

Forest Certification and Communities:

Looking forward to the Next Decade

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Characteristics of Communities involved in Certification

community -based forest enterprises

community players in company-community ventures

community partners in company-community
ventures

community stakeholders in public consultations

communities employed as laborers in industrial
forestry operations

communities of indigenous peoples seeking
recognition of land and resource rights in forests

Progress in the FSC Certification of Communities (as of August 2002)

Country	Number	Area	Extant
Mexico	21	517,208	(-300,000 than the originally reported area since new data counts only forested areas, not all the area covered by a forest community.)
Guatemala	9	245,353	
Germany&Austria	7	22,594	(mainly city-town forests)
USA	5	220,185	(Three indigenous; Menominee and are listed as a private business by FSC data.)
Canada	2	88,084	(includes the Iisaak enterprise listed as a private business by FSC data)
South Africa	1	1,740	
Zimbabwe	1	24,850	
Sweden	1	1,450	
Brazil	1	900	
Bolivia	(1)	(53,000)	0 (expected to recertify after initial 5-yr. period but not yet)
Honduras	2	13,868	
Philippines	1	14,800	
Papua New Guinea	1	4,310	

Source: FSC Information Site, www.fsc-info.org, 30 August 2002

Benefits of Certification

Table 2: Benefits to Communities of Certification

Examples of Advantages to Communities of Certification	FSC Examples	ISO 14001 based schemes
Improvement in certified communities creates a new standard in an country with many problems of poor management and raises the standard of private as well as community enterprises overall—shows new possibility	Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Sweden, Finland, Indonesia,	
Gives a legitimate vehicle to promote national dialogue on issues of forest tenure, worker equity, participation as concerned citizens in the allocation and management of public resources, community value systems, sustainability	Brazil, Canada, South Africa,	Canada, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Europe
Provides a measure of good management that communities need to protect their access to a resource and freedom to manage it	Guatemala, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Iisaak	
Provides a measure than can be a proxy for loans, payment for ecosystem services. etc.	Yes	Yes
Attracts donor financing	Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala,	
Can reduce the illegality and poor practice in private sector competing with community enterprises for market	Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala	
Creates a possibility of a specialized market niche for community products in a competitive environment	naturally durable tropical timbers; natural long-fiber pine;	Yes

Constraints to Community Certification

- cost of initial certification evaluations and annual auditing;
- cost of implementing recommended actions, either studies or silvicultural treatments, and documentation needs;
- subsidized by donors and governments ;
- fragile community institutions--how to make them sustainable and strong?
- how much to capitalize enterprise initially in what markets?
- cannot deliver product quantity or quality
- increasingly competition with plantation wood ;
- smaller communities cannot comply with current procedures;
- complex forest management objectives not well met by all certification evaluations--landscape approach needed

