

Decentralization and the International Forest Governance Agenda

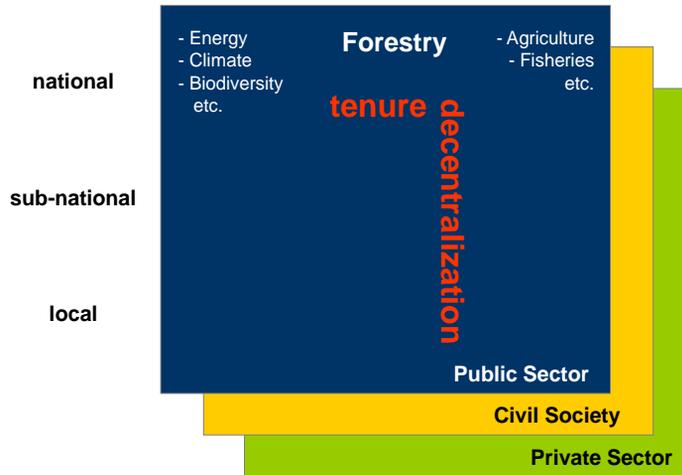
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zation in Africa, Durban, 8 – 11 April 2008

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Forest Governance Grid



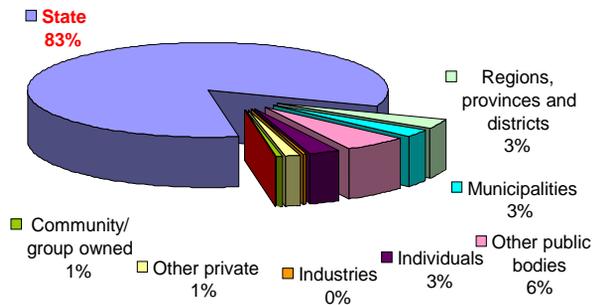
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3



Ownership structure Africa

forest ownership in %



Source: Dominique Reeb, Francesca Romano, Franziska Hirsch: Understanding Forest Tenure: towards forest tenure diversification, Presentation at FAO COFO 2007

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4



3000 Communes

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5



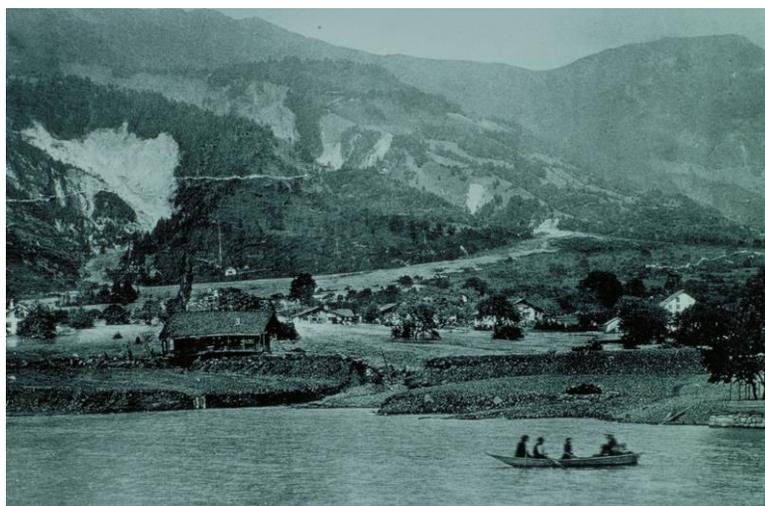
26 Cantons (sub-national level)

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6



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Overarching regulations of the Federal framework law

- forest area could no longer be reduced in size
- owners of public forests were required to state proposed timber harvesting in a forest management plan
- areas where timber harvesting took place had to be replanted within three years
- Swiss Confederation contributing to the salaries of the cantonal foresters





Some outcomes of Interlaken

- Transfer of significant authority to local governments regarding forest resources is rare, or only over small areas, or over resources with little economic value
- Role of Forest Departments and foresters: from policemen to consultants, secure a reasonable existence
- Capacity building to facilitate conflict resolution





Capacity building to facilitate conflict resolution

- empowerment at different scales – local level crucial
 - articulation of local interests, negotiation and conflict management, financial accounting with respect to benefit sharing
 - bringing equity and decision-making issues into public discussion
- representative bodies accountable to local populations
- Local contributions to capacity building:
 - traditional communal forest management systems
 - silvicultural practices favouring multiple functions

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13



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14