

NINTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, CLIMATE CHANGE
AND THE FUTURE OF FORESTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

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The **FUTURE** of **FORESTRY**: Steering through turbulence

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Adaptive institutions

- Future will NOT just be same as before;
- Leaders must understand trends and disruptions;
- Challenges Vs Opportunities; and
- learn to differentiate essential reforms from temporary fashions



5 Global Megatrends

- A hungrier world
 - greater demand for food and fibre
- A wealthier world - emerging middle class
- Choosy Customers
 - empowered by information
- Transformative technologies
 - advances in growing, processing and transport
- A Bumpier Ride
 - unexpected changes due to globalisation and climate change as well as all the 4 above



SOME popular assertions

1. natural forests in tropical countries will stay in pristine condition indefinitely, if no one has formal management-utilisation rights.



SOME popular assertions

2. the best way to ensure protection and management of high conservation-value forests is to declare them National Parks and evict any humans from the park so it stays “natural”.



SOME popular assertions

1. natural forests in tropical countries will stay in pristine condition indefinitely, if no one has formal management-utilisation rights.
2. the best way to ensure protection and management of high conservation- value forests is to declare them National Parks and evict any humans from the park so it stays “natural“.
3. Industries & the private sector are the enemy of sustainable forest management, because they care about profits, not forests.



MORE popular assertions

4 Tree Plantations are bad, even if grown by smallholders on farmland as a cash crop, to supplement their family income and to be a financial reserve for hard times.



MORE popular assertions

5. Poor rural people cherish their traditional lifestyle and don't want changes (better housing, healthcare, education, leisure, convenience, electricity, and an income of \$20/day instead of \$1/day)



A relevant model for Asia?

Why does the “Yellowstone model” of national parks works really well in in America, Japan, Europe, Australia-NZ?



A relevant model for Asia?

Why does the “Yellowstone model” of national parks works really well in in America, Japan, Europe, Australia-NZ?

- Very strong public support
 - Fully funded by taxpayers, and
 - Social policing of any intrusions
- Absence of millions of very poor under-employed people looking for somewhere to farm



A relevant model for Asia?

So it could work really well in countries with low population density, where local people are intimately involved in management, and there is plenty of agricultural lands to meet people's food requirements eg in Melanesia or Laos.

How successful is it in rest of Asia ?



Proposition #3

SOME large companies have the willingness, the resources, and the funding, to deliver great conservation outcomes. Could MORE companies be persuaded or pressured to do that too?

Large international companies are much easier to regulate and supervise than thousands of small local companies; there are few, they are highly visible and easy to monitor, and they are sensitive to international pressure and campaigns, and small local companies aren't.



Purpose of Forestry?

the changes from

- *trying to grow relatively small volumes of very high quality, high-value logs (eg teak) to produce sawn-timber and furniture for the well-off;*

to

- *trying to help the poor, the landless and the vulnerable to grow huge volumes of very cheap fuelwood to meet their basic needs.*



Purpose of Forestry?

changes from

- *managing natural forests for industrial wood production;*

to

- *managing natural forests for water-catchment values, biodiversity conservation, recreation or aesthetics, and maybe some wood as well.*



policy reform?

- most of us are not elected decision-makers and never will be - we are just policy advisors to them;
- sometimes, Ministers admit they don't know everything and will ask you for suggestions - solving difficult problems and getting better results will make politician look good, and they all like that
- so always have some good (pre-tested) suggestions ready!



New ways to protect national parks?

Recent experience in Australia....

the best biodiversity conservation and the best environmental restoration has been when either indigenous people, or the mining industry, or preferably BOTH have been in charge of looking after the forests.

Results have been quite good when the lands and forests are managed by not-for-profits (funded by philanthropy or citizen donations, because government agencies were not achieving what was expected).



Groups of adjoining landholders are OK under contracts

Government-run forest conservation and management have been 4th place in terms of outcomes, barely slowing the rates of degradation and biodiversity loss.



just ideas - not guaranteed solutions!

- no global formula, no magic solutions
- expect the unexpected
- occasionally ask *“Is the way we have been doing things for years STILL the best we can think of?”*
- be prepared to consider different goals, or different ways to achieve goals that still meet community expectations



- be prepared for “A Bumpy Ride”
- Good luck!

