

World's Forests: an Evolving Perspective on Politics, Policies and Practices

The Future of Forests in Asia and the Pacific: Outlook for 2020

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World's Forests: an Evolving Perspective on Politics, Policies and Practices

1. **Why Forests Emerged on the International Agenda?**
2. **Fractionation of the Forest Agenda;**
3. **Expanding Scale and Scope of Forest Issues;**
4. **Progress in Forest Policy Since Rio;**
5. **Some Major Challenges Faced by the Forests Community;**
6. **An Overview of Observations and Experiences.**



1. Why Forests Emerged on the International Agenda?

1.1. *State of the World's Forests Cover*

- Sovereignty Principal;
- Forests: Among the Most Controversial Issues at Rio;
- Consequences of Unacceptable Rates of Deforestation and Forest Degradation:
 - Loss of Environmental Benefits and Services;
 - Violation of Human, Cultural and Land Rights;
 - International Trade in Forest Products;
 - Transboundary Impacts;
- Critical Role of NGOs.



1. Why Forests Emerged on the International Agenda?

1.2. Consequences of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

- Boreal + Temperate: 44%;
- Tropics: 47%;
- Sub-tropics: 9%;
- 7 Countries = 60%; 25 Countries = 82%;
170 Countries = 18%;
- Forest-rich and Forest-poor Countries;
- **Net Annual Loss = 7.3 Million ha;**
- Protected Area = 12.4%;
- Certified Forest = 7.0% Mostly Boreal and Temperate.



