



CIDT



MALAYSIA IMPROVING FOREST GOVERNANCE COURSE

***Community forestry: a mechanism
to improve community rights and
forest governance***

03rd – 15th September 2018



Let's digress

- Hardin Vs Ostrom or how neo-liberal ideas have significantly affected decades of research of community governance on natural resources
- What is best between individual property system and collective ownership system?

Not such a new idea....



What is community forestry?

Community Forestry may refer to «the exercise by local people of power or influence over decisions regarding management of forests, including the rules of access and the disposition of products».

(Schreckenberg and McDermott, 2009)



Forest governance devolves from State's full control....



...through State's control with provisions for community access and consultation



.... State's ownership but co-management with communities....



.... State's ownership, community management....



Radio Okapi/Ph. John Bompengo

.... State's ownership, community management....

- This is one of the most widespread model
- More or less flexible depending on countries
 - Surface area allocated
 - Type of products
 - Managing bodies
 - Operational procedures
 - Management of the benefits

....But one key commonality: where it exists, its role is beyond benefit-sharing

...Down to community property



Case of Cameroon

- Pioneer of 'formal' community forestry in Africa
 - Community forest is a forest portion allocated to a community or a group of communities, through a community forestry convention, for its management, conservation and exploitation, for the interest of the entire community.
 - Surface area allocated: 5000 ha
 - Type of products: variable, depending on the community. But focus so far on timber
 - Managing bodies: legal entities
 - Operational procedures: simple management plan, annual harvest permit, etc.... Complex!
 - Management of the benefits: free, though State control often applies

So, does community forestry work?

A. Environment impacts

B. Social impacts

C. Economic impacts

So, does community forestry work?

Thuloban CF, Terhathum, 1994

Thuloban CF, Terhathum, 2008



Case of Nepal

So, does community forestry work?

Learning From the Past

1968



2000

Jiri after 32 years



So, does community forestry work?

1978 Namda, Dolakha



2005 Namda, Dolakha



So, does community forestry work?

- Money directly handled and managed by communities
- Better social cohesion behind a common project
- Social infrastructures
- New capacities at community level
- Creation of community enterprises : chances of snowball effect
- Stronger seat at the table of forest governance
- More secured rights to land

Overall: significant reduction of the poverty

So, does community forestry work?

- Less expectations from the State
- Implementation, at community level, of development mechanisms to scale up government-led initiatives
- Taxes, through community enterprises

Want to try it? Keep in mind 8 principles

1. Define clear boundaries
 - Mark it if possible, but have the neighbours agreeing on those boundaries, if necessary
2. Agree on rules governing the use of the resources: make sure those rules match to local needs and conditions



Want to try it? Keep in mind 8 principles

3. Ensure that those affected by the rules can participate in modifying the rules
4. Obtain a formal or even informal recognition by outside authorities, especially the government



Want to try it? Keep in mind 8 principles

5. Develop an internal robust mechanism for monitoring other members' behaviours

6. Use graduated sanctions for rule violators



Want to try it? Keep in mind 8 principles

7. Provide accessible and low-cost conflict resolution mechanism

8. Ensure that the entire community shares a part of the responsibility for governing the common pool resource



Want to advocate for it? Think of these governance issues

- There is a minimum recognition of community land/resource rights
- Need for strong community forest institutions, but not strong enough to overpower traditional institutions
- Capacity building at all stages, at all levels, and on every single aspect
- Funding from neutral sources and upon having defined clear rules for the payoff (free from the capture of elites, NGOs, companies... or any other external party)
- Prioritising the resources that match both to cultural values and demand
- Enforcement, at community level, of basic governance principles: transparency, legality, participation, etc.