Community-driven forest monitoring platforms: *an emerging resource, a need for feedback*

Andrea E. Johnson
Consultant / EIA
7 April 2016
This presentation: key points

- Increase in quantity and quality of information being generated by community-driven forest monitoring (CDFM)
- Emerging efforts to organize and collate information, but there remains a disconnect with “target audiences” in compliance and enforcement communities
- Local CSOs seek greater understanding from audiences like you re: your information gaps, how to communicate
- Mainstreaming use of CDFM information into due diligence practices is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the EUTR, Lacey and ILPA
Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is proliferating

To be clear: communities have always done monitoring! Here we refer to systems that have been somehow formalized and usually incorporate technologies

• Increased political relevance
  • Consumer country policies, voluntary corporate commitments, new threats and trends
  • Frustration with formal “IFM” and lack of government response

• Constantly improving hardware and software options
  • Cheaper and cheaper hand-held data collection, aggregation
  • Steadily improving cell and internet service in remote areas
  • Open-source applications
  • Rise of crowdsourcing & social media
Finally Wogbeh and the FDA responded in early January 2012, admitting that the whistleblower was correct and that in total, 24 PUPs had been authorized by the FDA.

**FDA WHISTLE BLOWER REPORT ON PUPS**

1st January 2012

Attached is a whistle blower complaint about the PUP scandal involving the FDA's management. Also a list of all PUPs assigned to Atlantic Resources.

https://investigations.sdiliberia.org/

Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia

Secure mobile data collection, aggregation, analysis and storytelling using TIMBY.org app

Veeduría Forestal Indígena (Indigenous Forest Observatory), AIDESEP, Perú

Mobile data collection to monitor logging contractors on community lands

In development with Digital Democracy – geospatial platform for info display
But local information is often under-utilized

- The logistics and capacity in remote forest communities (internet, etc)
- Lack of incentives for sharing information (either compensation or response from officials) and high risks
- Incomplete data (e.g. lack of supply chain linkages)
- Mismatches in information packaging / who is the target audience?
- Information overload among audience
- Inherent suspicions and doubts about information generated by civil society
- Lack of political will
Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is evolving

- Organization into national networks
- In Cameroon: OIE-Cameroun now has 10 members covering the whole country, regular coordination meetings, trainings, and a common web platform
- Contact: Rodrigue Ngonzo, FODER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Localité</th>
<th>Objet de l'OIE</th>
<th>Sociétés concernées</th>
<th>Coordonnées (UTM)</th>
<th>Photos</th>
<th>Difficultés rencontrées</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somalomo (2 missions d'OIE)</td>
<td>Documenter l'exploitation forestière dans l'UFA 10050</td>
<td>Ets NGBATOU, BASSAM</td>
<td>233537 381043 238419 380113 233240 384453 234012 384523 233400 390871</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Parc à bois hors limite de la FC ZIOMAS" /></td>
<td>-Certains membres des communautés locales refusaient de collaborer avec la mission afin de protéger l'exploitant forestier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Lomié -Messok</td>
<td>Documenter l'exploitation forestière dans les UFA 10041 (Lomié), 10037, 10036 (Messok)</td>
<td>PALLISCO SIM</td>
<td>370233 327917 365344 326003 363505 325741 363456 327922 363473 329274 370317 32822</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Bille d’alep abandonnée et située hors de l’UFA" /></td>
<td>-La destruction du pont forestier sur le fleuve Dja par un grumier chargé a contraint la mission à arriver à Lomié à 22 heures. En effet, le véhicule a été coincé dans un bourbier situé dans cet endroit pendant une (01) heure pour trouver une voie de contournement. - Plusieurs membres des communautés,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JPIK (Indonesia): 64 organizations
Community-Driven Forest Management is evolving

- Development of protocols, harmonization of methodologies

- In Cameroon: “The Standardized External Independent Monitoring System (SNOIE) is a grouping of civil society organizations conducting the external independent monitoring activities according to a set of requirements modeled on ISO 9001: 2008 standard.”
Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is evolving

Use of mobile data collection and geospatial tools

In Cameroon: CED platform for crowd-sourced reports on conversion and logging, subsequently verified by CED field team
But is it reaching target audiences?

“Sometimes it’s easier to gather information than to know how to use it.”

• If the objective is to generate consequences and remedies to violations of laws or rights, there are various possible audiences.

• Law enforcement:
  • In-country – easier to reach but often ineffective
  • Consumer country – boomerang effect

• Private sector – due diligence / due care

• Certification systems (FSC, PEFC)

• Media (traditional and social) – attention, market pressure, social accountability
How do you (in this room) obtain and use information?

• People are overburdened with tasks and emails
• Long documents, technical terms, foreign languages
• Personal relationships are very important
• Websites: are they actually used? Which are useful?
• How is credibility established and maintained?
• Filtering and packaging are necessary
• Specificity about type of violation, type of evidence, connection to EU or US market
• Difference between info for cases versus due diligence?
The message from Cameroon

• Local CSOs in Cameroon expressed strong desire to communicate the CDFM information they collect to Competent Authorities and other relevant enforcement officials and VPA actors.

• They seek two-way communication:
  • How can their information be useful for building cases of illegal trade?
  • How can it be most useful for due diligence?
  • These may be questions of substance, of format, and of delivery
A collaboration to facilitate flow of CDFM information

- EIA conducting scoping with monitors, NGOs, agents, companies, consultants, techies

- Proposal: a platform / service to collect, digest, and disseminate local information to strategic audiences
  - Global scope, piloting in Cameroon (then Peru, Indonesia)
  - Some degree of standardization
  - Data security and non-public info options
  - Registered users, not full crowd-sourcing
  - Added supply chain data analysis (as possible)
  - *Based on the realities of how people obtain and use information*
Shifting the norms for good due diligence

• There will always be limits to local information

• But as CDFM improves and expands and becomes more accessible, it must be taken seriously

• Otherwise a real risk of simply supporting “illegal logging with papers”

Brigitte Anziome, Director, ASTRADHE, Lomie, Cameroon
Thank you.
Feedback, please?