FOREST AGENCIES IN TRANSITION

Anticipating and Planning for Big Change

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Next Generation of Forest Agency Leaders

Oaxaca, Mexico

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Forest Agencies: An Historical Perspective

Most forest agencies were created a long time ago:

1. European roots (e.g. Russia (1800s); US (1900);
2. Models (German, Northern European, etc.) extended to “colonies” in Asia, Africa, Latin America;
3. New models created post-revolution (e.g. China, Mexico, South Sudan);
4. New agencies are created with ideas from all of the above (e.g. Brazil, Peru).

FOREST AGENCIES: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

At least 3 major changes are occurring:

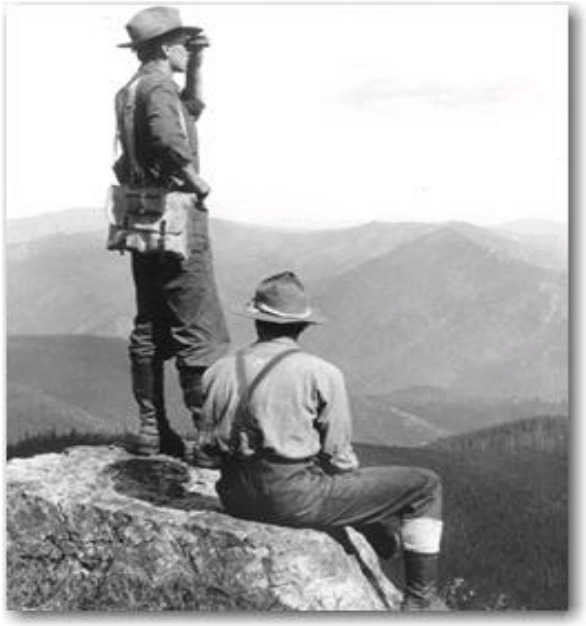
1. The purpose of forests: what is expected of agencies
2. Scientific/knowledge basis for forestry
3. Land ownership, political basis for forestry and forest agencies, role of the state

Lots more will change in the future...

1) 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
- Source of land for agriculture, settling colonists



1) The Purpose of Forests: What is Expected of Forest Agencies

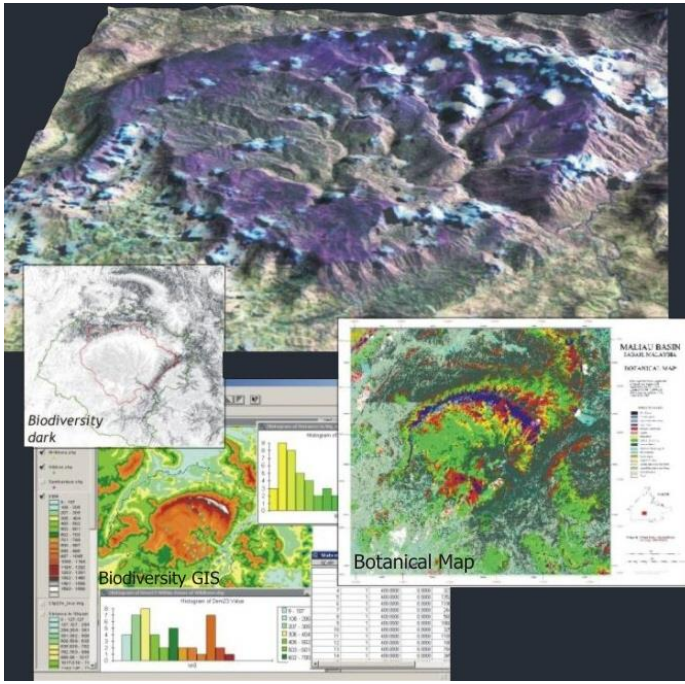
Towards:

- Diminishing support for deforestation
- Non-timber forest products, bioenergy, recreation, etc. (often more important than timber)
- Ecosystem services/management
- More local “participation”
- Climate change mitigation (e.g. REDD) and adaptation (forest restoration)
- Local jobs, enterprises, development

2) Scientific Basis has Changed

From:

- An “autonomous” forest agency
- Forestry as a “professional, modern, science”
- *All mighty* foresters: “we”, foresters, “know it all” and can plan accordingly, and tell everybody else what to do



2) Scientific Basis has Changed

Towards:

