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# Lessons from the Governance of Forests Initiative (GFI)

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# GFI assessments

**What:** The GFI Framework of Indicators

**Where:** Brazil, Indonesia, Cameroon

**Who:** Local civil society organizations

**Why:** To support evidence-based advocacy to improve governance

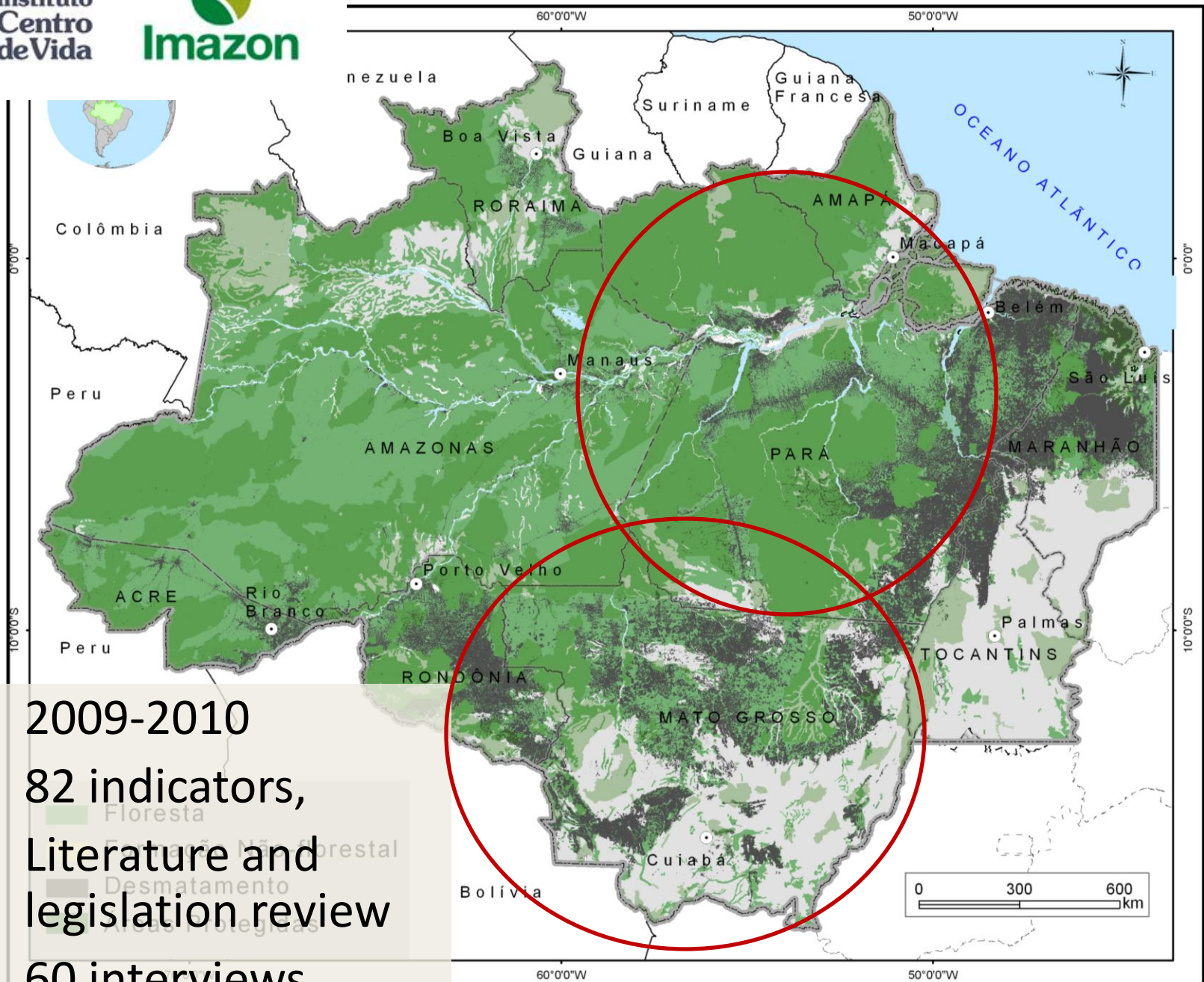
# Design of a GFI indicator

## Diagnostic question

- Asks about process rather than results
- Is qualitative and may be subjective in nature

