

Biodiversity & Forestry Seminar Series

BRIEFING ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE *Rights and Resources Initiative*

A presentation by **Andy White**

Come hear about two recent reports from RRI:

- RRI's 2011-2012 annual review on the state of rights and resources,
TURNING POINT: What future for forest peoples and resources in the emerging world order?
- *Rights to Resources in Crisis: Reviewing the fate of customary tenure in Africa* by Liz Alden Wily

“Worldwide, the use and management of natural resources and systems of trade and governance have been in flux for years. Yet 2011 may well be remembered as the year of definitive turning points: it was a year when the shift in global political and economic power to emerging economies became clear; it was a year when the conventional economic paradigm recognized the increasing scarcity of natural resources; and it was a year when it became clear that national and global development requires respect for local people and their resources.” (Turning Point)

Findings from Alden Wily's analysis of tenure rights in 35 African countries show that just as the nations of sub-Saharan Africa seem poised to make dramatic economic gains the continent's poorest residents are increasingly locked out of their only real source of wealth – land and its resources. The frenzied sell-off of prime lands to buyers hungry for the developing world's natural resources has led to the repetitive and tragic marginalization of the customary land rights across Africa. Alden Wily's review found that 428 million of the rural poor are essentially “squatters” on the 1.4 billion hectares claimed by states.

The release of these publications in tandem explores this **unprecedented global interest in community lands and resources**. Together, these reports points to Africa is an indication of a global phenomenon leaving the 3 billion people living in and around the forests and drylands in developing countries (38% of the Earth's land surface) vulnerable to land-grabbing .

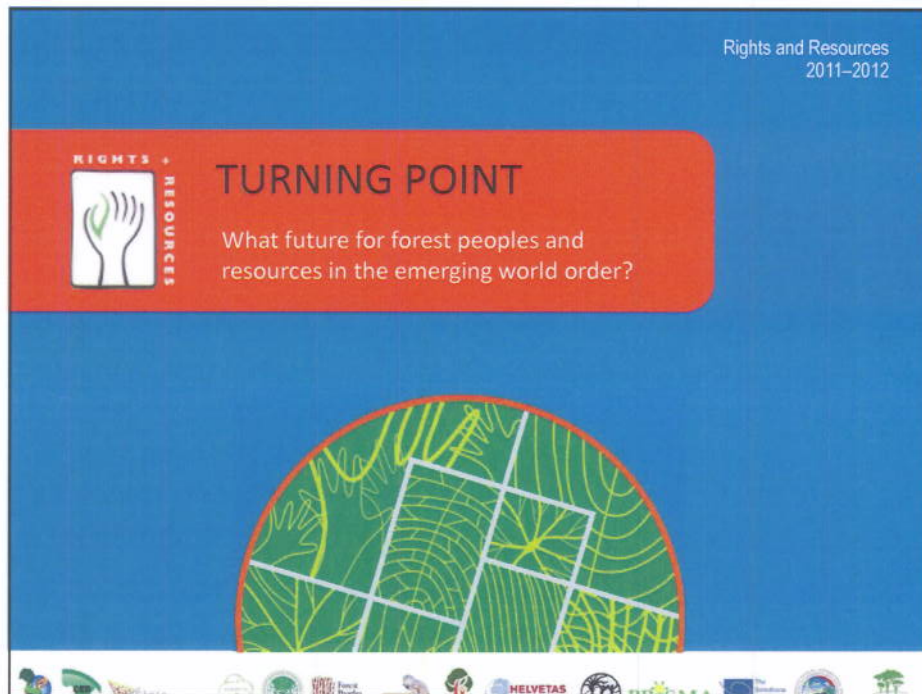
TURNING POINT concludes by forecasting the key questions and challenges that will shape 2012.

March 21, 2012; 12:00–1:30 pm

USAID/EGAT Bridge (3.8.77)
Ronald Reagan Building



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The image is a slide with a light green background. At the top left, there is a red banner with the "Rights and Resources" logo (two hands holding a green leaf) and the text "For Today's Discussion" in white. Below the banner, there is a list of two bullet points in black text.

- **TURNING POINT:** What future for forest peoples and resources in the emerging world order?
- **Rights to Resources in Crisis:** Reviewing the fate of customary tenure in Africa (5 brief series by RRI Fellow, Liz Alden Wily)



Turning Point: 2011-2012

People's resources at the center of the emerging world order

Forest tenure and the implementation gap: Laws on the books but not on the ground

