



# Forest Agencies in Transition

## Major Changes, New Challenges

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# Major Changes

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## FOREST AGENCIES: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### Forest agencies were created a long time ago:

Divided in 3 categories (roughly):

1. European roots (e.g. Russia (1800s); US (1900));
2. Models extended to “colonies” in Asia, Africa, LA;
3. New models created after a post revolution (e.g. China, Mexico, South Sudan).

### 3 major changes since then:

1. The purpose of forests: what is expected
2. Scientific/knowledge basis for forestry
3. Land ownership, legal and political basis and forest agencies, role of the state



**Lots more will  
change in the  
future...**

# 1) The Purpose of Forests: What is Expected of Forest Agencies

## From:

- Control of territory and resources for the state;
- Conservation/protection – water, wildlife - hunting
- Timber, (avoiding “timber famine”)
- Industrialized production for economic growth of the state
- Source of land for agriculture



## Towards:

- Diminishing support for deforestation
- Non-timber forest products, bioenergy, peoples' recreation etc (often more important than timber)
- “Ecosystem services/management”
- More local “participation”
- Climate change mitigation (e.g. REDD)
- Local jobs, enterprises, development



## 2) Scientific Basis has Changed

### From:

- An “autonomous” forest agency
- Forestry as a “professional, modern, science”
- All mighty foresters: “we”, foresters, “know it all” and can plan accordingly

### Towards:

- More diverse sources and bases of knowledge: different sectors, actors and scales
- A shared vision of forestry: “we all” know, “Knowledge is power”
- A new role for forest agencies as forests are intertwined with all other major sectors (and crises)



# 3) Land, Legal and Political Basis Has Changed

## From:

- Forest owned by the state/public, centralized
- (Support to private forests an offshoot)
- Often confusing/illegal operations and trade

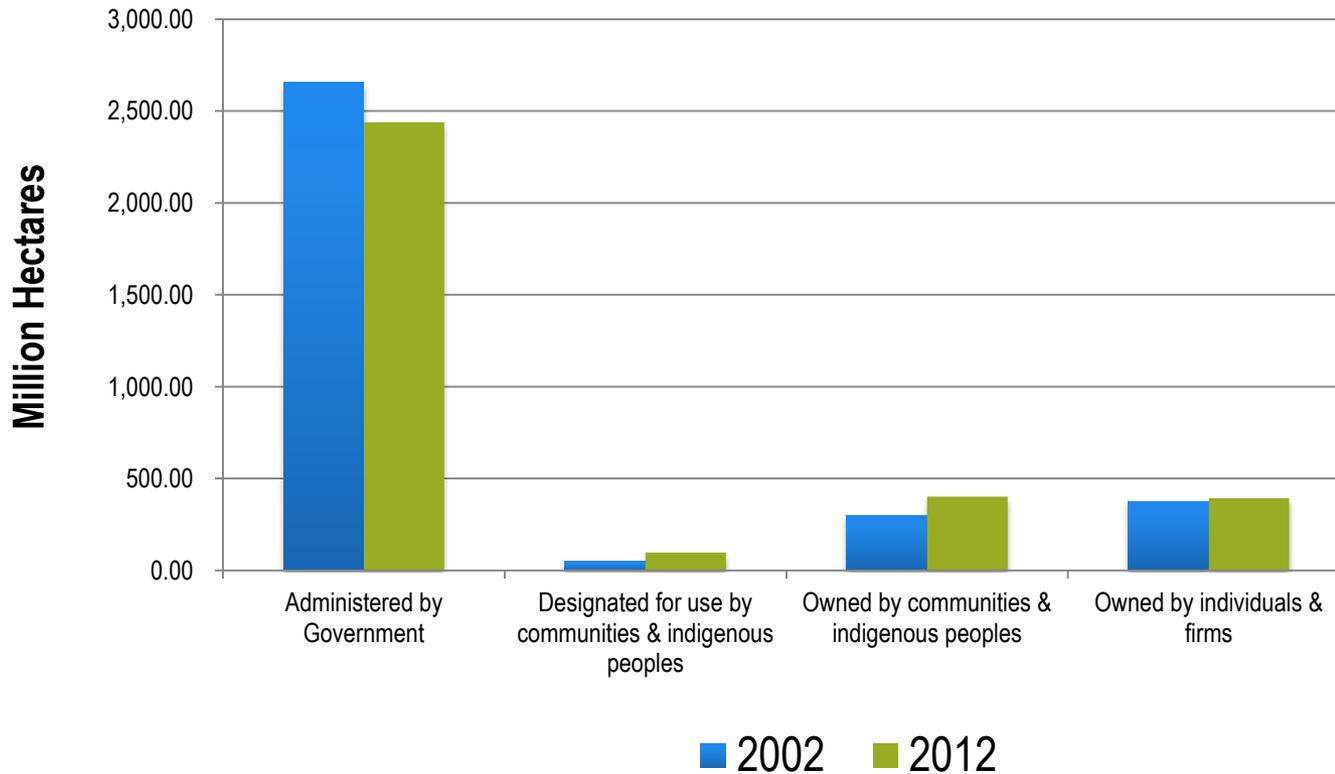
## Towards:

