

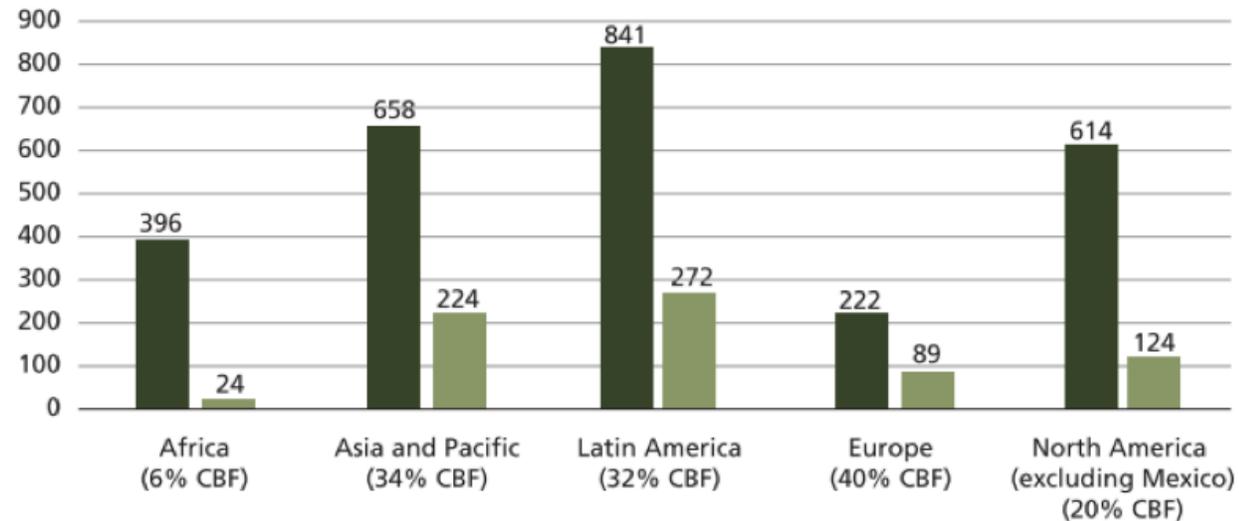
Addressing public and community actors in biodiversity and forest conservation: land tenure

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Forest tenure

- Combination of legally or customarily defined forest ownership rights and arrangements for the management and use of forest resources
- Most of the world's forests (85% according to FAO) are publicly owned
- Over the last 20 years in many countries there has been a diversification of tenure systems increasing involvement of local stakeholders in forest management



Community forest management

- Community forest management (CFM) refers to land tenure as well as forest use and governance arrangements under which the rights, responsibilities, and authority for forest management rest partially or fully with local communities or of forest users
- The type of forest tenure rights devolved to communities under CFM goes from very limited participation in government programs, to active management of forest resources
- Participatory land use planning contributes to better land and resource management by directly involving local users in the decision-making for SFM - evidence from Laos
- Importance of addressing specificity of situations with ad-hoc tools

Forest tenure and fiscal policy for SFM

Decentralized forest tenure intersects in different ways with fiscal policy for SFM:

- CFM units can improve traceability of products along the entire value chain, as well as ensure producers and communities follow-through on their commitments to SFM
- They may also help simplify fiscal administration by grouping taxpayers into large units which can then effectively participate in the planning and public input stages of fiscal policy.

The following cases from across different regions of the world address the diversity in forest tenure which can be conducive to different policy tools for SFM.

Case 1 Brazil

- In Brazil 28% of forests is Government Recognized Community Forest.
- The government maps and registers indigenous community forests, helps communities remove illegal settlers.
- From 2000 to 2012, deforestation in forests controlled by indigenous communities was less than 1 percent compared with 7 percent for non-community-managed forests
- Indigenous lands qualify for ICMS-Ecológico: what linkages?

Case 2 Nepal

- Example of well established CFM after over 40 years of decentralization of forest management. Today: 20% of Nepal's forest are under CFM, and 18,000 Forest Users' Groups
- Focus on participatory process involving all local stakeholders in the preparation of operational plan for forest use lasting 5 years
- Challenges: technical requirements for forestry inventories, which represent a challenge for users groups due to lengthy and complex process
- Elite groups who hold key posts in executive committees get most of the benefits and opportunities

Case 3 Tanzania

- Forests are managed differently depending on whether they fall under the control of the central government, the local government or the village
- If forest part of village land, they are defined under Village Land Use Plans and managed by the village governments (also joint land use plans)
- Identification of forest users with forest managers leads to maximized potential for poverty reduction and SFM
- Potential for EFT as a functioning system of intergovernmental fiscal transfers is already in place to fund local budgets of district administrations

Challenges of decentralized forest tenure

- Limited access to justice in rural areas can pose a threat to the resolution of land-related conflicts.
- Regional or municipal governments may be susceptible to corruption or market pressures
- The risk of limited governance capacity of local governments can affect the ability to monitor forest land use.
- Decentralized management of resources in low-income countries is exposed to the risks of elite capturing.

Designing the policy mix

- The diversity of forest management systems across countries means that the combination of tenure and fiscal policy need to be adapted to each specific context.
- Multi-stakeholder policy dialogues can support the formulation of national action plans to address forest tenure and institutional capacity gaps – reflecting the specific needs of each national context.
- The systematic inclusion of the participatory approach to land-use planning can contribute to SFM, by including all affected actors in the management process.
- Land tenure reform can support forest management planning at a level that allows for linkages with fiscal policy to be established.

Thank you
