

# Forest Land Tenure, Governance, and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Asia

**Kathmandu presentation on 29 June 2024**  
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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❖ Concept of forest land tenure and governance
- ❖ Click to edit Master text styles  
Context of FLR
- ❖ Third level  
Fourth level  
Global commitments
- ❖ The extent of forest areas (net loss or gain) in Asia
- ❖ How has community forestry contributed to FLR?
- ❖ Key messages

# Understanding tenure

➤ **Tenure is a bundle of rights** and a broad concept.

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➤ It explains who belongs/owns or holds **what resources**, for **how long**, under **what terms and conditions**.

➤ **Ownership** is a particular type of tenure in which strong rights are associated and those rights are exclusive and permanent.

# Components of bundle of rights

## RIGHTS BUNDLE

1 Access

• 2 Withdrawal

• 3 Use

• 4. Management

• 5 Exclusion

• 6 Alienation

• 7 Duration

• 8. Due compensation

• 9 Extinguishability

## • EXPLANATION

• To enter or pass through

• Quit from being a right holder

• Utilise the resources

• Decide about the management

• Who is in and who is out

• Sell, mortgage, inherit, and transfer

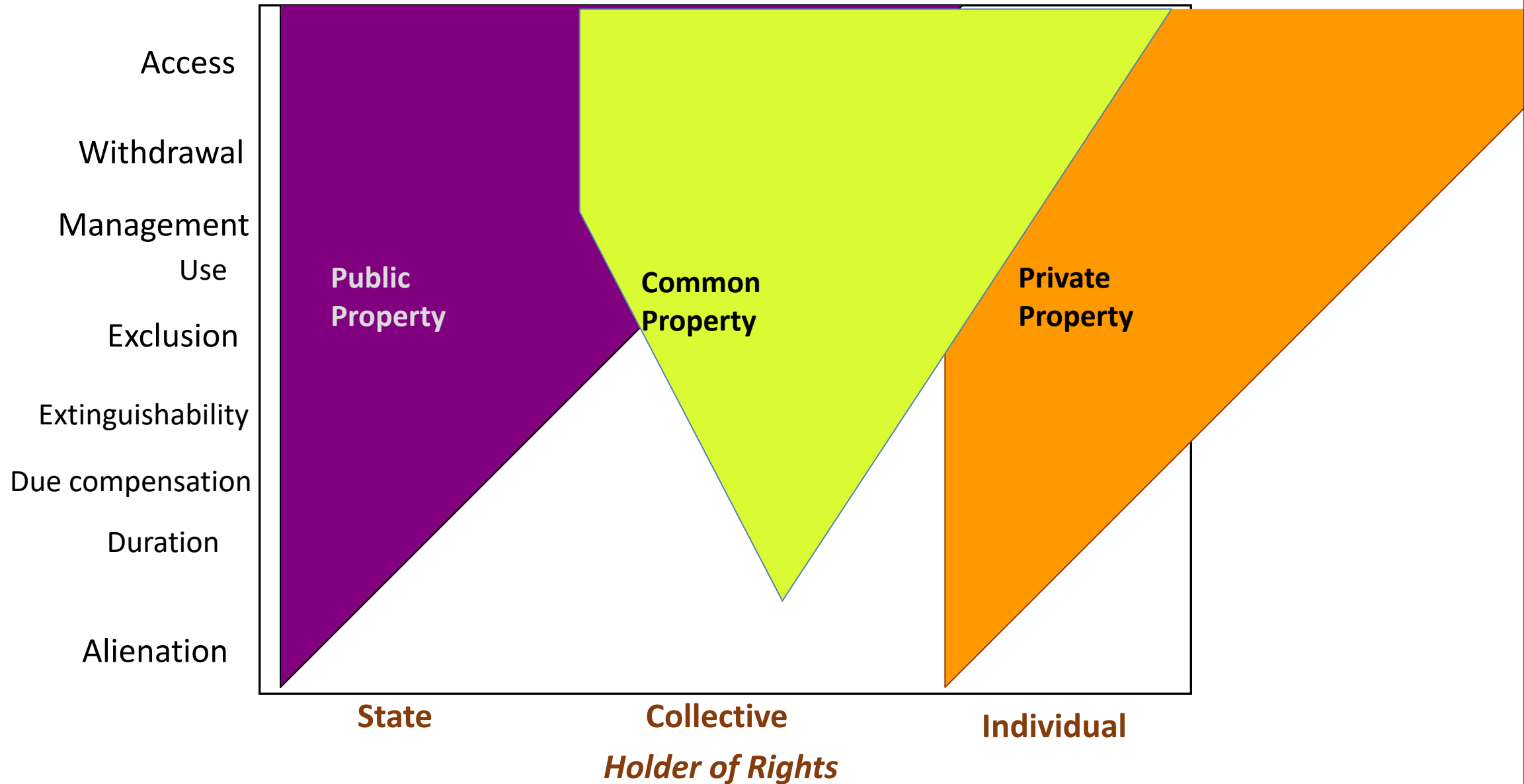
• Longevity of rights

• Compensation in the case of confiscation of resources

• Authority to transfer or change current form of rights

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# Understanding classical concept of property rights



# Forest land tenure categories

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# RIGHTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

## SPECTRUM OF THE BUNDLE OF RIGHTS



### Category 1 Government Administered

Forests are administered by governments, but communities may hold:



### Category 2 Designated for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Communities hold both:



Plus at least 1 of the following:



### Category 3 Owned by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Communities hold all of the following:



Note: Alienation rights (to sell, lease, or use their lands as collateral) are not required under this category.

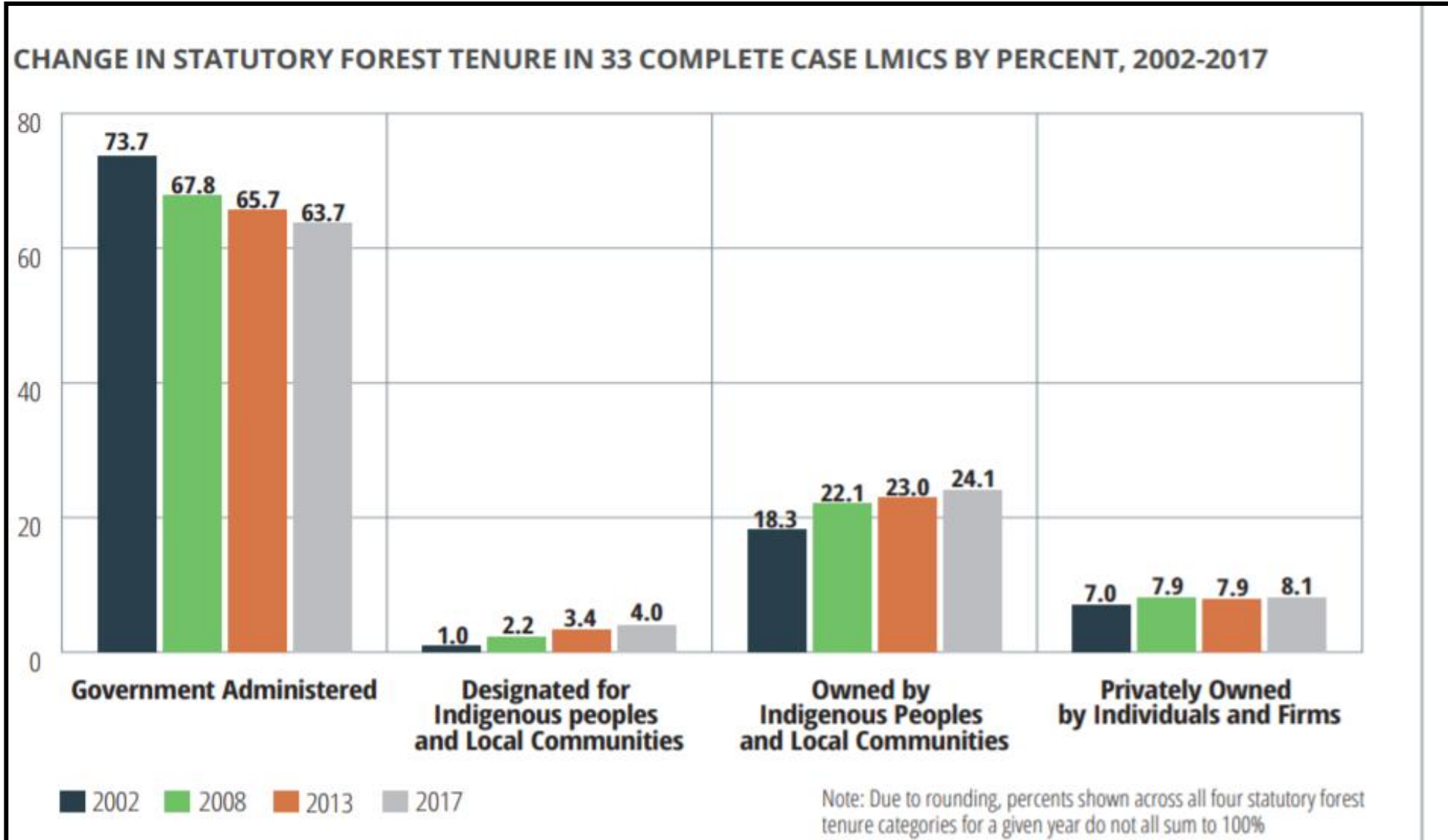
### Category 4 Privately Owned by Individuals and Firms

