

## Key data from “From Exclusion to Ownership”

### Global

Worldwide, in 2008:

- There are approximately 4 billion hectares of forests.
- At least 350 million hectares of forest land are **owned by communities and indigenous peoples** (larger than the size of India) (9% of the world's forests).
- At least 427 million hectares of forest land are **owned by or public land designated for communities and indigenous peoples** (11% of the world's forests)
- At least 466 million hectares of forest land are **owned by individuals or firms** (12% of the world's forests).
- At least 412 million hectares of forest land are **under industrial concession** (in just 15 countries) (10% of the world's forests).

In the 25 complete country cases in *From Exclusion to Ownership* (which account for 80% of the world forest estate):

- The total forest area under state ownership declined during the period 2002-2008, while the area of forest designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples, the area owned by communities and indigenous peoples, and the area owned by individuals and firms all increased.
- The area of public forest land administered by government **decreased 7%** from 2.58 billion hectares in 2002 to 2.41 billion hectares in 2008.
- The area of forest designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples **increased 56%** from 49 million hectares in 2002 to 76 million hectares in 2008.
- The area of privately owned community and indigenous forest land **increased 20%** from 246 million hectares in 2002 to 296 million hectares in 2008.
- The area of forest land owned by individuals and firms **increased 36%** from 339 million hectares in 2002 to 461 million hectares in 2008.
- From 2002 to 2008 the area of forest land designated for communities and indigenous peoples increased in ten countries, stayed the same in 14 countries, and declined in one country.
- From 2002 to 2008 the area of forest land owned by communities or indigenous peoples increased in seven countries, remained the same in 16 countries, and decreased in two countries.
- If the rate of change remains constant until 2015, the area not under government administration will have almost doubled since 2002.
- In the developing countries studied in the 2002 publication *Who Owns the World's Forests* 22% of the forest lands were owned by or designated for communities and indigenous peoples in 2002. In 2008 27% of the forests in the same countries were owned by or designated for communities and indigenous peoples.

### Regional

In **Africa** (Angola, Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC, Gabon, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia – accounting for 67% of African forests):

- From 2002 to 2008 the area of public forest lands legally designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples increased 410% from 1.2 million hectares to 6.1 million hectares, most of this change can be explained by Tanzania.
- There are only 0.11 million hectares of forest lands owned by individuals and firms.
- The area of concessions in just 5 central African countries (Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC and Gabon) is at least 73 million hectares. In the same countries only 1.6 million hectares of forest lands are designated for use by communities.
- Tanzania has made some of the most progress in the region under its Participatory Forest Management program, increasing the forest area designated for and owned by communities from 0.4 million hectares in 2002 to 3.62 million hectares in 2008, an increase of 900%.

In **Asia** (China, Australia, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Japan – accounting for 78% of Asian forests):

- At least 147 million hectares of forest land are owned by communities and indigenous peoples, an increase of only 0.5% since 2002.
- There was very little change in the total area administered by government, designated for communities or owned by communities.
- The Indian 2006 Tribal Rights Act, which has yet to be implemented, will transfer forest land from government to communities and households.

In **Latin America** (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela – accounting for 78% of Latin American forests)

- At least 146 million hectares owned by communities and indigenous peoples, an increase of 43% since 2002.
- At least 190 million hectares owned by or designated for communities or indigenous peoples, an increase of 60% since 2002.
- The process known as *saneamiento* to clarify land tenure has led to an increase of forest lands legally owned by communities and indigenous peoples, from 2.8 million hectares in 2002 to 9.04 million hectares in 2008.

### **Definitions of categories**

**Public lands administered by government:** typically include all forests in the legal forest estate that are owned and administered exclusively by the government and that are not designated for use by communities or indigenous peoples. Note that this category includes some protected areas and forest lands awarded as concessions for logging, agroindustrial or silvicultural plantations, and mining.

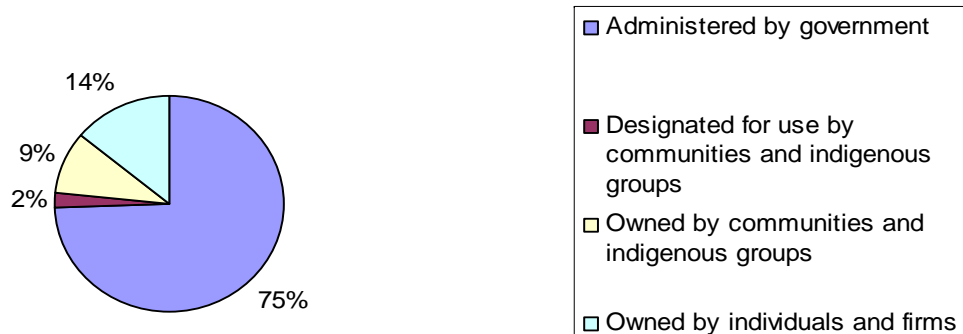
**Public lands designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples** are lands set aside on a semi-permanent but conditional basis. According to the 2002 publication: “governments retain ownership and the entitlement to unilaterally extinguish local groups’ rights over entire areas. Under this arrangement, local groups typically lack rights to sell or otherwise alienate land through mortgages or other financial instruments. Although the distribution of rights between government and community in this category is different in almost every country, governments invariably retain strong authority to extract and manage forest resources.”

