

An aerial photograph of a large, clear blue lake with turquoise water near the shore. The lake is surrounded by dense evergreen forests and rugged mountains under a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper and middle portions of the image.

14th Annual Meeting of MegaFlorestais

**Transforming Forest Management,
Delivering Climate and
Conservation Solutions**

Solange Bandiaky-Badji, Coordinator, RRI

Herman Sundqvist and Sally Collins,

Co-Chairs

South Lake Tahoe, California

MegaFlorestais 2023



“Those with the Greatest Forests...”

~Portuguese for Mega Florestais

- **Created by RRI**, a global coalition of Indigenous, Afro-descendant and local communities’ organizations + allies.
- **Began in 2005** with a small group of government forest agency leaders from Brazil, China, Mexico, and U.S. at a public forest tenure reform conference convened by RRI in China.
- **Conceived as an answer** to few opportunities for forest agency leaders to discuss issues facing their forests (climate change, fires, volatile forest products markets, decline of government support, etc.)

Why MegaFlorestais?

- **Facilitate** top leaders of public forest agencies to informally engage in dialogue and exchange on critical issues facing forests.
- **Create** candor using the Chatham House Rule.





What are Chatham House Rules?

- Used around the world to encourage inclusive and open dialogue in meetings, debates, and discussion panels on critical topics.
- Participants are free to use the information received, but cannot reveal the identity or affiliation of the speakers or any other participant.
- Named after the UK headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Why MegaFlorestais?

- **Address** the most important issues facing the forest sector and encourage learning and innovation.
- **Promote** new practices and policies for strengthening forest governance + forest agencies.



Why MegaFlorestais?

And last but not least: Foster strong relationships and empower forest leaders to become change agents within their agencies and across ministries.





Why Rights and Resources Initiative?

- Long experience promoting stronger relationships between civil society and government agencies
- Address policy gaps and opportunities to advance rights of traditional communities, afro-descendent groups and indigenous groups
- Help government agencies advance policies and programs across ministries that conserve forests and areas threatened by illegal land conversion



