Looking Forward: Changes in Forests, and Forest Areas

Implications for designing new architectures for governing forests

MegaFlorestais 2013
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1. What is the future of forests?

2. What do our (forest) citizens want?

3. What are the implications for our institutional “architecture” for the 21st century?
What is the future of forests?

- Many predictions, most roughly consistent, impossible to know for sure

- Future of forests shaped by:
  1. Markets, consumer demand (3 Bn more middle class by 2030);
  2. Climate change;
1. Large scale forest destruction will continue in the tropics for food and biofuel past 2050. (Few remaining natural, closed canopy forests outside of protected areas and community-owned lands.)

2. Many tropical moist forested areas become savanna-like landscapes (esp. Congo Basin, lowland SE Asia), but more boreal forests (and up to 1 Bn more hectares of boreal)

3. (Natural) forest structure overall: younger, simpler, more fragmented:
   - More fire, more pests, more disease;
   - More roads, mining, infrastructure ("slicing and dicing" of extensive natural forests).

4. More plantations, and use of bio-tech, but most of innovations outside of forest sector – food and energy production

5. Continued growth in demand in tropics for wood energy, NTFPs, wood for domestic markets, but over long-term demand (everywhere) will shift from fuel wood and timber to watershed and carbon stocks protection, biodiversity conservation, recreation, etc.

6. Continued growth in demand for recognition of local rights, locally-determined development

7. “Forest governance will be even more important and challenging. More will be expected from forest managers – need to move towards a more comprehensive, resources and rights-based, landscape and intersectoral approach.”
“Western Fires Sap Forestry Budgets” (USA Today, October 20, 2013)

“An era of catastrophic wildfires in the West is taking a giant bite out of the U.S. Forest Service's budget, shortchanging its programs for recreation and land management...

Since 2002, more than $3 billion has been diverted from recreation and management budgets...

Decades ago, about 20% of the forestry budget was devoted to fire. Now that portion is more than half...”
1. Who will take care of our **natural** forests?
   - Forest agencies?

2. Who will **pay** for it?
   - Public budgets, taxpayers?
   - REDD?
   - High-valued timber markets in Europe?
What do our forest citizens want?

- I’m not sure.
- But I expect it is something along the lines of:
  1. Respect, rights of citizens, development
  2. Stop being poor
  3. Fuel wood, NTFPs, products to sell
  4. (Livelihood) Options
Rural populations will continue to be large

Lands set aside by governments on a strict conditional basis; IPs/communities do not have the full legal means to secure their rights.

Communities have the legal right to exclude outsiders, hold rights in perpetuity, and have the right to due process and just compensation in the face of extinguishments.

Full ability to legally secure their rights and to alienate those rights.

Administered by Government: 79.0% (2002) to 73.0% (2012)
Designated for IP & Communities: 1.0% (2002) to 3.0% (2012)
Owned by IPs & Communities: 9.0% (2002) to 12.0% (2012)
Owned by Firms & Individuals: 11.0% (2002) to 12.0% (2012)
Shifts in Forest Tenure, Low and Middle-Income Countries (2002, 2013)

AREA INCREASE
Designated for IP & Communities: 54
Owned by IPs & Communities: 79
(area in millions of hectares)

(Great global progress – both in terms of recognizing human rights and in establishing institutional conditions for sustainable forestry and investment)
Forest Tenure Distribution in Latin America (2002, 2013)

2002:
- Administered by Government: 71%
- Designated for IP & Communities: 16%
- Owned by IPs & Communities: 9%
- Owned by Firms & Individuals: 4%

2013:
- Administered by Government: 49%
- Designated for IP & Communities: 16%
- Owned by IPs & Communities: 26%
- Owned by Firms & Individuals: 9%
Forest Tenure Distribution in Asia (2002, 2013)

2002
- Administered by Government: 66%
- Designated for IP & Communities: 3%
- Owned by IPs & Communities: 29%
- Owned by Firms & Individuals: 3%

2013
- Administered by Government: 59%
- Designated for IP & Communities: 7%
- Owned by IPs & Communities: 31%
- Owned by Firms & Individuals: 3%

2002

- 99.5% Administered by Government
- 0.3% Designated for IP & Communities
- 0.2% Owned by Firms & Individuals
- 0.0% (Ind. & Firms)
- 0.0% (Owned)

2013

- 91.7% Administered by Government
- 4.1% Designated for IP & Communities
- 4.0% Owned by Firms & Individuals
- 0.3% (Ind. & Firms)
- 0.0% (Owned)
But: Usually, limited rights recognized

Source: Forest tenure database. See www.rightsandresources.org/tenuredata.
How good? As strong as private? Exclude? Due Process? Unlimited duration?

So, what will they all want, deserve in next 20 – 30 years?

1. I don’t know;

2. Probably more of the same;

3. Changes this year give us a clue, the shape of things to come.
What happened in 2013?

1. Local rights increasingly supported in the legal, regulatory and judicial systems: Constitutional court decision in Indonesia recognizing indigenous ownership over forest lands, other major decisions in India, Peru, and Belize, etc. But...often weak, not implemented, not adopted by executive branches.

2. Land crisis shaping political change at the national level: national level political movements demanding government action to secure local land rights in India, Nepal, Indonesia, and Cambodia. Those movements are often instrumental in bringing structural change. But...can lead to more conflict if not addressed.
3. More awareness of need to address tenure insecurity in the private sector - supply chains and business models being adjusted: Stora Enso renegotiating their land acquisitions in China, Nestle, International Association of Mining Companies adopting FPIC, etc. More action than we have ever seen before. But...more bad actors than good, good actors going it alone.

4. Governments have made unprecedented commitments to support tenure reform: new level of recognition of this crisis and commitment to act at the international level (Voluntary Guidelines, G8, etc.). Growing realization that recognizing local land rights is key to achieve economic development, addressing food insecurity, climate change, etc. But...not yet “adopted”, far from implemented, mixed bag of support.
What are the implications for how we design our forest institutions?

- You will not have enough money.
- You will not have enough political power to do this alone.
- You will need lots of friends.
Who are your (likely) friends?

1. Local communities, Indigenous Peoples.
   - Embrace them, help them succeed, help them invest and conserve forests.
   - They have rights, are citizens, are present, will often volunteer, and often want to conserve forests.

2. Progressive private sector actors.
   - Embrace them, help them succeed, help them invest and conserve forests.
   - They have money and political power, and often good will. Either we capitalize on this opportunity or we lose.
What to do?

With communities:
1st: recognize and clarify their land rights. This is YOUR cause, agencies should lead and promote tenure reforms.

2nd: provide services: credit, market intelligence, fire/pest protection, insurance, etc. so they can manage, benefit from forests, and adapt to ever changing conditions. This is your new, most favored constituency.

With private sector:
1st: help them adopt best standards and business models on own “footprint” – race to the top.

2nd: encourage them to engage at national and global level
What can you do?

1. Convene

2. Invest in knowledge (skills development, research, etc. to address today and tomorrow’s challenges: conflict resolution, property rights, local enterprises, brokers between communities and companies, etc.)
Finally, if it is at all consoling:

- We too, RRI, are rethinking our structure. We are not happy with our performance. « How We Organize » due in late 2013, discussions in 2014, new structure in 2015?

THANK YOU

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