

An aerial photograph of a forest. The left side shows a dense, green forest. The right side shows a cleared area with a large pile of logs and lumber, indicating logging activity.

SEEKING PEACE AND SAVING ASIA'S FOREST: FOREST CONFLICT IN ASIA



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Objectives of Today's Presentation

- Share with you our findings
- Present the case of placing greater attention to forest conflict
- Consider actions we can take



Outline of Today's Presentation

- Overview and Findings – Jim Schweithelm
- Video – Mary Melnyk
- Partnerships – Mary Melnyk
- Your Questions



Overview and Findings

Jim Schweithelm
Senior Associate, ARD, Inc



SIGNIFICANCE OF FOREST CONFLICT

- Drives Violence at Various Scales
- Is Cause/Effect of Weak Governance & Fragility
- Causes Human Rights Abuses
- Increases Poverty
- Accelerates Environmental Degradation



TOPICS COVERED

- Types of Forest Conflict
- How Big is the Problem?
- Causes
- Effects
- USAID's Work on This Issue
- What Can be Done?



BROAD CATEGORIES OF FOREST CONFLICT

- Revenue Source to Fund Armed Conflict – Burma & Cambodia
- Object of Competition – Indonesia & Nepal



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DIMENSIONS OF CONFLICT

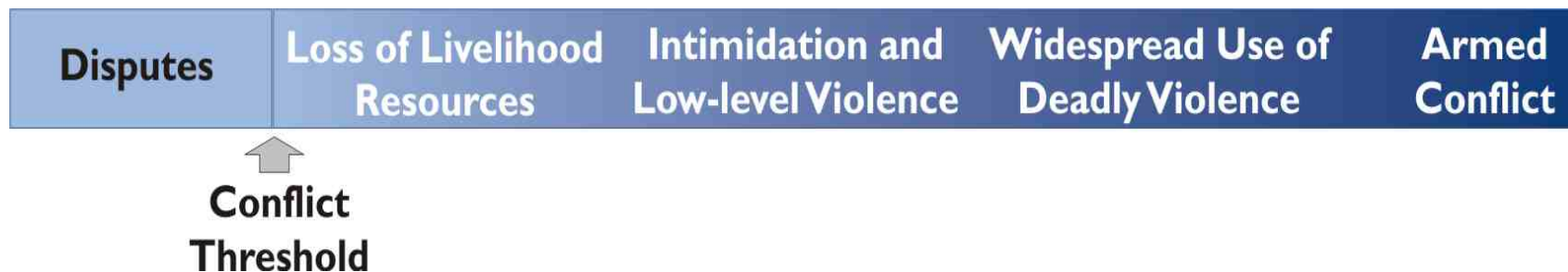
- Who Is Involved?
- What is the Conflict Over?
- How Valuable is the Resource?
- What is the End Use?
- How Severe is the Conflict?
- Is it Legal? Is it Just?



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LEVELS OF FOREST CONFLICT – A CONTINUUM OF SEVERITY





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How Big is the Problem?

- 12 of 27 Countries in Asia/Near East Affected
- Forest Products Financed Conflict in: Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines
- In addition, Security Forces Profit in: Bangladesh, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia
- Also Forest Conflict in India and Pakistan



Asian Forest Products Imported to US

- \$9 Billion in Wood Products Imported from Asia to US in 2004 – 30% of imports
- \$8 billion of this furniture and \$6 billion of that from China
- Wood Panels and molding rest of trade.
- Russian Far East, Indonesia, & Malaysia largest suppliers of round wood to China
- Pulp and Paper Imports from China to US increasing – most raw material sourced from outside the region.



Ways to Quantify Conflict

- Indonesia Newspaper Survey – 845 reports of forest conflict in 2002 in 6 regional newspapers
- This result despite systematic under-reporting
- Only violent conflict made the media.



GIS Estimate in Indonesia

- Forest-rich islands analyzed: Sumatra, Kalimantan, Maluku, Papua – 14 provinces
- Assume Conflict Co-related with Deforestation
- Deforested areas plus buffer zone combined with population data to estimate people affected.
- Up to 22.5 million people, 40% of population of target provinces affected: 10% of all Indonesians
- Results varied with buffer zone width – 3km maximum. People affected reduced to 2.5 million with no buffer zone.



Cambodia: Forest & Land Conflict

- 1.7 million people, or 15% of Cambodians directly or indirectly affected by land and forest conflict.



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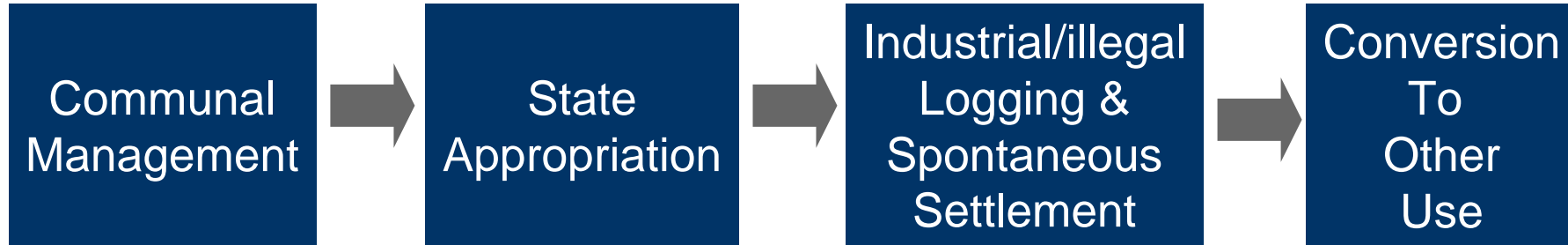