Individuals and firms hold all of the following:



Communities do not hold rights under this category.

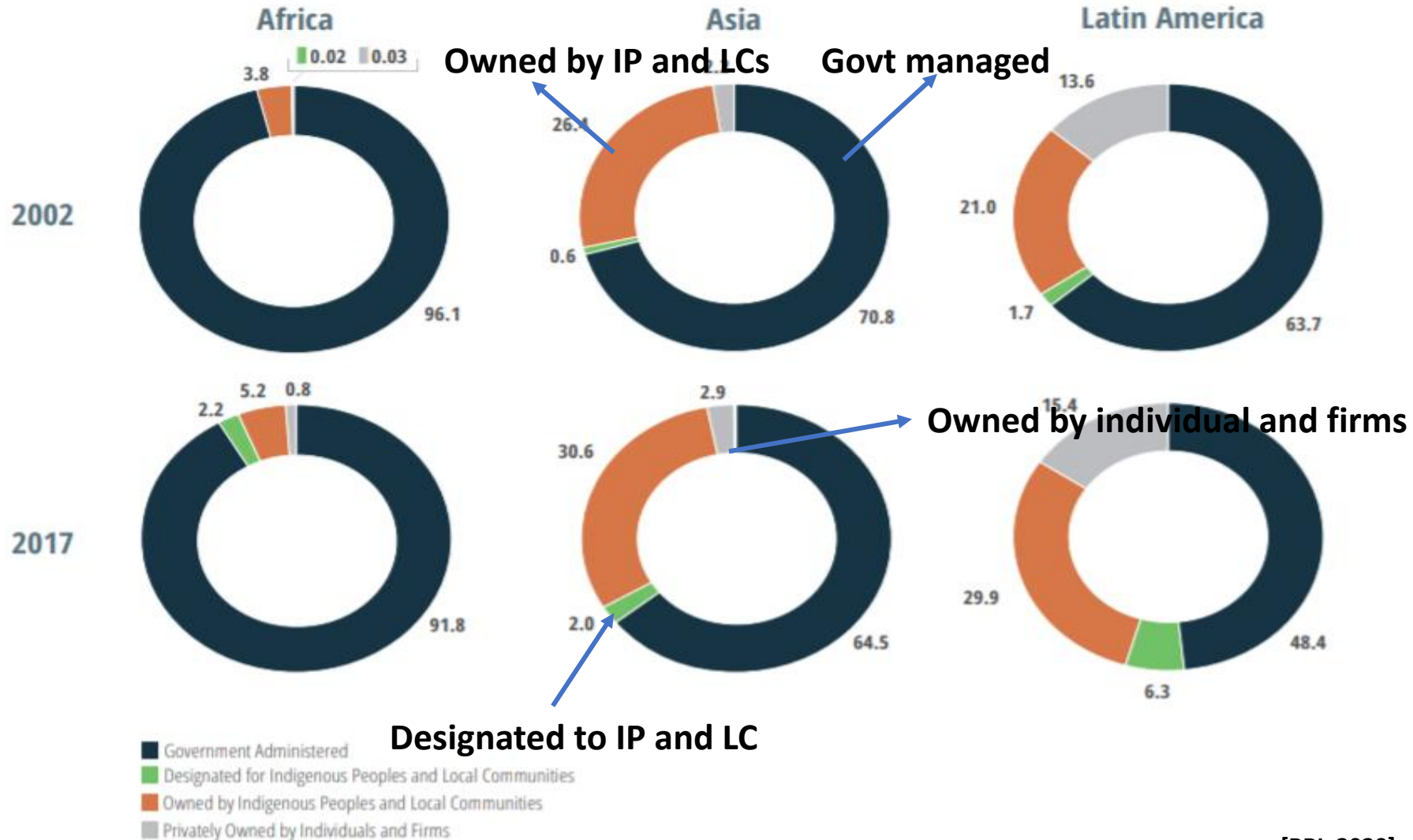
# Forest tenure status- global





# Forest land tenure: regional trend

REGIONAL TRENDS ACROSS COMPLETE CASE LMICS BY PERCENT, 2002-2017



# Governance and its relation with tenure

- ❑ **Governance** involves the exercise of power and authority, decision making and implementation of decisions.

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- ❑ **Good governance** is an ideal which is difficult to achieve, but towards which societies should strive.

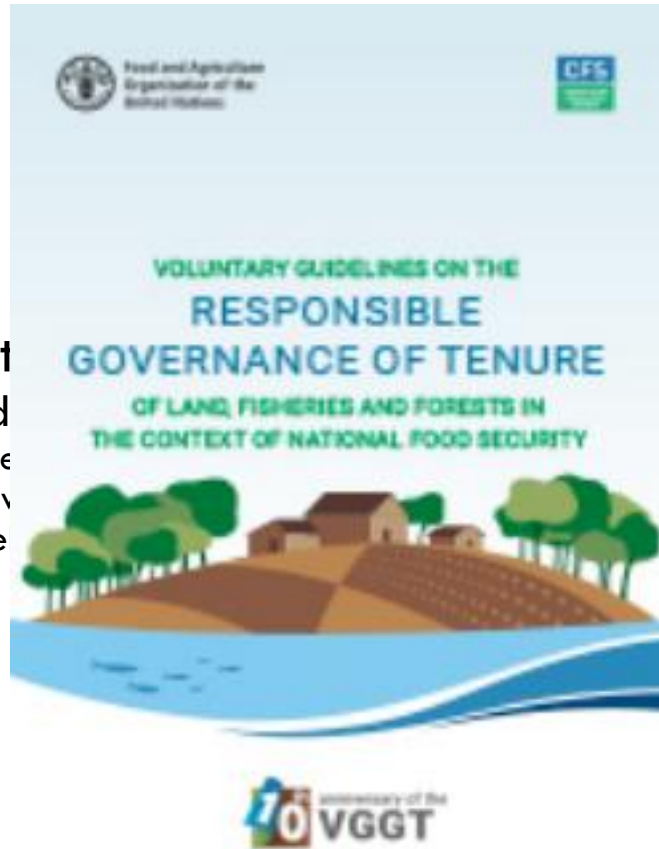
- ❑ **The principles of good governance** include: participation, transparency, equity and fairness, accountability, and rule of laws.



# Why governance matters?

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*The Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests with respect to all forms of tenure: public, private, communal, indigenous, customary and informal*

## VGGT Guiding Principles

- States should **recognize and respect** all legitimate tenure **rights** holders and their rights.

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- **Safeguard legitimate tenure rights** against threats and **infringements**.



➤ **Promote and facilitate the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights**

