

# Safeguards: A Brief History

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UN-REDD Regional Lessons Learned Workshop  
on Safeguards

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# Safeguards are nothing new



## SILVA, Or a DISCOURSE of FOREST-TREES, AND THE PROPAGATION of TIMBER In His MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS.

As it was Deliver'd in the *ROYAL SOCIETY* the xv<sup>th</sup> of *October*, MDCLXII upon occasion of certain *Quæries* propounded to that *Illustrious Assembly*, by the *Honourable* the Principal *Officers* and *Commissioners* of the *Navy*.

In TWO BOOKS

Together with an Historical Account of the *Sacredness* and *Use* of Standing *Groves*.

## TERRA,

A *Philosophical ESSAY* of *EARTH*. being a *Lecture* in *Course*

John Evelyn, 1664, including:  
“Statutes for the Preservation and  
Improvement of Woods and Forests”

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# Safeguards are at the heart of good forestry practice

- Forest management as a profession emerged in response to environmental degradation, declining resources
- Frontier mentality changed to active management
- Early restrictions on extraction
  - ‘by hook or by crook’
- Environmental safeguards take priority over local needs



# Development of forestry theory and practice

## German Expertise

- 1810s: Georg Hartig, first dedicated forestry school, Berlin
- 1860s: Brandis and Schlich, Indian Forest Service, Burma – introducing sustained yield as the basis of forest management.
- Advice to adopt a ‘collaborative relationship between state and local communities’
- ‘Punitive methods...will lead to disaffection in the countryside’
- ‘Villagers...freed from customary rights...by legislative enactment’



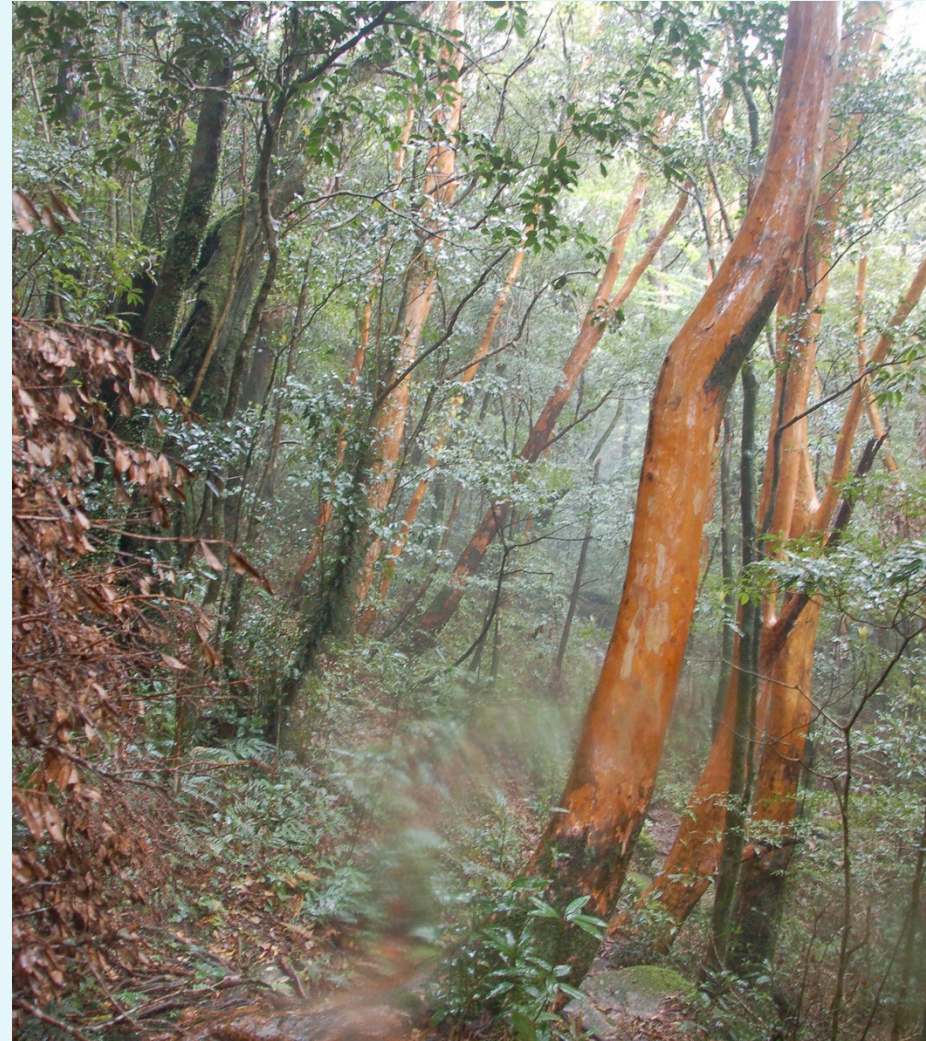
Dr. G. L. Hartig,  
ehemaliger königlich preussischer Staatsrath und Oberland-  
forstmeister.



