

Towards a roadmap for primary forest conservation.

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PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry



OVERVIEW

- 4) What governance instruments for primary forests conservation in the Asia-Pacific region**
- 5) Mechanisms and tools for primary forests conservation**
- 6) Recommendations**

4 WHAT GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENTS FOR PRIMARY FORESTS CONSERVATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

4.1 Actors and institutions: an overview

4.2 International and regional agreements, instruments and processes

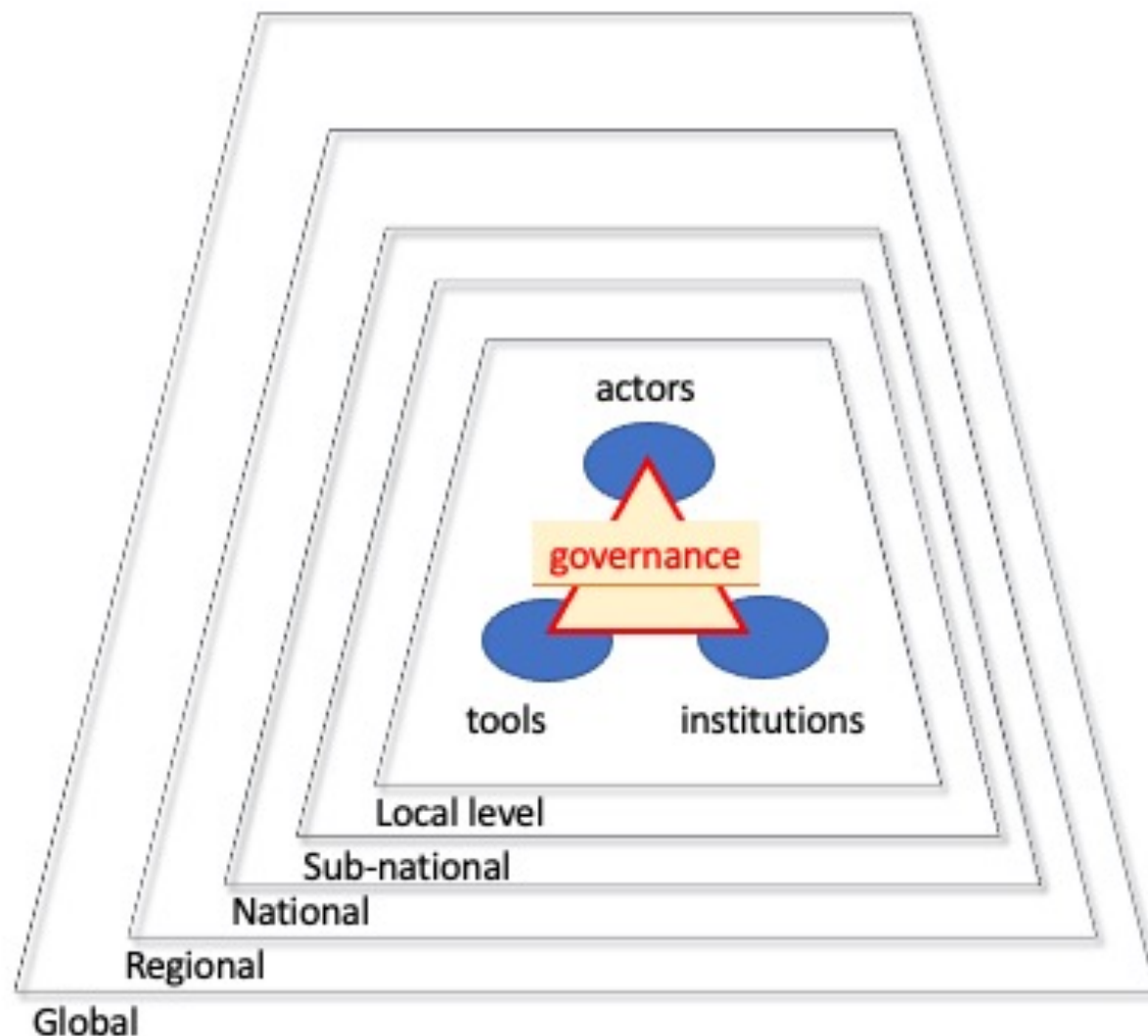
4.3 National level

4.4 At local level: implementation of landscape approaches to primary forest conservation.

Actors and institutions

- State actors
 - National governments, state authorities, intergovernmental organizations
- Non-state actors
 - Private sector, NGOs, CSOs, academia
- Local level
 - Local and indigenous communities
- National level
 - Legal frameworks, decisions
- Environmental NGOs and CSOs
 - Contribute to national policy and decision-making processes; local-level forest management.
- Academia
 - Providing science-based evidence
- Private sector
 - Logging concessionaries; small farmers
- Forestry management regimes
 - Co-management regimes, community forestry, smallholder forestry, large-holder forestry, companies granted concessions on state lands.

Actors and institutions



International and regional agreements, instruments and processes

- No primary forest-specific international agreements
- Global sustainable development and environmental goals
- Global forestry instruments and initiatives
- Transnational trade
- Regional initiatives and institutions

National rules and instruments

- Regulations combating overharvesting, illegal logging and illegal trade
- Legal incentives and market-based instruments
- Land tenure and access rights
- Multi-level governance: translate global objectives into national commitments, strategies and action plans
- Governments can improve local forest governance (e.g. supporting participatory forest management schemes, strengthening policies and legislation, improving tenure regimes)

Local level

- International and regional agreements + national policies, rules and instruments → framing and orienting governance mechanisms at local level.
- Enhance local stakeholders' participation in the conservation and management of forest resources
 - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
