

Setting the Context: What is MegaFlorestais?

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Summary

- I. **Origin and Goals** of the *MegaFlorestais* network
- II. **Annual Meetings**
- III. **Other Activities**



Origin and goals of the *MegaFlorestais* network

- *MegaFlorestais* means “*those with the greatest forests*” in Portuguese
- When: Created in 2005
- Objective: Engage an informal group of public forest agency leaders in advancing international dialogue and exchange on transitions in:
 - forest governance
 - the forest industry, and
 - the role of public forest agencies.



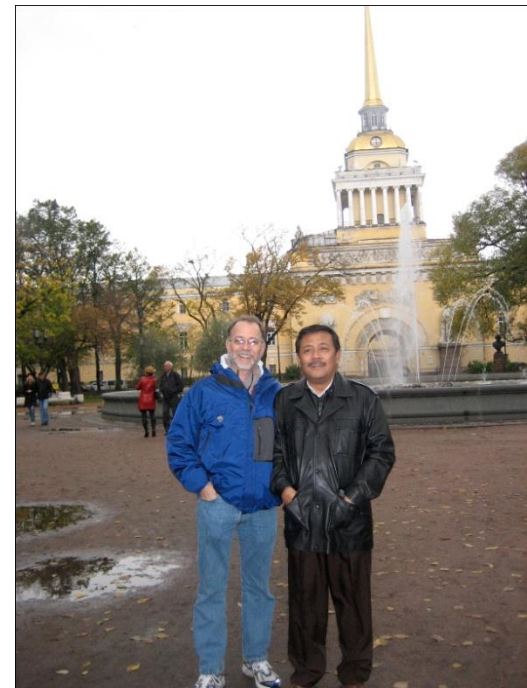
Origin and goals of the *MegaFlorestais* network

- Who: the heads of forest agencies from the largest forest countries



Origin and goals of the *MegaFlorestais* network

- Method: Create the opportunity for leaders to share their challenges and experiences in an open, frank way. Collectively strengthen their abilities to address transitions in the forest sector.



Origin and goals of the *MegaFlorestais* network

- Why a new network?: Other meetings are too formal and offer little time for high-level officials to have a real dialogue



Origin and goals of the *MegaFlorestais* network

Governance of the network:

- Co-Chairs:
 1. Sally Collins, Former Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service
 2. Tasso Azevedo, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Brazil
 3. Host of the annual meeting of MegaFlorestais

- RRI acts as the secretariat and co-convenor

- Financed by RRI and host countries



The Annual Meetings

Seven Mega*Florestais* Meetings:

- 2006 USA (Pennsylvania)
- 2007 Russia (St Petersburg)
- 2008 Brazil (Amazon)
- 2009 Canada (British Columbia)
- 2010 China (Fujian)
- 2011 Mexico (Oaxaca)
- 2012 USA (Santa Fe)



Annual Meetings

- High quality, candid dialogue on the most important issues facing the forest sector (e.g. climate change, trade)
- Share strategies and approaches to tenure and regulatory reforms
- Discuss how forest agencies have adapted to new issues & challenges
- Exchange strategies on how to manage large, catastrophic events (fire, insects/disease)



Annual Meetings

- **12 countries** in 2012 (Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, DRC, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, South Sudan and the United States)
- **Almost 70% of the world's forests** represented



Additional Activities of the MegaFlorestais Network

Thanks to the annual meetings, other activities emerged from the network:

1. Global Issues in Governing Natural Resources Training Seminar (“Next Generation of leaders”)
2. Rethinking Forest Regulations workshop
3. Exchanges/Study Tours between countries



1. Global Issues in Governing Natural Resources

An international training seminar for promising midcareer officers in public forest agencies

- First meeting convened in 2010 with 18 representatives from Brazil, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Russia and the United States.



1. Global Issues in Governing Natural Resources

Second meeting in 2011:

- 18 Representatives from Brazil, Canada, China, Russia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Peru and the USA





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1. *Global Issues in Governing Natural Resources*

Objectives

- Better prepare the next generation of forest agency leaders to lead in a complex social, political and market environment.
- Create a deeper understanding of global transitions in forest tenure, governance and markets.
- Promote improved information sharing and create networks.
- Strengthen the role of forest agencies in addressing land rights, poverty alleviation, governance, conservation and climate change.



1. *Global Issues in Governing Natural Resources*

Outcomes

- Outstanding reviews by participants
- No one else doing this in a multi-national way; a great appetite for this
- Created sense of pride among participants: forestry is complex but ***we are up for the task***
- Communication, questions, discussion continues among the last group via email and social media.



2. *Rethinking Forest Regulations workshop*

Convened at the request of Mega*Florestais* members to:

- Better prepare forest agency officials and civil society organizations for the challenges of forest regulatory reform.
- Expose participants to successful and innovative regulatory models, including:
 - Methods that include stakeholders in decision-making
 - Processes that acknowledge individual and collective property rights.



2. Rethinking Forest Regulations workshop

Two meetings organized in Montana since 2010

- In 2010 with representatives from Brazil and Mexico.
- In 2011 with representatives from Brazil, China, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico and Peru.



3. *Exchanges / Study Tours between countries*

Some Examples

- Indonesian ministry traveled to Brazil to learn about the Amazon Fund (2009).
- Nepali community forest managers went to Mexico to learn about their experience in community forestry (April 2011).
- A Delegation of the Chinese Society of Forestry Economics came to the USA for a *Study Tour on Public Forest Reform: Lessons from the American Experience* (May 2012).
- An exchange visit is being organized between Mexico and the Lao PDR (summer and fall 2012).



Canadian Perspective:

- Leadership is not a developing or a developed country issue. It is an important, permanent requirement in our professional lives and Canada very much welcomes both the Leaders' meeting and the Next Generation seminar.
- Leaders' meeting creates space to:
 - discuss how Leaders can work together to ensure the forest sector continues to prosper
 - honestly share difficulties; not just best practices
- Next generation training seminar:
 - Increases awareness of the international context and challenges
 - A significant opportunity for professional development, and recognition
 - Cultivates analytical and innovative thinking.

