

# FOREST LAND TENURE: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL STATUS, TRENDS, AND ISSUES

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Presentation outline

- **Basic concepts: tenure and ownership**
- **Status and trends of forest land tenure: global and regional scenario**
- **Key issues and challenges of forestland tenure**
- **Final remarks**

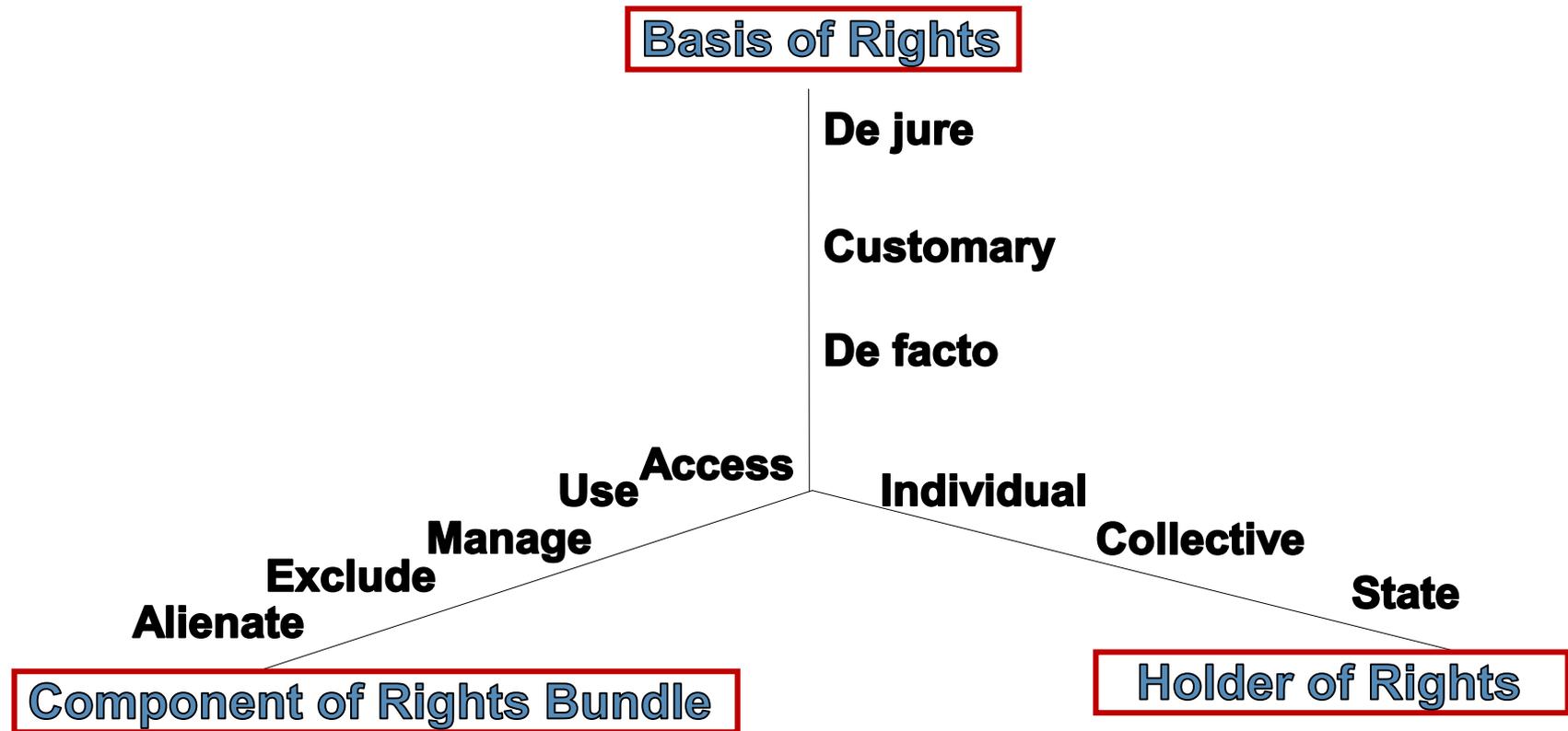
# Resource materials

- ▣ **State of the World's Forest- SOFO** **FAO, 2014**
- ▣ **What Future for Reform?** **RRI, 2014**
- ▣ **Reforming Forest Tenure** **FAO, 2011**
- ▣ **Community Forestry in Asia and the Pacific** **RECOFTC,2013**
- ▣ **What Rights?** **RRI, 2012**
- ▣ **VG on Responsible Gov. of Tenure** **FAO, 2012**
- ▣ **Forest Tenure in Asia** **Dahal et 2011**
- ▣ **Forest Resource Assessment- FRA** **FAO, 2010**
- ▣ **Forests for People** **CIFOR- 2010**

# Basic concepts

- **Tenure as a bundle of rights-** ranging from rights to access, use/withdrawal, management, exclusion, rights to due process and compensation, duration, and alienation (lease, collateral, sale, inheritance).
- **Tenure clarifies** - who owns what resources, for how long under what conditions.
- **Ownership-** refers to a particular type of tenure. Exclusive and permanent rights and commonly includes rights to sell the property.

