Monitoring Forest Governance

An International Perspective

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Outline of Presentation

- Background: forest governance on the international agenda
- Existing tools for monitoring (examples)
- Coordinating efforts on monitoring of forest governance
- Guidance on monitoring (best practice)

International response to illegal logging and forest loss

- 1998: G8 Summit
  - Discussed problem of illegal logging
  - Adopted 'Action Programme on Forests'
- 2001: World Bank, UK and US and others launched the FLEG Process
- 2002-2003: European Commission
  - Workshop to discuss responses to illegal logging
  - FLEGT Action Plan

International perspective

- VPAs and REDD+ readiness plans state need for monitoring - but offer little info/guidance on HOW TO

- Countries could benefit from guidance on:
  - Identifying what to monitor
  - Selecting indicators and data sources
  - Analysing outcomes and impacts

Questions and Considerations

- Institution(s) responsible for monitoring?
  - Multiple monitoring schemes (government, civil society, international?)
  - Oversee/evaluate monitoring results?
  - Audience for monitoring results

Monitoring at different scales
  - National level (forest cover, value of forestry sector)
  - Local level (tenure, benefit distribution)
  - Shorter and longer term (outcomes vs. impacts)

Elements of Good Governance – What to monitor

- Stakeholder participation
- Transparency of decision-making
- Accountability of actors and decision-makers
- Rule of law
- Efficient and effective management of natural, human and financial resources
- Fair and equitable allocation of resources and benefits

Choosing tools / methods

- No one tool or framework is perfect/complete…a menu approach where different useful elements can be borrowed and adapted

- Value of certain universal methods?
    - Allows for experience sharing and knowledge transfer
    - Allows for comparison?
    - But…must avoid one-size-fits-all

Existing monitoring frameworks and indicator sets

- National forest monitoring systems
- Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (ITTO and CIFOR)
- WRI Governance of Forests Initiative
- Chatham House illegal logging indicators
- World Bank / FAO Program on Forests (PROFOR) developed core framework
- VPA monitoring
- REDD+ monitoring

Monitoring Frameworks

- **Principles:** primary framework/ "truth"
- **Criteria –** adds meaning/detail to principle but not measurable
- **Indicators**
  - Variable or component used to infer the status of a particular criterion
  - Qualitative or quantitative
  - 'Single meaningful message'

Example from CIFOR framework

Principle: Forest management maintains or enhances fair access to resources and economic benefits

Criteria: Local management is effective in controlling maintenance of, and access to, the resource

Indicators:

- Ownership and use rights to resources are clear and respect pre-existing claims
- Rules and norms of resource use are successfully enforced

National-level Principles, Criteria and Indicators (ITTO)

- **Principle 1:** Sustainable forest use and maintenance of the multiple functions of forests are a high political priority.

- **Criterion 1.1** The State has clear objectives for the sustainable use of the forest heritage and a realistic action program for their achievement.

- **Indicator 1.1.1** At the international level, the State has ratified or accepted the treaties, conventions or recommendations related to the sustainable development of forests.

FMU level Principles, Criteria and indicators (ITTO)

- **Principle 4 According to the importance and intensity of forest operations, manager contributes to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of workers in the FMU and of local populations.**

- *Criterion 4.1 The rights and responsibilities of workers in the FMU and local populations are clearly defined, acknowledged and respected.*

- **Indicator 4.1.1** The legal and customary rights of local populations in respect to the ownership, use and tenure of the forest land and resources are clearly defined, acknowledged and respected.

