

Indonesian Experience with Forest Governance and Decentralization

by

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Why Good Forest Governance?

- Indonesia committed to improve forest governance and decentralization
- National interest, as well as international's
- Most developing countries are facing illegal logging, forest and land fire, forest encroachment, etc.
- These are symptoms, while the main source of problems is poor governance.



deforestation and degradation are
symptoms of poor governance



Swiss and Indonesian Process

- Switzerland experience: took time, disastrous at the beginning, settled in early 20th Century
- Indonesian process started in 1959 with partial decentralization, with little effect on forest governance
- New Government after 1965 focus on forest exploitation, recentralized forest authority.

Eco vs Anthro-centricisms

- Indonesia balances between ecocentricism and anthropocentricism
- Forest Land Use Planning allocates forests areas into: protection, conservation (ecocentricism, over 43%), production, convertible forests (anthropocentricism, 57%)



After Crisis Hit

REFORMASI (Reform) in response to economic crisis:

- Greater roles of Parliament
- Multi political parties
- Free Press
- Decentralization within only 2 years

➡ Many province and district cities show infrastructure development, in expense of rural areas.

Forestry in National Decentralization Process

- Focus on Districts, while Provinces in charge of inter-districts issues
- Central Government provides guidelines, and look after conservation forests
- Only 2 years for preparation (1999-2000) → lack of required regulations, capacity building, funding
- Worsened by economic crisis → forest occupation, deforestation rampant where governance was absent.

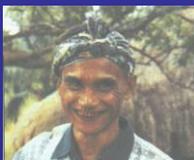


Highlights

- 1959: partial decentralization
- 1967: recentralization and forest exploitation after political crisis
- 1999-2004: Indonesia hastily applied decentralized governance, including forestry.
- 2004-present: improvement process of decentralized governance.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Lesson 1: decentralization highly valued in Indonesia.
- Lesson 2: disastrous impact due to short-cuts: only at beginning.
- Lesson 3: No short-cut: step-wise (gradual) but accelerated:
- Lesson 4: Decentralization not only transfer of authority, but also transfer of responsibility, accountability, with capacity strengthening and necessary funding.



Forest Governance for Global Issues

- Food, energy, and water scarcity (FEWS): SFM
- Climate change : mitigation & adaptation

Potential Cooperation:

- Africa similar to Asia/Indonesia
- Should enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation with North: **partnership with respective roles, rather than donor-recipient;**
- Could be through F-11:
 - State leaders' meeting, NY, September 2007, then Bali.
 - Starting with climate-change issues, now broadening.
 - Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Gabon participating, other countries are welcome.



THANK YOU

All the best for forest
governance in Africa