



Community Forest Tenure & Global Development Goals

Research findings and policy opportunities

Jenny Springer, RRI
UNFF CLI session on Forest Tenure and Decentralization
February 4, 2015




Key Findings from recent research

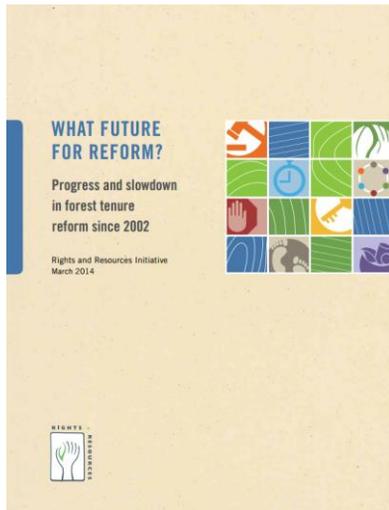

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- *What Future for Reform? (RRI 2014)*
 - Status and trends in global forest tenure
- *Securing Rights, Combating Climate Change (WRI-RRI 2014)*
 - Links between community forest rights and forest outcomes – climate mitigation

What Future for Reform? - Main Findings



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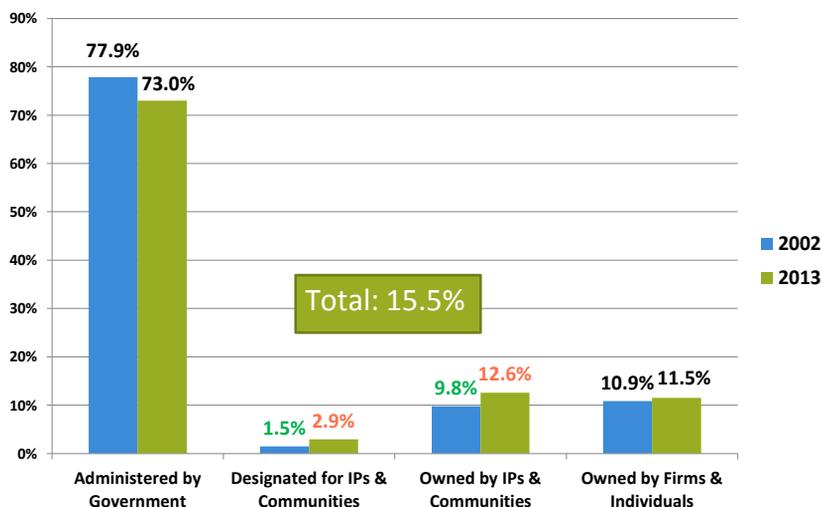


- Third in a series of reports tracking forest “tenure transition” – since 2002
- Globally, communities own or control over 513 mha of forest lands as of 2013
- Over the past decade, community ownership or control of forest lands has increased by at least 128.49 mha.

Global forest tenure transition has continued, though govts still overwhelmingly control



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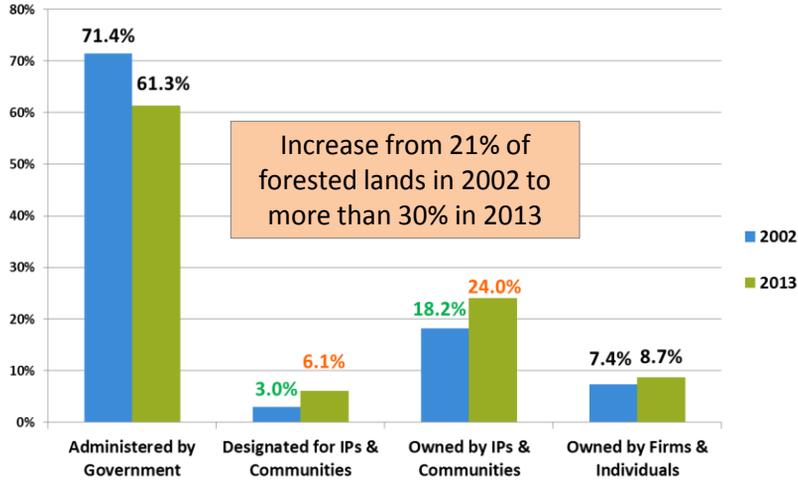




Lower & Middle Income Countries



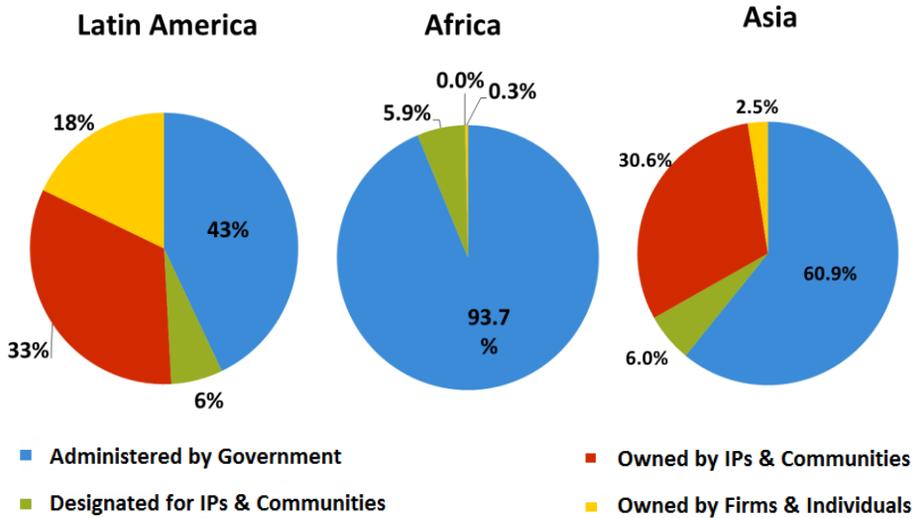
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But progress across regions is uneven (2013)



