

## Module 6

# Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

## Tools for assessing and improving forest governance

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# Outline of governance session 3

- Brief presentation (20 minutes)
- Group work (30 minutes)
- Presentation and discussion of group work (10 minutes)

# Growing interest in strengthening governance

- Substantial effort is being put into strengthening forest governance around the world.
- These efforts are being led by civil society, governments, donors, multilateral agencies, the media, and the general public.
- They are taking place across multiple scales, from international schemes like REDD+ and FLEGT to community-level initiatives.

# Approaches to address weak governance (1)

It requires more than the application of simple technical tools, but rests in the wider political and social realm (political will, engagement of wide range of stakeholders).

Some conditionalities are needed:

- Clarity of purpose with all stakeholders,
- Systems and standards developed and in place (chain of custody, etc.),
- Allocation of adequate resources to apply the system,
- Transparency to verify compliance and carry out monitoring.

# Approaches to address weak governance (2)

- Tools have been developed to conceptualise (visualise in concrete terms) the essential components of governance and assess its quality (framework for Governance of Forests Initiative indicators developed by WRI).
- The governance “landscape” is divided into themes and sub-themes and indicators are proposed against which to assess quality of governance for each sub-theme.

## Organization of governance indicators by thematic area and sub-theme

<b>1 Forest tenure</b>	<b>2 Land use</b>	<b>3 Forest management</b>	<b>4 Forest revenues</b>	<b>5 Cross- cutting institutions</b>	<b>6 Cross-cutting issues</b>
1.1 Forest ownership and use rights	2.1 Land use planning	3.1 Forest legal and policy framework	4.1 Forest charge administration	5.1 Legislature	6.1 Public participation in decision-making
1.2 Tenure dispute resolution	2.2 Land use plan implementation	3.2 Forest strategies and plans	4.2 Forest revenue distribution	5.2 Judiciary	6.2 Public access to information
1.3 State forest ownership	2.3 Sectoral land use	3.3 Forest monitoring	4.3 Benefit sharing	5.3 Executive agencies	6.3 Financial transparency and accountability
1.4 Concession allocation	2.4 Forest classification	3.4 Forest management practices	4.4 Budgeting	5.4 Private sector	6.4 Anticorruption measures
		3.5 Forest law enforcement		5.5 Civil society	

# Use of indicators to assess governance

- An “indicator” is used to describe an attribute that, if assessed periodically, could indicate direction of change (e.g., positive or negative) in that attribute.
- The indicators tend to be qualitative in nature, since they generally aim to assess quality of process rather than quantifying outputs or outcomes.

# Example of use of indicators to assess governance

Theme: 1 Forest tenure

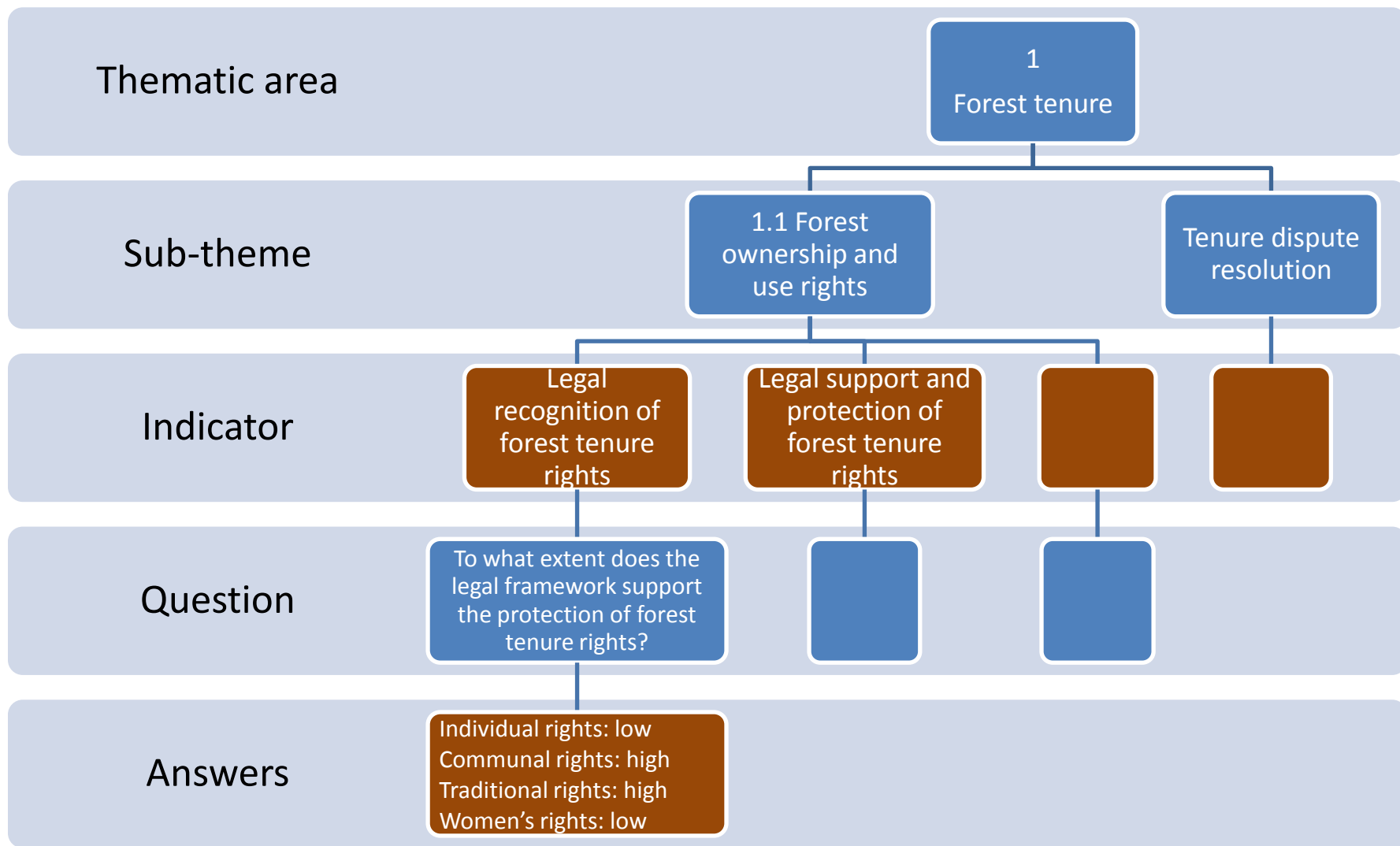
Sub-theme: 1.1 Forest ownership and use rights

Six indicators: (i) Legal recognition of forest tenure rights,  
(ii) Legal support and protection of forest tenure rights,  
(iii) Legal basis for adjudication of forest tenure rights,  
(iv) Forest tenure adjudication in practice,  
(v) Legal basis for administration of forest tenure rights,  
(vi) Forest tenure administration in practice.

Diagnostic question for (i): A question that summarizes the qualitative scale of assessment (e.g. To what extent does the legal framework recognise a broad spectrum of existing forest tenure rights and rights-holders?)

Assessment: Could consider several aspects: Individual rights; Communal rights; Traditional rights; Rights of women





# Group work

- Select one indicator from either:
  - 2.1 Land use planning, or
  - 3.4 Forest management practices

And:

Assess the quality of governance (as low, medium or high) for each aspect of the indicator selected.



Thank you