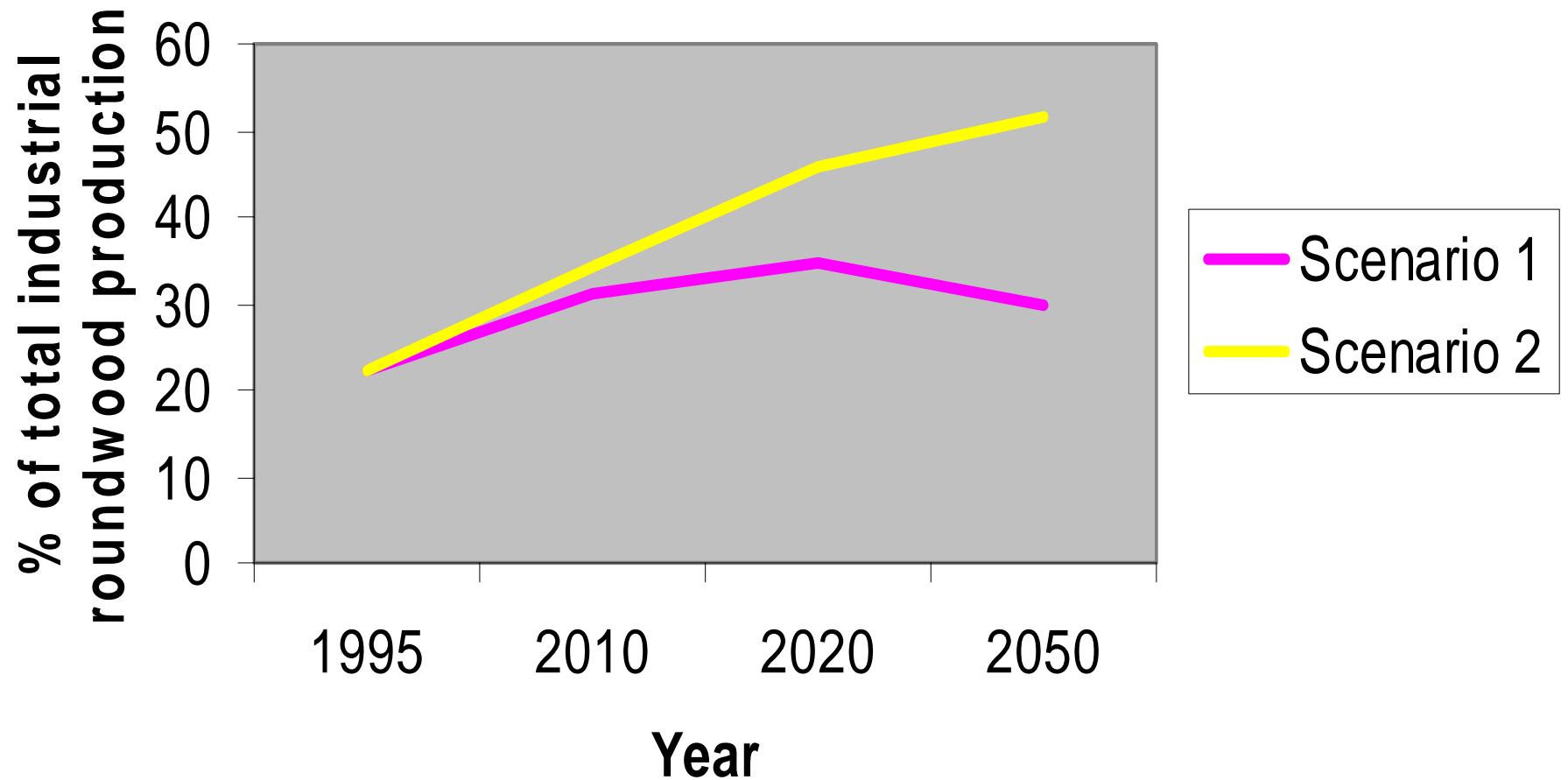
Worker Employment and Safety

- Accommodations for collection of NTFP
- Bank of hours in Brazil--more stable benefits
- Safety gear and training/ medical supplies
- Attention to local employment
- Subcontracting of local people
- Recognition of traditional uses of forest

Cost of certification

- Initial 5 year period highest
- Recommended actions can be expensive
- What is the cost of organizational shifts -- money and cultural
- Market positioning may be poor
- Studies may require external expertise and community funds

Supply in Transition: 30 – 50% from plantations?