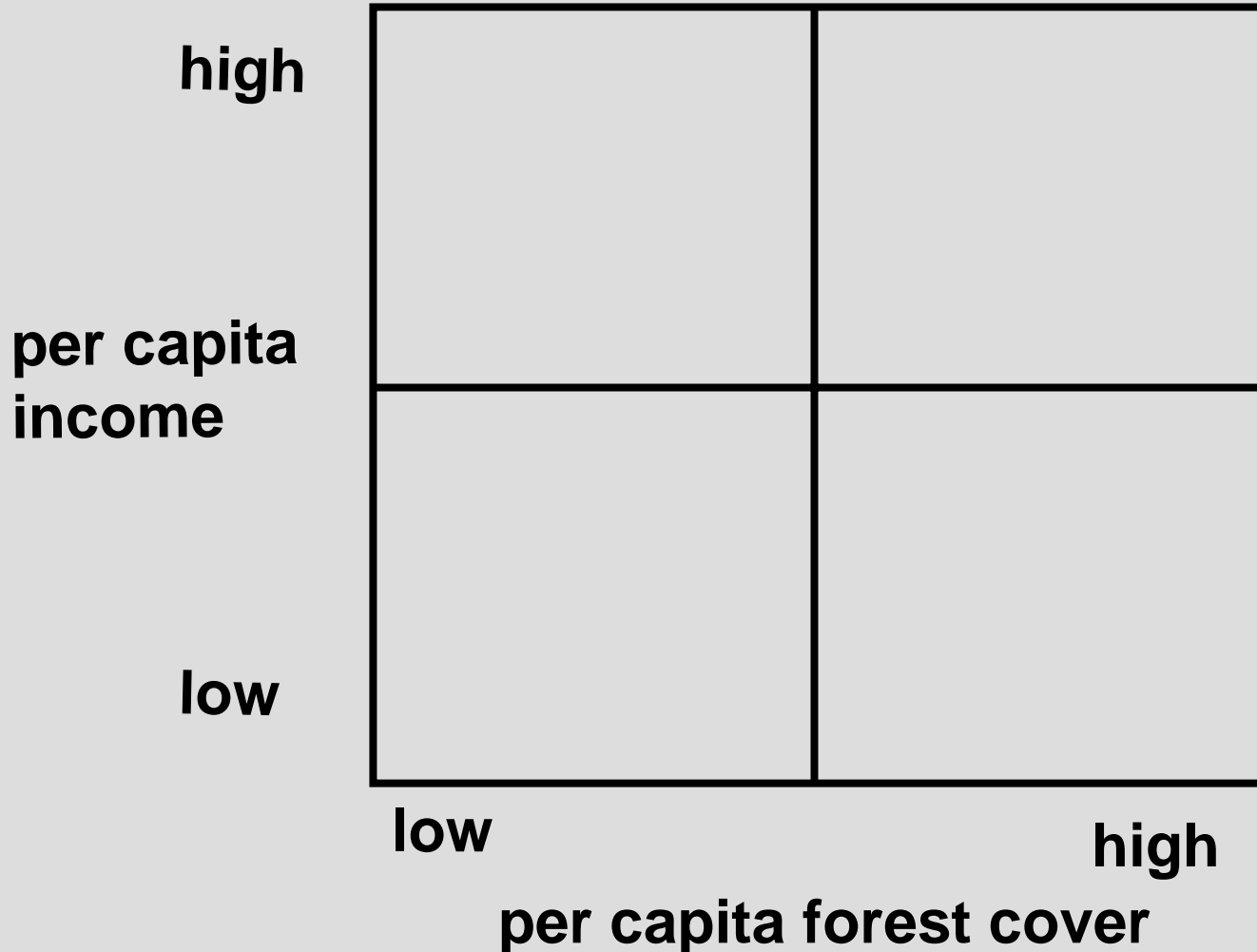
2. Fractionation of the Forests Agenda

2.1. “Four Realities” Based on Forest Endowment and Economic Development in a Country

- The Areas of Forest-related **Priority Concerns** in a Country are Driven by its Forest Endowment and Economic Development on **Per Capita** Basis;
- A **Typology**, Representing “Four Realities” is Presented as a “**Diagnostic Tool**”;
- Political and Policy *Space* Occupied by Forests and Fractionation of Forests Agenda;
- International Trade, Investments and International Cooperation.



2.2. *Per capita income / per capita forest cover*



2.3. Per capita income / per capita forest cover Country examples

per capita income	high	Netherlands Denmark Germany Japan UK	Sweden Canada Finland Norway USA
	low	India China Kenya Somalia Philippines	PNG Brazil Gabon Malaysia Indonesia
		low	high
		per capita forest cover	



2.4. Per capita income / per capita forest cover Country examples with areas of priority concerns*

per capita income	high	<p>Netherlands Denmark Germany Japan UK</p> <p>*Environment & Sustainable Dev.</p>	<p>Sweden Canada Finland Norway USA</p> <p>*Sustainable Development</p>
	low	<p>India China Kenya Somalia Philippines</p> <p>*Subsistence</p>	<p>PNG Brazil Gabon Malaysia Indonesia</p> <p>*Economic Development</p>
		low	high
		per capita forest cover	



3. Evolving Perspectives on Forests

3.1. *Expanding Scale and Scope of Forest Issues*

- Forestry Beyond the “Mill Gate” and the Fuelwood Stall;
- Increasing Complexity Associated with SFM:
 - Economic Equity; Social Equity; Ecological Integrity;
 - Governance; and Extra-territorial Considerations;
- Expanding Geographic Scope:
 - Local (FMU/Community) Level; Sub-national; National;
 - Transboundary; Regional (Ecological; Political); Global;



3. Evolving Perspectives on Forests

3.1. *Expanding Scale and Scope of Forest Issues (Contd.)*

- Cross-connections Between the Geographic and SFM Considerations;
- Higher Level Policy Decisions Impact Lower Governance Levels:
 - *“Russian Doll is Made of Wood”!*



