



# *Lessons from FAO evaluations in forestry*

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Evaluation and learning for international sustainable forest initiatives – A Workshop

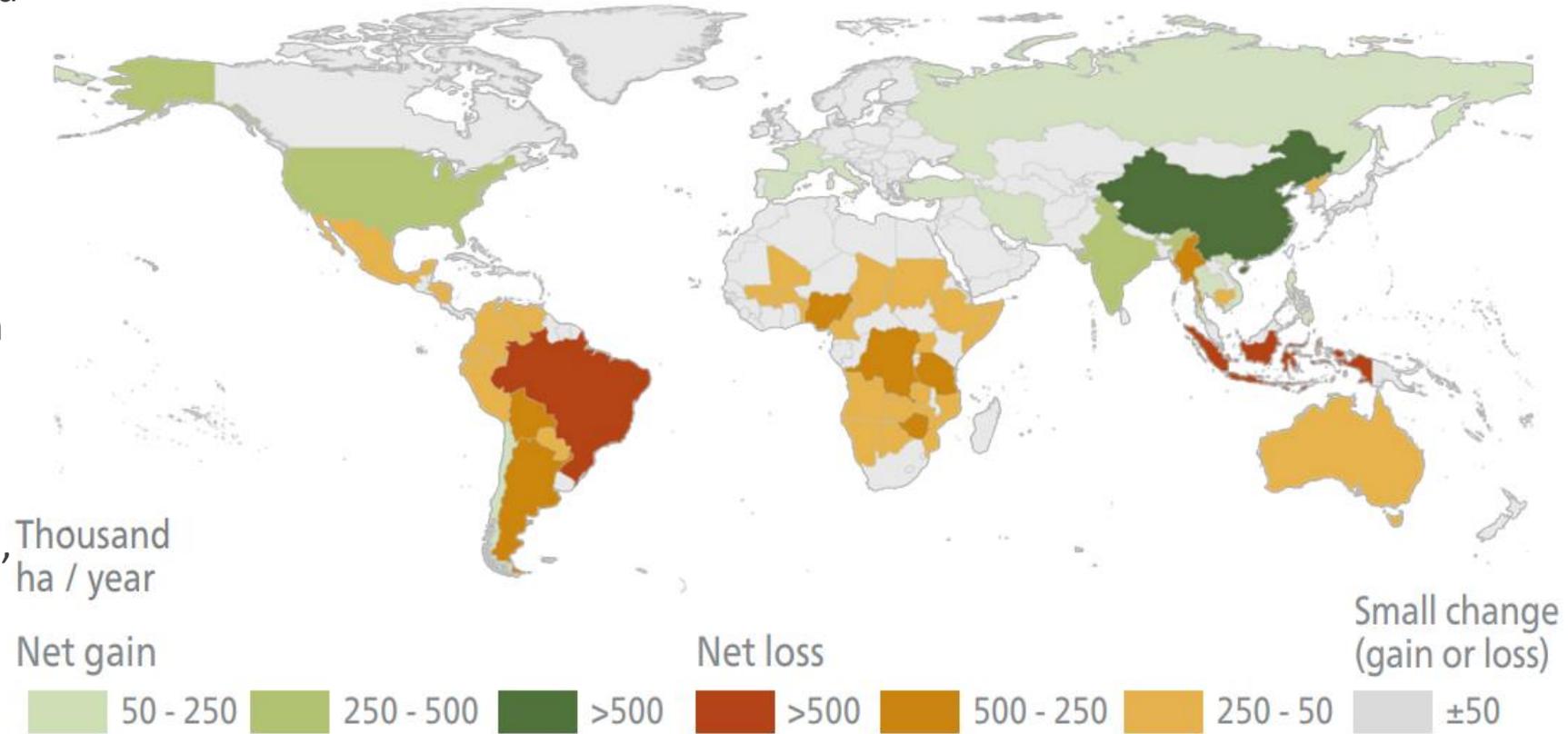
Oslo, Norway

12 October 2017,

# Rationale

## Forest area annual net change 1990 - 2015

- Sustainable management of forests and trees an integral part of FAO's mission since its founding in 1945.
- Deforestation and forest degradation = second leading human cause of CO2 emissions (IPCC) approximately 17% global GHG
- Paris Agreement explicitly acknowledges the key role of forests in combating climate change
- SDGs
  - Goal 15: "Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss"
  - Goal 13: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact"



↑ **Net forest increases** have been mostly in the temperate and boreal zones.

↓ **The largest forest loss** has occurred in the tropics, particularly in Africa and South America.



# FAO Forestry-related evaluations

- FAO Forestry Evaluation 2012
- UNREDD Global Programme Evaluation 2014
- FAO Climate Change Evaluation 2014
- FAO/Finland Forestry programme evaluation 2014
- FAO FLEGT Mid-Term Evaluation 2015
- FAO Forest and Farm Facility Evaluation 2016
- Various UNREDD national programme evaluations
- Ongoing evaluations of FAO's five strategic objectives