- Forest owned by many different entities through different ownership types
- Increased demand for recognition of land rights; shift in power: more decentralization to states, households, etc.
- New expectations with democratization: citizen voice/choice, transparency, accountability
- Agency as reflexive, supporter of forest owners & ensures delivery of public goods
- Insistence on legality, means of improving governance



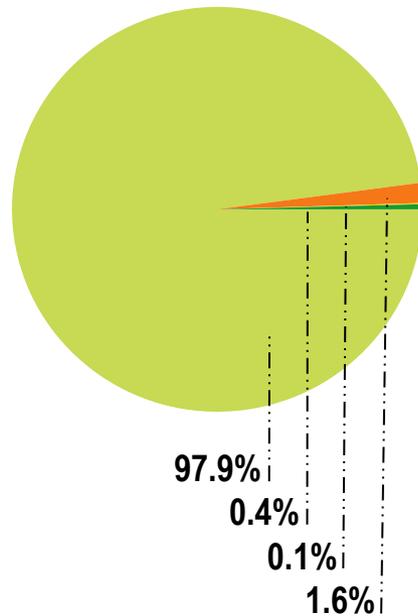
# Status of Forest Land Rights – State Dominated but Changing

**Global Forest Tenure Distribution By Tenure Category, 2002-2012**

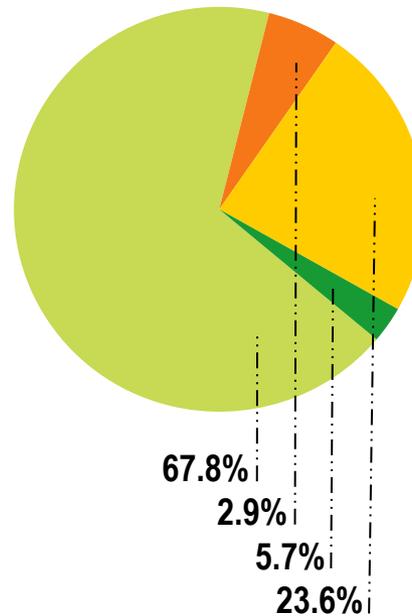


*Note: This chart includes 33 complete cases (85% of the world's forests). Countries include Russia, Canada, Brazil, United States, China, Australia, DRC, Indonesia, Peru, India, Mexico, Colombia, Angola, Bolivia, Zambia, Venezuela, Tanzania, Myanmar, Argentina, Finland, PNG, Japan, CAR, Gabon, Congo, Sweden, Malaysia, Cameroon, Mozambique, Thailand, Suriname, Guyana, and Cambodia.*

