

Forest Policies for the 21st Century

Sixth Executive Forest Policy Course

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SOCIETAL CHANGES AND FOREST POLICIES

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Organized by: Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

- **The collective impact of the drivers of change brings about fundamental changes in the characteristics of society.**
- **However the transition is not uniform leading to obvious segmentation in society.**
- **Different segments in society have different uses of forests and conflicts are bound to become severe in resource-constrained situations.**
- **Understanding the differences in societies and how they change over time become important to understand how policies need to be crafted to deal with changing resource uses and address potential conflicts.**

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

- **Identify the different segments in society and their diverging demands on forests.**
- **Visualise how the composition of the society is undergoing changes and to assess the probable situation in the next two decades.**
- **Assess the implications of societal changes on forests and forestry and how forest policies are dealing with conflicts between different segments in society.**
- **Introduce the concept of forest transition and discuss the likelihood of forest transition in some of the Asia-Pacific countries.**

UNDERSTANDING SOCIETAL DIFFERENCES

- Most often we are dealing with highly fragmented societies.
- Differentiating different societal segments:
Criteria for classification - Socio-economic conditions in particular main source of livelihood.
- Possible groupings:
 - Pre-agrarian societies
 - Agrarian societies
 - Industrial societies
 - Post-industrial societies.
- Forests are seen differently by different societal segments.



CHANGING DEPENDENCE OF SOCIETY ON FORESTS

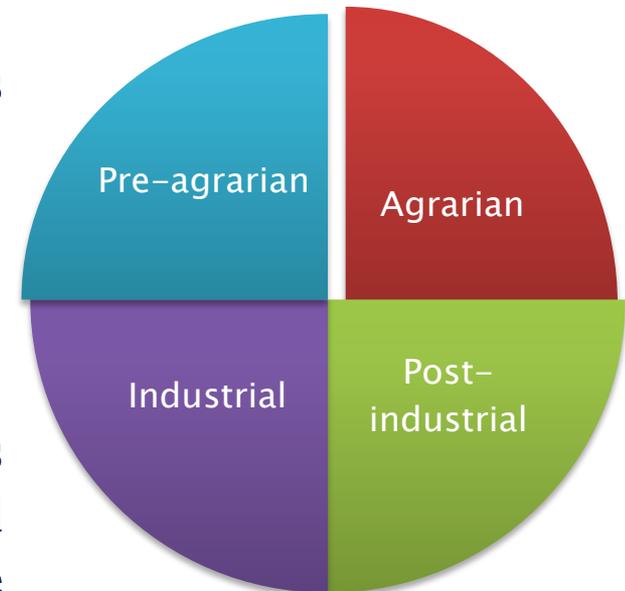
Society	Key features of the economic system	Implications on forests
Forest dependent, pre-agrarian communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost entirely subsistence focused • Communal production and shared consumption. • Most of the consumption is to satisfy basic needs. • Production is primarily dependent on natural factors. • Very little dependence on resources outside the area controlled by the community. Practically no trade of products, except bartering with adjoining communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests are used to meet basic needs such as woodfuel, medicines, food and construction materials; these societies have limited capacity to alter the forest environment drastically. • Forests permeate cultural, social and religious beliefs and perceptions.
Agrarian societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant differences within agrarian societies ranging from small scale subsistence farming to large scale farming focused on production of industrial raw materials. • Land and labour are the key factors of production. • Most livelihoods are derived from the farm land, although some income/ products are obtained from adjoining common land including forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests are viewed as space to expand agriculture, including livestock; as a source of low-cost inputs for agriculture and as a supply of woodfuel, fodder, medicines and other non-wood forest products. • With settled cultivation, the service functions of forests (e.g. watershed protection, arresting land degradation) become important

CHANGING DEPENDENCE OF SOCIETY ON FORESTS

Society	Key features of the economic system	Implications on forests
Industrial societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land becomes a less important factor of production.• A high proportion of goods and services produced is traded. Trade becomes an important engine of the economy.• Large-scale production and trade, dependent on mass markets. Capital and skilled labour the main factors of production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forests are used as a source of industrial raw material with increasing emphasis on large scale plantations .• Increasing demand for energy, minerals, infrastructure puts enormous pressure on forests
Post-industrial societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information and knowledge become the most important inputs in production of goods and services.• Trade of services and knowledge becomes the main engine of the economy and most of the products are procured from other countries by creating favourable terms of trade for knowledge services.• Shift from mass production to meeting needs of smaller markets and increased emphasis on customization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forests become less important as a source of products and more important as a source of services – e.g. watershed protection, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration.• Aesthetic values gain primacy.

