

Genealogy of International Forest Governance Arrangements

SDGs as responds to global challenges or the continuation of existing logics?

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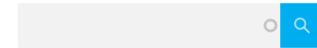
Plant a tree...





United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Sustainable Development



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Goals

15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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SDGs as an international norm

- is **not** simply a technical challenge involving state actors implementing universally agreed-upon norms;
- it is an **international political process** with **contestations**,
- where **power** and **responsibilities** over natural resources are exercised

(McDermott et al. 2019 & Campese 2016)

Governance

“(...) the formal and informal bundles of rules, roles and relationships that define and regulate the social practices of state and non-state actors in international affairs”

(Slaughter et al. 1998)

Governance Arrangement

Institutions

Interests



Logics

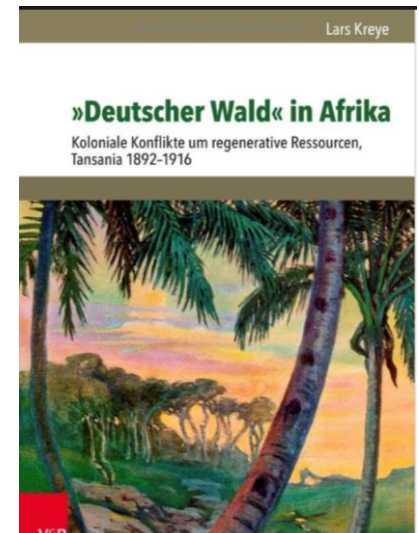
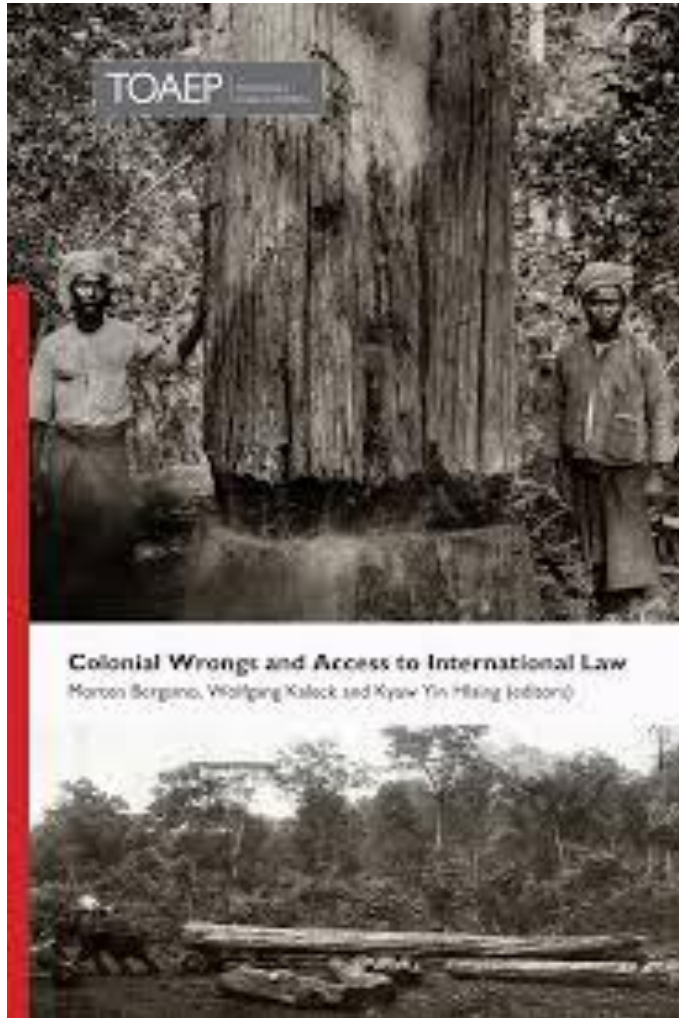
Before 1992: Logic of Wood Extraction



