

# An Introduction to Community Forestry

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# Defining community forestry:

- Local community plays a significant role in forest management and land use decision making

# Defining community forestry: Six questions to ask

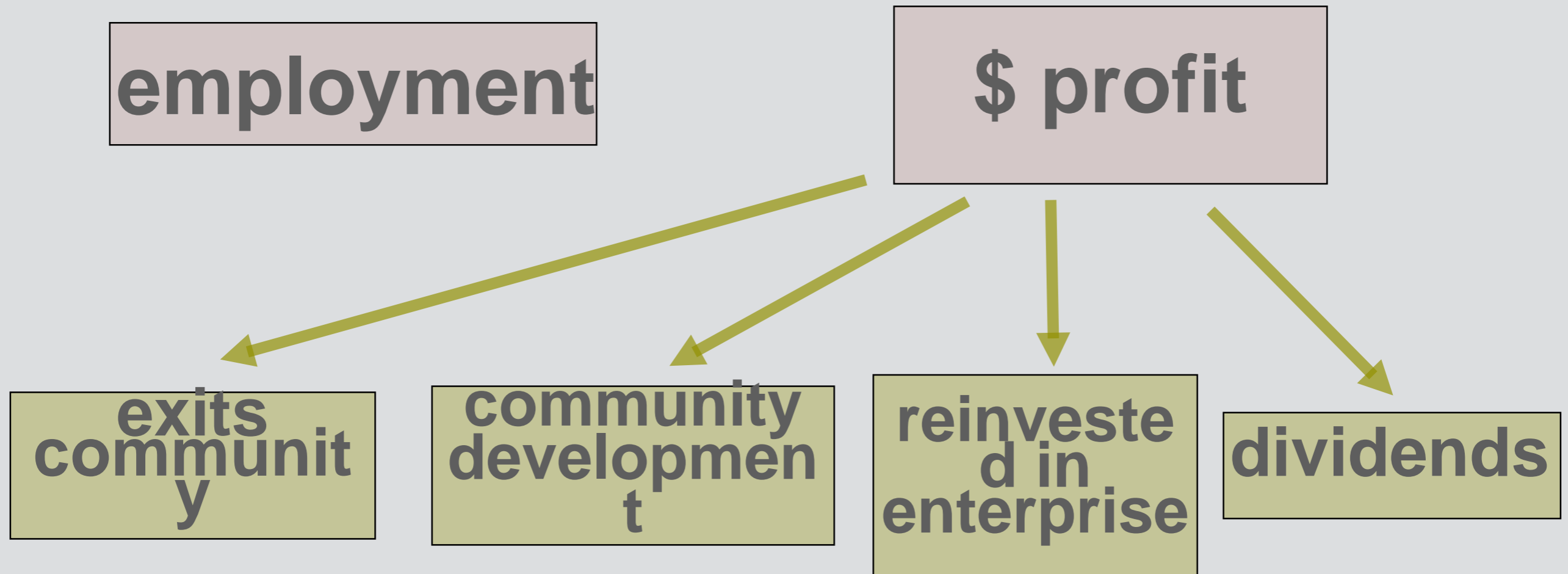
## community or non-community:

- Who **owns** the land?
- Who has **access/use** rights to the land?
- Who **decides** what happens on the forest area?
- Who **manages** the forest area (planning, operations)?
- Who **benefits** (economically or otherwise)?
- Is it **sustainable**?

# Characterizing community forestry

- Variety of tenure and governance arrangements
- Variety of internal organizational structures
- Subsistence use and/or commercialization of products and services
  - Timber and non-timber forest products, ecosystem services
- Low to high degrees of mechanization of extraction and processing