 - Participatory approaches (CBF)
 - Linkages to market-based institutions

5 MECHANISMS AND TOOLS FOR PRIMARY FORESTS CONSERVATION

5.1 Protected areas

5.2 Complementary instruments for the protection of
primary forests

5.3 Combining tools, means and scales for primary
forest conservation.

5.4 Conclusion

5.1 Protected areas

5.1.1 Categorization.

5.1.2 Management authority and governance

5.1.3 Enforcement

5.1.4 Aligned legislative frameworks

5.1.5 Effectiveness

5.2 Complementary instruments for the protection of primary forests

5.2.1 Connectivity

5.2.2 Certification and voluntary agreements

5.2.3 Monitoring of changes and threats

5.2.4 Financial capacity

Protected Areas

- most widely used conservation mechanism
- Some main issues:
 - Important part of primary forests are located outside Pas
 - Pas often in remote areas where they are the less needed
 - Forest area in national parks and their conservation areas used as proxies for primary forest, in some country reporting.
 - IPLCs participation
 - Include in management
 - Include in PA establishment processes
 - Enforcement difficult

Complementary instruments

To:

- Support implementation of PAs
 - Protect outside Pas
 - Contribute to health of Pas (connectivity, protection against risks)
-
- Buffer zones and ecological corridors for connectivity
 - Other effective area-based conservation measures
 - Certification and voluntary agreements
 - Monitoring of changes and threats
 - Financial capacity

Combining tools, means and scales for primary forest conservation

- Technical interventions within landscape context
- Engagement and coordinated action of the range of stakeholders across sectors and scales
- Addressing threats from outside the forestry sector
- Most mechanisms are national (e.g. logging bans, land tenure, PES)
- Forests as a means to achieve national and global objectives (e.g. CC and BD) >>> justifies support from national and global levels to local actors

6) RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore innovative ways to improve monitoring and reporting on natural forests
2. Improve knowledge and understanding of natural forests to orient land-use planning, management and conservation efforts
3. Build a compelling narrative and consolidate new coalitions of actors
4. Policy coherence
5. Align sustainable land use, climate action and biodiversity objectives with the conservation of primary forests
6. Strengthen regional and international cooperation for conservation and management of primary forests