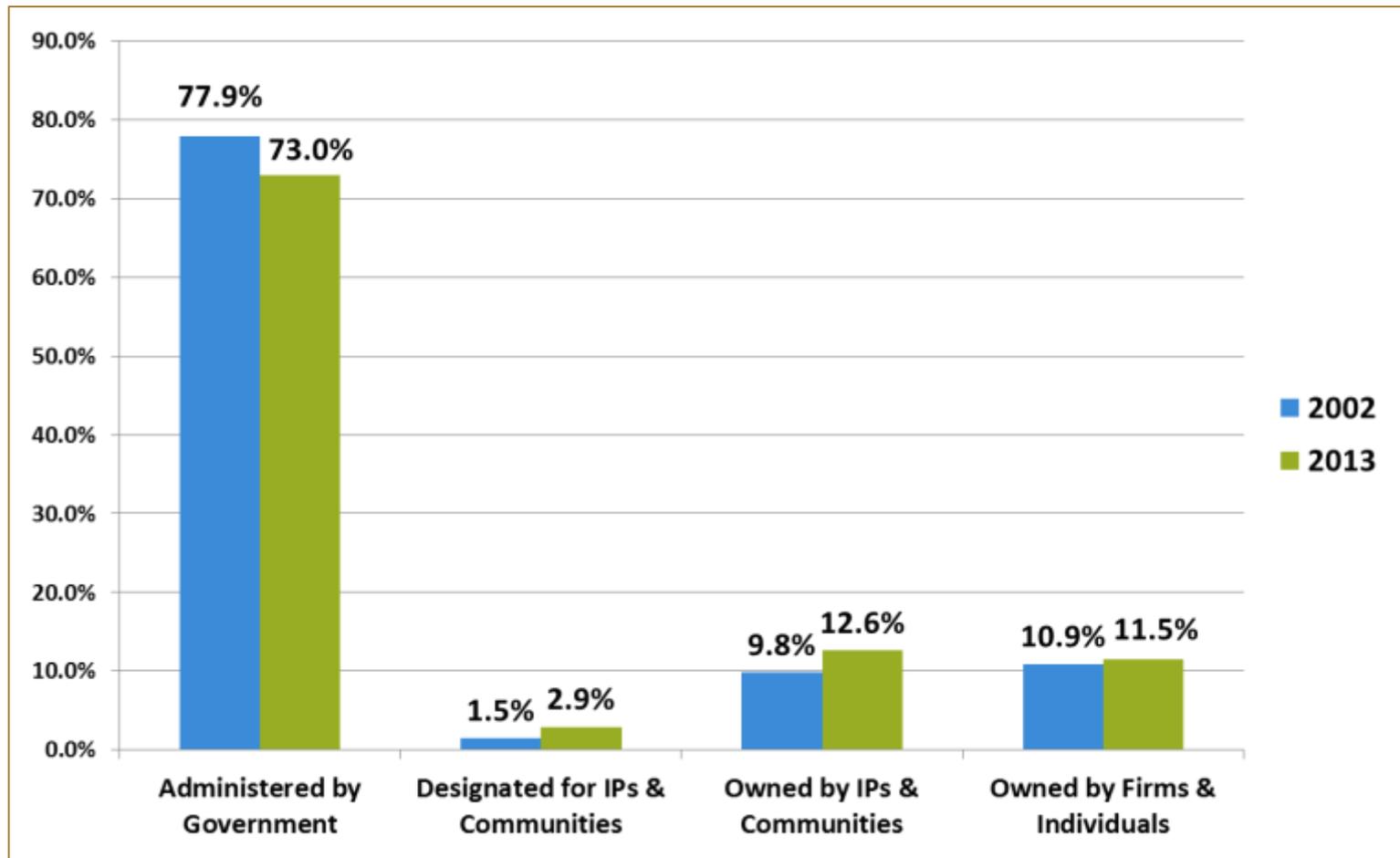
# Three dimensions of forestland tenure



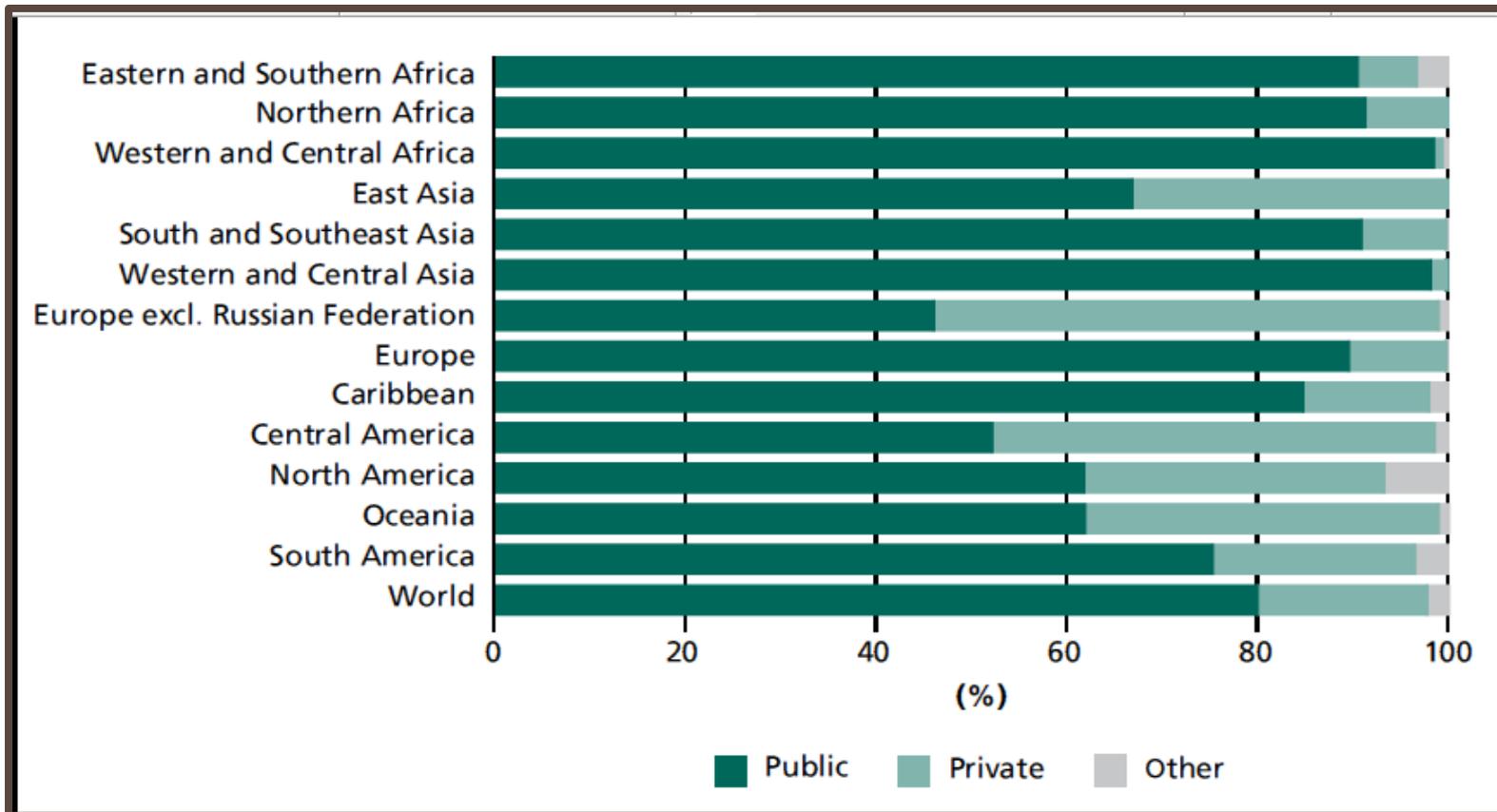
# Categories of forest land ownership