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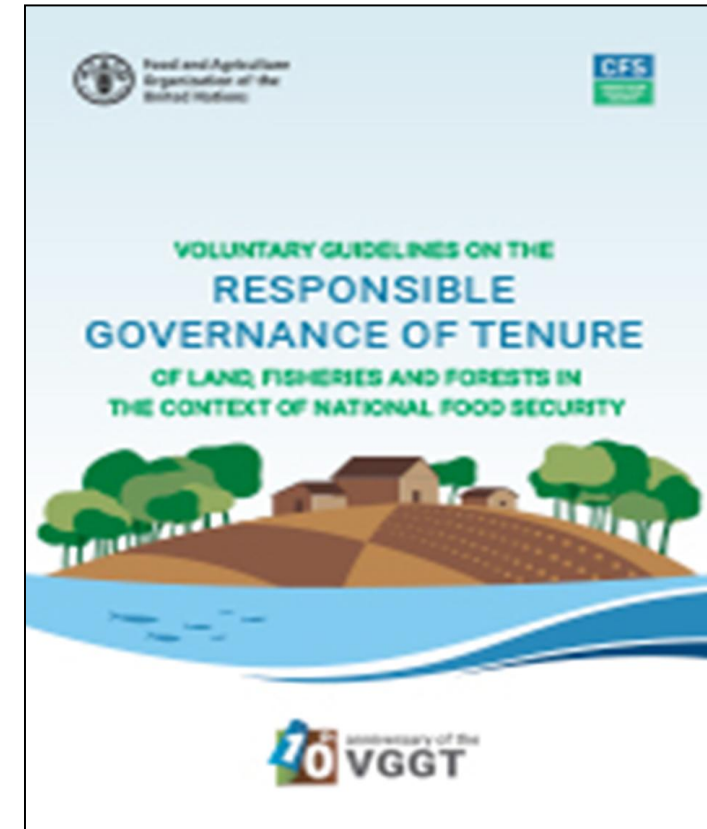
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➤ **Provide access to justice to deal with infringements of legitimate tenure rights**

➤ **Prevent tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption.**





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# Tenure, governance and forest landscape restoration (flr): INTERRELATION

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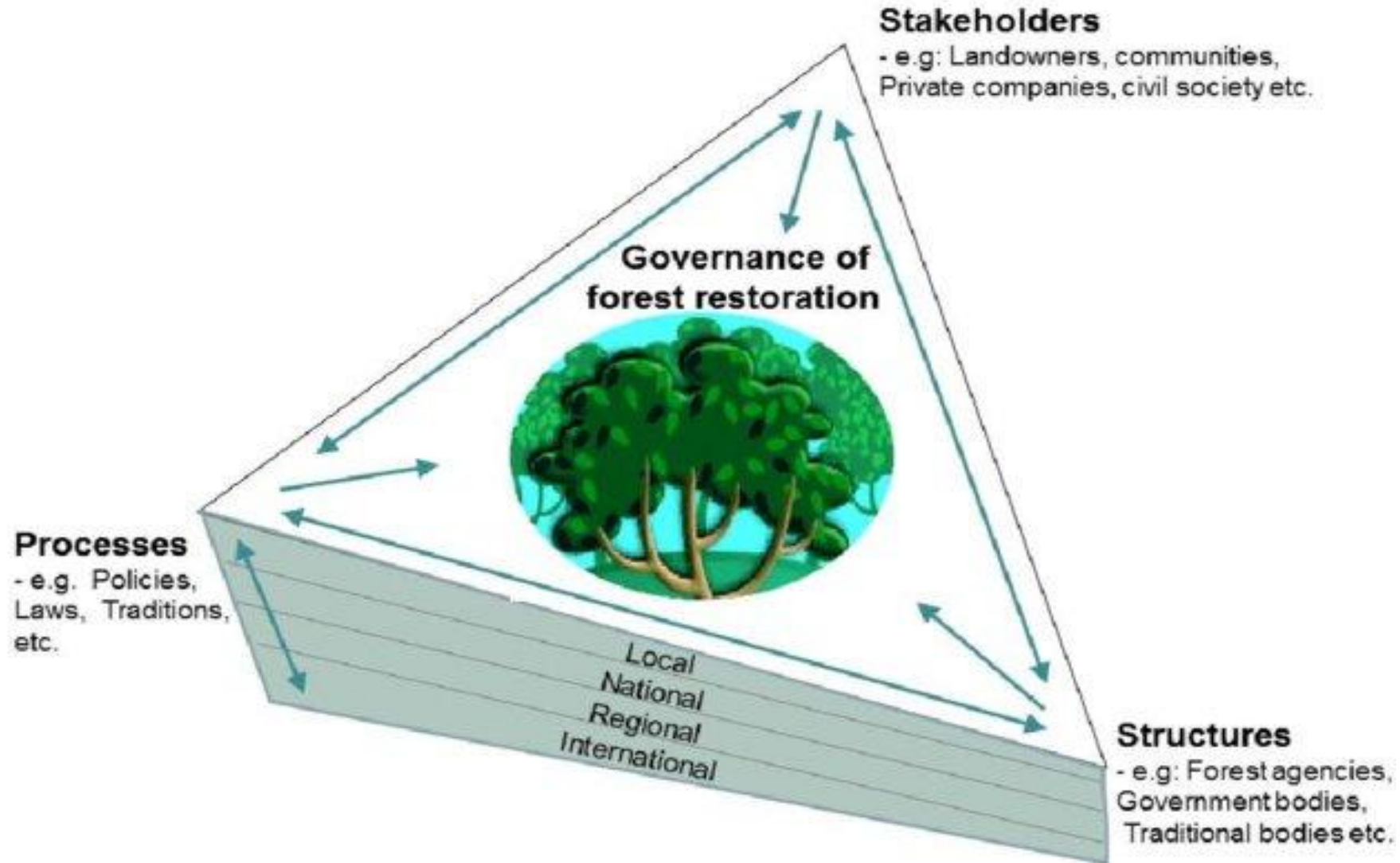
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# Governance and FLR linkages