I) Monitoring and reporting

1. Support the uptake and upscale of innovative technologies to support real-time monitoring and data collection [*remote-sensing satellite or drone observations in inaccessible areas; acoustic monitoring; etc.*].
2. Support the uptake and upscale of innovative technologies to improve reporting, information sharing and data analysis, and develop near-real time alert systems [*Using open cloud-data platforms integrating various information and datasets collected by different actors; Develop near-real time alert systems on forest degradation focusing on various threats; e.g., existing fire alert systems*].
3. Support local actors and communities' engagement and participation in monitoring and data collection [*crowd-sourcing of field data; using digital technologies, such as mobile apps or open-data platforms, e.g., Hutanwatch, Urundata, etc.*] and uptake their observations in decision-making at higher levels.
4. Clarify and harmonize national definitions, criteria, and indicators used to monitor forest status and trends [*On definitions: primary vs. intact, old growth or natural forests. On criteria: size, level of importance, including biological diversity, level of threats, etc.*].
5. Improve transparency and replicability of reporting, in line with international processes and guidelines [*link with, e.g., ITTO guidelines or others*].
6. Improve monitoring and reporting on tenure status and rights, including on customary and traditional rights.
7. Link such monitoring (including of social impacts) to commodity value chains, and to incentives; both to gather data and give value to it.
8. Link the data gathered through reporting to other relevant contextual information (e.g., economic, etc.), especially at country level.

I) Improving knowledge

1. Dedicate increased resources to the knowledge and understanding of natural forests, their ecological diversity, status, fragmentation, dynamics and functioning,
2. Integrate local and indigenous actors' knowledge; co-produce knowledge with local actors [*e.g., citizen-science initiatives at local or national level*].
3. Acknowledge and assess the different values (environmental, economic, social, cultural, religious and existence values) of natural forests and of the ecosystem services they provide, taking into account all available knowledge, including local and indigenous knowledge.
4. Use these assessments to reflect the value of natural forests and their ecosystem services in integrated systems of environmental and economic accounting, and to better ground conservation policies and actions [*UN-SEEA: See: <https://seea.un.org/>*].
5. Use this knowledge to define and identify priority areas for conservation, based on clear criteria, agreed nationally and grounded on sound evidence, and to orient land-use planning. [*Criteria such as: size; level of importance - including ecological value, cultural value, ecosystems services -; and level of threats*]
6. Translate this knowledge into a compelling narrative and make it available, through training and capacity-building, to all actors involved in forest management and conservation, or in activities that impact it, and to the broad public
7. Identify the key knowledge and information gaps, that need to be addressed to support land-use planning and conservation efforts, including:
 - Large-scale (minimum of 1:50,000 for all countries; 1:25,000 for small islands) ecological vegetation mapping including forest types within their surrounding landscape to adapt conservation efforts to the specificities of different landscape and ecosystems.
 - Coordinated studies on fragmentation and configuration of landscapes (natural forests, remnant forests and other land-uses).
 - Better and more transparent understanding of tenure.
 - Better understanding of the PA status of different areas.

III) Build a compelling narrative and consolidate new coalitions of actors

1. Build a compelling narrative, highlighting the amazing contributions of forest to sustainable development objectives (including climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of biodiversity and poverty reduction).
2. Adopt a cross-cutting perspective and articulate this narrative consistently: over time (integrating short- and long-term); across sectors (identifying synergies and mutual benefits and addressing trade-offs); and, across scales (from local to global).
3. Pay a specific attention to forest margins and forest borders, as the frontier of conservation, and as the thin line where most conflicts are concentrated.
4. Use this compelling narrative, as well as the related knowledge and information (maps, data, plans), to: improve transparency, raise awareness and encourage buy-in; build large coalitions of actors and strengthen ownership across actors and sectors; gain traction on the political agenda and enable policy coherence; attract funding and deliver true impact.
5. Encourage and incentivize land-owners and private actors (including remote ones) to contribute to forest conservation, through regulation, standards and incentives
6. Strengthen ownership, and encourage participation of less powerful actors, including women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), in forest governance and decision-making processes, and make the forestry sector more attractive to them.
7. Secure the access and use rights of local communities and indigenous peoples dependent on primary forests for their subsistence and livelihood.