**Private lands owned by communities or indigenous peoples** refers to forest lands where rights cannot be unilaterally terminated by a government “without some form of due process and compensation.” In theory, private land owners typically “have rights to access, sell or otherwise alienate, manage, withdraw resources and exclude outsiders.” However in the real world, there are some situations where not all of these rights are awarded to private land owners, and others where some of these rights are conferred to people on public, designated for community-use forest land. For this reason, the legal right of the government to terminate a land right with or without due process and compensation serves as the chief criterion for distinguishing public from private forest tenure. Note that in some cases where private lands are said to be owned by communities or indigenous peoples, the state is considered to be the ultimate owner under statutory law, though the communities and indigenous peoples are recognized as the lawful right holders.

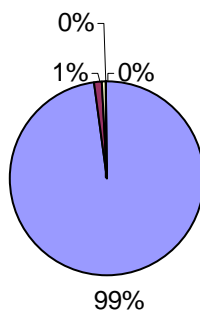
**Private lands owned by individuals or firms** are those where the rights cannot be unilaterally terminated by a government without due process or compensation.

Distribution of tenure globally and regionally

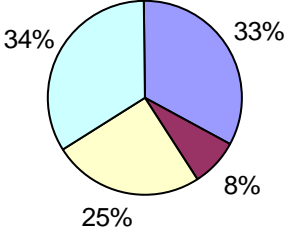
**Global (25 Complete Cases from From Exclusion to Ownership -  
80% of world forest estate)**



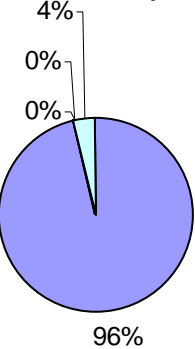
**Africa  
(DRC, Sudan, Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, CAR, Congo, Gabon,  
Cameroon - Accounts for 67% of African Forests)**



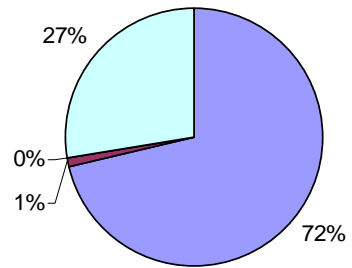
**Latin America**  
**(Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela - Accounts for 78% of Latin American Forests)**



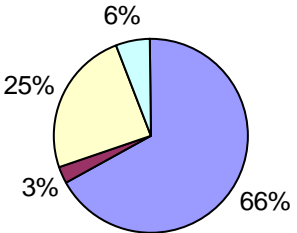
**Europe**  
**(Russia, Finland, Sweden - Accounts for 86% of European Forests)**