3.2. SFM Principles

SFM PRINCIPLES



3.3. Geographic Scope

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Global International

Regional

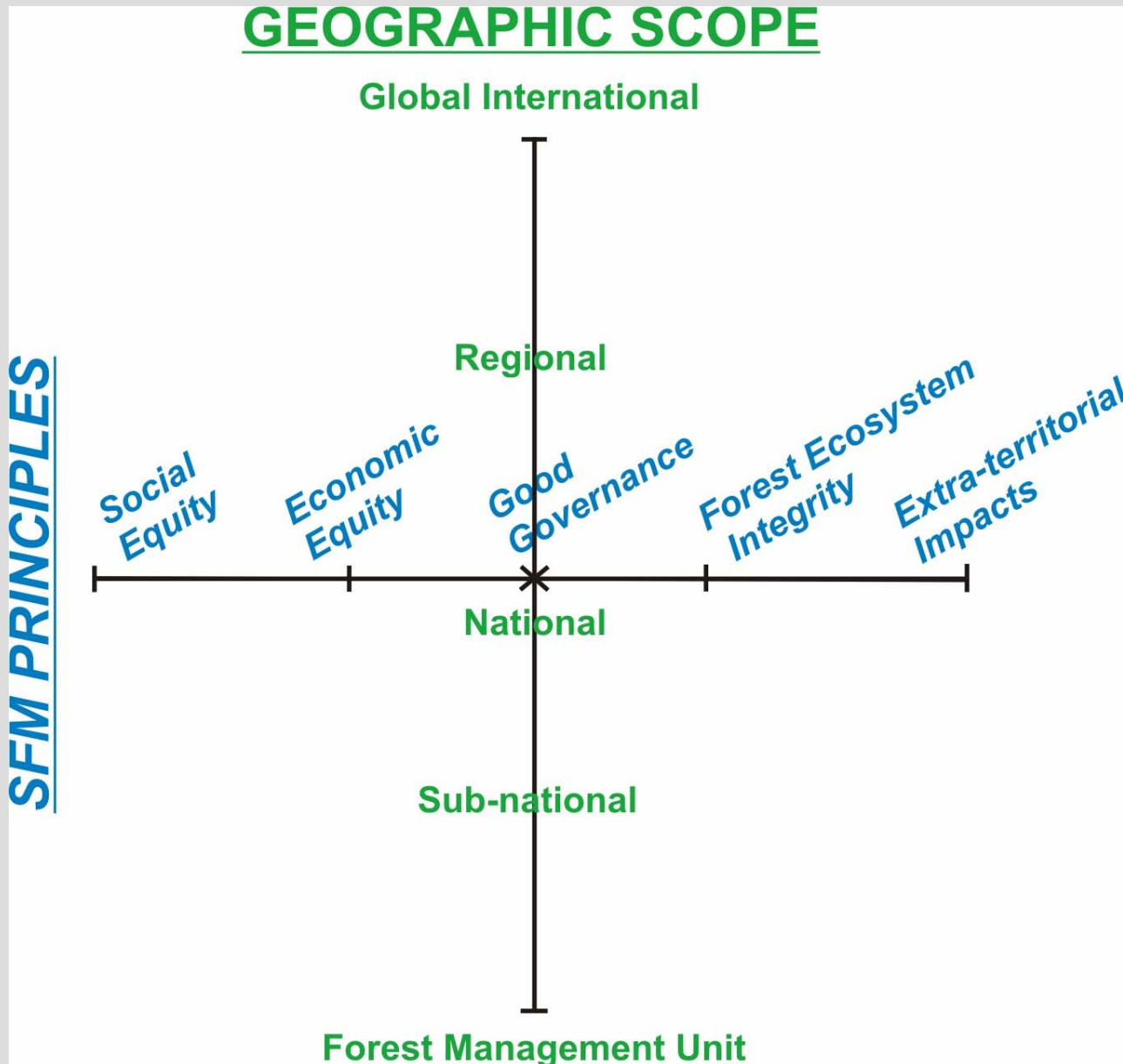
National

Sub-national

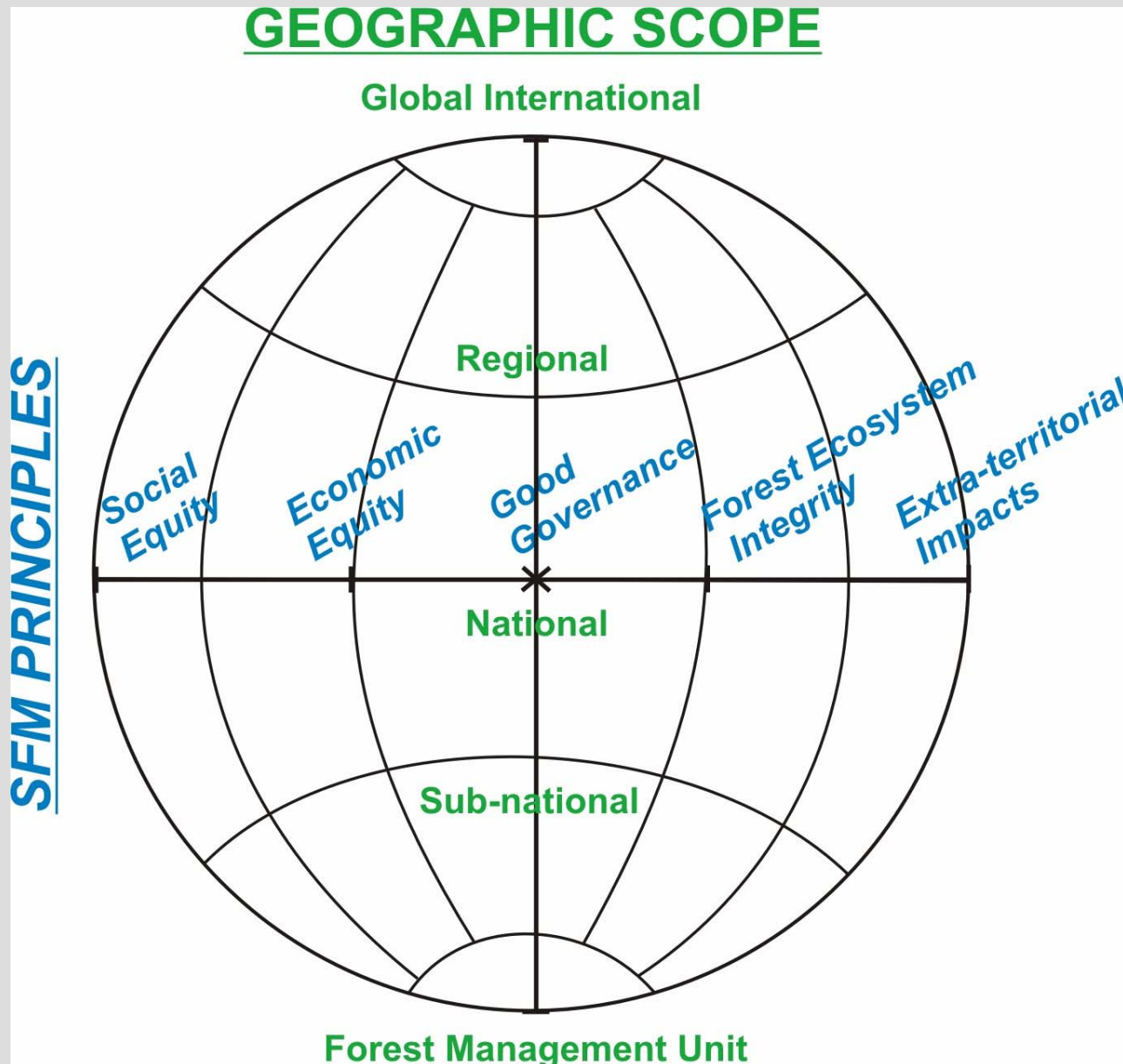
Forest Management Unit



3.4. Cross-connections



3.5. SFM Principles/Geographic Scope



3. Evolving Perspectives on Forests

3.6. Forest as a Cross-sectoral Issue

- Reference to Forests Made **285** Times in Nearly **50%** of the **40 Chapters** of Agenda 21 Agreed at Rio;
- Two Broad Dimensions of Forests:
 - **Biophysical;**
 - **Societal: Social, Economic, Environmental, Cultural and Political;**
 - **Dynamic Interface Between Biophysical and Human Systems;**
- Forest is a Politically Sensitive Issue: Nationally and Internationally, i.e.: World Bank;
- Most Stresses on Forests Originate Outside the Forest Sector. Most Forest Issues are Externally Driven.



