

15th Meeting of MegaFlorestais

The Evolution of Forest Management on the Path to 2030

Garo Batmanian, Host, Brazil Forest Service

Solange Bandiaky-Badji, Coordinator, RRI

Herman Sundqvist and Leslie Weldon, Co-Chairs

Alter do Chão, Santarém, Brazil

August 19-23, 2024

"Those with the Greatest Forests..."

~Portuguese for MegaFlorestais

- **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** to build an informal engagement network for forest agency leaders to discuss issues facing their forests (climate change, Indigenous and community rights, forest loss, volatile markets, decline of government support...)



Why MegaFlorestais?

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



Why MegaFlorestais?

- **Supports** top leaders of public forest agencies to informally engage in dialogue and shared learning on critical issues facing forests.



- **Enables** candor using the Chatham House Rule - key and consistent feature of MegaFlorestais.

What is the Chatham House Rule?

- 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

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



MegaFlorestais Brazil, 2008



Informal, Collegial and Professional



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



**RIGHTS +
RESOURCES**

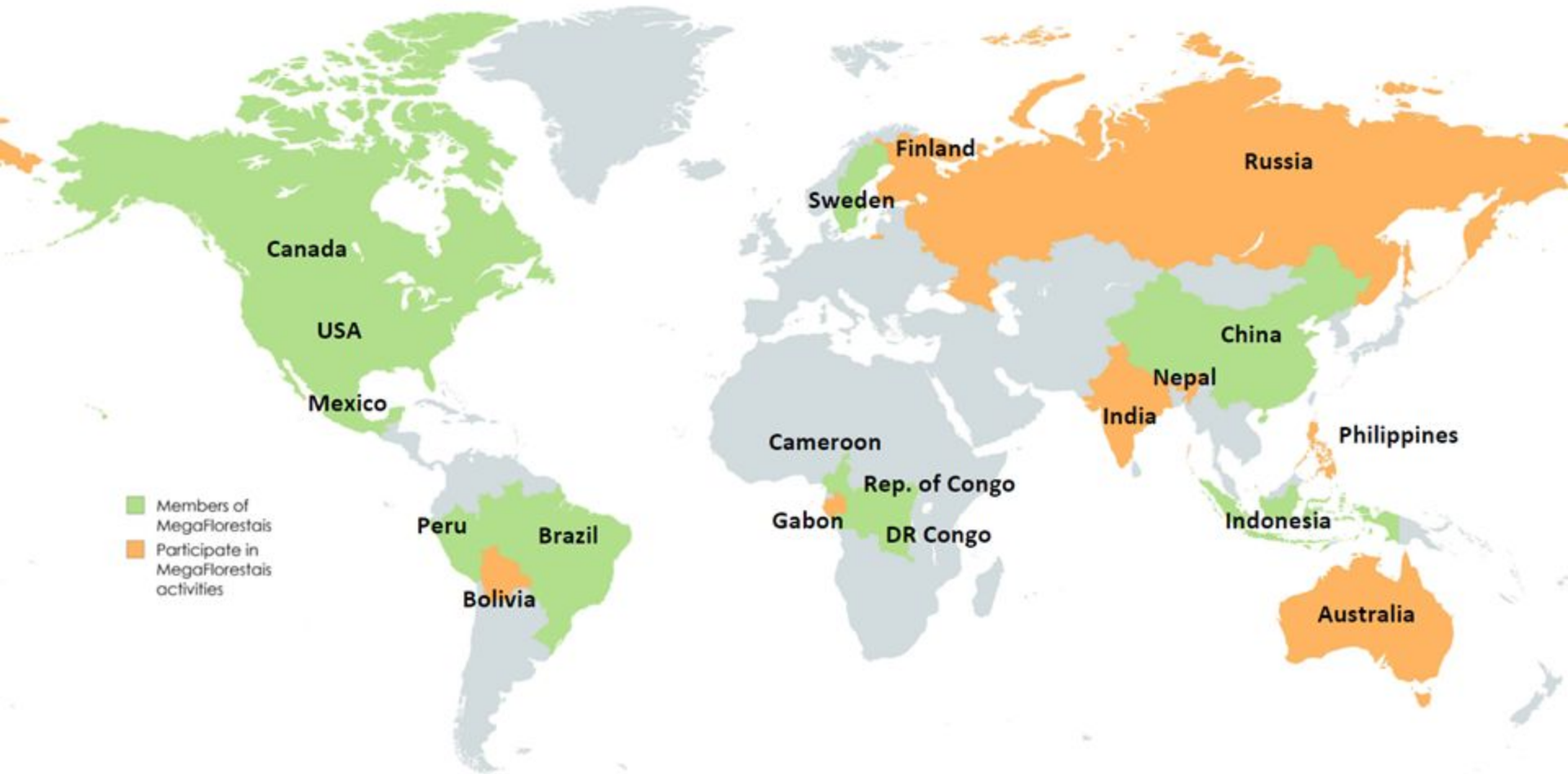
MegaFlorestais Today

- **Coordinated** and co-convened by RRI
- **Funded by:** RRI; network members, sponsors and host countries; Brazilian Forest Service

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, Sally Collins, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service

MEGAFLORESTAIS COUNTRIES...



...account for about 50% of the world's forests.