SOCIETY AND FORESTS

- **Proportion of different societal segments now and its implications on forest policies.**
- **How forest policies are addressing conflicts between different segments in society?**
- **Who calls the shot as regards the use of forests?**
- **Changes in the proportion of different segments in society and what it means to forests and forestry and how forest policies need to be changed?**

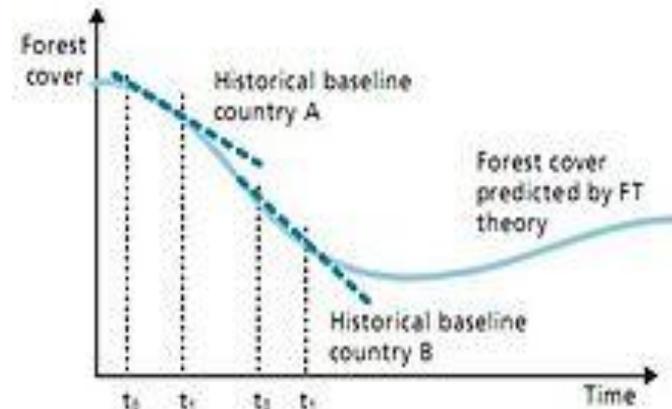
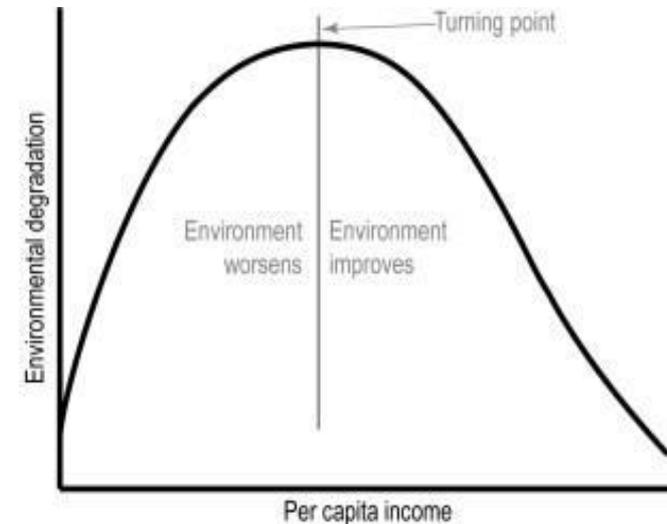


FOREST TRANSITION: WHERE AND WHEN?

- **Most national forest policies give a target as regards the proportion of forest that the country should strive to reach.**
- **Accomplishing such targets require arresting further deforestation and degradation and increasing the extent of forests through afforestation and reforestation.**
- **Where and when such change - forest transition - has occurred in the Asia-Pacific region?**

THE CONCEPT OF FOREST TRANSITION

- The concept of forest transition largely applies the Environmental Kuznet's curve to forests.
- Forest transition implies that in the early stages of development a society intensively uses its forests with the attendant decline in area and with industrialisation and urbanisation the situation starts reversing.
- Several factors – political, economic, technological, social, cultural, institutional – contribute to the transition.
- Experience of forest transition.



Source: Angelsen 2008.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Are forest policies giving due consideration for the diverse needs of different segments in society?**
- **How are conflicts between divergent needs of different segments of society resolved?**
- **Are we likely to witness an increase in forest use related conflicts in the next few decades?**
- **Are forest policies designed to address/ resolve such conflicts?**
- **What are the chances of “forest transition” taking place in your country?**
- **Does forest policies help to accomplish forest transition?**

Thank You