IUFRO, Vienna

September 22, 2022

Colonial extraction of Wood



ITTA from 1983

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT¹, 1983

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Agreement,

Recalling the Declaration² and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order³ adopted by the General Assembly,

Recalling resolutions 93 (IV)⁴ and 124 (V)⁵ on the Integrated Programme for Commodities adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth and fifth sessions,


Recognizing the importance of, and the need for, proper and effective conservation and development of tropical timber forests with a view to ensuring their optimum utilization while maintaining the ecological balance of the regions concerned and of the biosphere,

Recognizing the importance of tropical timber to the economies of members, particularly to the exports of producing members and the supply requirements of consuming members,



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER ORGANIZATION

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committees](#) ▾[Projects](#) ▾[Resources](#) ▾[News & events](#) ▾[Statistics
database](#)[Quick links](#) ▾[Members' portal](#) 

About ITTO

[Home](#) / [About ITTO](#)

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests. ITTO:

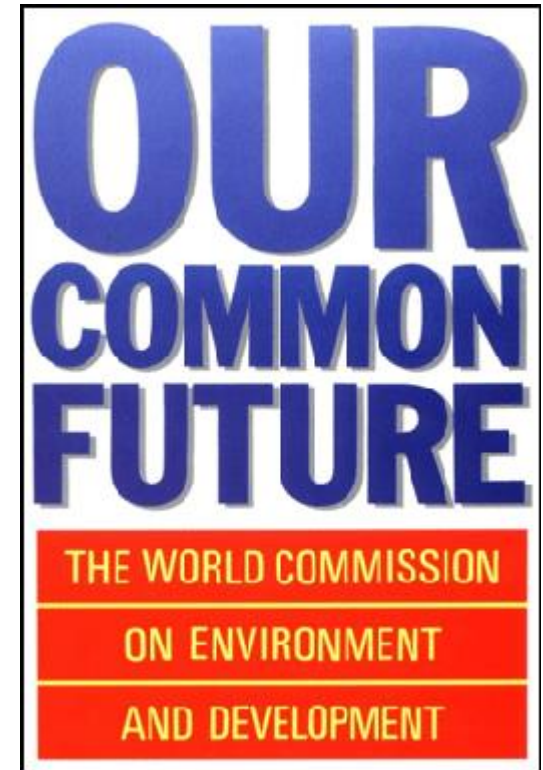
- Develops internationally agreed policy guidelines and norms to encourage sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable tropical timber industries and trade.
- Assists tropical member countries to adapt such guidelines and norms to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects and other activities.
- Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber.
- Promotes sustainable tropical timber supply chains.
- Helps develop capacity in tropical forestry.

Global Sustainability Logic:

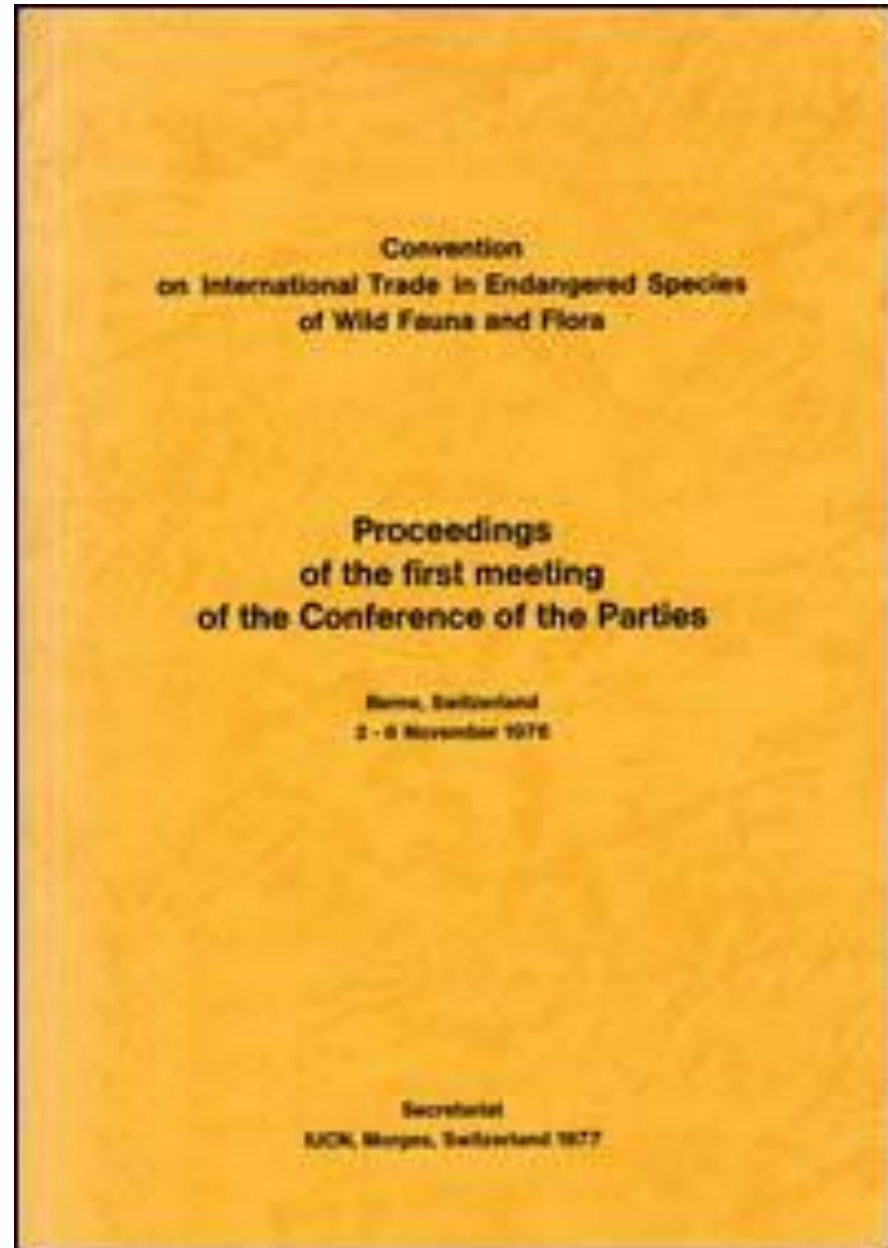
Brundtland Report 1987

“Developing countries, as noted earlier, need a significant increase in financial support from international sources for environmental restoration, protection, and improvement (...).”

⇒ Restoration as central activity



CITES



Global Sustainability Logic: Green movement and boycott of tropical timber

Global Deforestation

An Acre a Second

by Jim Burchfield

Bad news continues to eclipse good news when viewing the world forestry situation, but at long last there are shreds of good news to report. In 1987 the world lost another 28 million acres of forest land, and in 1988 there is no indication that the rate will slow (that's a little less than an acre a second, for a total area slightly larger than Ohio). This loss occurs mainly in the biologically rich but economically poor tropical zones of developing nations, while the total forest area of major industrialized nations remain relatively stable.

The main cause of this global deforestation is the institutionalized poverty in developing nations, where people with little or no land are forced to move further into forested areas to clear land for agriculture and acquire fuelwood. Considering the lack of commitment by the major political and economic powers to share in the control of the world's resources, there does not appear to be much substantive change on the immediate horizon.

On the good side, the connection between economic disparity and ecological destruction has at long last received substantial attention in both the media and at scientific conferences. The most visible documentation of these effects emerged in 1987 with the report "Our Common Future," from the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Brundtland. The report spells out how conservation depends on equitable and sustainable economic development, while citing the responsibilities of wealthier nations to help bear the costs of centuries of resource exploitation. The report was presented both at the UN and the Fourth World Wilderness Congress in Colorado this past September.

Compled with the 1986 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Tropical Forestry Action Plan, a blueprint for investment in forestry in 56 critically vulnerable countries, these assessments give credibility to the long ignored cries of environmentalists, who have been politically marginalized for their challenges to shortsighted, financially oriented development strategies.