Average annual
returns: 8-12%

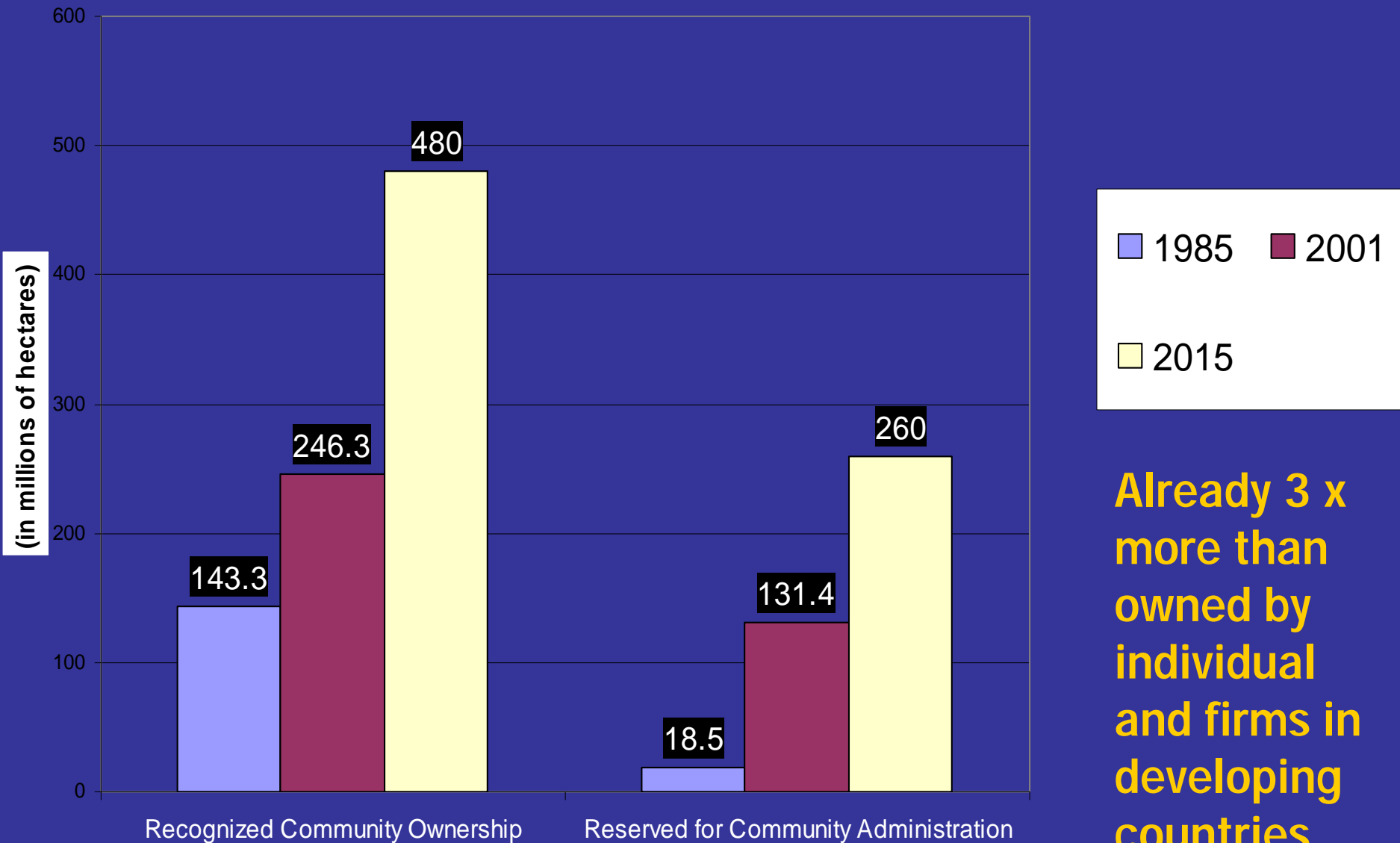
Whose Standards?

- **Conditioning Tenure on Certification in and Around Protected Areas?**
- **Conservation of Hcvfs; Species Management Based on Whose Standards?**
- **Tenure Rights Determined by What Documentation of Traditional Use?**
- **Enterprise Management and Participation Rules by Whose Standards?**