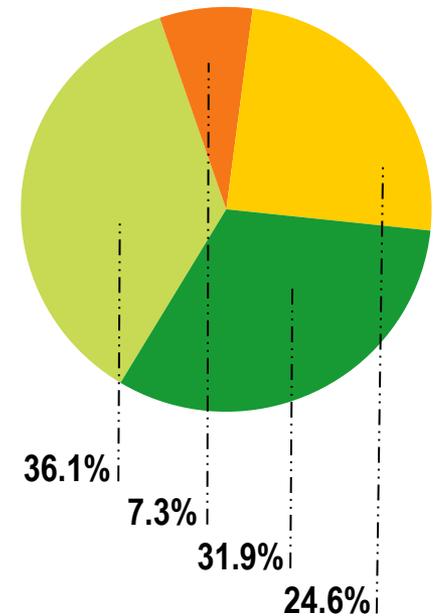
## Africa



## Asia



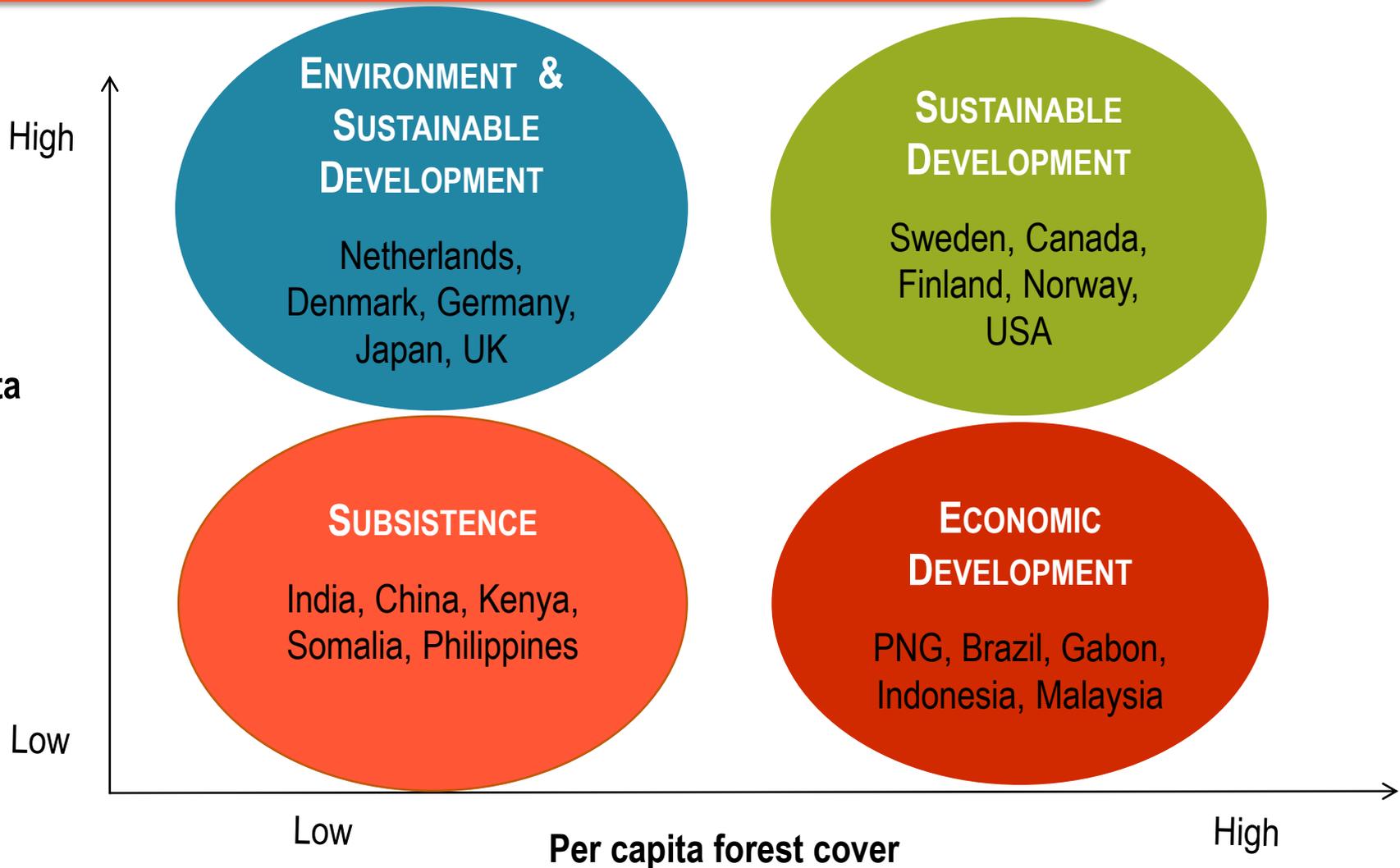
## Latin America



- Administered by Government
- Owned by communities and Indigenous Peoples
- Designed for use by communities & Indigenous Peoples
- Owned by individuals & firms

**SOURCES:** Sunderlin et al. 2008; ITTO/RRRI 2009. Includes best available data as of December 2011 from 36 of the world's most forested countries, representing 85% of world forests<sup>8</sup>.