Other key forestry developments in 1987 include the

From the perspective of activists 1987 was a banner year, and one which will hopefully encourage more participation in 1988. A boycott on Burger King for their use of rainforest beef was carried out by a mere handful of activists from the Rainforest Action Network, and it catalyzed a change in policy for the Pillsbury owned fast food giant, who canceled their future orders for inexpensive Central American beef.

international protocol signed in Canada this past summer to reduce chlorofluorocarbon emissions by 50% by the year 2000 (not nearly enough, but at least a first step for future international agreements on atmospheric pollutants); the creation of a formal body to regulate trade in tropical timber products, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with headquarters, ironically, in Yokohama, Japan; the first Central American Environmental Conference, held in Managua, Nicaragua, this past May; and the subsequent cancellation by the Nicaraguan government of the San Juan River timber concession—a large, undisturbed watershed which was to have been logged by a Costa Rican timber operator.

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The same group in conjunction with Earth First! held a

Our Recyclable Ann Arbor

The Ecology Center on Detroit St. is homebase to the Recycling Dropoff Station on South Industrial, Recycle Ann Arbor Curbside truck services, and least known of all, the Baling Station at Platt Road and Ellsworth near Ann Arbor's huge landfill. Eight new dropoff stations in Washtenaw County will be established by February or March 1988.

Through its services, Recycle Ann Arbor salvaged 2500 tons of materials in 1987, raising \$110,000 from sales of tin, aluminum, glass, cardboard and paper, and keeping it all out of the landfill.

Paper products accounted for 80% of the materials recycled in 1987. After being handled by the balers, newspaper is sold to a mill to create new newsprint, cardboard returns to cardboard, and high grade white paper is made into tissue paper.

1987 has shown a record number of recycling participants, a result of the work of 280 volunteer block coordinators who distribute reminders of curbside pickup times and Dropoff Station hours.

by Nina Bolsmier

successful demonstration in October in front of the World Bank, the largest lender for international development projects, to protest their loans to governments which encourage settlement projects in forested areas instead of meaningful economic reforms.

Ann Arbor activists have also organized for the first time under a Rainforest Action Banner, and although not a formal group, they sponsored a successful Earth Festival at the U-M School of Natural Resources in September.

The real work to protect the world's forests must eventually be undertaken in political arenas, where environmental issues have been offered little more than lip service. Direct action by citizens remains an important component in working for change, and I recommend contacting the Rainforest Action Network, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133 for events in 1988. To offer direction for the actions of our daily lives here in Ann Arbor, we have several institutions whose localized activities provide direct benefits for conservation and sustainable development. The Ecology Center and the People's Food Coop are both strong advocates for the wise use of the earth's resources, and I encourage all who read this to find out how you may contribute to these organizations.



**Production
Logic**

State facilitating
market interests

**Sustainability
Logic**

State and markets

Green Movements

UNCED Conference, Rio de Janeiro 1992



UNCED Conference, Rio de Janeiro 1992



**United
Nations**



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Agenda 21

Chapter 11

Combating Deforestation

Programme Areas

A. Sustaining the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests, forest lands and woodlands

Basis for action

1. There are major weaknesses in the policies, methods and mechanisms adopted to support and develop the multiple ecological, economic, social and cultural roles of trees, forests and forest lands. Many developed countries are confronted with the effects of air pollution and fire damage on their forests. More effective measures and approaches are often required at the national level to improve and harmonize policy formulation, planning and programming; legislative measures and instruments; development patterns; participation of the general public, especially women and indigenous people; involvement of youth; roles of the private sector, local organizations, non-governmental organizations and cooperatives; development of technical and multidisciplinary skills and quality of human resources; forestry extension and public education; research capability and support; administrative structures and mechanisms, including intersectoral coordination, decentralization and responsibility and incentive systems; and dissemination of information and public relations. This is especially important to ensure a rational and holistic approach to the sustainable and environmentally sound development of forests. The need for securing the multiple roles of forests and forest lands through adequate and appropriate institutional strengthening has been repeatedly emphasized in many of the reports, decisions and recommendations of FAO, ITTO, UNEP, the World Bank, IUCN and other organizations.

