Forest Agencies in Transition

Global Issues in Governance
MegaFlorestais
Grey Towers
Created a long time ago:

3 Categories:
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, Brazil)

Lots has changed since then:
1. The purpose of forests– what is expected
2. Scientific/knowledge basis for forestry
3. Land ownership, political basis for forestry
The Purpose of Forests, What is Expected of Forest Agencies

From:
• Land, forest control for use by elite
• Conservation/protection – water, wildlife - hunting
• Timber, (avoiding “timber famine”)
• Industrialized production for economic growth

To:
• Non-timber/bioenergy products (over timber)
• “Ecosystem services/management”
• More local “participation”
• Climate change mitigation
• Local jobs, enterprises, development
Scientific Basis has Changed

From:
- “professional, modern, science”;
- “we”, foresters, know

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
Status of Forest 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: 34%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 33%
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 8%
- Owned by individuals & firms: 25%

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

**Fig. 2: Asia**

- Administered by government: 66%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 6%
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 3%
- Owned by individuals & firms: 25%

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

**Fig. 3: Africa**

- Administered by government: 98.1%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 1.4%
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 0.5%
- Owned by individuals & firms: 0%

(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?
- double agricultural production by 2030?
- booming demand for bioenergy
- increased urbanization
- increased risk of violent conflict

So:

1. pressure on forest areas from 2 sides – agriculture and energy
2. much greater expectations and power of local people
3. Innovation, reinvention will be required to remain socially, politically relevant, and effective land managers

How, or will, forest agencies manage this change?