The World of Forestry is Changing

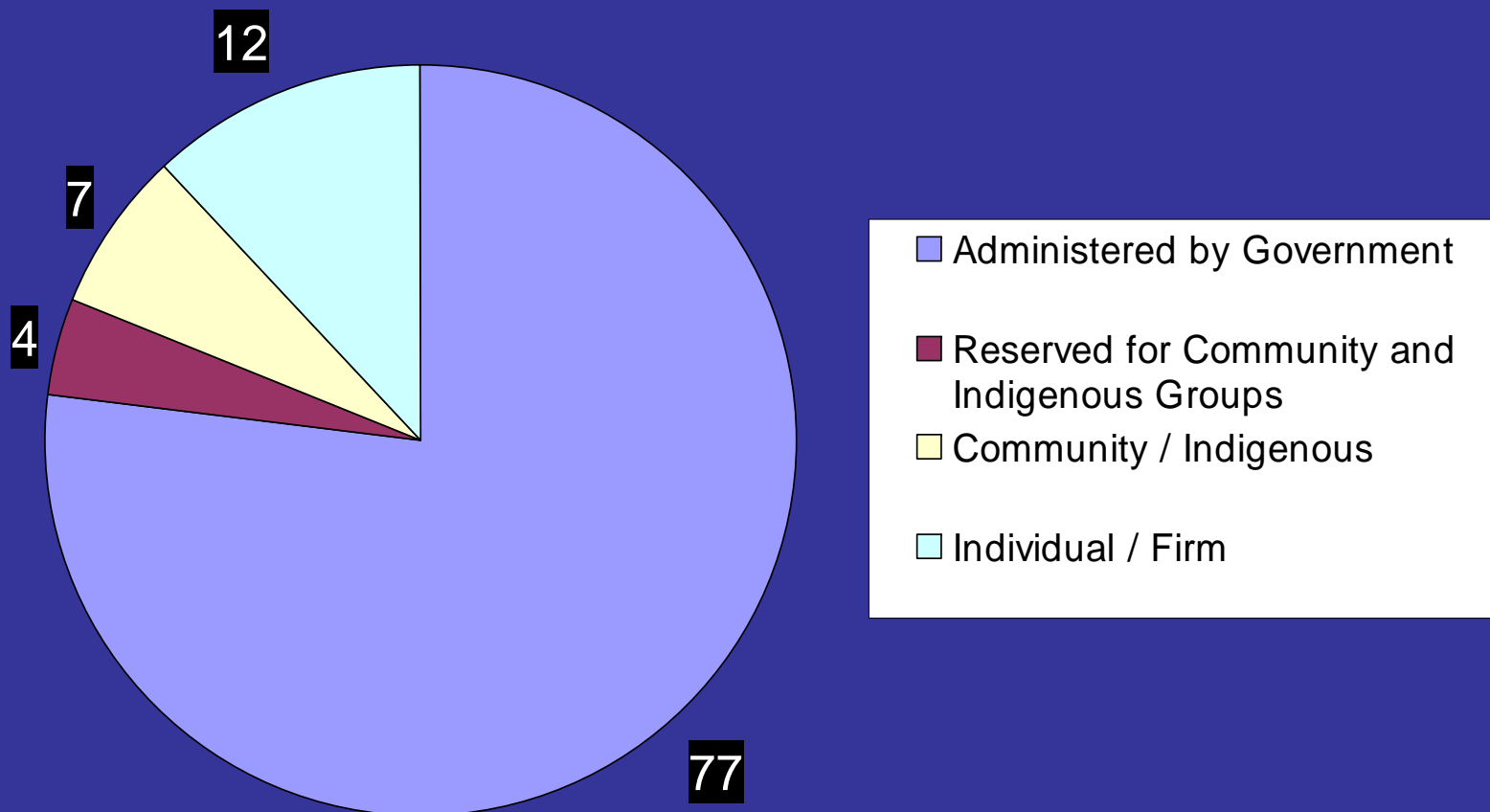


A Doubling in Community Tenure in Last 15 Years: Double Again in the Next?



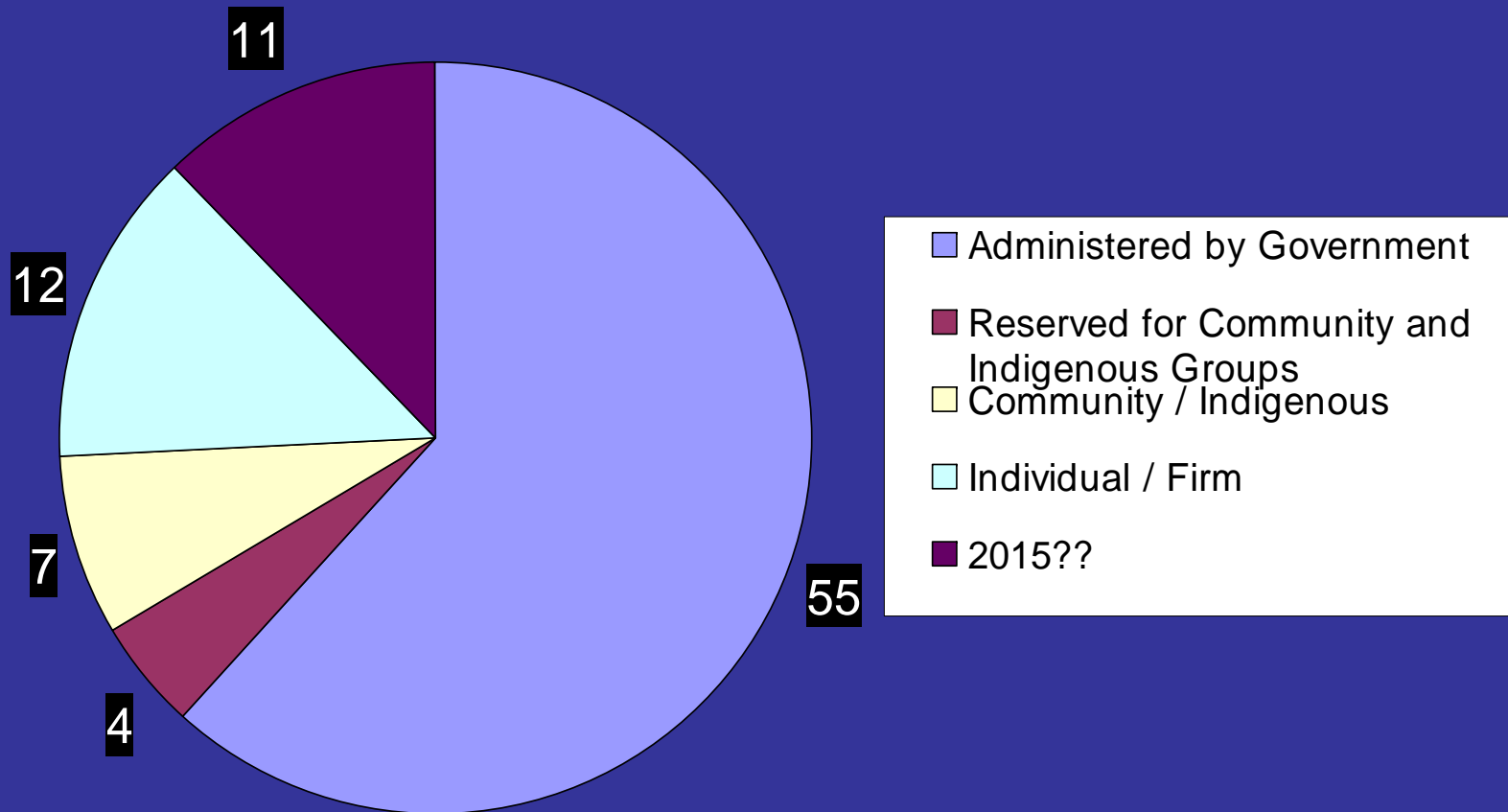
**Already 3 x
more than
owned by
individual
and firms in
developing
countries**