Objectives

2. The objectives of this programme area are as follows:
 - a. To strengthen forest-related national institutions, to enhance the scope and effectiveness of activities related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, and to effectively ensure the sustainable utilization and production of forests' goods and services in both the developed and the developing countries; by the year 2000, to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national institutions to enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge for the protection and conservation of forests, as well as to expand their scope and, correspondingly, enhance the effectiveness of programmes and activities related to the management and development of forests;
 - b. To strengthen and improve human, technical and professional skills, as well as expertise and capabilities to effectively formulate and implement policies, plans, programmes, research and projects on management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and forest-based resources, and forest lands inclusive, as well as other areas from which forest benefits can be derived.

Reasons for Failure

- The importance of forests for international commerce
(Lipschutz, 2002)
- Lack of information on possible consequences of forest degradation for other policy areas
- Strategy to not increase the standards for forest management
Dimitrov (2003)
- Global North and its focus on global forest values
- Sovereignty
Humphreys (1993, 1996)
- Mismatch between costs and benefits for countries from the Global North and the lack of leadership
Davenport (2005)

**Production
Logic**

State facilitating
market interests

**Sustainability
Logic**

States (facilitating
market interests)

Green Movements

**Sustainability
Logic**

States

Beyond the Rio conference

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) - 1995

⇒ 140 Proposals for Action (PfA)

Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) - 1997

⇒ 120 Proposals for Action (PfA)

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) - 2000,

⇒ Non-Legally-Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) - 2006

→ National forest programs (NFPs)

Legality Verification



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 21.5.2003
COM (2003) 251 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE
(FLEGT)

PROPOSAL FOR AN EU ACTION PLAN

12.11.2010

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 295/23

REGULATION (EU) No 995/2010 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 20 October 2010

laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market

(Text with EEA relevance)

**Voluntary
Partnership
Agreement (VPA)**
= bilateral trade
agreement between
the EU and a timber-
exporting country
outside the EU.

Forest Certification



REDD+

“Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries”

Aichi Targets

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- **Strategic Goal A:** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- **Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- **Strategic Goal C:** To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- **Strategic Goal D:** Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Strategic Goal E:** Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use