# The Four Realities



Source: Jagmohan Maini





# New Challenges

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## IMPLICATIONS FOR FOREST AGENCIES

**Forest agencies need to adapt to the 3 major changes:**

1. Change in forest purpose: relatively straightforward to address
2. Change in forest science/knowledge: can adapt: it's harder but "logical", and inevitable
3. Change in land, legal and political basis: More diverse land ownership and more democratization > requires a much more profound transformation => much more challenging for all



# More changes to be expected

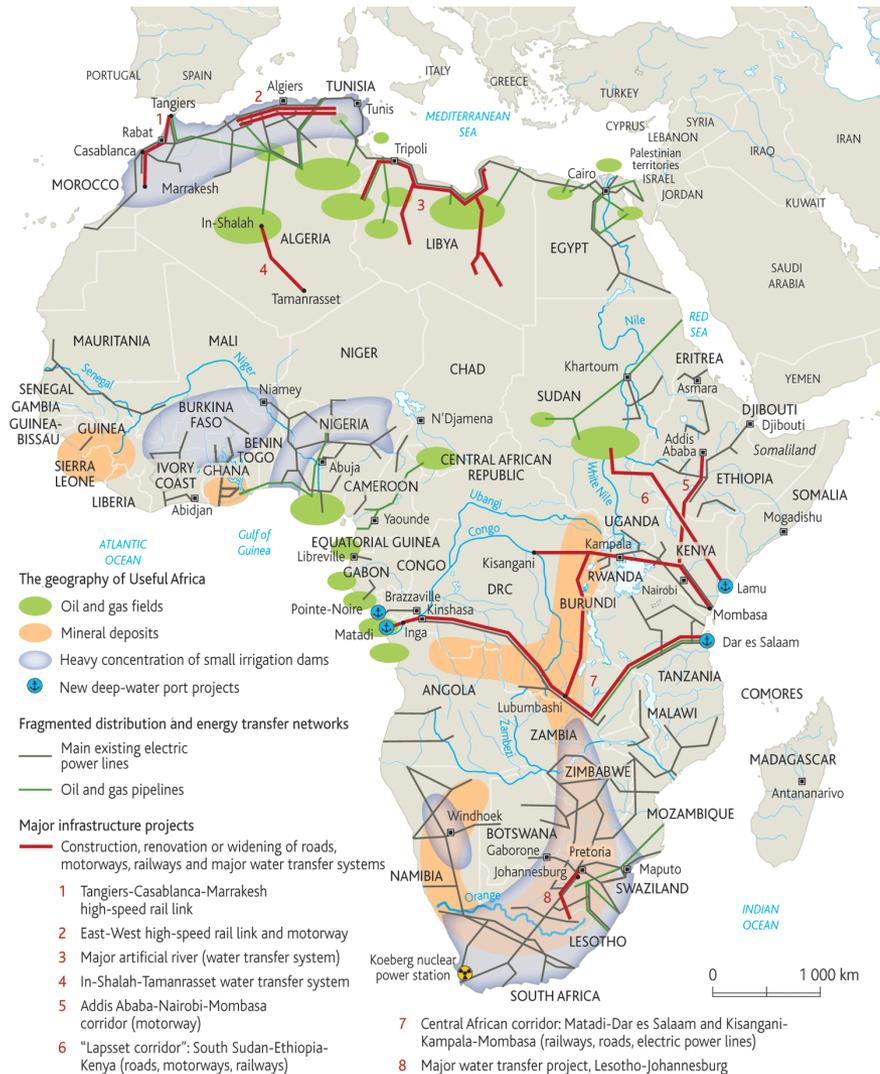
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1. Population growth – 10 billion?
  2. Food insecurity and need to double agricultural production by 2050?
  3. Booming demand for bioenergy, mining, infrastructure, much of it in forested areas
  4. Increased rural population, youth bulge
  5. Increased risk of violent conflict
  6. Disasters, disruptions with climate change
  7. Changes in trade, international institutions with the growing importance of the “middle income” countries – Brazil, China, India, Russia
- ➔ **Declining relative importance and power of forest agencies in controlling forest areas**



# Example: Capital Investments in Africa



*From now to 2030, a projected 25 trillion dollars will be invested in infrastructure in developing countries. (Cohen and Steers 2009)*

*"There will be hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment over the next decade or so in Africa, in ports, rail, roads, mining, hydroelectric, to exploit the resources and bring them to market." (IFC, May 2011)*



## **Forest agencies will have to address:**

- 1.** Pressure on forest areas from 4 sides (agriculture, energy, mining and infrastructure), new politics and the political economy of forest areas
  - 2.** Much greater expectations and power of local people, pursuing their own rights and aspirations
  - 3.** Much more demand for local jobs & development
- ➔ Innovation, reinvention will be required to remain socially, politically relevant, and effective promoters of forests

*How will forest agencies face those new challenges?*

*How will forest agencies, and their roles, be different in the future?*