Tenure in Transition: Ownership of the Forest Estate

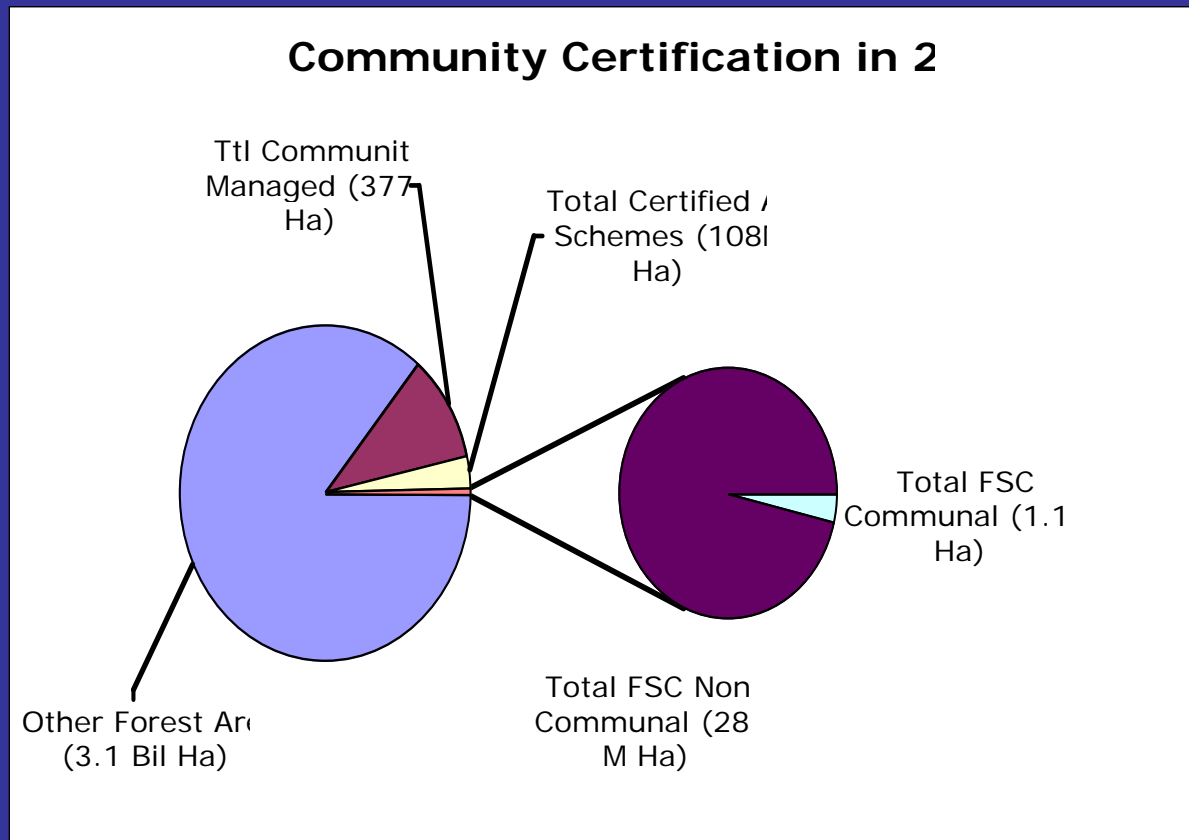


Total of 24 countries	2,803.2	131.4	246.3	443.0
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Tenure in Transition: Ownership of the Forest Estate