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# FLR Context

Growing realization to restore **ecological, social and economic** benefits of forestlands and trees within a broader pattern of land uses- mosaic.

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## Current state of FLR- GLOBALLY

The world is losing 10 million hectares of forests each year.

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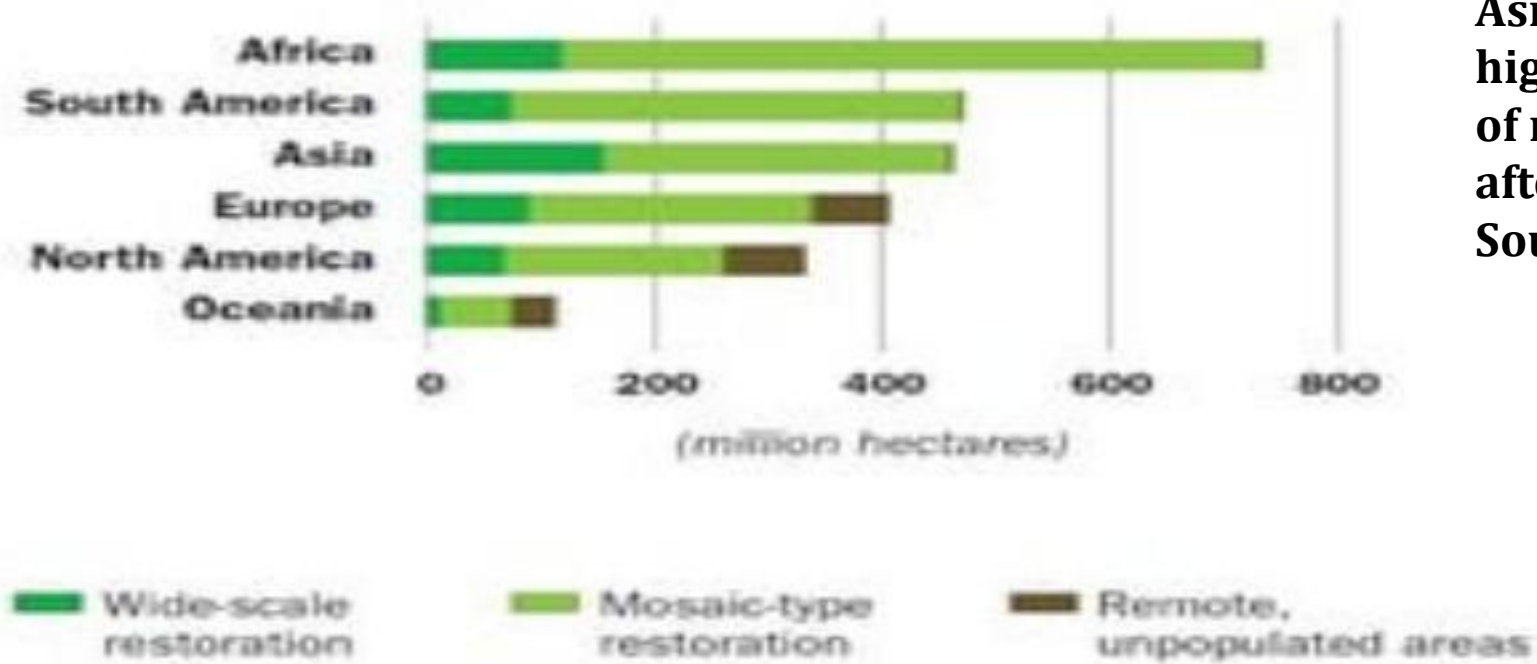
There exists more than two billion hectares of deforested and degraded land around the world.



