

# Tropical Forest Tenure Assessment and the International Conference on Forest Tenure Governance and Enterprise: New Opportunities for Central and West Africa

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# Methodology

*This report uses the same methodology developed for Sunderlin, et al 2008, which built on the methods from White and Martin 2002. Sunderlin et al, 2008 developed a protocol for ensuring accuracy, for enabling comparability with the 2002 data, for resolving inconsistencies, and for providing instructions for future attempts to update the data.*

Compares statutory forest tenure data for 2002 and 2008 in 39 tropical countries including 26 ITTO Producer Countries (80% of all ITTO Producer Countries), covering 47% of the area of the global forest estate.

## FOUR CATEGORIES ANALYSED

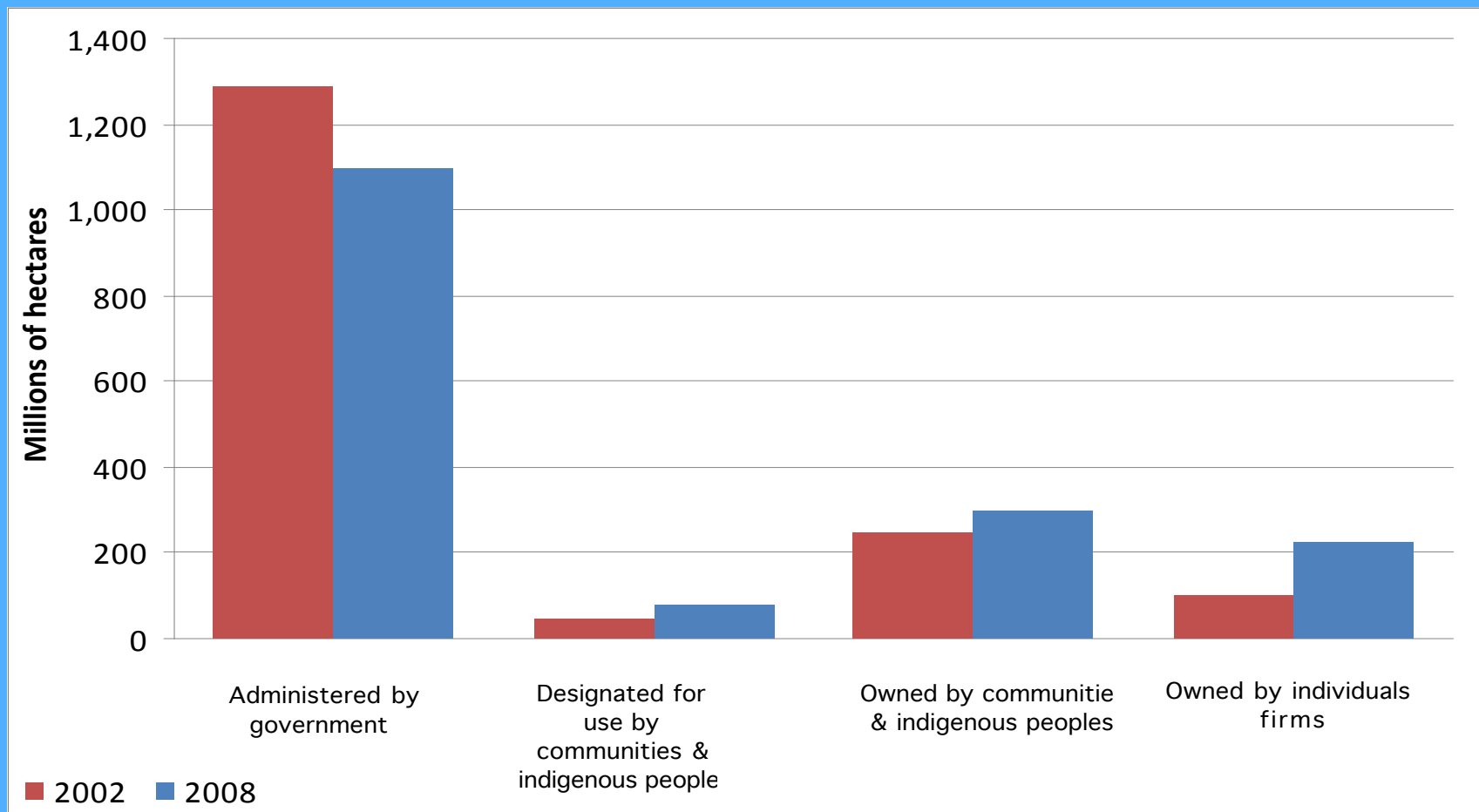
- 1) Public forest administered by government
- 2) Public forest designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples
- 3) Private lands owned by communities or indigenous peoples
- 4) Private lands owned by individuals or firms