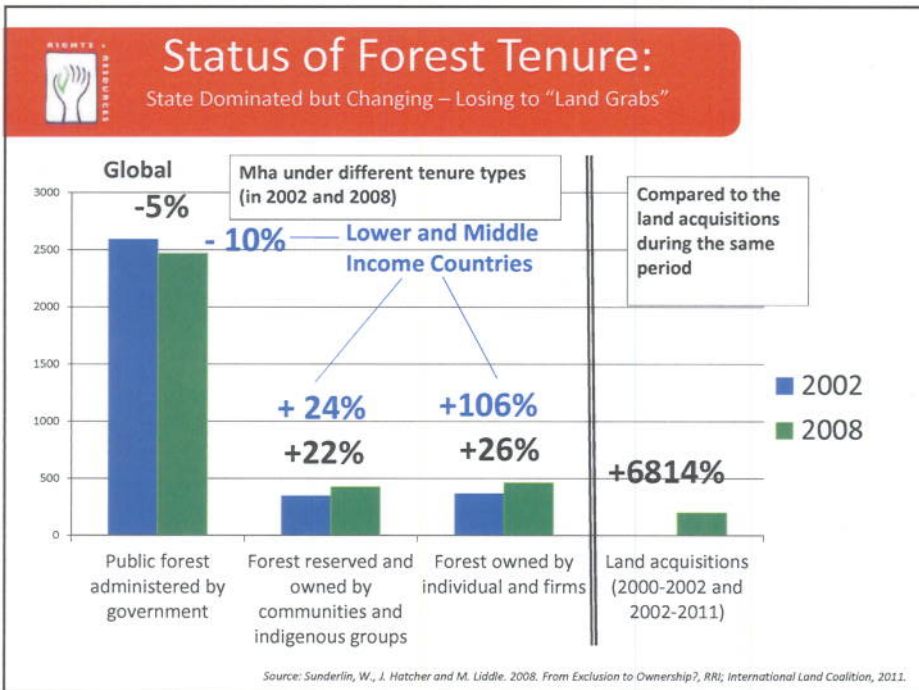
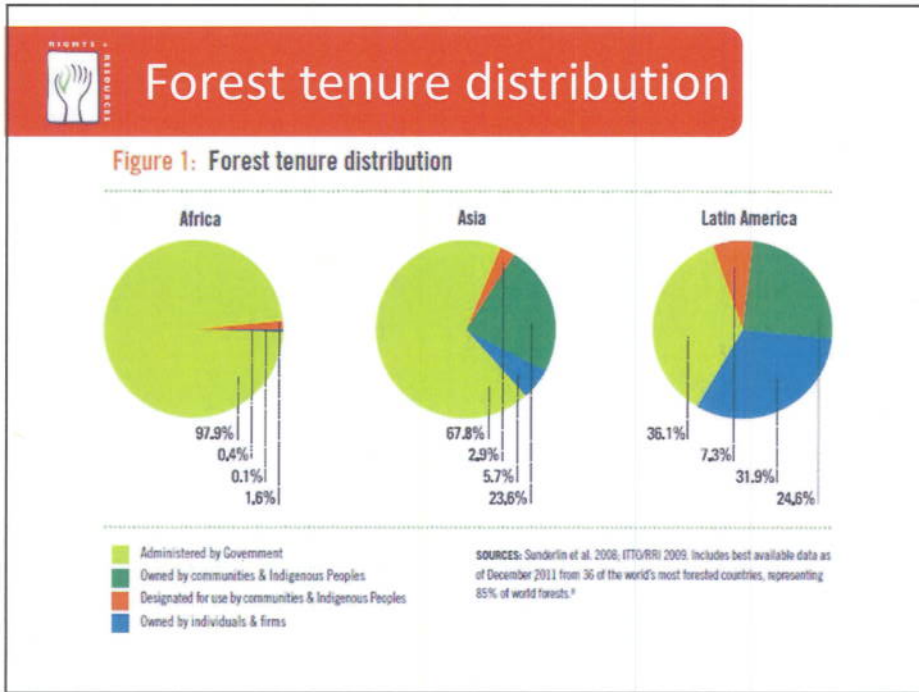
2011 may well be remembered as the year of definitive turning points:

- The shift in global political and economic power to emerging economies became clear
- Conventional economic paradigm recognized the increasing scarcity of natural resources
- It became clear that national and global development and security hinges on local people's expectations and their resources



2011 in Focus

- **REDD wobbles, tenure gains traction :**
No hope for a global forest carbon market.
At the same time: 2011 Research showed that community control is the best long-term insurance for forests. > Forest tenure reform now recognized as a necessary climate policy.
- **Infrastructure investments boom, and so does conflict**
Up to US\$1 trillion spent annually in infrastructure in developing countries
- **Land-grabbing gets grubbier**
200 million hectares had been bought or leased by agri-businesses since 2001 (2/3 in Africa)
- **Seven billion and counting: Consumption trumps population as the key threat**
9.3 bn people by 2050, middle class rising, so as consumption in a world already facing resource/water scarcity
- **Outrage and occupy: Fed-up with inequality**
Inequality fueling protest movements in both developed and developing countries





State of Forest Tenure

- **Major turning point underway: forests no longer the world's hinterland**
- **No globally significant progress on recognition of collective rights in 2010 and 2011**, but more global attention to the need for them:
 - Large scale land acquisition ("land grabbing") booming
 - Laws on the books but not on the ground
 - Recognition of forest tenure rights seen by governments as limited programs/projects rather than guiding principle
 - Trends going in the wrong direction
 - In 2007, RRI stated we were "on the verge of the last land grab" – 5% of sub-Saharan Africa "grabbed" since then, 30% or Liberia "grabbed".