- More diverse sources and bases of knowledge: different sectors, actors and scales
- A shared vision of forestry: “we all” know, “Knowledge is power”
- A new role for forest agencies as conveners, forests are intertwined with all other major sectors (agriculture, mining, rural development)

3) Land, Political Basis Has Changed

From:

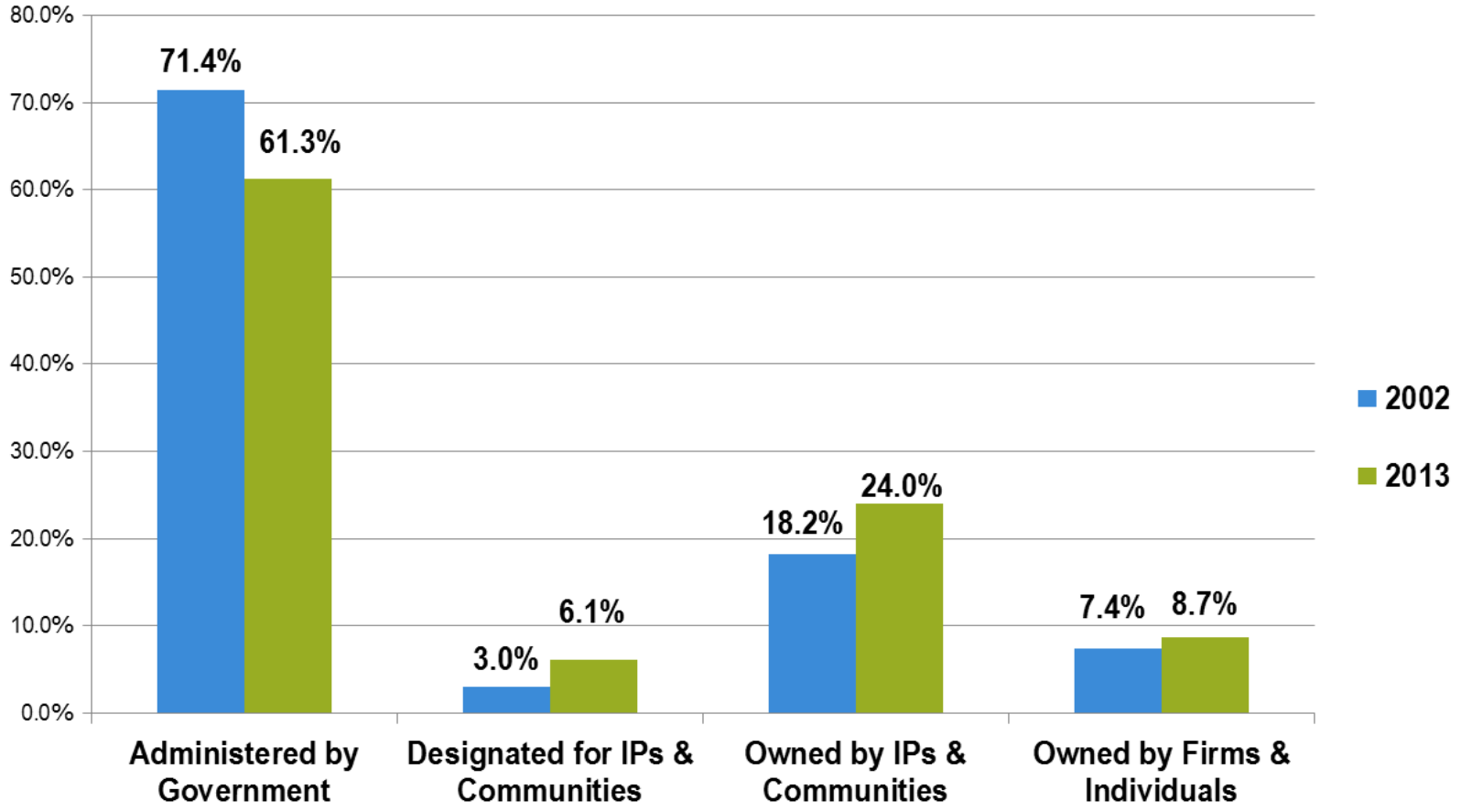
- Forest owned by the state/public,
- Centralized, top-down bureaucracies
- Focus on regulations and enforcement