# benefit distribution from forest enterprise

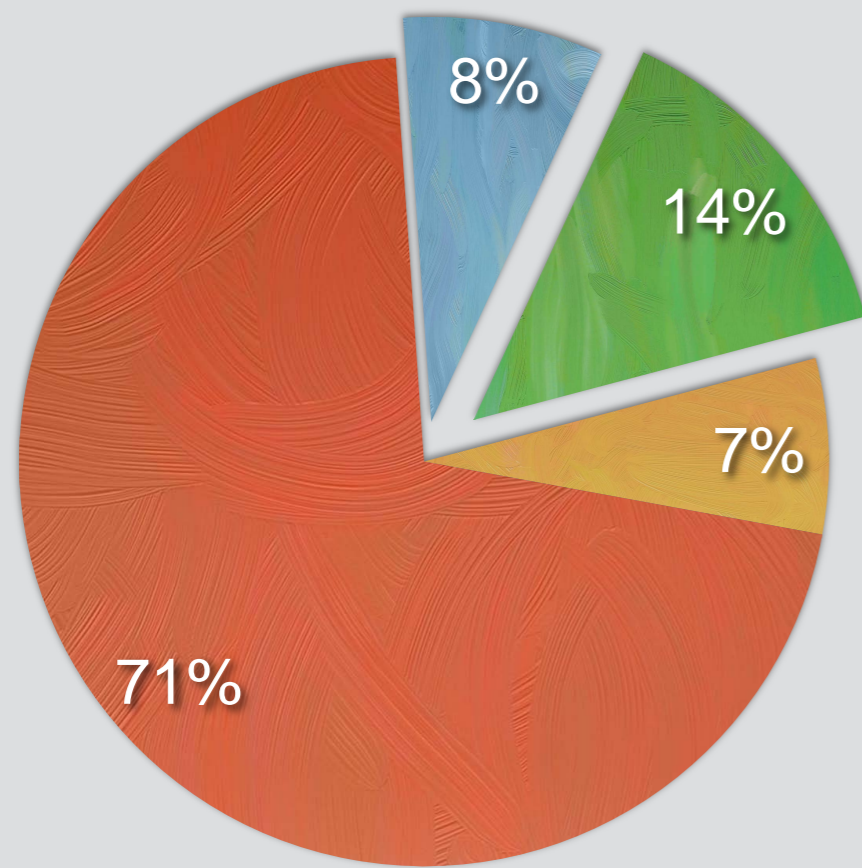


# Benefit sharing

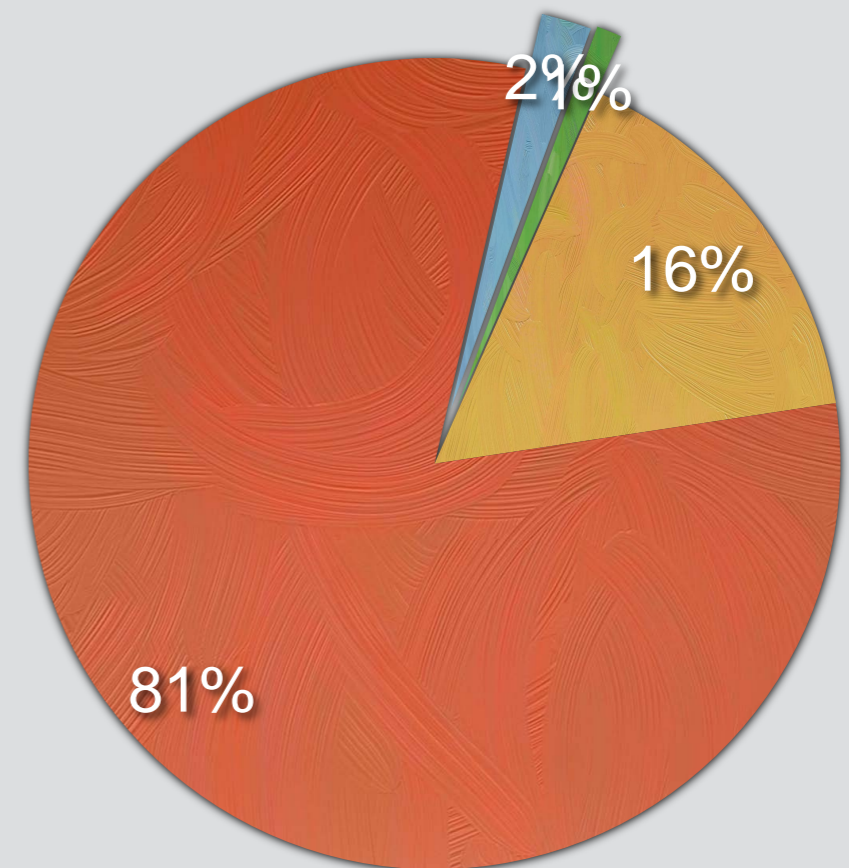
- cases where:
  - everyone benefits
  - small group (employees) benefits
  - elite capture (cases in Brazil, the Philippines, India, Nepal)
  - inequalities (cases in Nepal)
  
- marginalization of certain groups (cases in Cameroon, Brazil, India, Nepal)

# Community Forestry on the rise

- Reserved for communities/indigenous groups
- Community/indigenous owned
- Individual/firm owned
- Gov't administered



