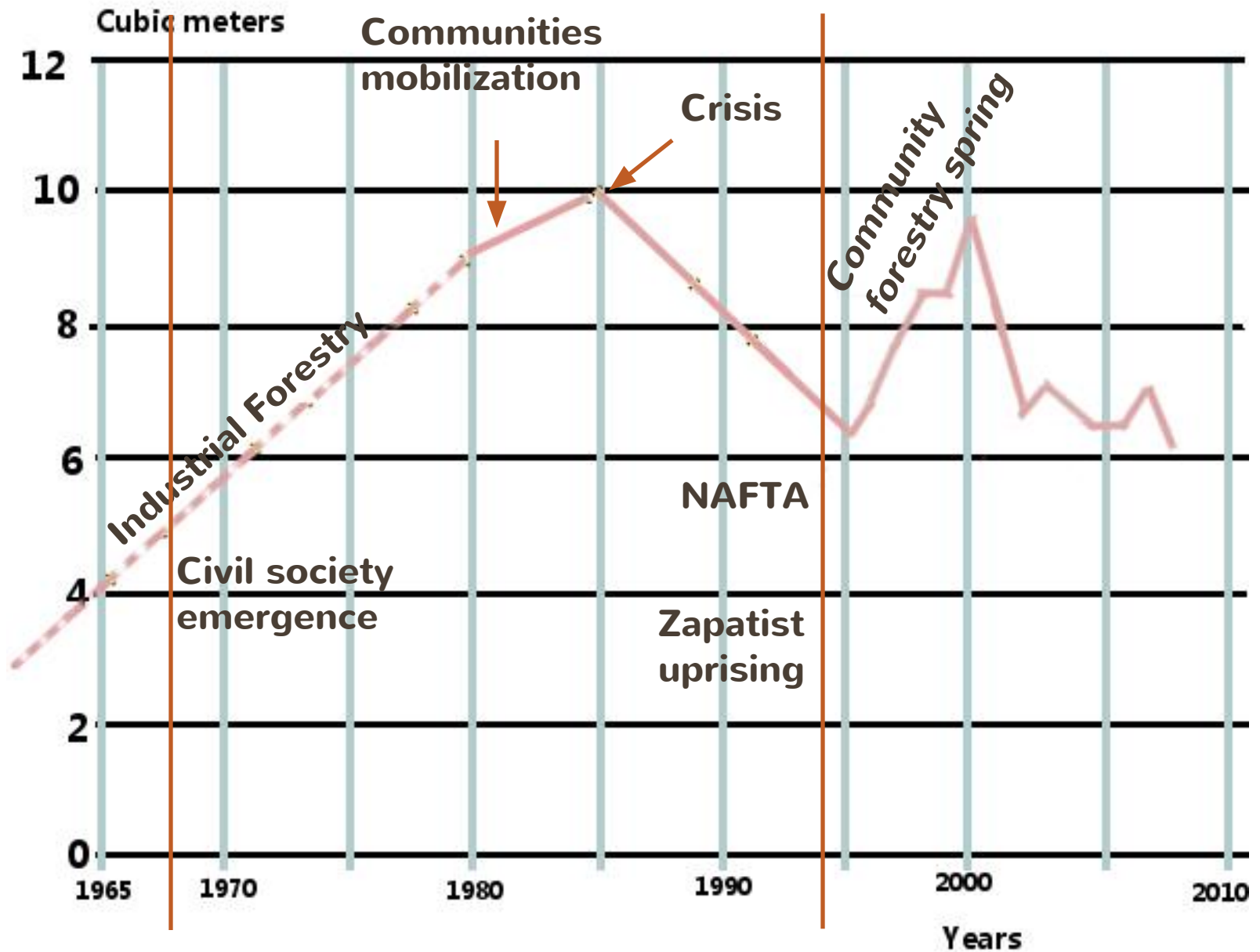
Legal timber production in Mexico



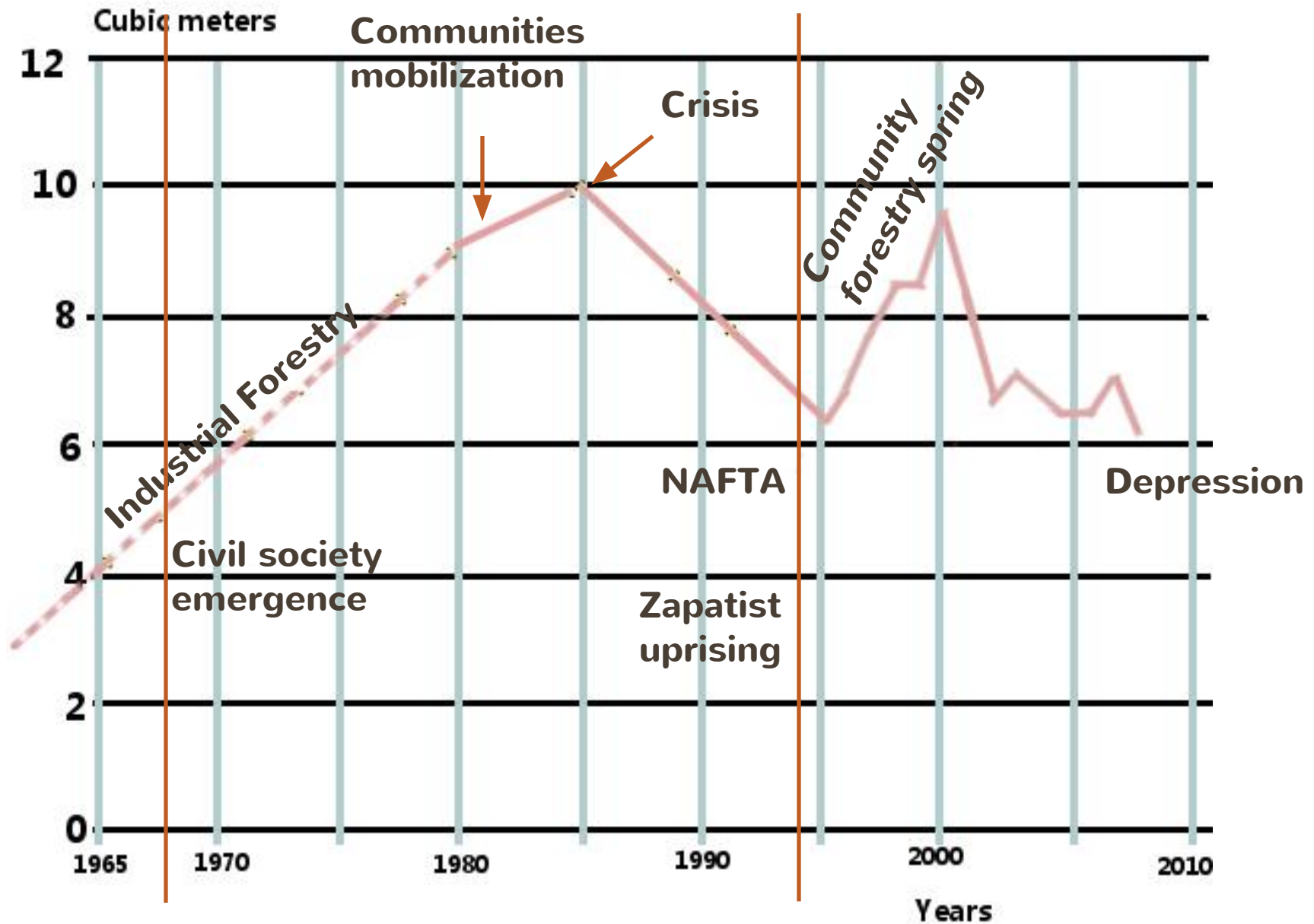
Legal timber production in Mexico



Legal timber production in Mexico



Legal timber production in Mexico





Community forestry is an economically viable option, if some requirements are met

An aerial photograph showing a dense forest on the left, a winding river or stream in the center, and a patchwork of agricultural fields on the right. The text is overlaid on the forested area.

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

Picture: Francisco Chapela



Picture: Ruth Lara

3. Develop *fair* national and international market linkages. Take advantage of independent certification systems



Picture: Francisco Chapela

4. Develop *genuine* payment for environmental services, including –but not limited to- REDD



Picture: Ruth Lara

5. Incorporate 19 million hectares to community forestry or traditional forestry



Picture: Kwira.org

Back the stewards of bio-cultural diversity!