3) Land, Political Basis Has Changed

Towards:

- Forest owned by many different entities through different ownership types
- Increased demand for recognition of land rights; shift in power: more decentralization to states, households, etc.
- New expectations with democratization: citizen voice/choice, transparence, accountability
- Agency as supporter of forest owners, helping the delivery of public goods

Status of Forest Land Rights
State Dominated but Changing



Note: This chart includes 33 complete cases (85% of the world's forests). Countries include Russia, Canada, Brazil, United States, China, Australia, DRC, Indonesia, Peru, India, Mexico, Colombia, Angola, Bolivia, Zambia, Venezuela, Tanzania, Myanmar, Argentina, Finland, PNG, Japan, CAR, Gabon, Congo, Sweden, Malaysia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Thailand, Suriname, Guyana, and Cambodia.

New Challenges
Implications for Forest Agencies

Forest agencies need to adapt to the 3 major changes:

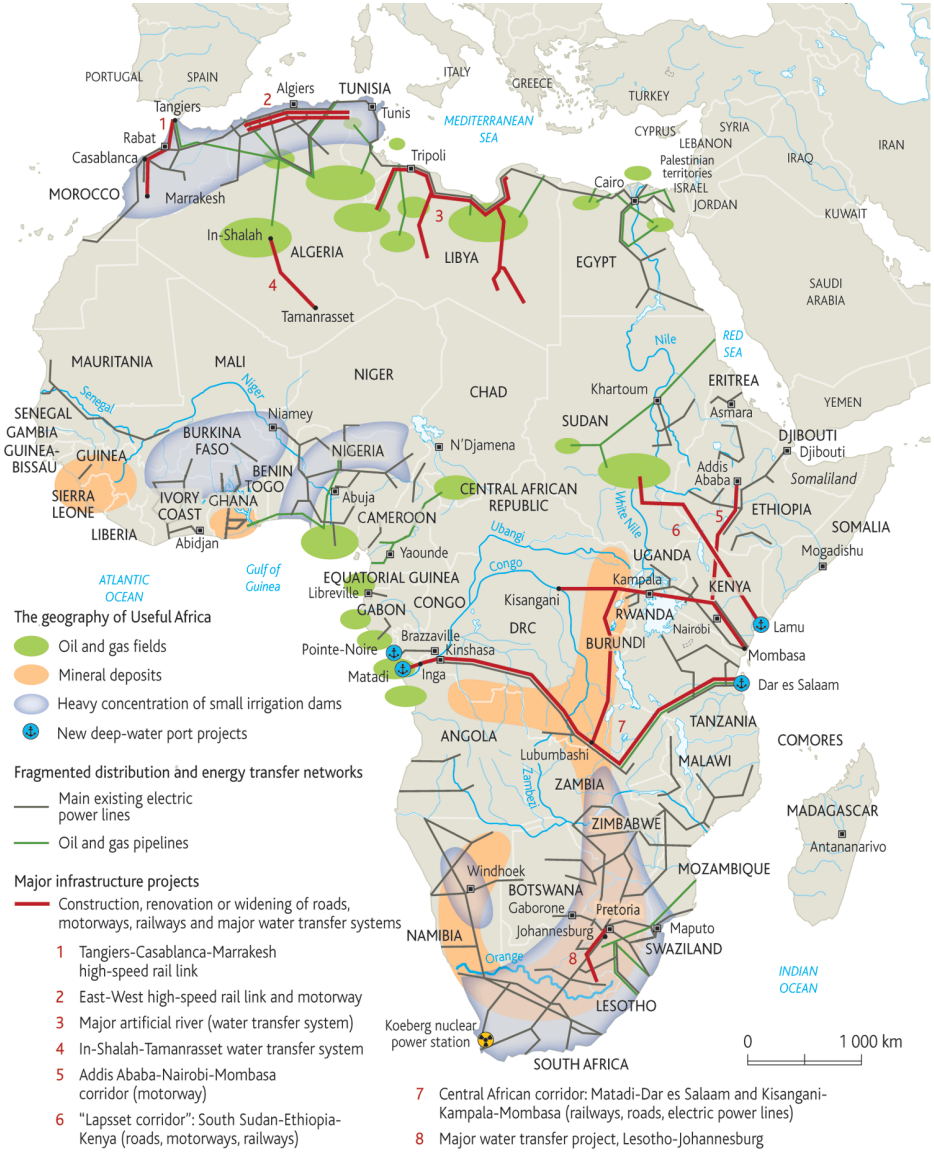
1. Change in forest purpose: relatively straightforward to address
2. Change in forest science/knowledge: can adapt: it's harder but "logical", and inevitable
3. Change in land and political basis: More diverse land ownership and more democratization > requires a much more profound transformation => shifting from controlling to serving people and communities is much, much more challenging for all