IV) Policy coherence

1. Enhance policy coherence over time, as well as between land-use policies (forest, agriculture, infrastructures) and other sectoral policies that impact forests (energy, water, mining), at all levels (local, national, regional), and especially at the landscape level where all these policies interact.
2. Organize, as appropriate, dialogues at different scales, between foresters and relevant actors, in other sectors that impact primary forest conservation, and encourage actors in these other sectors to contribute to primary forest conservation.
3. Elaborate sustainable and integrated landscape management plans and strategies, at local and national levels, that strengthen synergies and address trade-offs across, land-uses, sectors and actors, and that articulate coherently short- and long-term objectives, challenges and opportunities.
4. Ensure that forests are recognized by themselves, not only as land reserve for agriculture and other sectors, and that forest management and conservation objectives are incorporated in broader integrated land-use planning and landscape management plans and strategies, at local and national levels.
5. Consider, in integrated land-use planning and landscape management plans, not only conservation areas but also the surrounding landscapes, as well as the need to create buffer zones and ecological corridors between forest fragments to reduce forest degradation, limit forest fragmentation and restore connectivity.
6. Mobilize sustainable and innovative finance mechanisms (green bonds, climate bonds, blended finance, impact finance) for integrated landscape management that contribute to primary forest conservation.
7. Design appropriate mechanisms to facilitate flows of financial resources towards local actors on the ground, connecting big funds, including internationally sourced, to small projects.

V) Align objectives

1. Promote sustainable land-use, integrating primary forest conservation, in the policies and mechanisms related to climate action and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
2. Recognize the contribution of primary forests to overall adaptation to climate change and integrate primary forest conservation and management in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
3. Take into account, in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the vulnerability of primary forests, as well as their potential for climate action, both adaptation and mitigation.
4. Recognize, in the design and implementation of the NDCs, the specific biodiversity and conservation values of primary forests, in addition to their carbon sequestration potential.
5. Ensure consistency and maximize the synergies between NDCs and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
6. Consider primary forest conservation objectives in international climate finance mechanisms to orient and prioritize funding.

VI) International and regional cooperation

1. Exchange knowledge and lessons learned across countries and categories of actors about defining, identifying and managing primary forests.
2. Transfer technologies, including for mapping, monitoring and managing primary forests.
3. Track and prevent illegal logging and illegal collection of wood and non-wood forest products in primary forests *[innovative technologies can help for wood species identification and tagging]*.
4. Facilitate capacity-development through appropriate means at regional level *[communities of practice, regional platforms]*.
5. Facilitate transboundary cooperation for conservation and management of primary forests *[e.g., peace parks]*
6. Promote international cooperation on deforestation-free commodities

ROLLING OUT THE ROADMAP

- A process
- Deployed in parallel at regional, national and local levels
- For each specific priority forest type
- Regional and national levels: set regional and national priority areas and priority actions for primary forest conservation
- Local level: discuss and build a shared and integrated landscape approach, including primary forest area and surrounding landscape, and their dynamics

FOUR STEPS

1. Make an initial diagnosis of the current situation
2. Develop a strategy: define priorities and means of implementation
3. Create an enabling environment
4. Act collectively and individually

STEP 1

- Describe primary forest diversity, status and trends, building upon available scientific evidence
- Identify and assess the threats faced by primary forests, as well as their drivers
- Identify the actors involved or to be involved in primary forest conservation (e.g. public authorities, scientists, private forest companies, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities)
- Assess the performance of existing instruments (regulations, standards, economic

STEP2

- Based on the initial diagnosis, identify priority areas for primary forest conservation, based on criteria including: size, level of importance, or level of threats
- Define a strategy and priority actions for primary forest conservation
- Define the means of implementation to be deployed (legal protection, other regulations, voluntary standards, economic incentives and governance mechanisms and adapt their articulation to the given context

STEP 3

- Invest in research and development, extension and capacity-development to improve knowledge and understanding of primary and natural forests functioning to orient land-use planning management and conservation efforts [II]
- Raise awareness and enhance citizen participation in forest monitoring and primary forest conservation [I.3]
- Elaborate conducive policies and regulations to address/overcome the threats identified above and enhance primary forest conservation
- Mobilize the resources and develop the infrastructure needed for integrated landscape management that contribute to support primary forest conservation [IV.6], connect big funds to small projects [IV.7]

STEP 4

- Define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved, build a compelling narrative and consolidate new coalitions of actors [III]
- Ensure policy coordination across sectors and scales and align sustainable land-use, climate action and biodiversity objectives with primary forest conservation [V]
- Promote integrated landscape approaches [IV], embracing not only the primary forest area to be conserved but also forest margins, as well as the surrounding landscape and its dynamics [III.3, IV.5]
- Exchange knowledge and lessons learned across countries, sectors and actors [VI.1] and adapt strategies and action plans accordingly



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