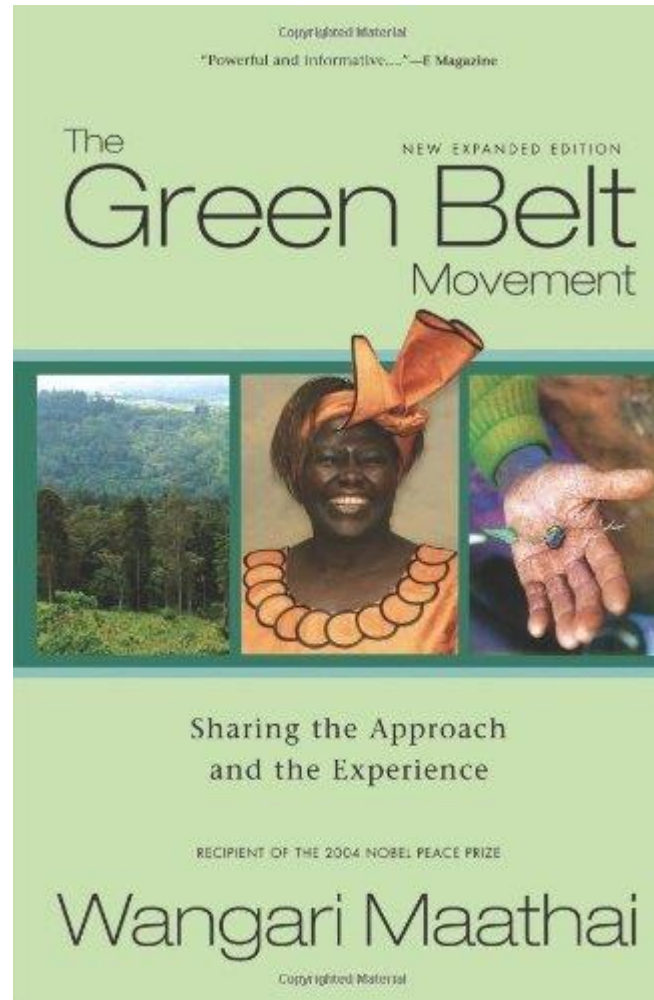
Target 5

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Evaluation of Aichi Targets in 2020

“The report concludes that, overall, of the 20 targets, **six of them** (9, 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20) were **partially achieved** by the 2020 deadline.”

(United Nations, Press Release 2020)



Potential for Global Forest Cover

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REPORT



The global tree restoration potential

[JEAN-FRANCOIS BASTIN](#)  , [YELENA FINEGOLD](#), [CLAUDE GARCIA](#)  , [DANILO MOLLICONE](#)  , [MARCELO REZENDE](#)  , [DEVIN ROUTH](#), [CONSTANTIN M. ZOHNER](#)  ,

AND [THOMAS W. CROWTHER](#)  [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