More changes to be expected

1. Population growth – 10 billion?
2. Food insecurity and need to double agricultural production by 2050?
3. Booming demand for bioenergy, mining, infrastructure, much of it in forested areas
4. Increased rural population, youth bulge
5. Increased risk of violent conflict
6. Disasters, disruptions with climate change
7. Changes in trade, international institutions with the growing importance of the "middle income" countries – Brazil, China, India, Russia

➡ **Declining relative importance and power of forest agencies in controlling forest areas**

Example: Capital Investments in Africa



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

Demand for raw materials –minerals, oil and gas, etc. – is an important driver for deforestation.

While demand for such commodities are not new, the recent surge in industrialization in a number of countries has fuelled sharply rising demand. Many thousands of hectares of oil block concessions cover lands that are otherwise customarily owned and used by communities.

International Finance Corporation, May 2011

IBC 2008

In the future, expect:

- Decrease in natural forests in the tropics and expanded forests in the boreal zone.
- More frequent fires, pests, droughts and related climate disturbances.
- Expanded investments in mining, agriculture and energy development cutting through the remaining natural forests.
- Younger, simpler in structure, and more fragmented forests.
  - From *Forests in the Next 300 Years, J. Blaser and H. Gregersen*, Unasylva 2013

As a result…

➔ Forests will be much **more difficult and costly to manage**. Forest products will be less predictable, affecting the potential supply to markets, employment, the livelihoods of local people, and revenues to governments.

Introducing: Five Principles

- ***Essential principles to guide the future of effective forest governance in the twenty-first century that apply…***
- ***Regardless of institutional age, organizational structure and even the political system in which forest agencies operate***

The Five Principles

1. Transparency in governance is fundamental
2. Clarification of tenure (land rights and ownership) must be a key priority of governments
3. Inclusive governance is necessary
4. Forest agencies must evolve (to effectively add issues and needs—climate change/markets/working across agencies/landscapes)
5. Forest leaders must acquire new skills (to operate in a global environment)

MEGAflorestais

Public forest agencies in the twenty-first century

Driving change through transparency, tenure reform, citizen involvement and improved governance

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www.megaflorestais.org

For the past eight years, the leaders of public forest agencies worldwide have been taking part in a remarkable series of meetings convened by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) at various locations around the globe. This informal group of senior officials, called MegaFlorestais, discusses challenges and shares experiences on critical issues affecting forests and forest peoples, including climate change, market transitions, forest tenure, poverty alleviation and public governance. Given that public forest agencies officially control some 75 percent of all forests worldwide, with the vast majority of this forested land in MegaFlorestais' countries— Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, and the US—the outputs of this group can provide global insight into forest management in the immediate and longer-term future.

The most recent meeting of MegaFlorestais, hosted by Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry in October 2013, discussed "the architecture of forest governance for the twenty-first century." In considering this topic, the MegaFlorestais members agreed that forests and the demands of forest peoples will be different in the future, that changes are coming at a dramatically faster pace, and that new—and sometimes radically different—approaches to forest governance are required. The group summarized the future of forests globally as follows:

Due largely to continued deforestation in the tropics and climate change, there will be fewer natural forests in the tropics and expanded forests in the boreal zone in coming decades. Fires, pests, droughts and related climate disturbances will be much more frequent. Expanded investments in mining, agriculture and energy development in forest areas will lead to the construction of more highways, railroads and pipelines that cut through the remaining natural forests. Forests everywhere will be younger, simpler in structure, and more fragmented. Overall, these changes will make forests much more difficult to manage, and in many ways much more costly, and the products from them will be less predictable, affecting the potential supply to markets, employment, the livelihoods of local people, and revenues to governments.

Conclusion

- Unprecedented changes are on their way.
- Forest agencies have 2 choices: they can positively influence this future or be casualties of it.