Drivers of change and societal changes in the Asia-Pacific

Patrick Durst

Module 1: 27 May 2013

Drivers of change: Overview

Drivers of change are key variables that shape the future.

Can be positive, negative or both

(e.g. income and substitution effects)

- Demographic
- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- Technological
- Political and institutional

Demographic drivers of change

Increasing populations

→ Increasing demands on forests, forest encroachment, larger communities

Changing population structures

→ Ageing populations, changing demands on forests

Urbanization

→ Smaller rural communities(?) ageing communities, community fragmentation

Labor force composition

→ Elderly workforce, reduced forest management capacities (?)

Economic drivers of change

Economic growth

→ Increased demand for forest goods and services, forest encroachment/land-use change – expanding agriculture, biofuels, urban areas, planted forests

Increasing disparities

→ Urban drift, increasing consumer prices, poverty, local instability

Poverty alleviation efforts

→ More choices, move away from forest-based livelihoods

Globalization

Integration into markets, competition, tech. transfer, new aspirations

Social drivers of change

Increasing participation

→ Livelihood opportunities, changing management practices, new responsibilities

Education

→ New tools, new information, new opportunities (maybe not in forests)

Tenure

→ Access to forest goods and services, management practices,

Rights issues (human/indigenous/gender etc)

→ New opportunities, new practices, activism, instability

Employment opportunities

→ urban drift, forest labor scarcity

Environmental drivers of change

Climate change

→ New restrictions, new opportunities e.g. REDD

Conservation

→ Protected areas, P.E.S.

Green movement

→ Community activism, changing values

Ecotourism

→ New practices, new livelihood opportunities

Natural disasters

Tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, floods, typhoons → settlement patterns, forestry practices

Technological drivers of change

Forest management systems

→ Agroforestry, carbon farming, regulation

Infrastructure development

→ Roads, community facilities

Small scale processing technologies

→ for wood and NWFPs

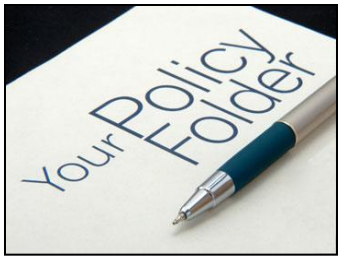
Information technology

→ Information accessibility, improved communications, new tools

Energy technologies

→ Community technologies, biofuels

Political and institutional drivers



Policies and legislation

→ New regulations, new practices, new opportunities

FLEG

→ Reduced encroachment, stricter controls on communities

Government stability/instability

→ Uncertainty, lack of policy continuity, increased risk

Donor priorities

→ Access to support, livelihood opportunities, forest management practices

Decentralization

→ Greater participation, livelihood opportunities, new responsibilities

The future

- Change is the only constant
- More and different demands on forests
- New challenges for communities and community forestry practitioners
- Increasing complexity
- New rules, new norms, new societies
- New skills, new knowledge, new tools,new commitment.

patrick.durst@fao.org