

Activities of the US Forest Service

Alex Moad
International Programs
US Forest Service

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The US Forest Service:

Manages 77 million hectares of federal forests and grasslands

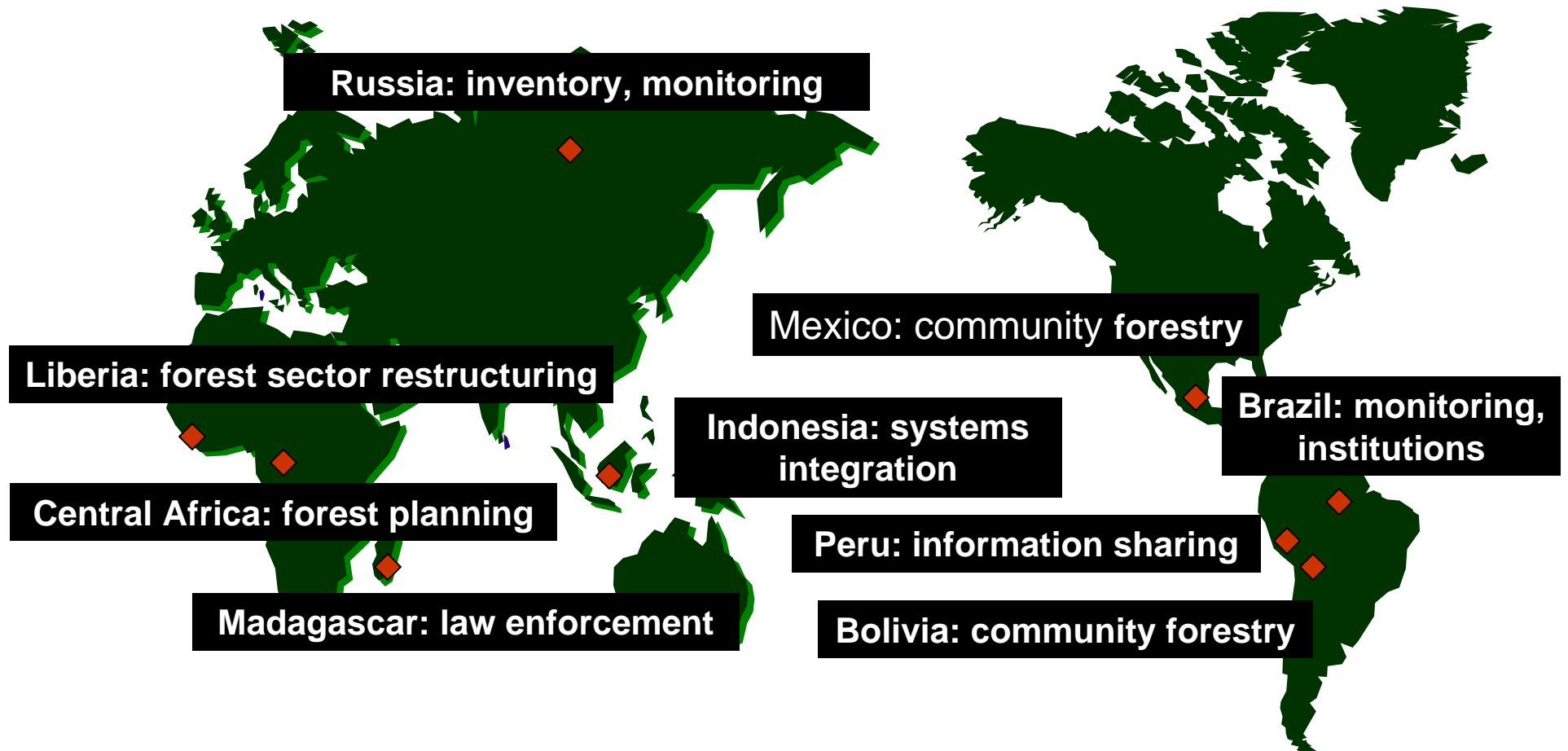
Employs 30,000 people with a wide range of backgrounds and skills

