End of the Hinterland: Challenges for Forests and Forest Peoples in the face of climate change and its responses

AGTER
22, March 2010
Who We Are

RRI - global coalition of 12 international, national and community organizations (development, advocacy, research, rights, conservation); and 70 + Collaborators

RRG - secretariat, 501(c)3 based in DC

Formalized in 2005, built on long-standing collaboration
1. **Support policy reforms in key countries** – via a strengthening of local civil society, policy analysis and advocacy, opening political space, practical, pathbreaking pilots

2. **Generate globally strategic analyses** of policy and market issues impacting livelihoods and sustainable forest use, inspire action.

3. **Strengthen strategic networks** of community, policy and civil society leaders to more effectively advance reforms.

4. **Mobilize greater global awareness** of the policy and market reforms necessary to advance rights and reduce poverty in forest communities.
Review of 2009 – Key Issues Shaping a New ERA

1. Positive Legal Steps: Recognizing Indigenous Peoples and Community Rights: *all in all, a good year for rights and tenure, e.g. Brazil, Suriname, BC, but limited,*

2. Unrest and Conflict: “The Constitution is Made of Paper, the Bayonet is Made of Steel” – e.g. violent conflicts in Peru, India

3. REDD: the Hard-to-Swallow Low-Hanging Fruit – *lots invested, not much “readiness” to show for it, limited political will to change*

4. Who Owns the Carbon? Confusion, Corruption and Communities – e.g. carbon cowboys of PNG

5. Global Land Grabbing and Hunger: Here to Stay, More to Come - *over US$100 billion worldwide, at least 25 Mha since 2005*

6. Forests and Forest Peoples Under the Satellite’s Eye: *Peering into “Mina’s Kitchen”*
FIGURE 1: FOREST TENURE BY REGION, 2008

- Administered by Government
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples
- Owned by individuals & firms

Africa
- 97.9%
- 0.4%
- 0.1%
- 1.6%

Asia
- 67.8%
- 2.9%
- 5.7%
- 23.6%

Latin America
- 36.1%
- 7.3%
- 31.9%
- 24.6%

Global
- 74.7%
- 2.4%
- 9.1%
- 13.8%

SOURCES: Sanderlin et al. 2008; ITTO/RRI 2009. Data includes 36 of the world's most forested countries, representing 85% of world forests.
Trends: Some Progress But Not Much

**FIGURE 2: CHANGES IN GLOBAL FOREST TENURE 2002-2008**

- Administered by Government
- Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples
- Owned by individuals & firms

**Africa**

**Asia**

**Latin America**

**World**

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**SOURCES:** Sunderlin et al. 2008; ITTO/RRI 2009. Data includes 36 of the world’s most forested countries, representing 85% of world forests.
FIGURE 3: LAND DEDICATED TO CONSERVATION, INDUSTRY AND FOREST COMMUNITIES

NOTE: "Protected areas in forests" refers to the total protected areas in forests worldwide in 2009. Data for "Industrial forest concessions" and "Forests reserved and owned by communities and indigenous groups" is from 2008 and covers 14 tropical countries. "Foreign land acquisitions" represents documented foreign land acquisitions in tropical countries since 2005, compiled and cross-referenced from several sources by RRI. See endnote 29 for full citations.
Local control? Strength of local resource rights in policy and practice in seven countries

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<th>Strong local tenure ‘on paper’</th>
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<td>Strong local tenure ‘in practice’</td>
<td>Brazil, Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak local tenure ‘in practice’</td>
<td>Cameroon, PNG</td>
<td>DRC, Guyana, Indonesia</td>
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- **Note to table**: ‘On paper’ indicators are based on policy and law; ‘in practice’ indicators are based on evidence from available literature and the authors’ opinion. The question marks are intended to emphasise the subjectivity in this assessment. It is not aimed at pigeon-holing countries but at provoking discussion. Tenure in REDD: Start-point or afterthought? Cotula and Mayers, 2008
Return of the Boom: Food, Fuel and Fiber

- Corn (USA)
- Ethanol (USA)
- Gasoline (USA)
- Non-Conifer Roundwood (Brazil)
- Palm Crude
Looking Forward to 2010

“The End of the Hinterland: Conflict, Climate Change and Communities”

“forests long been remote, “backward”, controlled by urban elite, now suddenly booming in value, easily viewed, purchased “controlled” from anywhere in world, and bargaining chips in global climate negotiations, this unprecedented pressure met by unprecedented levels of influence by IP and community groups”

“hinterland is ended, not clear what future holds, 2010 chaotic with many major balls up in the air, key question: on whose terms will hinterland be integrated into global climate, market, political schemes?”