# Regional status on restoration need

(IUCN, 2018)

Africa has the greatest restoration opportunity area



Asia is with third highest MOSAIC type of restoration area - after Africa and South America

# Regional....

Therefore, there is an urgent need to **regain ecological functionalities and enhance human well-being.**

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**FLR is critical approach in regaining forest biodiversity loss, tackling climate change and improving human well-being.**





# Global commitments on FLR

**The Bonn Challenge** calls for restoring at least 210 million hectares of degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares of forest by 2030.

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**The Aichi Biodiversity** targets includes Target-15, a commitment to restore at least 15 percent of degraded ecosystems by 2020



Since 2011  
**74** countries, states and associations  
have taken up the  
**Bonn Challenge.**

**210 million ha**  
committed to the world's largest  
**forest landscape restoration**  
initiative.



# Global....

## The New York Declaration- Initiative 20 x20

was established

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**Target 15.3** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** looks to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.

	Climate change	Forest and landscape restoration
1994	UNFCCC	
1997	Kyoto Protocol signed	
2000s		Notion of FLR developed
2003		Development and implementation of FLR projects GPFLR initiated
2007		Great Green Wall initiative established
2010		United Nations CBD Aichi Target 15
2011		Bonn Challenge
2013	Warsaw Framework for REDD+ adopted	
2014		NYDF Initiative 20 x 20 established
2015	Paris Agreement signed Intended nationally determined contributions established SDGs adopted	AFR100 established UNCCD LDN voluntary targets FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) established
2019		UNCCD Great Green Wall Phase 2
2020	European Green Deal – aim for neutrality in 2050 Second round of NDCs	
2021	UNFCCC COP26 Glasgow, UK	Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use COP26 Global Forest Finance Pledge United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNEP-FAO) began
2022	IPCC AR6	World Forestry Congress State of the World's Forests
2030	Target: SDG 13 emissions to decline by about 45%	Target: Bonn Challenge Target: SDG 15.3 land degradation neutrality
2050	Climate neutrality	



# Asia: Forest area annual change-regional

Region/subregion	Forest area annual change						
	[FRA, 2020]	1990–2000		2000–2010		2010–2020	
		1 000 ha/yr	%	1 000 ha/yr	%	1 000 ha/yr	%
Eastern and Southern Africa	-1 345	-0.40	-1 773	-0.55	-1 907	-0.62	
Northern Africa	-182	-0.47	-127	-0.34	-168	-0.47	
Western and Central Africa	-1 748	-0.50	-1 503	-0.45	-1 862	-0.59	
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>-3 275</b>	<b>-0.45</b>	<b>-3 403</b>	<b>-0.49</b>	<b>-3 938</b>	<b>-0.60</b>	
East Asia	1 917	0.88	2 332	0.97	1 901	0.73	
South and Southeast Asia	-1 843	-0.58	-262	-0.09	-941	-0.31	
Western and Central Asia	129	0.26	285	0.55	213	0.39	
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>2 355</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>1 173</b>	<b>0.19</b>	
Europe excl. Russian Federation	763	0.40	585	0.30	330	0.16	
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>1 171</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>0.03</b>	
Caribbean	85	1.34	69	0.97	39	0.51	
Central America	-218	-0.81	-211	-0.85	-130	-0.56	
North America	-160	-0.02	327	0.05	-57	-0.01	
<b>Total North and Central America</b>	<b>-293</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>-148</b>	<b>-0.02</b>	
<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>-165</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-231</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>0.23</b>	
<b>Total South America</b>	<b>-5 102</b>	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-5 249</b>	<b>-0.58</b>	<b>-2 597</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	
<b>WORLD</b>	<b>-7 838</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-5 173</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>-4 739</b>	<b>-0.12</b>	

