

Tuukka Castrén's speaking points 8/31/2010 Oaxaca workshop

- Like we heard from this morning from Elena Petkova and Anne Larson, how governance for REDD differs from the conventional governance agenda.
- Global interest in forest governance started in late-1990's mainly focusing on illegal logging. Ten years later we have seen progress. For example, in a recent study Chatham House estimates that global volumes of illegal logging have declined.
- We do not know all the reasons for the improvement, but I believe that one is that governments have recognized that they have a problem. For example, recently the Bank together with FAO and ASEAN produced a report where 15 Asian countries reported on their forest law enforcement and governance problems and solutions. They were very frank and it was evident that countries were no longer denying the problem.
- This change has also been supported by the regional ministerial processes and declarations. Bali (Asia), St. Petersburg (Europe and Central Asia) and Yaoundé (Africa) declarations recognized that countries have a problem with illegality in the sector.
- South and Central America have not had similar processes but still lots have been done. Elena mentioned several cases e.g. from Brazil on good progress in fighting illegal logging.
- In our forest governance work we emphasize that good forest governance is important also for REDD, but not only because of that.
- Also international trade requires good governance. EU is negotiating VPAs and the amended Lacey act has made it a criminal act to import illegal timber to the US.
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- In Central and South America the World Bank forest law enforcement and governance program has worked on building national fleg policies in the Amazonian countries and regionally in Central America and Nicaragua; in Guatemala we have worked on illegal logging; and in Honduras on stakeholder participation. In Nicaragua and Honduras we have worked on independent forest monitoring.
- On more methodological front we are working on research on mahogany conversion tables to strengthen chain-of-custody as well as building an analytical toolkit for forest governance and on using ICTs. Also FCPF RPPs have a strong governance focus.
- In addition, Bank's standard instruments like DPLs and investment loans pay special attention to governance.
- So what is my point and message?

- My point is that when talking about REDD and governance we have to recognize that we are not starting from an empty slot, lots has been done already.
- REDD has become a very valuable reason for improving governance. But we do not have to return to the drawing board but we have to work on robust implementation of the existing commitments to improve forest governance.