<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Administered by the government</b>	<b>Owned by individual and firms</b>
<b>Designated for use by communities, private and indigenous groups</b>	<b>Owned by communities and indigenous groups</b>

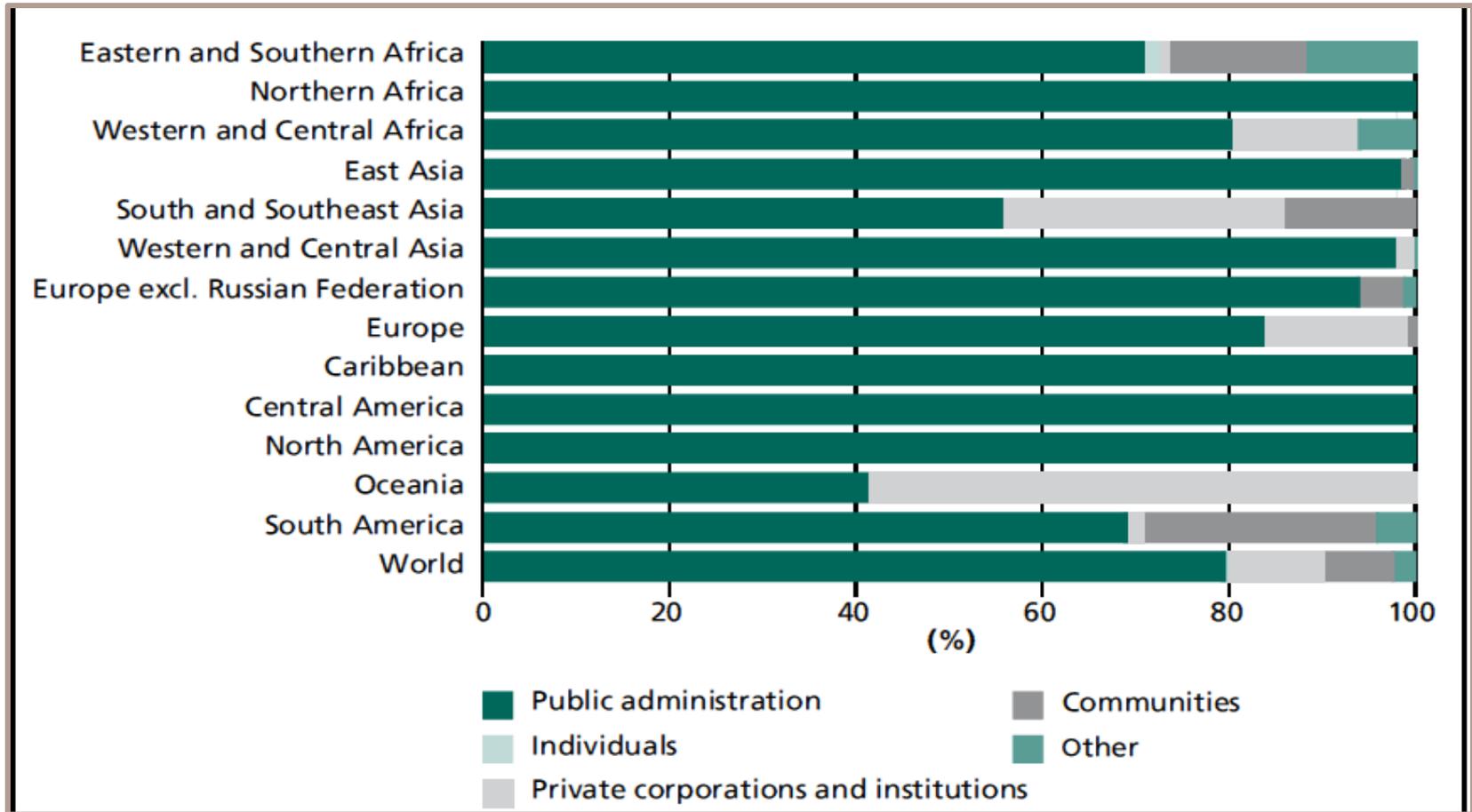
# Global forest land tenure trends- RRI 2014