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“.... how much additional tree cover could exist outside of existing forests and agricultural and urban land. Ecosystems could support an additional 0.9 billion hectares of continuous forest. This would represent a greater than 25% increase in forested area, including more than 200 gigatonnes of additional carbon at maturity. Such a change has the potential to store an equivalent of 25% of the current atmospheric carbon pool.”

Forest Landscape Restoration

“...a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes”



New York Declaration on Forests
GLOBAL PLATFORM

Report & webinar:

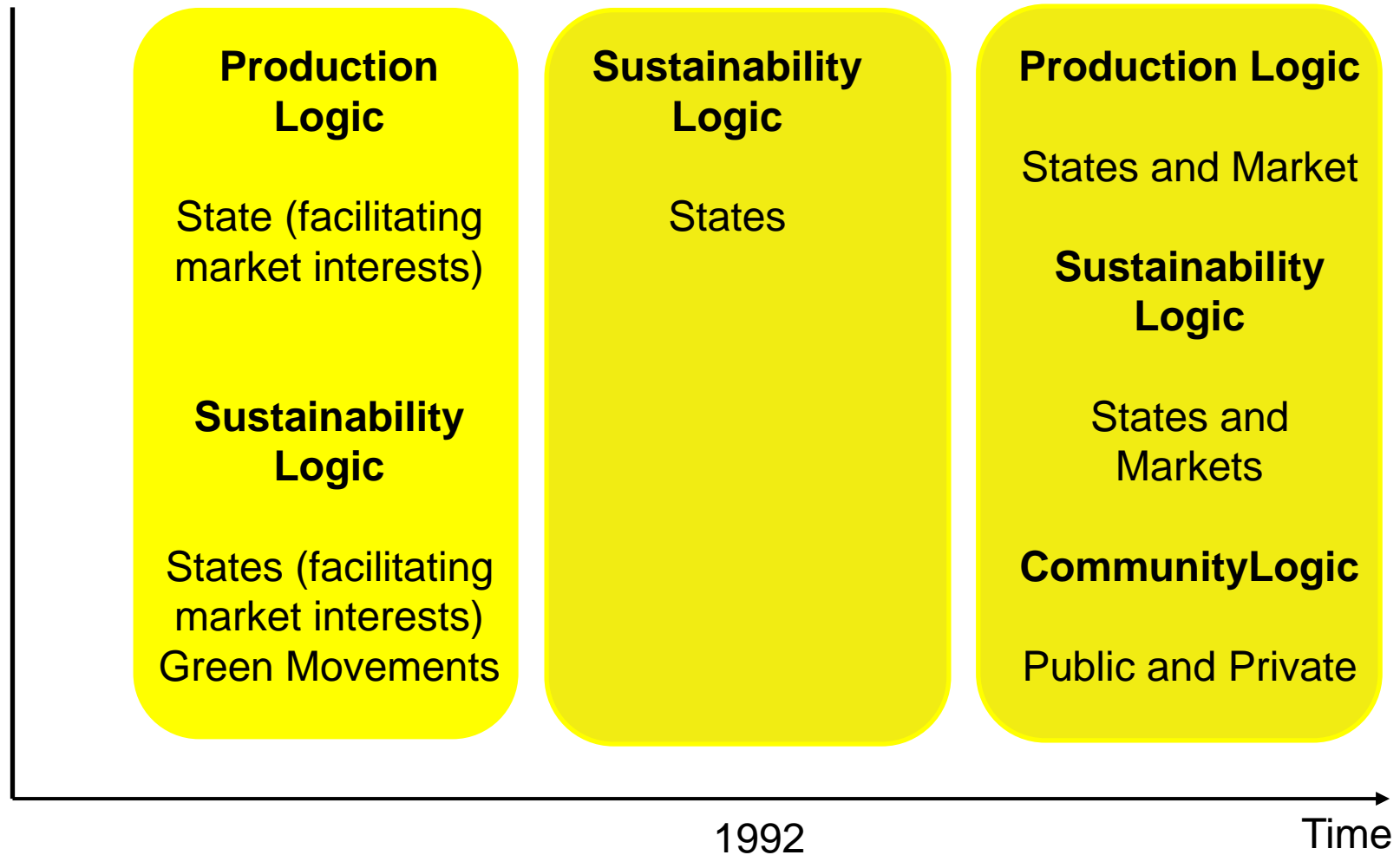
The impacts of tree plantations on women & women-led resistance to monocultures