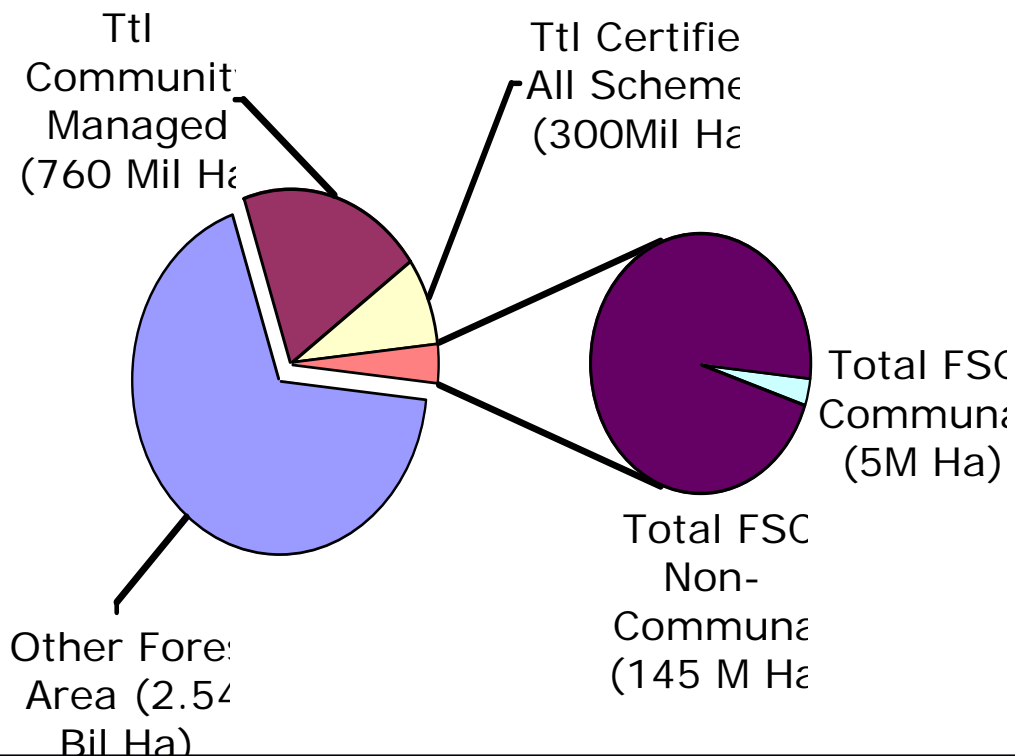
% of Communities Certified



- **3.6 Billion Hectares in Worlds' Forests**
- **377 Million managed by communities (10%)**
- **30 Million FSC Certified (1%)**
- **1.1 Million Communal FM certificates (.03%)**

Communities Certified in 2020

Community Certification in :



- **3.6 Billion Hectares of Worlds' Forests**
- **750 M. Ha Community Managed (22%)**
- **?150-200 M. Ha. FSC Certified (7%)**
- **??5-10 M. Has. Comunal FM (0.5%)**

Alternatives to Certification

- Certification of collectors or harvesters
- Fair trade standards or social standards
- Local or regional brands
- Group certification or modular certification
- Indigenous Peoples community standards
- CIFOR C&I
- Ethnical collection standards (NTFP)

Rising Tensions in Community Certification

- Greater accountability for where wood comes from
 - Certification
 - Supply chain management
 - Responsible trade (proof of legality)
- Tension between higher standards for environmental concerns and more access to social actors
- Tension between increasing the area and amount of wood certified and ensuring that tenure rights and other criteria are fully met in certifying COC or FM
- Tension between standards set internationally by experts and standards derived from local context by social actors and indigenous peoples
- How can certification deal with landscape decisions?
- Do communities need to be commercially viable operations?

Recommendations

- Strategic Review of Community Certification--modify standards?

Indigenous Peoples and Participation in Standard Setting

- Capacity Building/Business Services
- Alternatives to Certification (NTFP, traditional use, social values, etc.)