# Forest ownership status- FRA 2010



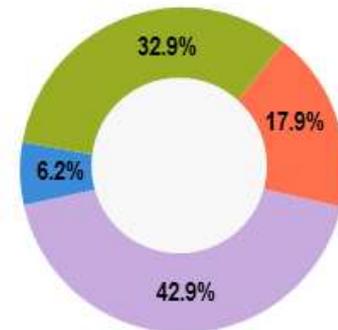
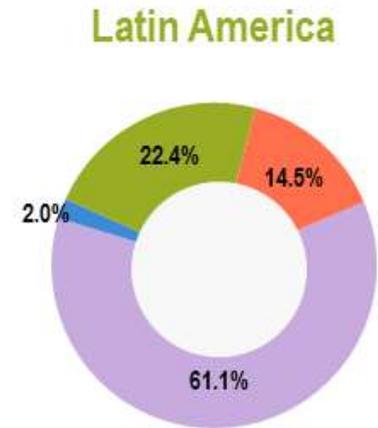
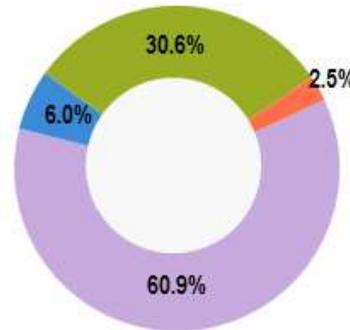
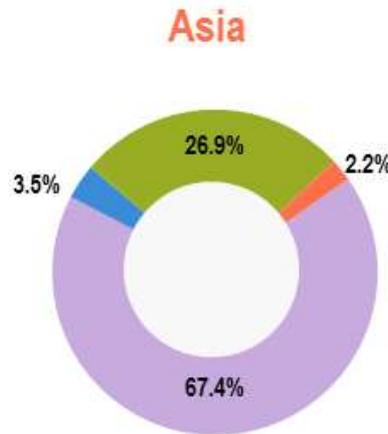
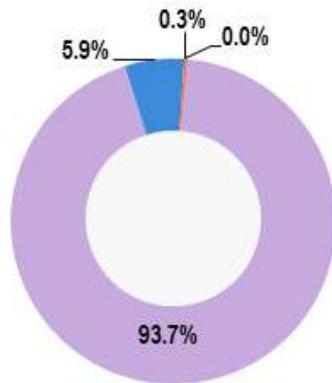
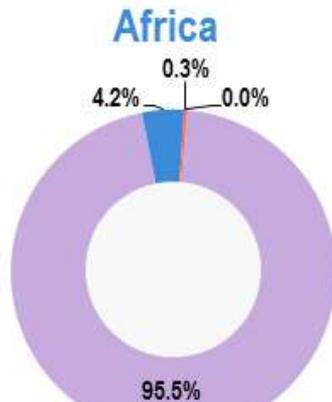
# Management of public forest- FRA 2010



