

SIDE EVENT

Traditional values, practices and forest policy: transforming local challenges into renewed partnership

Facilitated by Wil de Jong (CIAS/University of Kyoto)

Wednesday 9th September 2015, h. 12:45-14:15 – Room 2D

Background

In order for forest and forest mosaic landscape policies to become successful, it is widely recognized that they need to be acceptable to a wide range of stakeholders as possible. Policies are likely to be more acceptable to multiple forest and land users who may have significant influence on forests and forest mosaic landscapes if they adequately consider and respect traditional norms and values, or adequately consider traditional knowledge and practices.

In the majority of cases, however, policy makers and forest managers inadequately understand local values, knowledge and practices. This poses considerable challenges and often creates misunderstanding and conflicts. Multiple studies from Africa, India, Asia, Northern and Latin America, Europe, Japan and elsewhere have shown that spiritual and religious beliefs and traditional practices can be key motivations for conservation and sustainable use of forests and land. A major challenge when devising forest and forest landscape policies and support actions is how to consider and accommodate traditional values, knowledge and practices.

Purpose and expected outcomes

The side event aims to explore how to achieve a viable symbiosis between interests and objectives that dominate mainstream forest and forest landscape policy making and management planning, and the views and preferences of the multiple stakeholders who operate based on entirely different resource and exchange ethics and values as well as knowledge. The event aims to provide a space for debate and controversy between traditional leaders, on the one side, and politicians and technicians on the other, and between spiritual and cultural values held and transmitted over generations among forest dwellers versus mainstream political and economic priorities.

Key messages proposed for discussion during this event are:

1. For generations, people have been using forest and other natural resources to sustain their various livelihood functions. This provided their cultural, religious and spiritual needs and promoted resilience of communities and the resources themselves.
2. Traditional knowledge, uses and practices, including spiritual and religious beliefs could motivate conservation and sustainable use of forests and other resources, if they are properly integrated into the forest management practices and plans.
3. Policies to promote sustainable management of forests and the development of people living in and around forests could be more successful if their design and implementation consider and

respect adequately traditional values, knowledge and practices by those people. Therefore cultural aspects need to be well integrated into policies and support actions.

Session plan

TIME	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SPEAKER
12:45 – 12:50	Opening remarks - <i>Why this side event, what are the expectations and how do we plan to conduct it</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>
12:50 – 13:05	Voices from the field - <i>Video composition with local actors expressing their views and perspective</i>	FAO
13:05 – 14:05	Panel discussion – <i>4 to 5 speakers representing traditional/local leaders (from Africa, Asia and the Americas), a technician and a politician</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>
	Open discussion with the audience	
14:05 – 14:15	Take-home messages and recommendations	<i>Facilitator</i>

Convening organizations:

CIAS / Kyoto University

IUFRO Research Group on Forest history and traditional knowledge (9.03)

IWCS - International Wood Culture Society

Possible panelists

Speakers from indigenous peoples (3)

- Edna Kaptoyo, International Alliance Of Indigenous And Tribal Peoples Of The Tropical Forests (Kenya)
- Brenda Taylor (Maraying, Nicaragua)
- Bharati Kumari Pathak (FECOFUN, Nepal)

Speakers from Government (1)

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Speakers from Academia – NGO - CSO (1-2)

- John Parrotta (USFS - IUFRO)
- Jinlong Liu (Renmin University of China)