PARADIGMS OF NATURAL RESOURCE CONFLICT

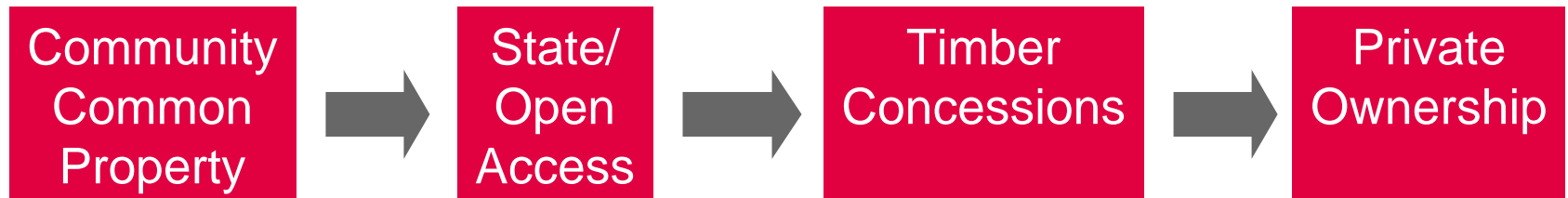
- Scarcity
- Power relationships/context
- Opportunity



FOREST TRANSFORMATION



INCREASING CONFLICT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT →





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MACRO CAUSES OF CONFLICT

- Armed Conflict – Revenue and Refuge
- Post-Conflict and Fragile States
- Weak Governance
- Unaccountable Security Forces
- Poorly Conceived Economic Development



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DIRECT CAUSES

- Timber Concessions
- Plantations
- Roads
- Illegal Logging (Cause/Effect)
- Management/Enforcement Weak
- Migrants
- Elite Capture
- Biodiversity Conservation



POLICY AND PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS

- Forest conflict is an important issue in its own right
- Managing forest conflict is an essential part of:
 - Economic development
 - Environmental conservation
 - Good governance



HUMAN EFFECTS

- Death and Intimidation
- Displacement
- Livelihood Loss/Impoverishment – Transfer of Wealth from Poor to Rich
- Social/Political Marginalization
- Loss of Human Rights



GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

- Weakens Governance Legitimacy
- Fuels Corruption
- Drives Violence
- Wastes Resources/Reduces Revenue
- Makes the Poorest Poorer
- Biodiversity Lost
- Diminishes Environmental Services



FORESTS IN THE CONFLICT CYCLE

- Involvement of Security Forces
- Predicting Instability
- Preventing Conflict
- Building Peace
- Recovery and Transition



USAID CONFLICT TIMBER PROJECT

- Asia and Africa 2001-2003
- OTI/ANE with ARD
- Macro Focus in 15 Countries
- Connection to Poor Governance
- Involvement of Security Forces
- Loose Financial Regulations
- Weak Land and Resource Tenure



MANAGING CONFLICT IN ASIAN FOREST COMMUNITIES

- 2003-2007 – ANE with ARD
- Community-Level Focus
- Assessments: Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Nepal
- Assessment Methodology
- Workshops: Philippines, Cambodia
- Community Empowerment in Cambodia
- Communications and Outreach
- Influenced USAID Programming in Target Countries



MANAGING CONFLICT IN ASIAN FOREST COMMUNITIES

Partnership Building

- NGO
- Private Sector, Government and NGO
- Defense, Diplomatic and Development Community



ACTION: GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen Legal Framework
- Fight Corruption
- Uphold Human Rights
- Control Military
- Rationalize Decentralization Process
- Promote Participatory Resource Allocation and Management
- Protect Forest Use Rights and Land Tenure



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ACTION: EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

- Educate About Legal Rights
- Facilitate Dialogue with Government and Private Sector
- Teach Conflict Management Tools



ACTION: USE THE MARKET

- Urge Consumers and the Forest Products Industry to Demand Conflict-Free Products
- Adopt Systems to Ensure Legality of Supplies
- Encourage Full Economic Valuation of Resources Including Environmental Services



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Video

“Resolving Cambodia's Forest Conflict”

An example of the situation across Asia



Natural resource based conflict in the Philippines - a USAID and partners workshop, Manila 2004

Leader of a Filipino upland farmer federation:

- The first time they were able to discuss and share their experiences with such a diverse audience
- Previous development projects failed because they did not identify conflicts over natural resources as a critical issue



Community Level Impacts of Forest and Land Conflicts in Mondulkiri, Cambodia

- Assistance with illegal logging
- Information on laws
- Assistance with participatory land use planning



NGOs: Environment, Conflict and Relief – December 2005

- Sharing of tools and expanding upon them
- Going beyond specialization
- Raise awareness of environment and conflict links among leadership of organizations
- More holistic approach needed to conflict, development and environment



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Private Sector & NGOs – December 2005

- Define illegally & conflict-sourced wood to assist companies in good purchasing
- Influence demand in U.S. for products through better supply chain tracking



Defense, Donor and Diplomats- February 2006

- Promote adoption of an internationally-recognized definition of conflict resources
- Explore institutional options such as considering natural resources in the UN peace building commission and other UN security institutions



USAID –Alliance to Combat Illegal Logging

A Legality Standard for Timber Products from Indonesia

- **PRINCIPLE 1. LAND TENURE AND USE RIGHTS**
- **PRINCIPLE 3. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKERS RIGHTS**



Responsible Asia Forests and Trade Alliance

Promotes responsible timber trade and the sustainable management of forest resources and biodiversity

- Standard
- Participatory Planning
- Conflict Management



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Nishorgo Project: Bangladesh

- Co-management of Tropical Forests with communities, local government and Forest Department
- Councils seen as neutral parties for conflict resolution



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