# Data on 30 most forested tropical countries

- The absolute area of public forest land administered by government in 30 tropical forest countries has decreased from 1286 Mha in 2002 to 1094 Mha in 2008 (a decrease of 15%).
- The absolute area of forest designated for use by communities and indigenous groups in these countries has increased from 43 Mha in 2002 to 71 Mha in 2008 (an increase of 66%).
- The absolute area of private community and indigenous land in these countries has increased from 248 Mha in 2002 to 303 Mha in 2008 (an increase of 22%).
- The absolute area of forest land owned by individuals and firms in these countries has increased from 100 Mha in 2002 to 222 Mha in 2008 (an increase of 122%).
- In 18 of the 30 countries there was a net increase in the total area of forest land not administered by government.

# Raw data from 30 most forested countries with tenure data available

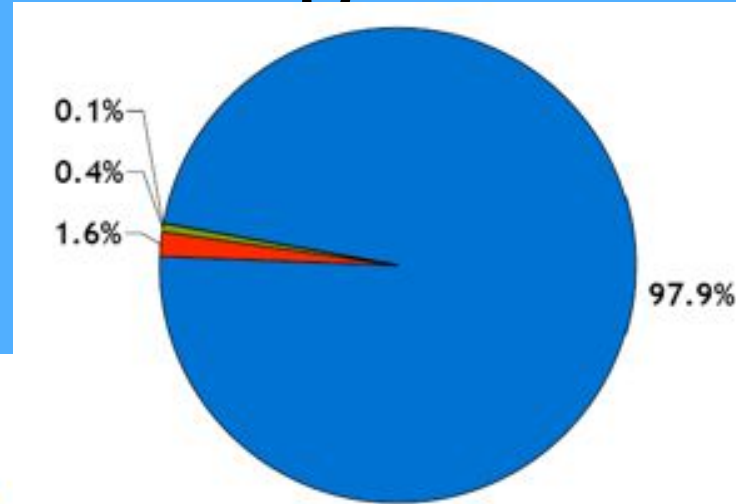
- Includes 20 ITTO producer countries



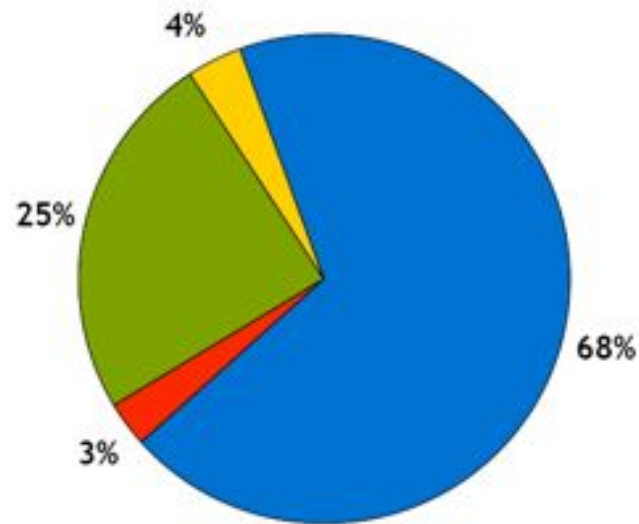
# Why this matters today?