International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations

Photo: Flávia Bernardes/FASE

(Global Forest Coalition)

Logics of International Forest Governance



Logics behind SDG 15 and their institutional framework

Production logic

Plantations, Bioeconomy

Sustainability Logic

UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, REDD+
Bonn Challenge, NYDF

Logic of community

e.g. Green Belt movement

F
L
R

SDG 15 building on a legacy of

Powerful (multilateral) institutions

- Increasing relevance of /
dependence on private engagement
- Governmental actor continued prominent

Continued production logic, paralleled sustainability logic

Empowerment and rural development backseat

FLR as a win-win narrative

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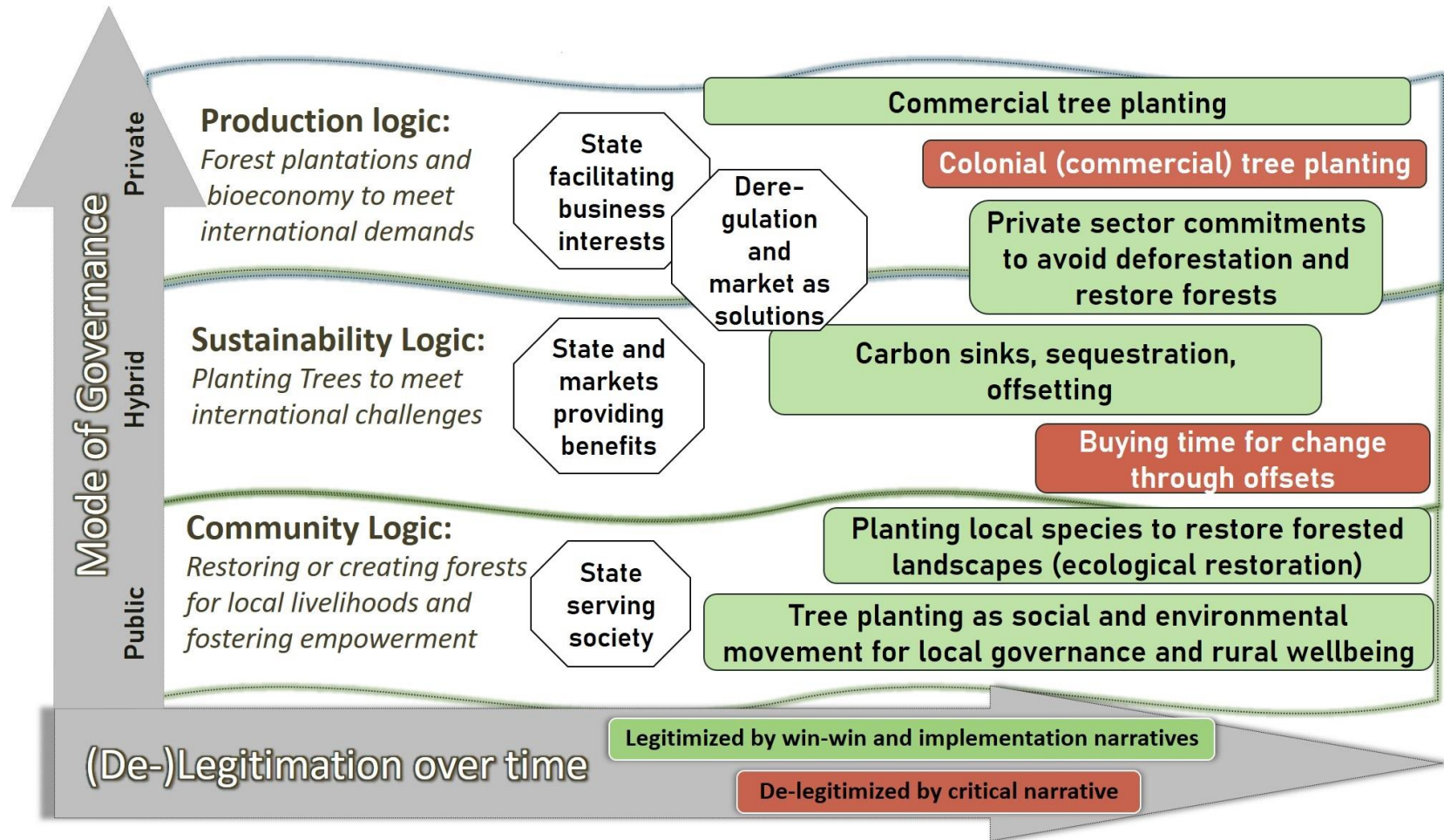
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Logics of Forest Landscape Restoration



(Kleinschmit et al 2022 forthcoming)

Sustainable Development
Brundtland Report—UNCED in Rio/Rio + Process—Millennium Development Goals
UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

Authority/Degree of Compulsion

		Legally-Binding	Non-Legally Binding
		Type I: Multilateral treaty regimes (International hard law)	Type II: Non-binding multilateral agreements (International soft law)
Direct participation of actors	State actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN conventions and treaties - Global Forest Convention (failed) - CBD - UNFCCC (KP, PA) - ITTA/ITTO - (CITES, UNCCD)i 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) - Chapter 11 Agenda 21, Forest Principles - SFM C&I regional processes - IPF/IFF, UNFF - UN-NLBI, UN-FI, UN-SPF
		Type III: Transnational regulatory governance (Hybrid regimes)	Type IV: Transnational public-private partnerships (Collaborative institutions)
	State and non-state actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLEGT: Timber legality regime - EU FLEGT VPAs - EUTR; US Lacey Act; AILTPA • REDD+: Climate and forest regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bonn Challenge • The Tropical Forest Alliance • New York Declaration on Forests
	Type V: Transnational non-state market driven governance (Private regulation)	Type VI: Transnational private sector partnerships (Industry self-regulation)	
	Non-state actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest supply chain sustainability certification - FSC (NGOs and industry), PEFC (industry) • Food supply chain sustainability certification - RSPO (palm oil), RTRS (soy), GRSB (beef) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable supply chain initiatives (industry) - Consumer Goods Forum