## Elements of quality

- Should collectively answer the diagnostic question
- Should be detailed and actionable
- Should be objectively measurable through data collection (qualitative or quantitative)



- 2009-2010
- 82 indicators,
- Literature and legislation review
- 60 interviews

# Two key challenges in measuring governance

- 1. Related to indicator design:** e.g., identifying elements of quality that are both objectively measurable and insightful
- 2. Related to data collection:** e.g., overcoming challenges with information availability, quality, and disclosure

# Indicator design challenges: *an easy case*

| Diagnostic Question  | Elements of Quality  | Objective Data   |
|--|--|--|
| To what extent does the public have access to information about forest management? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information is comprehensive</li><li>• Information is available at a useful scale</li><li>• Information is widely accessible to the public in useful formats</li><li>• Information is available online to the public</li><li>• Information is available in relevant languages</li><li>• Public requests for information are answered in a timely fashion</li></ul> | Analysis of the information disclosed (SIMLAM, SISFLORA) |

## Relevant sub-component from the FAO/Profor framework:

*“Quality, timeliness, comprehensiveness and accessibility of forest-related information available to stakeholders, including public notice of pending forest agency actions”*

# Indicator design challenges: *an impossible case?*

| Diagnostic Question   | Elements of Quality   | Objective Data |
|---|---|----------------|
| To what extent is the legal framework for forests clear and consistent? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laws <b>are seen</b> to be based on a sound and coherent policy framework</li><li>• Laws are <b>not overly</b> complex, i.e. they do not exceed what is necessary to achieve reasonable and legitimate objectives</li><li>• Laws are <b>clear and unambiguous</b>, minimizing the need for discretion in interpretation</li><li>• Other forest laws are consistent and non-conflicting with the case study laws</li></ul> | ?              |

## Relevant sub-component from the FAO/Profor framework:

“Clarity and coherence of policies, laws and regulations governing forest use and management”

# Data collection challenges

- To be identified when planning the data collection
- Mainly 3 basic challenges:
  - Availability
  - Quality
  - Disclosure



# Data collection challenge: *when data are not available*

| Diagnostic Question   | Elements of Quality  |
|---|--|
| To what extent is there meaningful media coverage of policy/law and reform? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volume of coverage</li><li>• Quality of coverage</li><li>• Balance of coverage</li></ul> |

## Potential solutions:

- Case study vs overall assessment
- Developing a specific methodology to generate data

# Data collection challenge: *when data are not reliable*

| Diagnostic Question  | Elements of Quality   |
|--|---|
| <b>To what extent is the contribution and impact of the incentive program effectively monitored?</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitoring contribution to stated poverty reduction objectives</li><li>• Monitoring the distributional and equity impacts</li><li>• Monitoring contribution to sustainable forest management and conservation objectives</li><li>• Evidence that effort has been made to rectify major problems that the monitoring has uncovered</li></ul> |

## Potential solutions:

- The lack of accurate/update information is a governance finding
- Case study vs overall assessment
- Building a specific methodology to generate data
- Cross-referencing

# Data collection challenge: *when data are not disclosed*

| Diagnostic Question   | Elements of Quality   |
|---|---|
| To what extent is there an effective system to apply and enforce penalties against those who have been convicted of committing forest related crimes? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of clear rules and/or formula for deciding the type and magnitude of the penalty</li><li>• Timely application of the penalty</li><li>• Compliance with penalties is monitored, and further legal action is taken in case of non-compliance</li><li>• Public access to information about penalties and their state of compliance</li></ul> |

## Potential solutions:

- When governance measurement is politically sensitive, formal relationship with the agency is key

# Key lessons from GFI Brazil

- Need for objective questions and objective data to have a measurable governance indicator
- Need for initial planning and scoping to understand feasibility, time, costs, political issues, and possible results