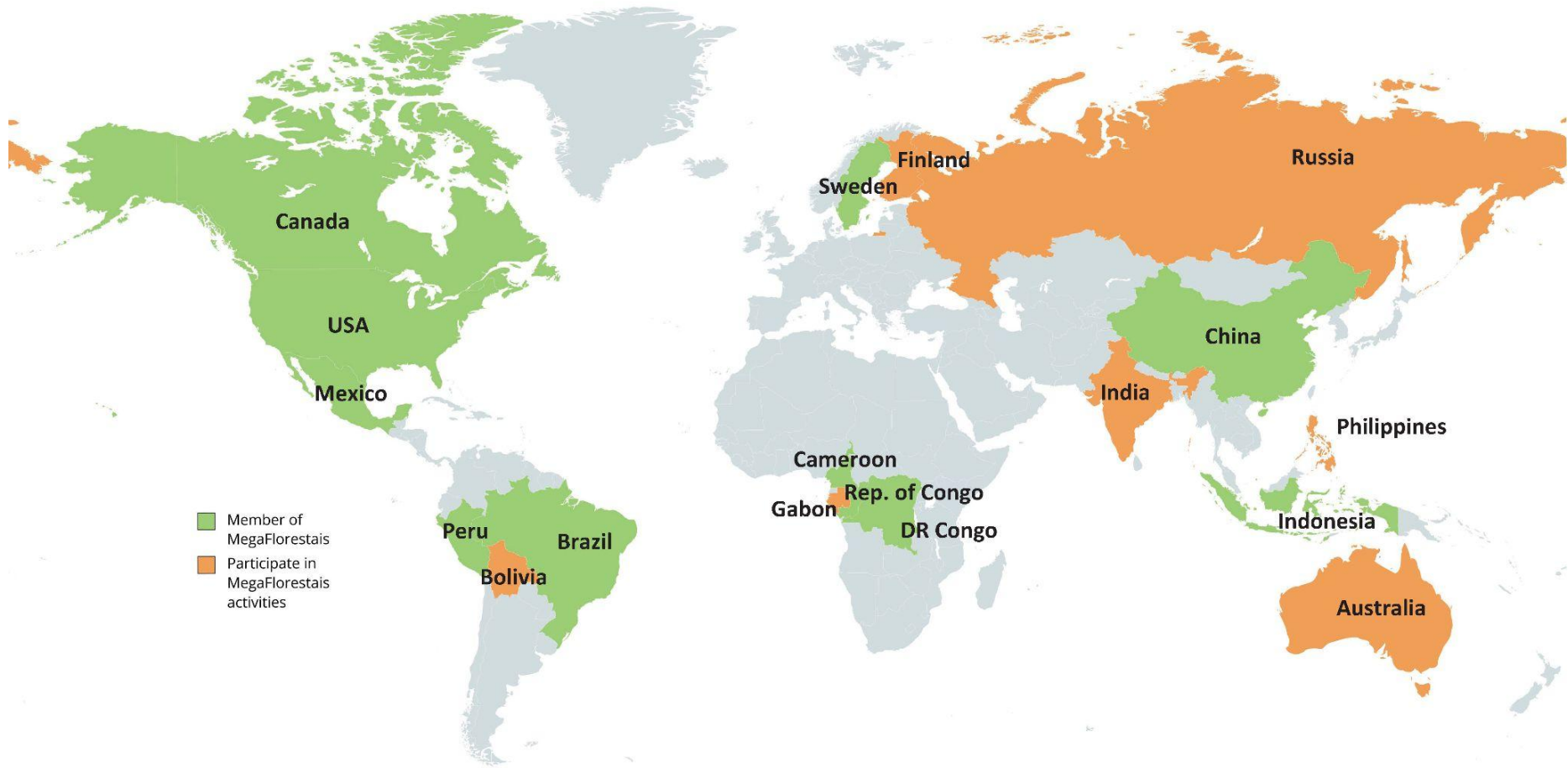
MegaFlorestais today

- **Coordinated** and co-convened by RRI.
- **Funded by:** RRI; network members and host countries; US Forest Service; and European Forestry Institute.

Former co-chairs:

Tasso Azevedo, former Director General, Brazilian Forest Service; Doug Konkin, former BC Forester, Tom Rosser, former Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Forest Service; Antonio Carlos Hummel, former Director General, Brazilian Forest Service; Glenn Mason, former Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Forest Service

MEGAFLORESTAIS COUNTRIES



Account for about 50% of the world's forests

A photograph of two brown bear cubs in a forest. One cub is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while another is partially visible in the background. The scene is filled with logs and tree trunks.

Previous Meetings

- 2006 USA (Pennsylvania)
- 2007 Russia (St. Petersburg)
- 2008 Brazil (Amazon)
- 2009 Canada (British Columbia)
- 2010 China (Fujian)
- 2011 Mexico (Oaxaca)
- 2012 USA (Santa Fe)
- 2013 Indonesia (Bali)
- 2014 Cameroon (Buea)
- 2015 Peru (Yucay)
- 2016 China (Xishuangbanna)
- 2017 Canada (British Columbia)
- 2018 Sweden (Vidsel)

10 Years of MegaFlorestais: Connecting Forest Agency Leaders of the Most Forested Countries





NETWORK ACTIVITIES

- **Annual meetings of MegaFlorestais - Held every year 2006-2018**
- **MegaFlorestais webinars - Held 2019-2022 (COVID)**
- **Next generation of forest agency leaders seminars:** created to better prepare for next generation of leaders to lead in a more complex social, political, environmental, and market context; held 6 times, 116 participants trained
- **Rethinking forest regulations workshops:** designed to assist forest agency officials undergoing the process of reforming forest regulations. Held 5 times – 65 government officials and civil society representatives trained



NETWORK ACTIVITIES

- **Exchanges and study tours** (China to the US, Lao PDR and India to Mexico, Indonesia to Brazil)
- **Participation in key international events** (UN Forum on Forests, World Forestry Congress, IUFRO)
- **Publications** (2 papers by former MegaFlorestais leaders on “Public Forest Agencies of the 21st Century” and “10 Years of MegaFlorestais,” brief on “Rethinking Forest Regulations” by RRI and MegaFlorestais leaders)
- **Communication and exchange of information** through newsletters, blogs, and social media

Thank you

