Governance challenges and Forest Landscape Restoration

Questions to consider

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Governance?

- Globalisation and Markets e.g. EU FLEGT
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships e.g. New Caledonia dry forest programme
- Good governance e.g. EU FLEGT
- Particular governance structures e.g. Atlantic forest Pact.
- Policies and laws e.g. national forest programmes
- Governance system e.g. private, public ownership, co-managed

International (formal and informal) mechanisms to regulate the environment e.g. Conventions, bilateral agreements, Bonn Challenge.
Diversity of definitions and uses of the term “governance”

- “Governance is the exercise of authority, including processes, acts and decisions of a group or entity within a given context, in this case a forest.” (Tucker, 2010)
- “The ways and institutions through which individuals and groups express their interests, exercise the rights and obligations, and mediate their differences.” (Colfer and Pfund, 2011).
- “The set of regulatory processes, mechanisms and organizations through which political actors influence environmental actions and outcomes.” (Lemos and Agrawal 2006)
- “Forest governance is about how and to what ends forests are managed. It encompasses (i) the processes, mechanisms and formal and informal institutions in place to take decisions on forest use, (ii) the actors involved in these decisions and (iii) the way in which forest policies, laws and regulations are enforced on the ground” (Ros-Tonen & Kusters, 2011).
- Governance is “the patterns that emerge from the governing activities of social, political and administrative actors” (Kooiman 1993)
In common....

- **People**: Groups, entities, individuals...
- **Decision-making actions**: Decide, influence, shape, enforce...
- **Tools**: Rules, policies, laws, regulations, processes, mechanisms, institutions...
WHO?

Public sector
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Finance
- Tourism

International community
- Conventions
- Donors
- International organisations

Civil society
- NGOs
- Communities

Academia
- Researchers

Private sector
- Landowners
- Companies
- Investors

WHO?
Public sector
- legislate
- enforce
- incentivise
- support

International community
- Set targets/agenda
- Technical support
- Fund

Civil society
- organise
- implement

Academia
- Generate knowledge to inform
- shape
- Influence
- Innovate

Private sector
- implement
- pay
- comply
- Change/shape landuse

WHAT?
Public sector
- laws
- policies
- subsidies

Civil society
- customs

Traditional institutions

Academia
- Research programmes

International community
- programmes
- Bilateral agreements
- Fund

Private sector
- Management plans
- Steering groups

HOW?
Context

• Forest landscape restoration is a “planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing in deforested or degraded landscapes”

• Much attention to date has been given to ecological aspects of forest restoration, but if we are to scale up to landscapes, governance is essential

• Yet research on governance and FLR shows limited work, although recently more interest (e.g. Special issue in World Development Perspectives, Special issue in Forests.)
FIVE REASONS WHY GOVERNANCE IS IMPORTANT IN FLR

- **Root causes** of forest degradation -> often governance failures.
- **Scaling up** – more actors = different objectives, power relations, conflict...
- **Tenure and rights** – In landscapes, often a range of tenure and rights systems (or even unclear tenure)
- **Competing land use** – Allocating land for forest restoration signifies that land can’t be used for other purposes (e.g. food production or mining) -> unclear or poor governance exacerbates conflicts.
- **New value is generated** - by returning trees and forests to the landscape -> potential for powerful actors taking over
Definitions - How is the landscape defined? Who defines it? Objectives of FLR?
Interpretations of FLR reflect different communities

- **Development** community (e.g. FAO) places emphasis on improving food production in the landscape
- **Forestry** community (e.g. forest services) emphasise an increase in biomass
- **Conservation** community (e.g. WWF, IUCN) emphasise biodiversity concerns
- **Private** companies emphasise carbon sequestration role of trees to meet targets for reducing GHG emissions
- **Governments** see FLR as a means of meeting their commitments under several different environmental conventions
Governance challenges

Ownership - Who owns the land, the forest, trees, services and goods..?
Governance challenges


- Power
- Economics
- Global agenda
- Market forces

Relationship to land, to trees, to property, to natural resources differ

Shaped by traditions, culture, laws, rules, power, influence, money
Governance challenges

**Benefits and costs** - Who pays, who benefits from the restored trees? How is compensation provided?

**Incentives** - What incentives exist to promote restoration? What disincentives are in place?

Opportunity cost

- Ecosystem services
- Global benefits
- Biodiversity conservation
- Resilience
Where does that leave us?

People

Sectors

Science

Decision-making mechanisms

Supportive frameworks

Spatial scale

Innovation

Adaptive management

Collaborative platforms

time
Thank you ..!

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