# Development of forestry theory and practice

## Japan: Yakushima

- 1500s: Yakusugi – finest cedars for Kyoto and Osaka temples
- Meiji era – poverty of islanders and disappearing resources both put down to lack of management of cedars
- 1921: ‘Plan of forest management for Yakushima’ included:
  - Firewood use rights
  - Dedicated areas of forest for local income generation
  - Provisions for hiring local labour
  - Infrastructure development commitment





# Development of forestry theory and practice

## USA: National Parks

- 1872: Yellowstone Park, protected by US Army
- Established for protection of wilderness, no active management
- Influenced Protected Area management in Asia/Africa – clash between social and environmental priorities





# Consumer awareness, Consumer muscle



- Demand for tropical forest products rises
  - Insufficient capacity
  - High financial rewards
  - Ineffective governance
  - Safeguards cannot be met through sound forest management principles alone
- 1960s onwards: rise of environmental awareness in Europe, N America
- 1980s: Tropical timber boycotts



# Rio Earth Summit



- 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
- “Forest Principles”- non-legally binding document, emphasis on environment, trade and SFM
- Led to Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), Forum (IFF), and UNFF
  - Worked on criteria and indicators for the Forest Principles, and a definition for SFM





# Forest certification



- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Multi-stakeholder response to Rio
- 1993: Chamber system:
  - Economic/Environmental/Social
  - North/South
- First effort for a comprehensive, global framework for good forest practice, disillusion with intergovernmental process
- 10 principles, covering social, environmental, sustainable management, legality verification, M&E aspects
- Revised 2012

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# Forest certification

- Sovereignty, accountability issues
  - Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
  - National certification systems
- Convergence of social and environmental standards

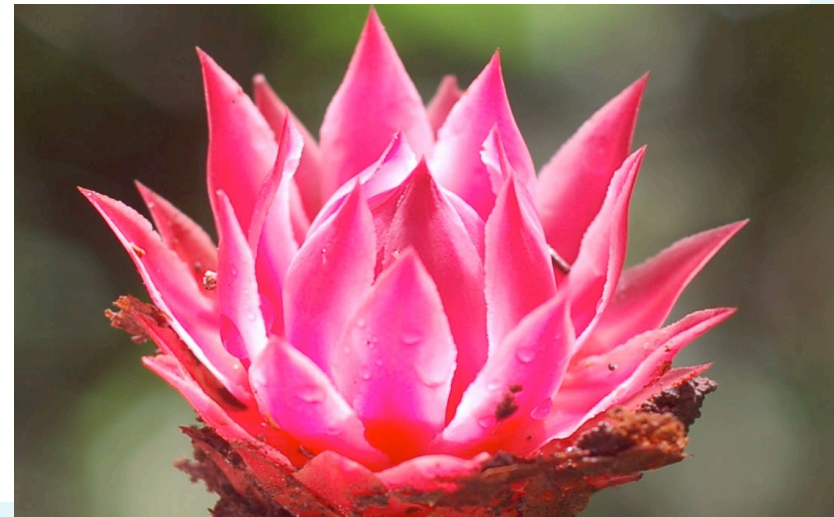







# Safeguards in the broader natural resource management context

- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Social Impact Assessments (SIAs)
- US National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1969
- Ensures that environmental impacts are considered equal to other factors in decision making processes
- Infrastructure, development, energy, construction projects
- EIAs and SIAs widespread
- Legislation India, Bangladesh
- Limited enforcement of sanctions





# Safeguards in the broader natural resource management context

- Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- Accreditation Services International (ASI)
- Fairtrade Labelling Organisation
- Sustainable Agriculture Network
- ISEAL Alliance





# Multilateral progress

- Extractive resources/mining: Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)
- UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- UNFF: Non-legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) on all types of forests (2007)
- UNFCCC: REDD+ safeguards...



**Thank you for listening!**

