Forest Agencies in Transition

Global Issues in Governance
MegaFlorestais
Grey Towers
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Forest Agencies - History

Created a long time ago:

3 Categories (roughly):
1. European roots (e.g. Russia (1800s); US (1900);
2. Models extended to “colonies”, Asia, Africa, LA;
3. Created anew post revolution (e.g. China, Mexico)

Lots has changed since then:

1. The purpose of forests— what is expected of agencies
2. Scientific/knowledge basis for forestry
3. Land ownership, political basis for forestry and forest agencies, role of the state

Lots more will change in the future...
The Purpose of Forests, What is Expected of Forest Agencies

From:
• Control of territory and resources for the state;
• Conservation/protection – water, wildlife - hunting
• Timber, (avoiding “timber famine”)  
• Industrialized production for economic growth of the state

To:
• Non-timber forest products, bioenergy, peopless recreation etc (often more important than timber)
• “Ecosystem services/management”
• More local “participation”
• Climate change mitigation (e.g. REDD)
• Local jobs, enterprises, development
Scientific Basis has Changed

From:
• “professional, modern, science”;
• “we”, foresters, “know it all”

To:
• Multiple sources, bases of knowledge
• “we all” know
• “knowledge is power”
Land, Political Basis Has Changed

From:
• Forest owned by the state/public, centralized
• (support to private forests an offshoot)

To:
• Forest owned by many different entities
• Recognition of land rights, “territories of Indigenous Peoples”; “decentralized” – to states, households
• Democratization: citizen voice/choice, transparence, accountability
• Agency as reflexive, supporter of local
Status of Forest Land Rights – State Dominated but Changing


- Administered by government: 80% in 2002, 74% in 2008
- Designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples: 1.5% in 2002, 2.3% in 2008
- Owned by communities and indigenous peoples: 7.7% in 2002, 9.1% in 2008
- Owned by individuals and firms: 10% in 2002, 14% in 2008

Rights by Region – Asia and Africa Behind

Fig. 1: Latin America
- Administered by government: 33%
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 8%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 25%
- Owned by individuals & firms: 34%

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia & Venezuela; accounts or 78% of Latin American forests.

Fig. 2: Asia
- Administered by government: 98.1%
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 3%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 6%

China, Australia, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, PNG & Japan; accounts for 78% of Asian forests.

Fig. 3: Africa
- Administered by government: 100%

DRC, Sudan, Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, CAR, Congo, Gabon & Cameroon; accounts for 67% of African forests.

Implications for Agencies

1\textsuperscript{st} – change in forest purpose, relatively easy to react to

2\textsuperscript{nd} – change in forest science/knowledge, harder, but “logical”, can adapt

3\textsuperscript{rd} – land ownership and democratization –

transformative, much, much more challenging

• Can be fundamentally disempowering to public agencies
Lots More Change in the Future

- population growth – 9 billion?
- Food insecurity and need to double agricultural production by 2050?
- booming demand for bioenergy, mining
- increased rural population, especially youth
- increased risk of violent conflict
- disasters, disruptions with climate change
- Changes in trade, international institutions with the growing importance of the “middle income” countries – Brazil, China, India, Russia
From now to 2030, a projected 25 trillion dollars will be invested in infrastructure in developing countries. (Cohen and Steers 2009)

"There will be hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment over the next decade or so in Africa, in ports, rail, roads, mining, hydroelectric, to exploit the resources and bring them to market." (IFC, May 2011)
Example: Oil/Gas on Indigenous Territories, Peru

IBC, 2008
Implications for Forest Agencies?

So:

1. Pressure on forest areas from 4 sides – agriculture, energy, mining and infrastructure
2. Much greater expectations and power of local people
3. Much more demand for local jobs
4. Innovation, reinvention will be required to remain socially, politically relevant, and effective promoters of forests
How will forest agencies manage this change?

How will forest agencies, and their roles, be different in the future?