

A person in a blue shirt stands at the front of a room, pointing at a whiteboard. The room has walls made of vertical wooden slats. In the foreground, several people are seated in chairs, looking towards the front. The chairs have "MRE SA PROJECT" written on them. The background shows a view of a rural landscape with a thatched-roof building and green hills.

FOREST GOVERNANCE, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONS

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ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY III

OUTLINE

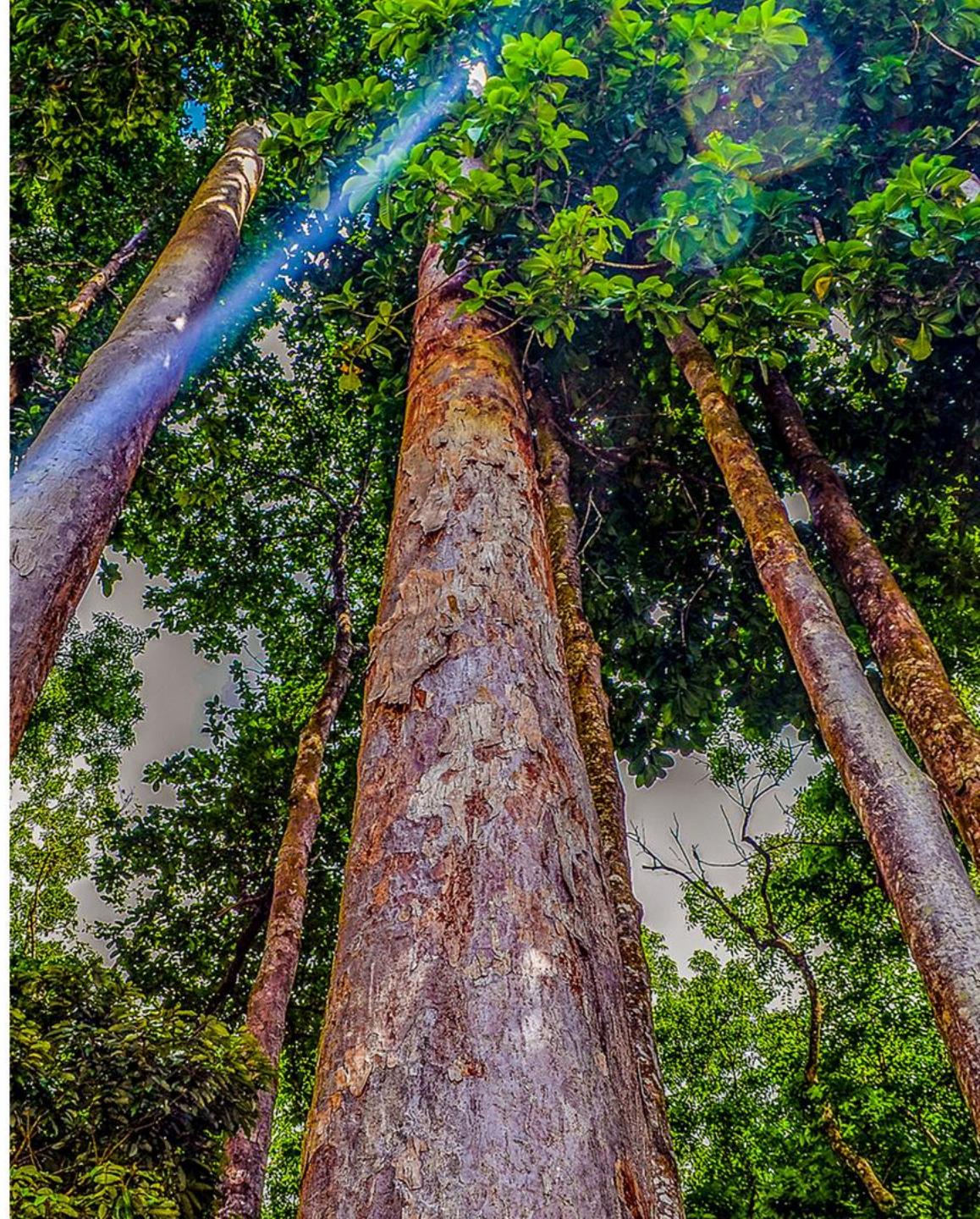
1. Overview and trends in forest governance, policies, and institutions
2. Forest governance changes vs. forest area changes
3. Major forest policy discourses since 1990 and their impacts
4. Changes in the forestry institutions

KEY QUESTION

“How have forest governance, policies, and institutions changed since 1990s, what have influenced the changes and how will they look like in 2030 and 2050?”

FOREST GOVERNANCE, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONS


- Since 1990 forest governance, policies and institutions have undergone various changes but not in a uniform way
- Changes at the national level have been influenced by both international and domestic factors
- Various efforts to improve accountability, participation, transparency and rule of law have taken place



FOREST GOVERNANCE

Forest governance is defined as the way in which public and private actors, including formal and informal institutions, smallholder and indigenous organizations, small, medium-sized and large enterprises, civil-society organizations and other stakeholders negotiate, make and enforce binding decisions about the management, use and conservation of forest resources. The concept of forest governance has evolved to engage multiple (public and private) actors at multiple scales, from local to global.