- *Sub-indicator 4.1.1.1 The provisions of the forestry law on rights of use and ownership are known and respected.*
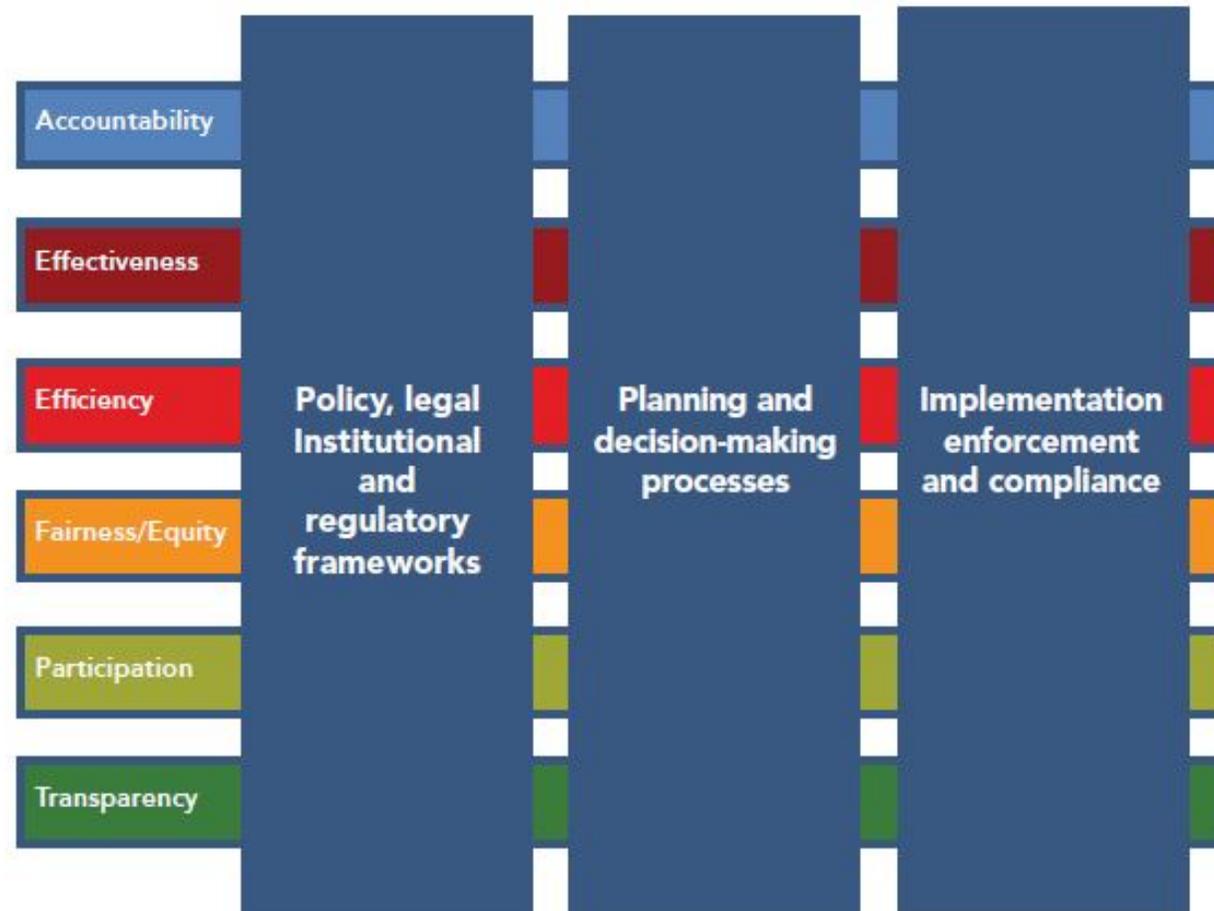
Motivation for coordinating efforts

- Minimize duplication of monitoring and assessment efforts
- Core parameters shared by several processes and initiatives
- foster opportunities for wider discussions on overall governance beyond the forest sector

PROFOR Framework (2011)

	Policy, legal Institutional and regulatory frameworks	Planning and decision-making processes	Implementation enforcement and compliance
Accountability			
Effectiveness			
Efficiency			
Fairness/Equity			
Participation			
Transparency			

What makes a good indicator?

- Simple methods
  - Can be measured
  - Data available
- Triangulation (multiple ways of getting at the same question/outcome)
- Capitalise on data already being generated
- Harmonise efforts / timing
- Indicators require cross evaluation before they can satisfactorily be used
- Not too many!

Data for monitoring

- Establishing the baseline
    - Have assessments already been completed?
    - Perceptions survey
    - State of the forest
- Existing data sources
    - Forest monitoring
    - Economic data
- Generating new data
    - Consider cost, time, capacity

Summary

- Momentum – monitoring forest governance
- Each country (and groups/projects within the country) to choose appropriate framework, tool-kit, indicator set
- Remains to be seen – how effective and useful monitoring can be
  - Multi-stakeholder process
  - Audits/ transparency
  - Evaluation and Reform

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Thank you for your attention

Ellen Brown

ellen@proforest.net

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