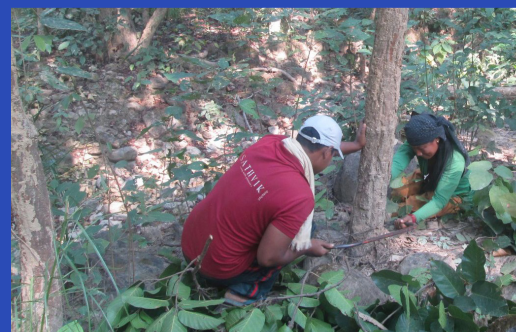


POLICY BRIEF

Globally responsible, locally responsive



Natural resource governance over the past decades has created participatory frameworks, involved women and communities, and provided benefits to local users. However, illegal logging continues, gender inequalities persist, transparency and equitable distribution of benefits remain limited, in many cases conflicts have increased, and implementation structures are weak. Our research on resource governance interventions in Nepal, Mexico and Tanzania since 2012 pay particular attention to actors, participation, and governance strategies. Based on our work, we find improved outcomes to hinge on attention to (1) context-specific impacts and practices, (2) distribution of benefits, costs and risks, and (3) the roles of policy actors, the private sector, forest user groups and citizens, especially disadvantaged groups such as women and youth.

We also find that natural resource governance interventions increasingly rely on a new logic of making local users and decision makers responsible for both their own wellbeing and resource sustainability. They expect citizens, communities and local decision makers to perform new tasks and duties without adequately attending to their capacities. In this changing context, our research highlights the importance of finding ways to assess globally responsible and locally responsive governance.

Public participation in natural resources governance can be considered both as a tool for improved outcomes, but also an end in itself. Resources governance as a process should be inclusive with respect to interests and voluntary where legal requirement can complement it. But some may be unable to participate because of lack of information, interest, trust or access, or because they find other strategies to influence decisions. The difference between the right to remain passive and the inability to participate needs serious attention as well.

Natural resources governance is advanced by enabling the versatile potential of all citizens willing to participate and by citizens being able to participate based on their capabilities. The capabilities in different forms can include institutional arrangement, accountability, leadership, dialogue mechanisms, knowledge and public engagement.

Therefore the implications of our work concern the critical domains of institutions, inclusion, and information:

Institutions

- Ensure communities have secure land tenure and access to natural resources
- Enhance recognition of land rights for women and youth
- Strengthen community conflict-resolution mechanisms through greater transparency and regulatory clarity
- Promote justice in benefit and cost-sharing mechanisms at community level
- Support and allow communities to have time to exercise and adapt to the new ways to govern their natural resources

Inclusion

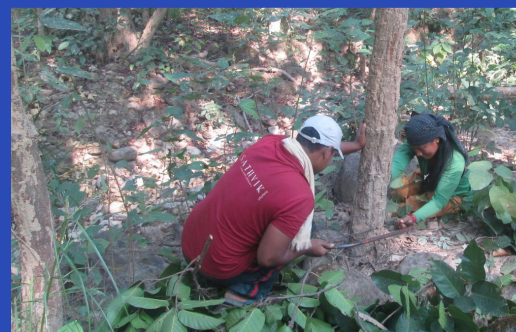
- Ensure inclusive participation of marginalized groups in decision making on land use
- Strengthen a collaborative landscape approach to land use
- Support long term capacity building of communities by civil society and sub-national levels

Information

- Increase access and availability of land use information at local level (ICT)
- Improve institutional memory on natural resource management at the community and district level, potentially through land information depositories across administrative units

POLICY BRIEF

Globally responsible, locally responsive



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