FOREST POLICY



A set of orientations and principles of actions adopted by public authorities in harmony with national socio-economic and environmental policies in a given country to guide future decisions in relation to the management, use and conservation of forest and tree resources for the benefit of society.

FOREST GOVERNANCE AND POLICY CHANGES

I. Weak forest governance and policies

- Government controls decision
- Limited stakeholder participation
- Limited information made available for the public
- Weak feedback loop on policies
- Limited benefits for communities
- Weak law enforcement
- Widespread corruption and nepotism
- No decentralization or devolution
- Limited press involvement

II. Initial to moderate reform

- Decision making based on some level of public consultation
- Participation of stakeholder starts to be initiated
- Information made available for public although limited
- Feedback loop on policies start to exist
- Benefits for communities are initiated
- Improved law enforcement
- Corruption and nepotism are tackled to certain extent
- Decentralization and devolution initiated
- Press starts to be more free

III. Strong reform

- Participatory decision making
- Wide stakeholder participation
- Information made available for public through various channels
- Feedback loop on policies exist
- Tangible benefits for communities
- Law enforcement
- Corruption and nepotism are not tolerated
- Functioning decentralization and devolution
- Press freedom

STRONGER GOVERNANCE EMPHASIS

Country	Increased participation of local communities	Reduction in illegal logging	Increased transparency	Increased attention to gender
Lao PDR	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree
Malaysia	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
Pakistan	Agree	Neither	Agree	Neither
Fiji	Agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree
Solomon Islands	Agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Agree
Sri Lanka	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
Nepal	Agree	Agree	Agree	Strongly agree
Maldives	Neither	Agree	Neither	Neither

DEMOCRACY, TRANSPARENCY, AND FORESTS

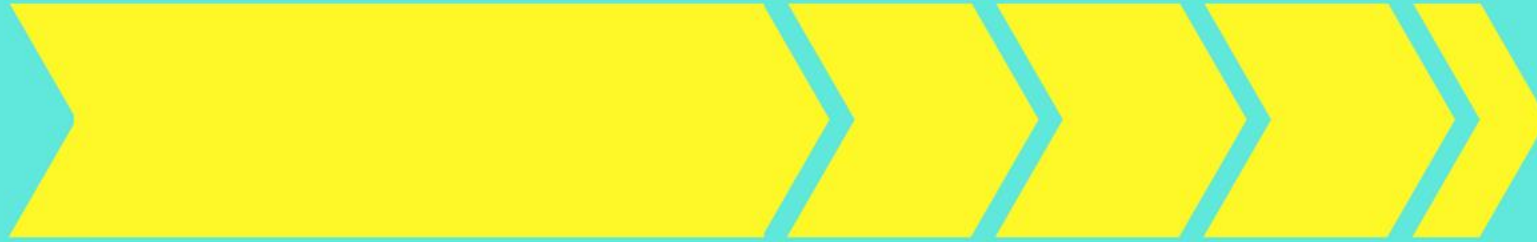
Country	2010			2015		
	DI	CPI	Forest area change 2005-2010 (ha)	DI	CPI	Forest area change 2010-2015 (ha)
New Zealand	9.26	93	-32,000	9.26	91	-1,000
Australia	9.22	87	-4,430,000	9.01	79	1,540,000
Republic of Korea	8.11	54	-33,000	7.97	54	-38,000
Bangladesh	5.87	24	-13,000	5.73	25	-13,000
Fiji	3.62	n.a	-4,364	5.69	n.a	24,299
Thailand	6.55	35	149,000	5.09	38	150,000
China	3.14	35	7,566,4000	3.14	37	7,711,000
Lao PDR	2.10	21	945,850	2.21	25	945,850
DPRK	1.08	n.a	-663,000	1.08	8	-635,000

DEMOCRACY, TRANSPARENCY, AND FORESTS

- Democracy and transparency are important in forest management
- Some studies indicate that there is a positive correlation between corruption and deforestation
- Democracy allows better information to be shared, the voices of the grassroots to be heard, better participation, etc. resulting in better forest management
- Countries in economic transition usually experience the highest deforestation rate



MAJOR FOREST POLICY DISCOURSES SINCE 1990



- Forest for timber
- Participatory forestry
- Multiple benefits of forests
- Climate change and sustainable development

FOREST FOR TIMBER



- Pre-1990 and during 1990s especially in Southeast Asia
- Concession system and usually private logging companies obtained forest license from the government
- Production of timber for boosting national income
- Examples include Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines
- Later in PNG, Solomon Islands

PARTICIPATORY FORESTRY

- Stronger elements of livelihoods and social justice
- Collective forestry in China, Village forestry in Lao PDR, JFM in India, CF in Nepal
- Countries adopted the approach even in 1980s already but it got more prominence in 2000s through various programmes and projects

