



Alternatives to Public Protected Areas:

Community Driven Conservation, International Experiences and Trends

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LIMITATIONS OF PUBLIC PROTECTED AREAS

- Unable to meet the challenge of conserving biodiversity
- Limited coverage (10 –12%)
- Too expensive and dwindling investment
- Huge social and political costs
- Expansion of PPA in Developing countries not an option



KEY FINDINGS

- Community conservation is significant and growing
 - at least 370 M has and probably triple that
- Communities conserve more forests and forest landscapes than are in public protected areas systems
 - 370 M in four continents compared to 450 M forest conservation overall
- Communities invest as much in conservation as donors and governments in developing countries
 - 1.3-2.6 billion compared to 1.6 billion



WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR COMMUNITIES

- Forest tenure shift to community ownership and administration
- Decentralization of forest governance to state, municipal, and community levels
- Emergence of community enterprises based on forest management and conservation
- Appreciation for ecosystem services many of these on lands owned by communities



TYPES OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

1. Natural forest habitat: organized indigenous and traditional communities in their ancestral territories. (minimum 120 million hectares).
2. Working forests: Long-settled communities, which contain large patches of natural habitat, interspersed with intensive but biodiversity-compatible land uses (minimum 100 million hectares).
3. Natural forest patches in frontier zones: living in and around state and private lands, who are extractivists, agriculturalists and/or pastoralists (minimum 50 million hectares).
4. Secondary forest patches in intensively managed landscapes: Long-settled communities, practicing individual and community-based resource management in intensively-managed landscapes who actively seek to restore natural areas (+100 million hectares).



ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

- Public systems of protection are not working in many places
- Community conservation has many promising examples and is evolving rapidly as communities build
- Conservationists cannot afford to compensate people for lost access value
- Communities own it--respect their goals and direction and inherent capabilities
- Who has the power



CREATING ENABLING CONDITIONS

- Secure tenure rights and access and respect indigenous peoples' movements
- Institutional support to local conservation and community organization, rather than planning or designing models from outside
- Flexible finance for local initiatives tailored to capacity and stage of organization
- Communities drive conservation science as research partners.
- Fair access to markets (both forest products and ecosystem services) that value community products
- Recognize intangible values and benefits



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