- Capacity of the state to effectively manage
- Tensions/conflicts over land and resources are rising throughout the world
- Low economic development in rural areas and nationally in many high forest countries
- Environmental degradation and the global climate
- Government ownership of forest contradicts trend to decentralize

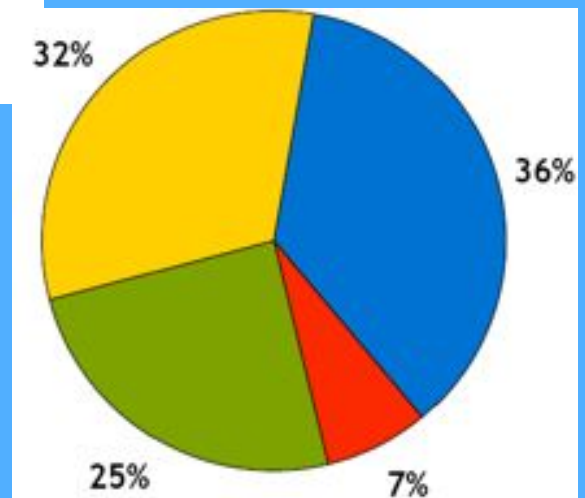
# Regions are uneven: progress just starting in Africa



**Africa**



**Asia & Pacific**



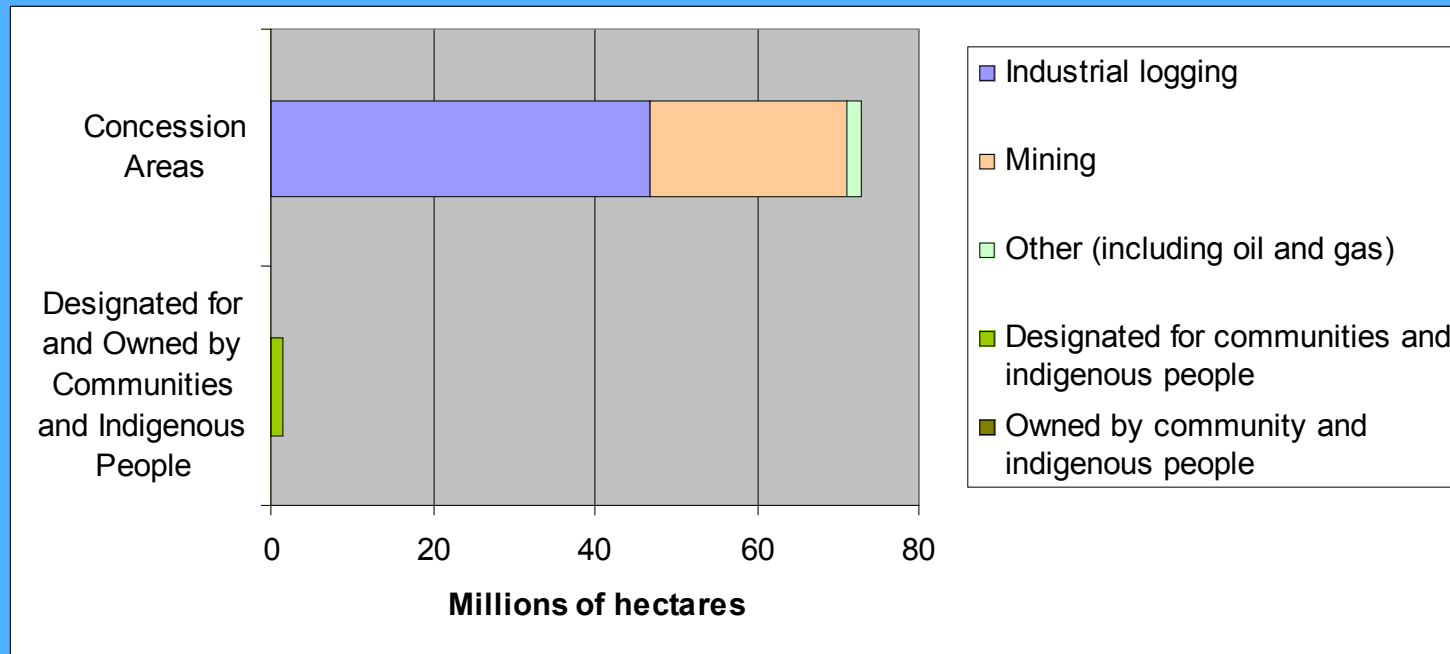
**Latin America**

■ Public: Administered by government  
■ Owned by communities & indigenous peoples