**Message:** Africa is with the highest forest loss 0.60 percent/year, whereas Central America is second with .56 mh/y and South and Southeast Asia by 2020 is the second highest with 0.31 percent annual forest loss, which is huge in scale

# Community forestry's role in restoration of forest land

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# Community contribution to FLR in Asia: 1990-2020 forest cover change (FRA, 2020)(FRA, 2020)

Country	Forest mgmt. system	Forest area mha				Net annual change					
		1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2020	
						1000 ha/y	%	1000h/y	%	1000 h/y	%
Bangladesh	Agroforestry • No CF	1.92	1.92	1.88				-3.2	-0.17	-0.5	-0.03
Bhutan	Community forestry	2.55	2.60	2.70	2.72	9.9	0.39	9.9	0.37	2.0	0.07
Cambodia	Forest Concessions	11.00	10.78	10.58	8.06	-22.40	-0.21	-19.2	-0.18	-252.10	-2.68
China	CF through Collective forests	157.14	177.00	200.61	219.97	1986.00	1.20	2361.00	1.26	1936.80	0.93

**Key message:** China is making progress in FLR as a result of involvement of local communities and by devolving rights to them, but in Cambodia the situation is just opposite.

# Community contribution to FLR in Asia: 1990-2020 forest cover change (FRA, 2020)

Country	Forest mgmt system	Forest area mha				Net annual change					
		1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000		2000-2010		2010-2020	
						1000 ha/y	%	1000h/y	%	1000 h/y	%
India	CBFM through JFM, FRA to tribal and forest dwellers Cooperative Forestry	63.93	67.59	69.49	72.16	365.30	0.56	190.50	0.28	266.40	0.38
Indonesia	Forest concessions, recently village forest Customary Forest-AD	118.54	101.28	99.65	92.13	-1726.50	-1.56	-162.1	-0.16	-752.6	-0.78
Myanmar	Government managed forest. AF based CF piloting	39.21	34.86	31.44	28.54	-435.00	-1.17	-342.7	-1.03	-289.70	-0.96
NEPAL	CF, CoIF, LF BZCF Govt managed NF Protected areas	5.67	5.78	5.96	5.96	10.09	0.19	18.1	0.31	-	-

**Key message:** Countries like Indonesia and Myanmar are much behind in FLR progress as they have not appreciated the role of local communities more extensively, but India, Nepal doing well with CF/JF/FRA

# Community contribution to FLR in Asia: 1990-2020 forest cover change (FRA, 2020)

Country	Forest mgmt system	Forest area mha				Net annual change					
		1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000 1000 ha/y	%	2000-2010 1000h/y	%	2010-2020 1000 h/y	%
Philippines	CBFMA, IPRA Law to IPs domain	7.77	7.30	6.84	7.18	-47.00	-0.62	-47.00	-0.66	34.90	0.50
Sri Lanka	Recently adopted CF system	2.35	2.16	2.10	2.11	-18.4	-0.81	-6.30	-0.29	0.9	0.04
Timor-Leste	Government managed, recently adopted CF	0.96	0.94	0.93	0.92	-1.4	-0.15	-1.4	-0.15	-1.4	-0.15
Viet Nam	CF through Forest Land Allocation to communities	9.37	11.78	13.38	14.63	240.8	2.31	160.4	1.28	125.5	0.90

**Key message:** countries like Viet Nam and Philippines are making progress on FLR in recent decade as they have involved and appreciated the role of local communities and indigenous peoples and devolved power required for the operation of community forestry. But Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka still have not extensively adopted community forestry and not given rights to IPs and LCs

# Key messages

- Improved governance and secure tenure are fundamental for improved forest landscape management.



# KEY MESSAGES...

- In most situation-FLR is possible through active involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples.





# Key messages...

- CF could contribute towards sustainable management of forest landscapes, climate resilient community and ecosystems



# Key messages.....

- Every local context is different, so locally led, adaptive, social and ecological systems/approaches need to be applied to ensure effective restoration.





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# THANK YOU SO MUCH

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