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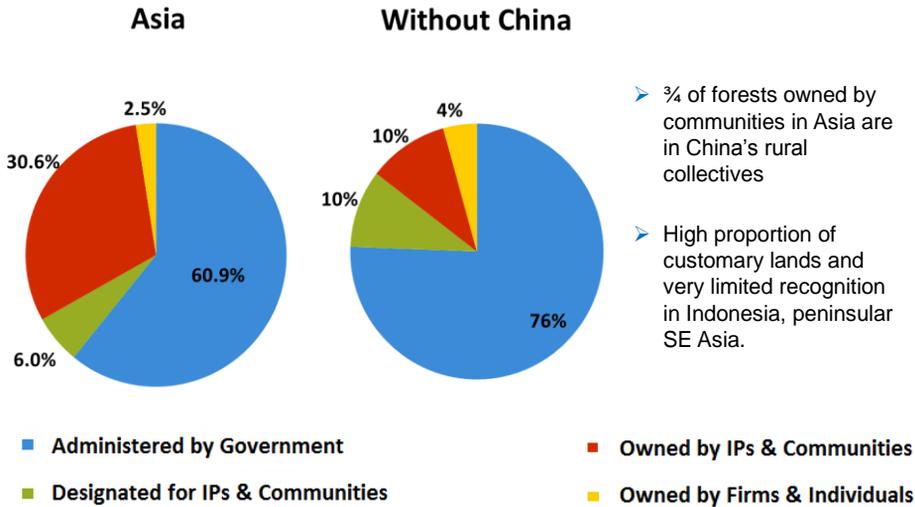




And within Asia (2013)



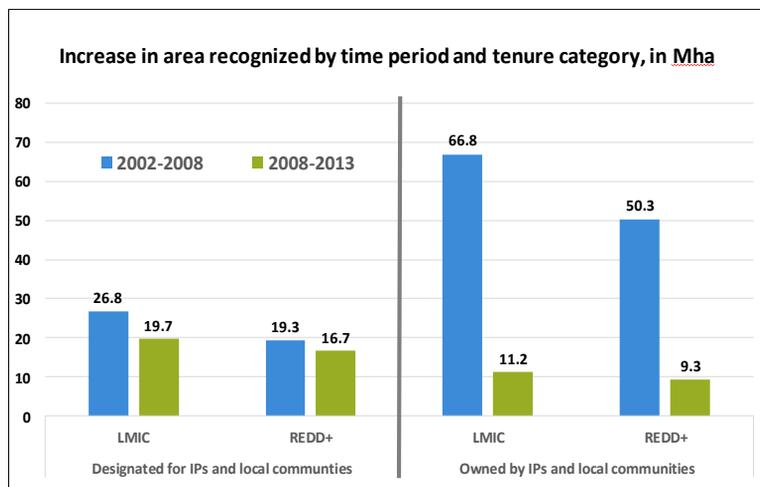
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And recognition has slowed since 2008



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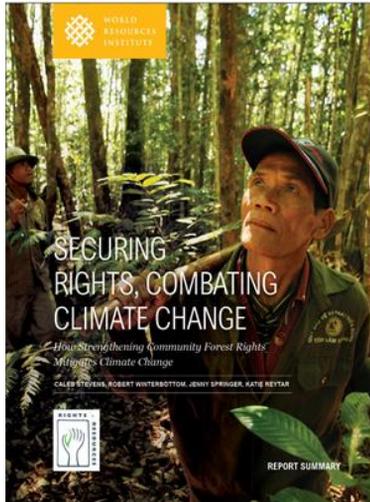


AND – fewer laws and weaker laws since 2008. (No legal frameworks created since 2008 recognize ownership.)

Securing Rights, Combating Climate Change - Main Findings



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- Securing community forest rights has been undervalued as a strategy for climate change mitigation
- 15.5 % of forests held by IP/LC contain 37.7 billion tons of carbon
- When community forests enjoy legal rights and government support, deforestation and carbon emissions and are significantly lower

Lower deforestation rates inside indigenous & community forests with legal recognition and strong government protection, compared with forests outside



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BRAZILIAN
AMAZON



BOLIVIAN
AMAZON



GUATEMALA
(PETÉN)

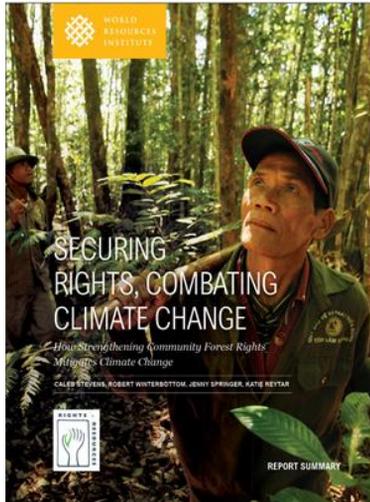


WRI-RRI 2014

Findings, cont.



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- Emissions increase when Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have weak legal rights as their forests tend to be vulnerable to deforestation
- Even when communities have legal rights to their forest, government actions that undermine these rights can lead to higher emissions and deforestation

Policy opportunities in 2015 – a pivotal year



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- Tenure reform processes in key countries - e.g. Indonesia, Peru, DRC, Cameroon
- Post-2015 development agenda – need to secure explicit support for indigenous & community land rights (e.g., in relation to sustainable ecosystems, food security, poverty reduction goals)
- Climate agreement - UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris
- EU FLEGT Action Plan evaluation
- World Bank safeguards and Carbon Fund ER programs



Thank you

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