4. Progress in Forest Policy Since Rio

4.1. Forest in Successive International Fora

- Stockholm, Brundtland, Rio;
- Malaysia-Canada Initiative;
- IPF, IFF, UNFF; World Forest Commission;
- Johannesburg: MDG;
- 20+ International Agreements; MEDs;
- 40+ International Institutions;
- A Forest Regime or a Fractionated Agenda?
- LBI and/or NLBI?



4. Progress in Forest Policy Since Rio

4.2. *Are Forests Lost in Political Jungle?*

- Forest Policy is **NOT** the Primary Driving Policy Field in Almost All Countries;
- Post – Rio: Forests Were High on the National and International Political Agendas;
- Forests and Forest Institutions Are Now in **Decline**, e.g.:
 - **G8, Other Ministerial Declarations;**
 - **Government; Multilateral Organizations;**
 - **ODA Agencies and Universities;**
- Have We Failed to go “*Beyond the Mill Gate*” and Articulate the Significance of Forests to “*Societal Well-being*”? Forests Are Not High on the Current Political Agenda.



5. Some Major Challenges Faced by the Forests Community

5.1. *Changing Context in the Current Millennium*

Current Realities and the Political Context

- Shift in Global Priorities of High-level Political Leaders;
- Diminished Political Status of National Forest Agencies;
- Reduced Budget Allocation to Forest Agencies;
- Reduced Allocation of ODA for Forests;
- Inadequate Support From Other Beneficiary Sectors;
- Forests and Armed Conflict.

