Activities of the US Forest Service

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The US Forest Service:

Manages 77 million hectares of federal forests and grasslands

Employs 30,000 people with a wide range of backgrounds and skills

Engages in technical cooperation, policy analysis and training to improve forest management and governance worldwide

Brings home lessons and experience to improve forestry in the US

Works with government, NGO and private sector partners who wish, for whatever reason, to improve transparency and governance
USFS activities related to combating illegal logging

- Russia: inventory, monitoring
- Indonesia: systems integration
- Mexico: community forestry
- Brazil: monitoring, institutions
- Liberia: forest sector restructuring
- Central Africa: forest planning
- Madagascar: law enforcement
- Peru: information sharing
- Bolivia: community forestry
Information exchange

- There is a lot happening out there – how to benefit from it?
- Exchange information, experience, and technologies to avoid reinventing the wheel
- Example: Forest transparency workshop in Lima, Peru
Information exchange

- Focus on the nuts and bolts of how to do it
- Example: “Market of ideas” at Peru workshop

- Similar activities planned for Russia/China (with Forest Trends), Eastern Europe (with State and DOJ)
Community Forestry in Mexico

- 22% of developing country forests under community control, increasing rapidly

- Local access controls effective when communities are given a real stake in the forest

- Mexico has a long history of community-owned forests (ejidos), with direct management increasing in recent decades
Community Forestry in Mexico

- USFS working with CONAFOR, USAID, Rainforest Alliance and Chemonics to improve community forestry in Durango and Oaxaca
- Builds on work by government, communities, World Bank
- Cooperation on forest monitoring, low-impact roads, wood classification, kiln drying and sawmill efficiency
Community Forestry in Mexico

- Many community forests certified, others seeking certification

- Increased market access and incomes

- Vigilance committees highly effective at reducing illegality

- Expansion of forest cover, improvement in ecosystem services
Liberia Forest Initiative
Liberia’s forests

4.5 million hectares

42% of remaining Upper Guinea Forest

25% of GDP, 50% of foreign exchange

7000 jobs

Widespread destructive, illegal logging
Liberia Forest Initiative partnerships

**Objective:** Support Liberia’s Forest Development Authority to reform the forest sector

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LFI approach

- Return rule of law to the forest sector

- Restart Commercial forestry on a sustainable basis

- Promote Conservation

- Promote Community-based natural resource management
Progress toward legality

May 2003           UNSC sanctions on timber imposed
August 2003        Taylor expelled
January 2006       Ellen Sirleaf Johnson inaugurated
October 2006       Sanctions lifted

October 2006       New Forestry Law enacted
Some observations:

Highly situational – no silver bullets, no one-size-fits all

In many countries, the pressure to stop illegal logging must come from within, pushed by legal producers and motivated communities

Technical cooperation can’t solve institutional problems, but it can get you in the room and builds trust

Market-based incentives, including buyer demand for verified legality, are a strong motivator for change