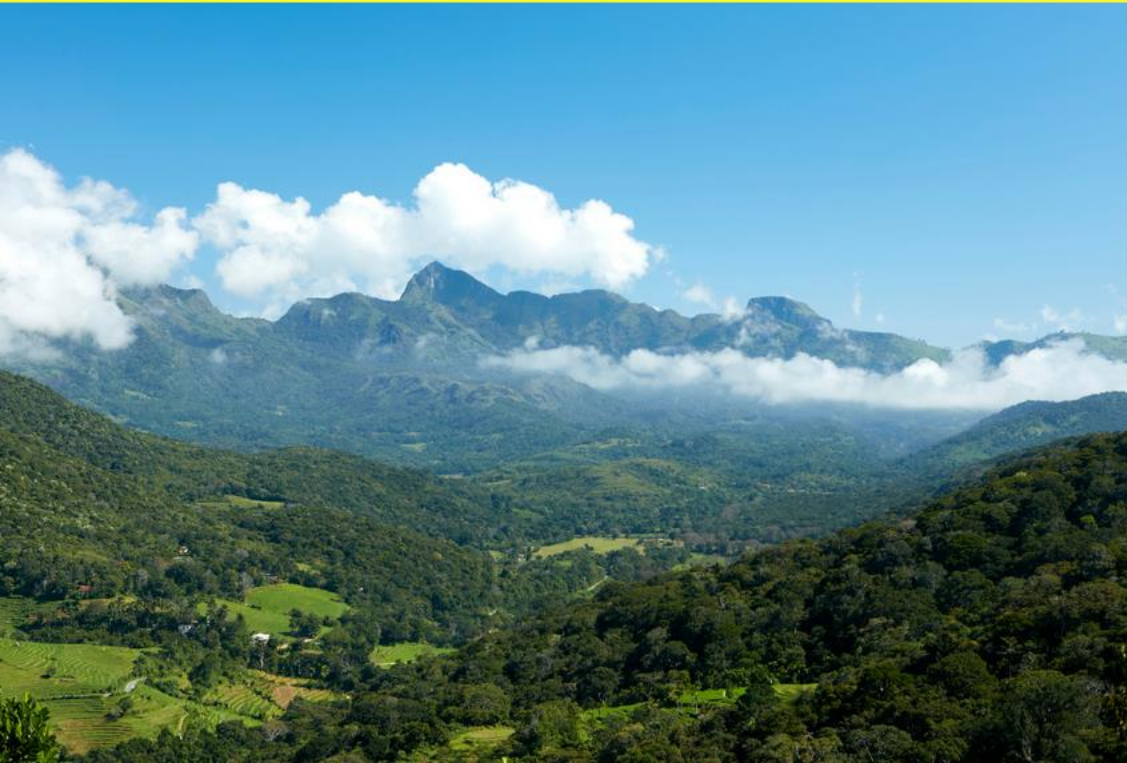


MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF FORESTS



- Multiple roles of forests e.g. biodiversity, water regulation, recreation, land conservation, and eco-tourism, etc.
- Forests should be considered for various aspects 'beyond forestry' itself.
- Initiatives such as eco-tourism, payment, and compensation for environmental services, forest health, forest conservation, NWFPs
- The multiple benefits of forests was increasingly recognized post-2000

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- This discourse became prominent post-2010.
- The role of forests in tackling climate change, resilience, and natural disasters received significant attention.
- Major global policy progress made in 2015: Paris Agreement, SDGs, The UNFF reviewed the International Arrangement of Forests and decided its future

STRONGER POLICY OBJECTIVES

Country	Forest conservation	Ecosystem Services	NDCs	SDGs	Urban forestry	Forest plantation
Lao PDR	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Neither	Agree
Malaysia	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
Pakistan	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
Fiji	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree
Solomon Islands	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
Sri Lanka	Agree	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Neither
Nepal	Strongly agree	Neither	Neither	Agree	Agree	Neither
Maldives	Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- Institutional changes are influenced by governance and policy reform
- Public, market and community institutions have been required to make adjustments to ensure they can deliver their services effectively given new demands and expectation from society
- Different policy discourses require completely different institutional roles, responsibilities, and structure



INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Policy discourse	Major institution	Style and approach
Forest for timber	Government, private sector	Command and control; conformity
Participatory forestry	Community institutions, NGOs, markets	Facilitative; regulative; partnership
Multiple benefits of forests	Markets, private sector	Market-based
Climate change, sustainable development	Government, market, private sector	Compliance with international commitments

REQUIRED FEEDBACK



1. Your overall assessment: what do you like or dislike most?
2. Inaccuracy of data/information or errors ● → your concrete suggestion how to address it
3. Data or information that need to be added (gaps) ● → your concrete suggestion where to get these data and information
4. How to make it more interesting and appealing while maintaining the brevity