Forest Governance in the 21st Century: Resilient Forest Communities, Landscapes and Agencies

Session 5: Perspectives of Local People and Industry: Concerns, position and plans

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MANAGING INTENSIFICATION

1. The Anticipation Imperative
2. Forests Under Pressure
3. Managing Intensification
TWO TYPES OF PUBLIC POLICY ARE:

- Reactive
- Anticipatory

*Skating to where the puck will be*
THE THREES DEFINING FEATURES OF OUR WORLD ARE:

● The intensity of inter-connectedness
  - A strangely intimate global family living together in a small apartment

● The speed of change
  - Breathtaking acceleration that does not level off at cruising speed but rockets faster and faster

● The depth of inequalities
OUR PUBLIC POLICY SYSTEMS ARE DESIGNED FOR:

- Change that is steady/arithmetc in speed
- Taking care of ourselves and our corner of the world
HOWEVER

- Our public policy issues are driven by exponential change and interdependence
6.8 billion in 2009
9.3 billion in 2050

Source: http://www.optimumpopulation.org/opt.earth.html
THE NUMBERS ARE IMPRESSIVE:

By 2030:

- Earth will add the population of China
- Global GDP will double
- Incomes in emerging economies will triple
- Global middle class will double
PROJECTIONS ARE CONSISTENT:

- Environmental stressors outside earth’s carrying capacity
- Not enough land for food production
- Not enough water
- Shrinking forest cover and biodiversity loss
Source: Rockström et al (2009b), based on Table 2 above.
Innovation also can increase at an exponential rate

- But progress depends not just on available technology
  - Foresight, wisdom and collective will are needed
  - The commons issue especially challenges our capacity to respond
  - Progress depends on who has access to technology
  - Sustaining progress depends on how technology is managed
DEPENDENCE ON FOREST ROLES WILL INTENSIFY:

- Storing carbon
- Sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Stabilizing water sheds
- Providing fiber for pulp, energy, chemicals fuel etc.
DEPENDENCE ON FOREST ROLES WILL INTENSIFY:

- Sustaining forest dependent communities
- Providing recreational /spiritual refuge for city stressed populations
- Holding totemic meaning for citizens of a stressed planet
COMPETING AMBITIONS FOR WHAT FORESTS WILL DELIVER WILL BE HARD TO RECONCILE:

- Size of forests will continue to shrink
- More intact forests will be locked for conservation
- Expansion of forest plantations will be limited by land use pressures and how we define what land is available
- The working forest will need to deliver more with less
INTENSIFICATION PRESSURES WILL GROW EXPONENTIALLY

- More trees from each hectare
- More value to more groups
- More value from each tree:
  - Fibre energy chemicals to feed the green economy
INTENSIFICATION COULD BE BAD:

- Disease and insect infestation
- Chemical loads
- Soil degradation
- Less adaptability to shocks
- Displacement of traditional uses
TECHNOLOGY OFFERS HOPE:

- Nanotechnology
- Breeding
- Genetic modification
THE USE OF GMOs IS INEVITABLE

Already developed for:

- Drought resistance
- Disease resistance
- Land use efficiency
WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR

- Climate stress
- Carbon storage
- Green chemical yields
Early experience in food crops provides cautions
THE POLICY CHALLENGE:

● Ensure public utility

● Ensure safety

● Ensure social fairness
EFFECTIVE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS WILL:

- Drive research in the right direction
- Direct implementation in the right direction
- Maximize public benefits and minimize risks

Denial and reacting after the fact will not protect the public interest
RADICAL PROBLEMS REQUIRE RADICAL SOLUTIONS

BUT SOLUTIONS THAT ARE NOT VALUE DRIVEN ARE NOT SOLUTIONS AT ALL....