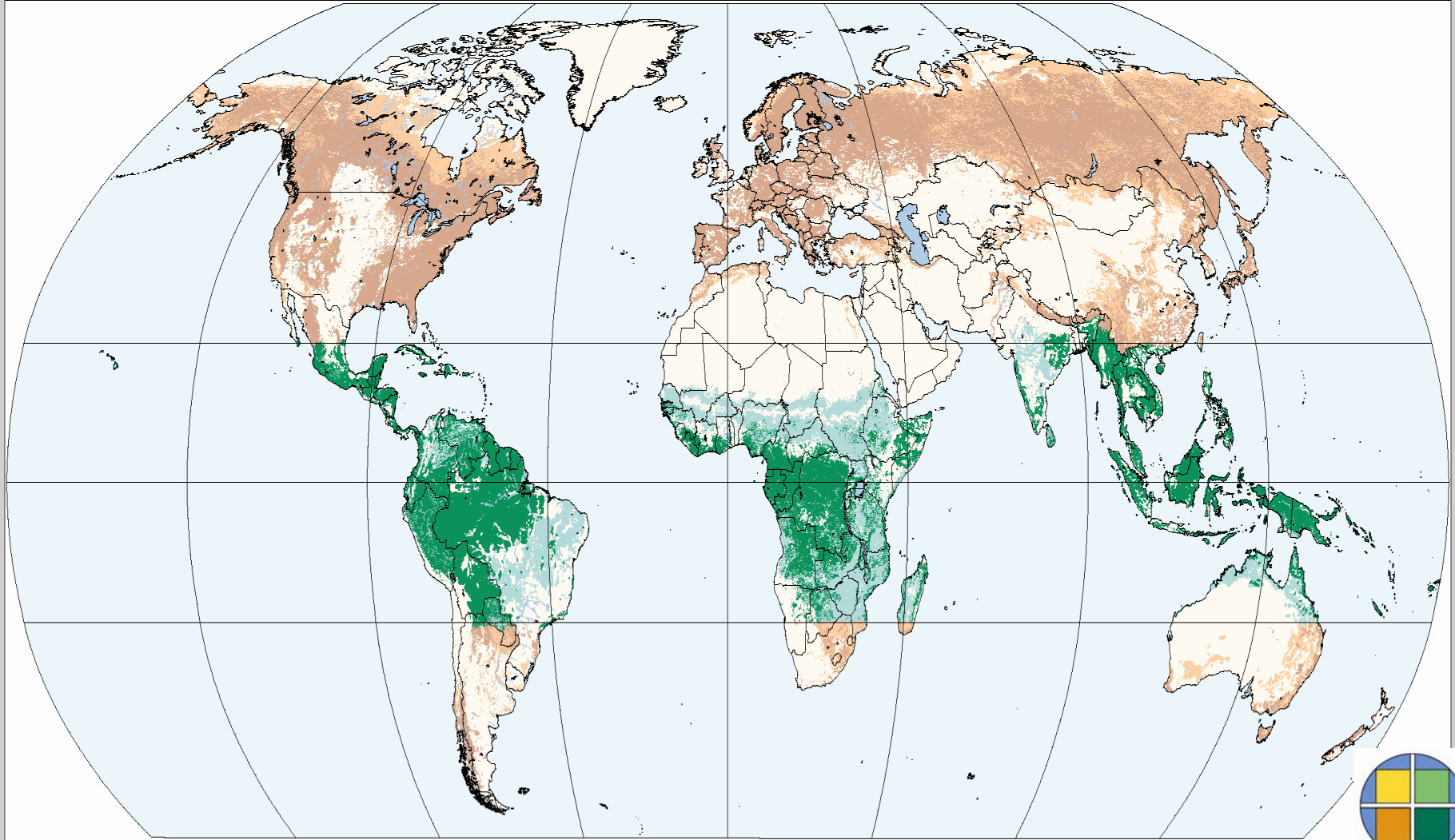


Current Global Distribution of Forests

- Closed Non-Tropical Forest
- Open Non-Tropical Forest
- Closed Tropical Forest
- Open Tropical Forest
- Non-Forest
- Water Bodies

Compiled by: World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development

Date: February 20, 1998 Projection Robinson



6. An Overview of Observations and Experiences

6.1. Critical Overarching Issues

- Bring Forests Back as a High-level Political Priority: **Empower Heads and Ministers of Forest Agencies**;
- Strengthen: Forest Agencies, Budgets, Mobilize Support From the Beneficiary Sectors, Increase ODA by: Anchoring Forests With Rio and Linking With MDGs, **Mainstreaming Forests in the National Development Agenda**;
- Good Governance: FLEG; Armed Conflict;
- Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Forestland;
- Re-invent Forest Profession?



6. An Overview of Observations and Experiences

6.2. *Evolving Perspectives*

- *Per Capita* Forest Endowment and Income Influences National Priority Concerns;
- Expanding Scale and Scope of Forest Issues is Cross-connected;
- Forest is a Cross-sectoral Issue With Multiple: Benefits; Beneficiaries; Constituencies; Institutions and Overlapping Turfs, Involving Participatory Decision Making Processes;



6. An Overview of Observations and Experiences

6.2. *Evolving Perspectives (Contd.)*

- Significant Progress Towards an “International Forest Regime”;
- Collaborative Partnership on Forests – A Success Story;
- Changing Context in the Current Millennium;
- Decline in the: High-level Political Support; Political Status; and Support for National and International “*Institutions*” Engaged in Forests;
- Emerging Engagement of the Private Sector;
- Compensation for Environment Benefits and Services.



6. An Overview of Observations and Experiences

6.3. Epilogue

- Asia Pacific Region is a Very Dynamic Microcosm of the Global Forest;
- Many Examples of Excellent SFM Practices;
- SFM is Understanding the Ecology of Forests and Sociology of Decision Making;
- SFM is Unlikely in a Country That is Economically “Grey” and Environmentally “Brown”;
- Good Governance is the Key to SFM;
- Do **Not** Own the Problem But **Share** the Solution;
- “Do **Not Claim** Leadership, But **Earn** it” (Harcharik);



6. An Overview of Observations and Experiences

6.3. Epilogue (Contd.)

- We Need to :
 - Get “*Out of the Woods*” and “*Humanize*” Forestry;
 - Understand the Working of the Corridors of Political Power;
 - Empower the Minister Responsible for Forests;
 - Actively and Visibly Engage in and Influence Broader Societal Issues;
 - Mainstream Forests in the National Development/ Political Agenda;
 - Mobilize the Support of Forest Beneficiaries.