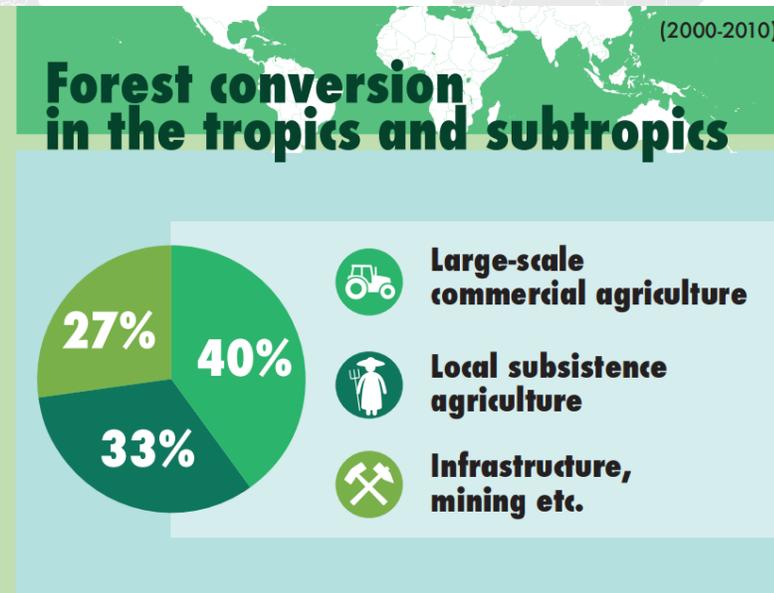
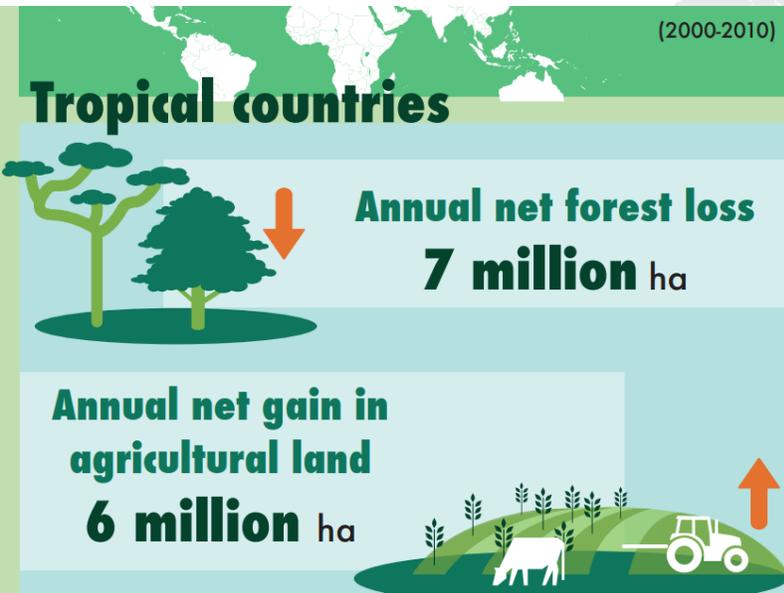
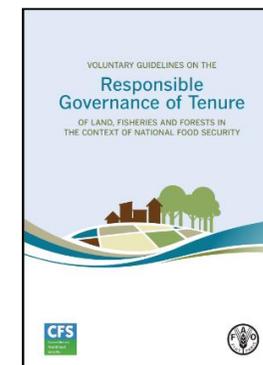
## Recurring themes

- Multi-sectoral, programmatic approach
- Need for local ownership and engagement
- Forest livelihoods are key
- Engagement with private sector
- Turning knowledge into action

- Need for multi-sectoral approach
- Trade-offs between carbon reduction and development goals
- Theories of change - assumptions
- Previously, focus was more on forest carbon – now, becoming more holistic.

## Forest Tenure and the VGGTs

- ▶ Fundamental for REDD+
- ▶ But limited focus on forestry sector – mostly on agricultural land.
- ▶ Disconnect between laws and their implementation





# Local ownership and engagement

- Previously, lack of social inclusion in FAO forestry programming
- *BUT* more recent evaluations suggest that this has changed, dramatically:
- **FAO Forest and Farm Facility Programme:**
- Local governance
- FPIC and indigenous peoples



## Forest livelihoods

- Value chains approach
- Women's economic activities – (often overlooked)
- *BUT Evaluations point to **small projects** with **limited** links to national processes and no scaling up potential.*
- Benefits of pilot projects, must be balanced with **scalability** concerns



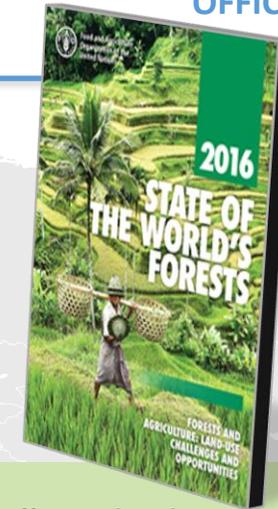
# Engagement with private sector

- ▶ **Still missing a holistic understanding of market and trade systems** - particularly with respect to inclusion of the private sector.
- ▶ Institutional limitations
- ▶ FAO/IKEA partnership in Vietnam; The Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
- ▶ ***“participation of Private Sector remains low- need to better understand needs of Private Sector – also need capacity and skill sets to engage with Private Sector pragmatically”***



# Knowledge into Action

- Overall, there is evidence of uptake of evaluation lessons in FAO's programming
- The knowledge is there, But still, better **connections needed between normative products and application** in the field in priority areas
- Similarly, need for implementing laws/policies on the ground.



1 Effective legal and institutional frameworks



5 Adequate funding and investment to increase agricultural productivity and manage forests sustainably



2 Coordinated forest, agriculture, food, land-use and rural development policies



6 Stronger involvement of local communities and smallholders



3 Secure land tenure and regulation of land-use change



7 Agroforestry and stronger farm-forest links



4 Inter-sectoral collaboration on research, development and extension



8 Integrated land-use planning

# The road ahead

- Need for concerted action – with all stakeholders to ensure uptake of evaluation findings and normative work
  - Evaluations as observers of change – or agents of change?
  - Paris Agreement
  - Goal 15: “Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss”
    - Goal 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact”
- ▶ New methodologies – ICT4Eval





# Thank you!

Contact us

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