Previous Meetings

2023 USA (South Lake Tahoe, California)

2019-2022 Break, COVID (Webinars)

2018 Sweden (Vidsel)

2017 Canada (British Columbia)

2016 China (Xishuangbanna)

2015 Peru (Yucay)

2014 Cameroon (Buaa)

2013 Indonesia (Bali)

2012 USA (Santa Fe, New Mexico)

2011 Mexico (Oaxaca)

2010 China (Fujian)

2009 Canada (British Columbia)

2008 Brazil (Amazon)

2007 Russia (St. Petersburg)

2006 USA (Milford, Pennsylvania)

Network Activities

- **Annual meetings of MegaFlorestais - Held every year, 2006-2018**
- **MegaFlorestais webinars - Held 2019-2022 (COVID), resumed annual meetings in 2023**
- **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. Next Seminar: 2025 Oaxaca, Mexico
- **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 and WELCOME!



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



Two Decades of MegaFlorestais



Sally Collins

Brazil

August 2024

MegaFlorestais – How it Started



China 2005

First Meeting 2006 Grey Towers USA





2006 Issues

- **Global Markets Shifting**
- **Rights of Forest People**
- **Public Trust Concerns**
- **Rapid Pace of Change (Climate, Technology, etc.)**
- **Ineffectual International forums for dialogue on Forests-build relationships**

Deforestation/Conversion/Illegal Logging—International Attention



The People & Their Forests: Tenure Reforms/Rights



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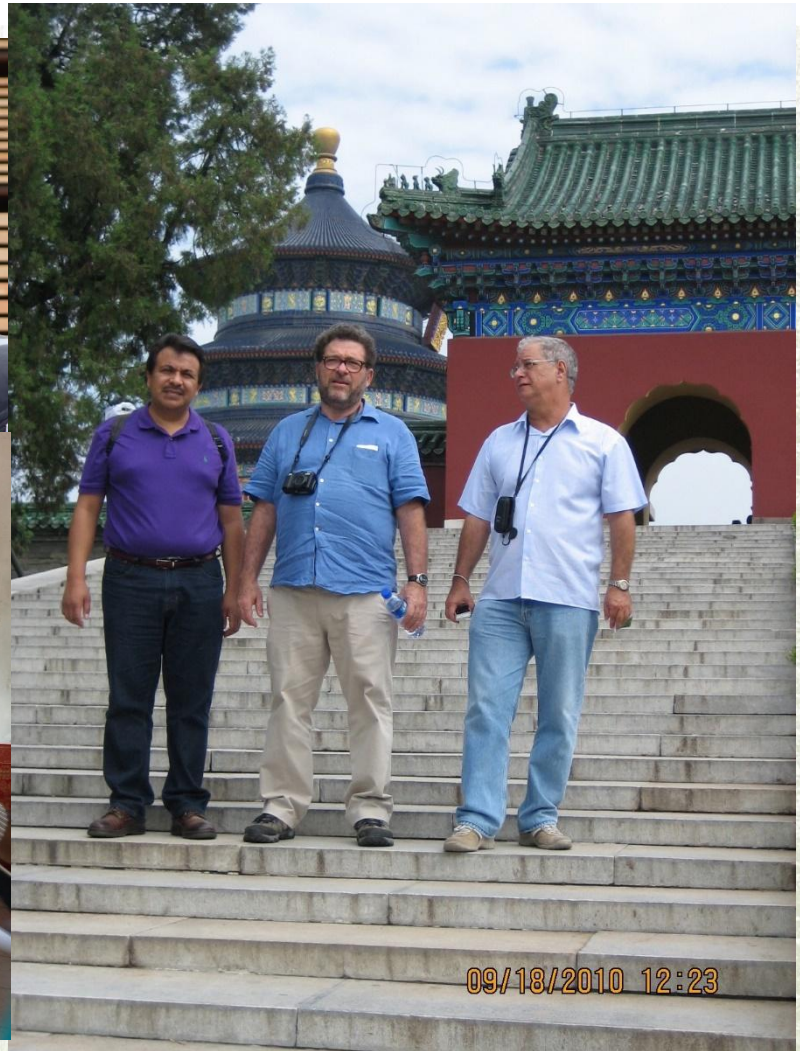
People...



Climate Change



Relationships







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中国·福建·武夷山 2010



Evolution of Issues

- **Forest Product Markets Shifted but not as Anticipated—New Markets Emerge**
- **Tenure and Rights Issues Magnified in Importance**
- **Progress on Deforestation Uneven**
- **Climate Change Attention and Role of Forests Magnified—MegaFires, Insects**
- **Aging Forest Leadership/Next Generation**
- **Restoration/Reforestation of Forests**
- **Innovations in Technology, Tools**

Challenges Continue to Evolve

- **Climate Change: Fires, Insects, Catastrophic events, Flooding of coastal areas, affects on community forests and livelihoods, etc**
- **Role of Indigenous People/Traditional Communities in Climate Mitigation recognized**
- **Loss of Forest Land and Requisite Ecosystem Services: WATER, BIODIVERSITY - Restoration of Degraded Forests new focus**

Opportunities

- **Urban Forestry**
- **Water Markets/Green Infrastructure/PWS**



Opportunities That Bring Us Here

- **Build on International Climate Discussions**
- **Forests and Poverty Alleviation**
- **Role of Private Sector in reducing carbon, illegal logging, deforestation, conversion, climate mitigation.**
- **New Markets for forest products**
- **Tenure Reform Opportunities**
- **New Technology – Mapping, Monitoring, more**

Back to Brazil





Namaste