Looking Forward to 2010: Unprecedented Potential, Unprecedented Risk

• Will there be a legal agreement on climate change, and real enforcement?

• Will REDD really reform forest governance?

• Whither the World Bank and development donors?

• Most Important, Who Drives and Who Decides?”
2010: Unprecedented Potential, Unprecedented Risk

2010 will be the beginning of a new era for the people and forests in developing countries

- Food, fuel, fiber, mineral commodity demand is back: investors will vie for forest lands, negotiating, luring developing country governments – who still control most of the forest

- Copenhagen chaos unleashes more uncertainty, fragmentation, and promise of new funds ($3.5 billion) will spur speculation, prices have not dropped: unholy and volatile mix of more money, less governance, will it come together in Cancun?

- REDD is on the ropes: new financial, administrative structures being designed in Paris, Oslo – government backlash against CS/IP influence, what incentives do governments have adopt the necessary tenure and governance reforms to really reduce emissions, or change BAU?

- Whither the World Bank? – the “leader” in terms of safeguards, but will not enforce them, how to move towards common, minimum standards – what role will it play, a leader or laggard?

contest will shift from global back to national and local – who will decide?
Need 2 things, urgently:

1. Apply principles and criteria for judging new architectures/arrangements (global, national)
   1. Accountable – to COP, all parties, citizens; independent auditing
   2. Transparent – governance, operations, independent advisory;
   3. Equitable – balanced representation, costs and benefits;
   4. Efficient – building on existing institutions, delivery
   5. Effective – addresses drivers, reduces emissions, enhances stocks

2. Common standards, systems to advance social and environmental protections, progress and recourse mechanisms (accountability) – to all operations.
Countries engaged in reforms:

- Cameroon: Revisions to the 1994 Forest Law; not synced with mining, agrobusiness, land reforms
- Democratic Republic of Congo: Comprehensive reforms to the forest sector, including on-going design of community forestry and customary tenure to forests
- Ghana: Flegt-VPA includes reforms to address legality of formal and informal forestry activities, including chain saw milling
- Liberia: conflicting visions of commercial forestry and community forestry under the Community Rights Law
Underlying issues and challenges to address

- Antiquated and erroneous vision of the forest economy
  - SMFEs predominate in developed forested countries—why not in Africa?
  - Backward movement in investment. Failure to support NTFPs

- Antiquated application of conservation policies and models
  - Exclusion of customary right-holders from conservation areas and pressures in “buffers” from extractive uses

- Overlapping forest uses and jurisdiction
  - Forest peoples customary usage is not recognized nor authorized
  - Decentralization empowers new elites at the expense of the larger society
Global Strategic Themes aim to shed light on some of these challenges

- **Realizing Rights**
  - Examples of implementing effective tenure transition—Mozambique, Brazil, Tanzania?
  - Gendered tenure and rights—what is required and how is this best accomplished—what is the coalition collectively doing now?
  - Realizing rights in conservation—including and beyond indigenous peoples with rights-based approaches and rightsbearers

- **Alternate tenure and enterprise models**
  - What enterprise and community management models emerge when tenure and rights are recognized/transfered
  - What does this mean for the evolution, nature and returns from the forest economy?
  - What are the enabling conditions and support mechanisms at scale?
More emphasis on climate or more emphasis on tenure and rights?

- Tenure is unfinished business of rural development and forest sector
  - Multiple pressures; Slow process of transition
  - Not well addressed in SESA or Safeguards
- Building effective governance and civil society voice and participation
  - Inform advocacy with new information, shared learning, and upward voice at regional/ global spaces
  - Effective decentralization of authority/responsibility
- Feedback loop—track unfolding processes and inform government, development community, advocates
  - What is climate-compatible forest and resource use—shifting cultivation? Transhumance? Hunting bushmeat?
• Thank you

sbandiaky@rightsandresources.org
amolnar@rightsandresources.org

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http://www.rightsandresources.org
What About REDD? – (1) New Architectures, Interim Arrangements

- “New architecture” – under COP – still under construction – some consensus about form, great uncertainty about whether it will be agreed upon, and legitimacy of process, Paris-Oslo?

- “Interim Financial Arrangements”
  - Making sense of the $3.5 billion
  - Scenarios (of multilateral funds):
    - Merge FCPF, FIP, UNREDD, CBFF? – lots of resistance
    - Put all under one policy board? – lots of different legal mandates
    - How link to private, bilateral? – no authority to effectively achieve

**Effects:**

1. Continued chaos, fragmentation, dispersal of initiatives
2. Raises the importance of how the many diverse initiatives will be OPERATIONALIZED (implemented)