■ Public: Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples  
■ Owned by individuals & firms

# Industrial concessions dominate African forests

Comparison of the area of industrial concessions and community forest land in the Central African ITTO Producer countries



# Where is Protection and Restoration Taking Place?

1. Where is protection taking place? Brazil (IPs'); Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Philippines (IPs', communities)
  - Not because of huge investment but by clarifying rights and sound policy choices
2. Where is restoration taking place? Nepal (communities); China, Vietnam (households)
  - Again, no huge investment – just the right and consistent policy
3. How much does it cost to recognize rights - this is cheap \$3/hectare vs \$400/ha/year expected REDD payment



# Examples of reform

- 20 countries over past 10 years have made legal and policy reforms to strengthen the rights of forest communities; 8 of these countries are in Africa
- Brazil
  - Once behind now leading the way in recognizing forest community rights
- Mozambique
  - developed participatory policy making and implementation
- Tanzania
  - Village land acts and PFM programs
- India
  - Forest Rights Act makes advances on JFM; more authority and rights to local
- Central Africa:
  - Over the past 10 years, increased actions to support and implement community forestry in Central Africa: Cameroon, Rep of Congo; Gabon; CAR.

While difficult, the first steps have been taken: but, it will be more difficult tomorrow

# Forest Tenure and Policy Reforms: New Opportunities for Central and West Africa

- **250 Participants:** Cameroon, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, CAR, DRC, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, China, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, Europe, N.America
- Government, regional economic commissions, civil society, traditional authorities, elected officials, donors, communities, researchers
- Plenary, working groups, field visits
- Declaration with targets for regional reforms and support



# Organizers, Sponsors and Hosts



- ITTO, RRI, FAO, IUCN, CIFOR, ICRAF, Comifac, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, Govt. Cameroon, Intercooperation, GACF
- SDC, Netherlands, DFID, SIDA, State Dept- USA, NORAD, SECO, IDRC



# Key Messages

- Forest tenure policy and law reform processes are necessary in many countries in Africa.
  - Multi-stakeholder processes needed
  - Clear policy set before drafting laws
  - Land and forest laws consistent
  - Respect and recognition of customary systems
  - National policies recognize legal customary rights
- Small medium forest enterprises, including community-based excellent vehicle for conservation, sustainability, livelihoods and local development
  - SMEs/CFEs need clear tenure to grow and access to markets
  - Women are leaders in SMFEs and income generation
  - State plays a key role in supporting or hindering development of SMFEs

# Key Recommendations

## **Governments:**

- Endorse land and forest tenure reforms with rights as essential for sustainable development
- Set ambitious targets for community ownership or recognition of rights
- Accelerate reforms in favor of poor, women, indigenous peoples, marginalized groups
- Learn from experience of other countries
- Create enabling environment for development and success of SMFEs and CFEs

# Key Recommendations (2)

## **ITTO and other International Organizations:**

- Collaborate on the development of guidelines for forest tenure reform
- Undertake the necessary efforts to implement the ITTO Thematic Program on Community Forest Management and Enterprises
- Develop an agenda to promote gender equity within tenure and forest enterprises
- Support organization of a workshop on the same themes as the Yaoundé Conference for a group of Asian countries to share experiences and learn from each other.

# THANK YOU

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[www.rightsandresources.org](http://www.rightsandresources.org)

[www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=44270000](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=44270000)

[www.minfof.gov.cm/](http://www.minfof.gov.cm/)