# Regional scenario: statutory recognition of forest land tenure- RRI 2014

2002

2013

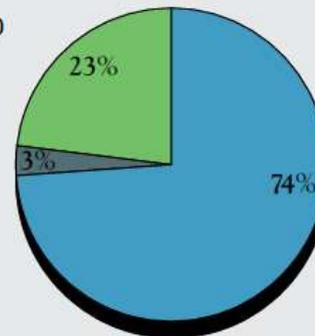


- Government Administered
- Designated for Indigenous Peoples & local communities
- Owned by Indigenous Peoples & local communities
- Owned by Individuals and Firms

# Asian scenario with and without China

## Asia: Land Ownership

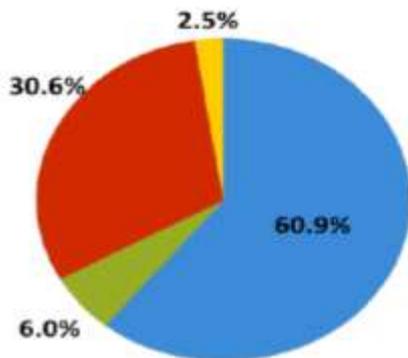
China makes up 99 percent of land owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Asia.



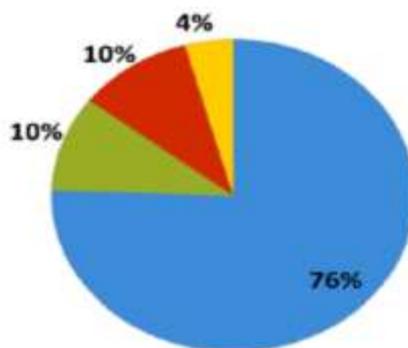
- Owned by governments or private individuals
- Owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Designated for Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Includes: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

### Asia

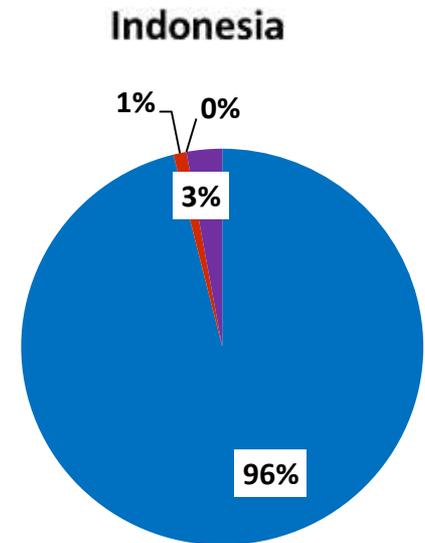
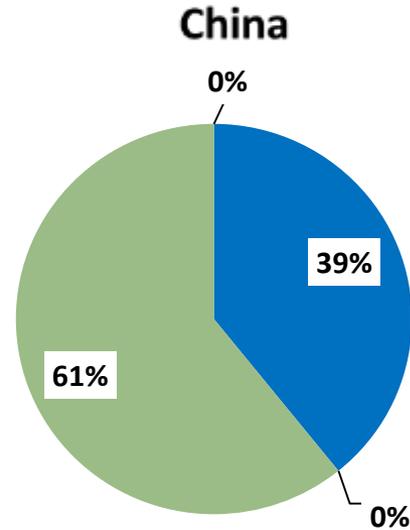
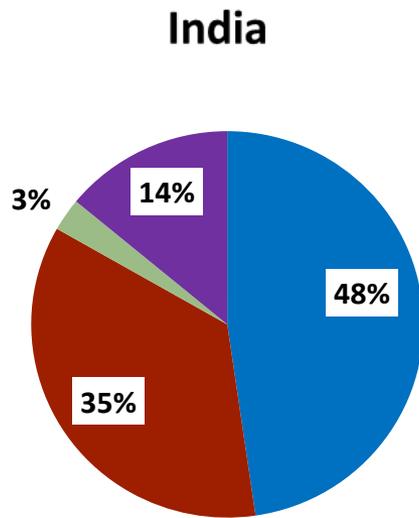