Forest tenure and the implementation gap: Laws on the books but not on the ground

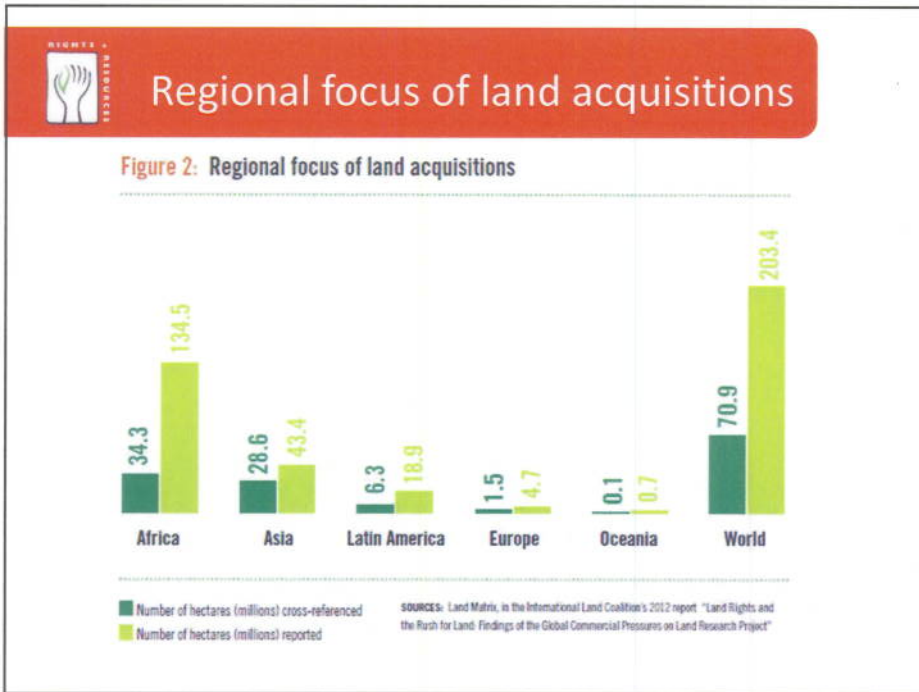
In 2011, RRI analyzed 61 forest tenure regimes in 30 of the world's most forested countries

- 85% of the regimes analyzed were established after 1992
- 95% of the regimes restrict community rights

Latin America: the broadest and most complex system of community forest tenure regime. => 28% of the forests under some community tenure regime.

Africa: 35% of the regimes not implemented (lack of regulations) => only 5% of the forests under some community tenure regime.

Asia: 35% of the forests under some community tenure regime (mostly due to China).





Global middle class prediction for 2030

Figure 3: Global middle class prediction for 2030



The x- and y-axes are used as coordinates to plot the bubble into a specific country/region in the map.
SOURCES: Standard Chartered Global Research, The Super-Cycle Report, 2010.



Overlap of Local Rights and Interests VS National and Global Investments: Case of Peru





Rights to Resources in Crisis

Five Briefs:

1. Customary Land Tenure in the Modern World
2. Putting 20th-Century Land Policies in Perspective
3. Land Reform in Africa: A Reappraisal
4. The Status of Customary Land Rights in Africa Today
5. The Global Land Rush: What It Means for Customary Rights



Rights to Resources in Crisis

Key Findings:

First comprehensive review of land rights and reform in 35 sub-Saharan countries. It explains why the land grabs have been so focused in Africa.

1. In sub-Saharan Africa, 2/3rds of the population rely on customary land rights to common resources (e.g. forests, wetlands and range lands), covering an area of 1.4 billion hectares – or about 3/5ths of the land area – which are not legally recognized as community property.
2. Of the 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa: only 9 have land laws favorable to local, customary rights, the remaining 26 are mixed or negative in their treatment. But laws are rarely respected in practice.
3. Land acquisitions focused on areas under legally insecure customary rights => **“Weak land rights allow Africa to be consumed”**.



Questions for 2012

- **Will 2012 see the end of effective global action on climate change?**
Deception in Durban: deal on binding targets on greenhouse gas emissions postponed to 2015. Qatar: last hope of preventing dangerous climate change?
- **Will REDD be reformed or overtaken?**
Without shift to REDD 2.0, will it suffer the same fate as the Kyoto Protocol's moribund Clean Development Mechanism?
- **Where will Indonesia's tenure reform road take them?**
Will the government uphold its 2011 commitment to forest tenure reform?
What will happen once the moratorium on forest licenses end?
- **Will Rio get real?**
No rights in Rio I. Will Rio II recognize the centrality of rights and governance?



Thank you!

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