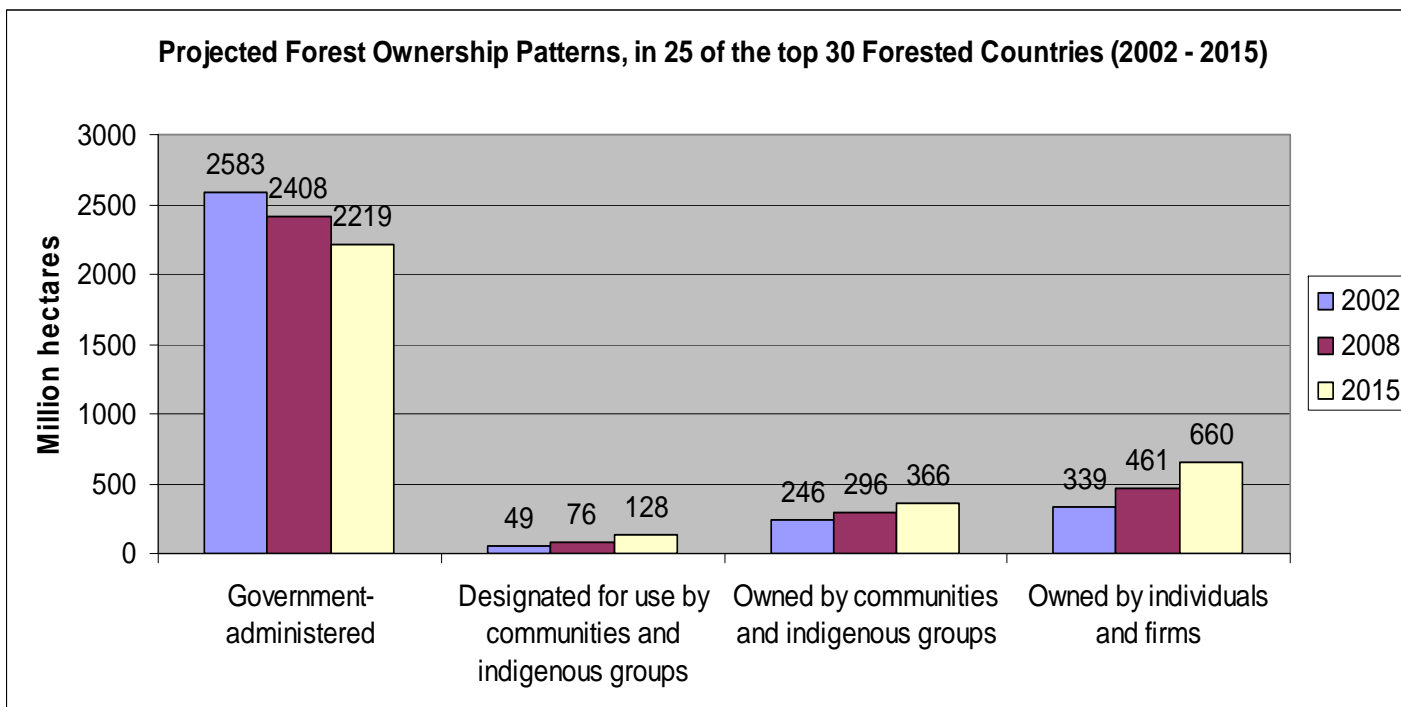


**North America  
(Canada, USA - Accounts for 87% of  
North American Forests )**



**Asia**  
**(China, Australia, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Japan - Accounts for 78% of Asian Forests)**

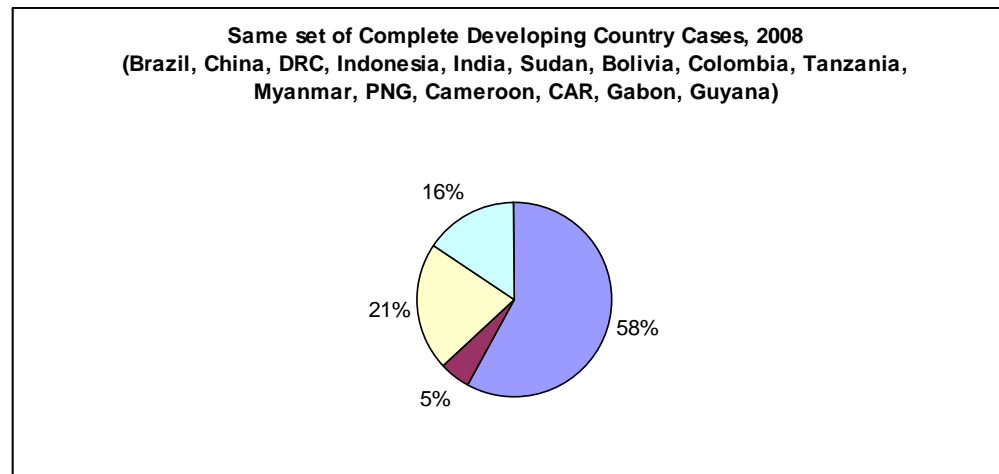
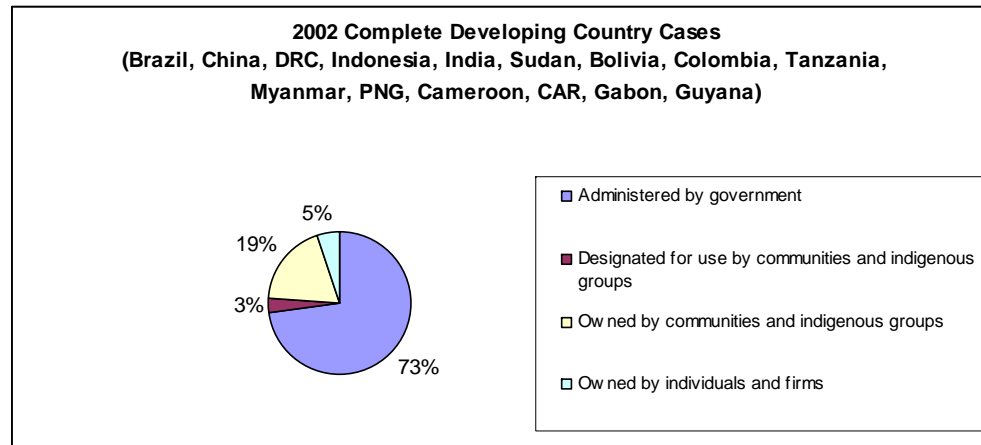




Yearly rates of growth, 2002-2008

Government administered	Designated for use by communities and indigenous groups	Owned by communities and indigenous groups	Owned by individuals and firms
- 1.16%	7.7%	3.1%	5.3%

Comparison of the complete 'developing countries' in the 2002 Who Owns and 2008 data



	Designated for use by communities and indigenous groups	Owned by communities and indigenous groups	Total
2002	3.3%	18.6%	21.9%
2008	5.3%	21.4%	26.7%