### Without China



- 3/4 of forests owned by communities in Asia are in China's rural collectives
- High proportion of customary lands and very limited recognition in Indonesia, peninsular SE Asia.

# Relative position of selected countries in Asia (2013)



- Administered by government
- Designated for use by communities and Indigenous groups
- Owned by communities and indigenous groups
- Owned by individual and firms

# Country-wise forest land tenure distribution in Asia- as of 2013

Country	Government administered		Designated for IPs and local communities		Owned by IPs and local communities		Owned by individuals and firms	
	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013
Papua New Guinea	3.0%	3.0%	0%	0%	97.0%	97.0%	0%	0%
China	42.5%	39.2%	0%	0%	57.5%	60.8%	0%	0%
Philippines	86.5%	60.6%	13.3%	11.0%	0.1%	28.4%	0%	0%
India	65.4%	47.7%	20.8%	35.5%	0%	2.7%	13.8%	14.0%
Nepal	81.6%	68.0%	18.4%	32.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thailand	100%	96.9%	0%	3.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Vietnam	100%	97.8%	0%	2.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cambodia	100%	97.9%	0%	2.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bhutan	99.9%	98.7%	0.1%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Indonesia	98.3%	96.1%	0.2%	1.0%	0%	0%	1.5%	2.9%
Lao PDR	100%	99.9%	0%	0.13%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Myanmar	99.9%	99.9%	0.08%	0.13%	0%	0%	0%	0%

# Key issues and challenges in Asia

(Tenure policies, governance and institutional issues)

- ▣ **Declining natural resource base:** annual land degradation/deforestation averages @ 1.3 %
- ▣ **Unclear property rights:** titling is mostly absent
- ▣ **Overlapping claims and land use conflicts**
- ▣ **Unequal land distribution-** land concentration vs land fragmentation- small holders.
- ▣ **Large scale land grabbing-** economic model vs subsistence farming for livelihood of the poor
- ▣ **Regulatory barriers-** hindering full exploration of economic potential of forest resources

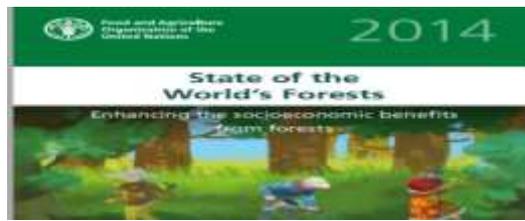
# Why we need clear and secure tenure?

- Clear tenure **encourages private sector investment**
- Clear tenure **enables responses to major challenges like-**  
climate change
- Tenure reform as a **vehicle to improve rural livelihoods,**  
increase production (e.g. China)
- Tenure reform **advances the principles of**  
**decentralization**/devolution, and responsive governance as  
envisioned by VGGT
- Essential precondition for **equitable, effective and efficient**  
**REDD+**

# Final remarks

**“Secured and clear forest land tenure with enabling policies”** is not a solution to all problems, but definitely a key condition to **address imminent and emerging environment, social, political challenges**, and more importantly economic challenges.





**Thank you so much**