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



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



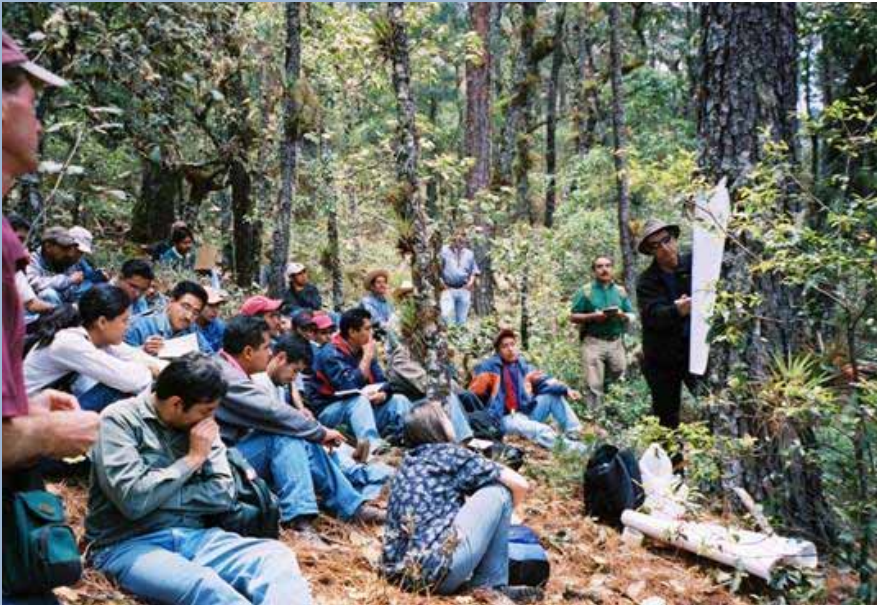
- Similar activities planned for Russia/China (with Forest Trends), Eastern Europe (with State and DOJ)

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



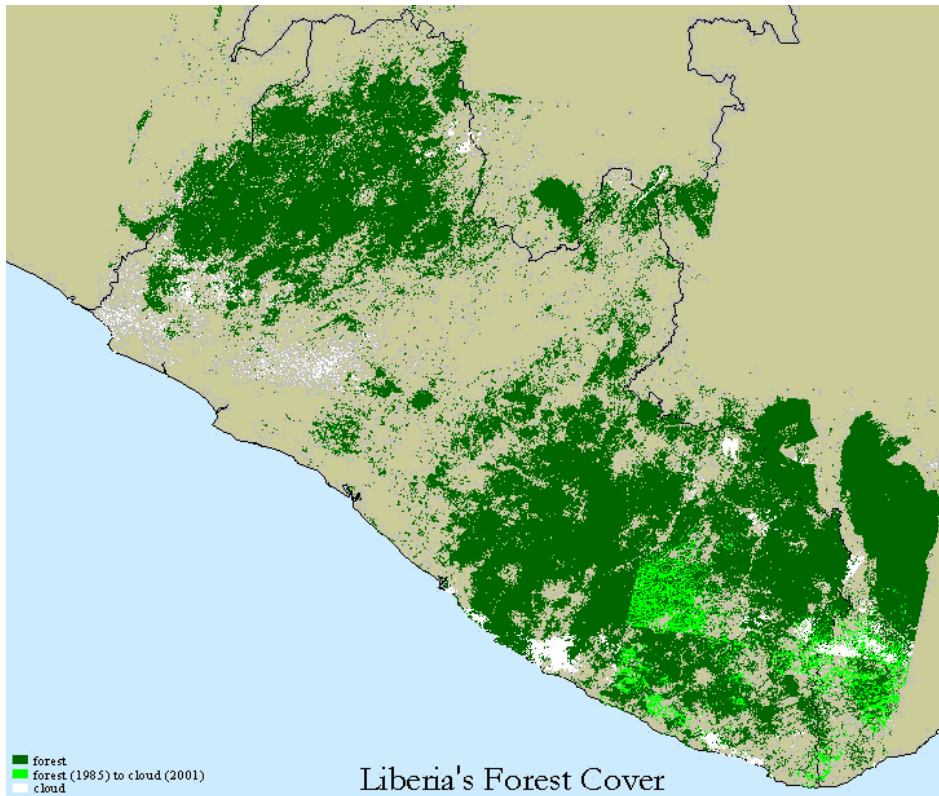
- Many community forests certified, others seeking certification
- Increased market access and incomes
- Vigilance committees highly effective at reducing illegality
- Expansion of forest cover, improvement in ecosystem services



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

LFI Assistance Priorities for FDA				
Commercial Forestry	Financial Management	Conservation	Community Forest Mgmt.	Governance Rule of Law
USFS, World Bank, FAO	USAID, PWC, US OTA, WB	CI, IUCN, FFI	CIFOR, ICRAF, USAID, FFI	ELI, UNEP, GA, UNMIL



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