

# Ten Years of Discussion by *MegaFloresta*is

What issues did we discuss in the beginning, what has changed, and what might this mean? How did “change” happen?

Andy's Personal Reflections

Yucay, Peru 2015

# Our concerns in the early days...10 years ago



1. **Public forest reform** – started in China, experience from other countries, what are “indigenous peoples”, and what are their “rights”? What are responsibilities of forest agencies outside of public lands? (e.g. guarding the “nation’s forests” VS the “national/public forests”)
2. **Forest industry and investment “in transition”**
  - “North” - would it all go “south”?
  - What to do with SOEs?
  - Could large industry diversify from “just wood” to other?
  - What possibility for tropical forests?
  - What possibility for small-scale operators, NTFPs – poverty alleviation?

# Our concerns in the early days...10 years ago



## 3. Deforestation – how to stop it?

- Certification – good or bad, kill the industry, screw the little guys?
- PES – cool, but what scope, who'll pay for it?
- Illegal logging and trade – just beginning to be discussed

## 4. Climate change?

- What's it mean for us? How to deal with bigger, more frequent fires; scramble to understand, model potential impact, model; (BC scenarios)
- just beginning to see forestry's role as a savior/mitigator at global level

## 5. What future for forest agencies? – old, worried about how to restructure, ability to change; excitement about new (Brazil)

# What's happened? How has conversation changed?

## 1. Public forest reform:

- Globally – major shifts - > 200 million hectares to communities, from 20 to 30% of LMIC forests;  $\pm$  100 million hectares to households in China, a lot in Brazil, etc.;
- China still working on public forest reform – > 20 countries with new legislation, more with draft legislation; huge “implementation” challenge
- Many agencies searching for partnerships/collaborative management of public lands with communities (e.g. US)

## 2. Forest industry and investment “in transition”

- Privatization of SOEs in China
- “boomerang” – some \$ invested in the “north” – land, transactions costs much higher in “south” than anticipated
- Diversification of products – bioenergy, chemicals, etc
- Community enterprises a “good thing” – help keep forests alive, jobs
- Tropical forests still struggling – costs, risks, profitability – but possible with certification, institutional reforms – encouraged by trade agreements

# What's happened?

## 3. Deforestation – how to stop it?

- Certification – good, not sufficient – need to engage consumers
- PES – good, got to scale in some countries, risks discouraging production
- Illegal logging and trade – recognized, very important, new international trade initiatives FLEGT, VPAs,
- Shift to address agriculture as driver – supply chains, company commitments “deforestation free”, NY agreement, CGF, etc
- Recognition many governments still promoting it – jury still out whether will reduce or not, what can, or should, be saved? Forest agencies alone can’t stop it.

## 4. Climate change

- Forests as sources, no longer reliable sinks?
- From focus on mitigation to adaptation, role of restoration grows
- REDD soared, then landed, carbon market in question
- Major discoveries – IP/communities good/better stewards, deforestation affects food security

# What's happened?

## 4. What future for forest agencies?

- Still surviving – some restructuring, reviving, thriving?
- More “getting things done through others”
- More transparency, outreach and support to forest owners (both communities and households)
- More diversity, discussion of “leadership” in agencies,
- More exchange and learning with others, in own society and beyond
- More willing, even eager to take a chance - innovate



# What's this mean/suggest to me?

1. A LOT of change in a short amount of time;
2. Still far from “solving” problem of deforestation/poverty/rights in forest areas
3. Forestry, forest agencies ARE changing: not the profession of the patient or faint of heart;
4. Investment in learning, institutional innovation, outreach/partnership, and leadership, well worth it.

***How did all of this change happen?***

## Two Questions

1. What do you think has changed?
  1. Leaders
  2. Jintao – godfather
  3. Daniel – next generation
  4. Sally
2. How did this (positive) change happen?  
What's driving, and how do we encourage it?