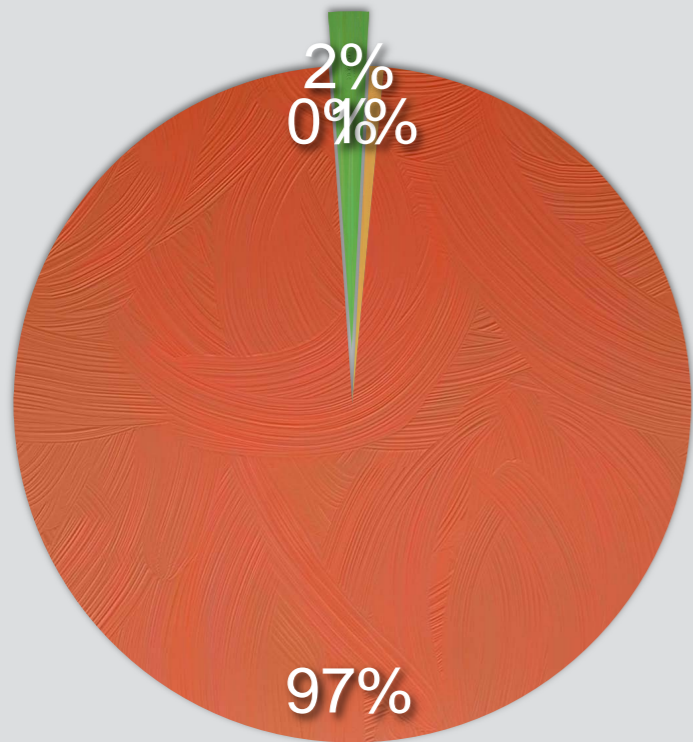
**Developing countries**



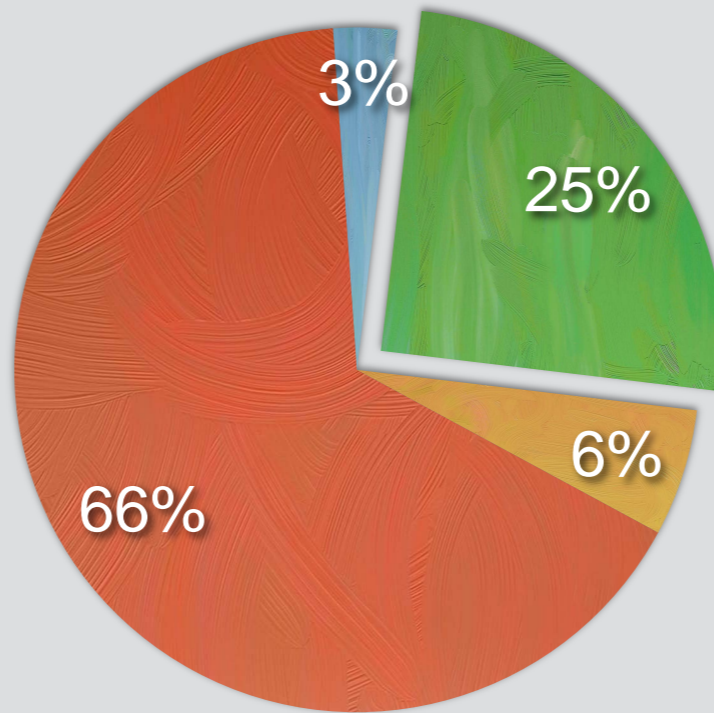
**Developed countries**



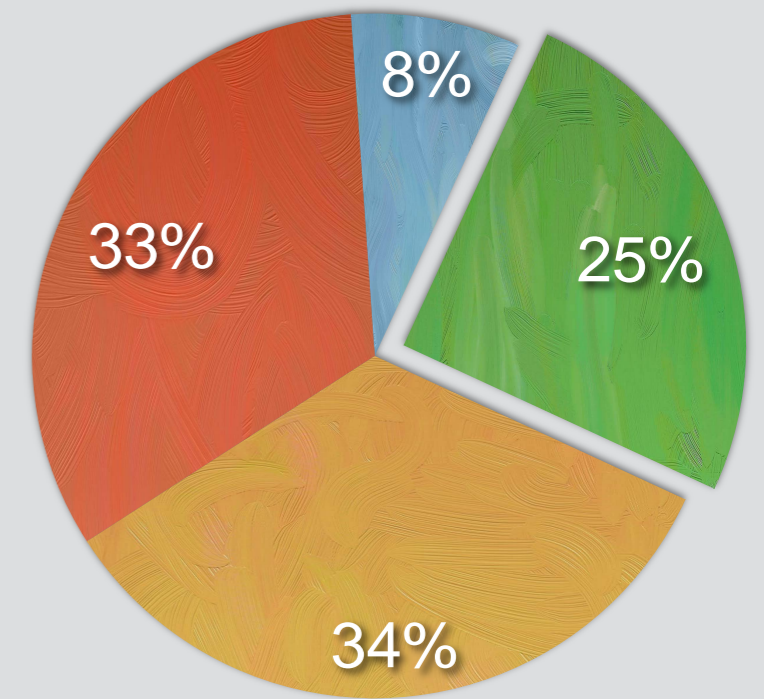
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**Africa**



**Asia**



**Latin America**

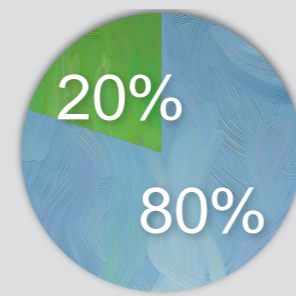


# Why the shift to community ownership/management?

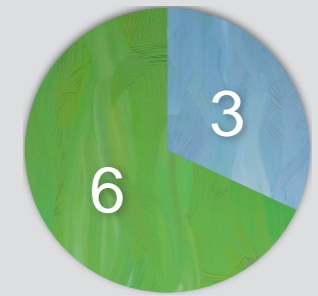


# Indigenous and community forest tenure in Latin America – recent transfer of ~215 million ha

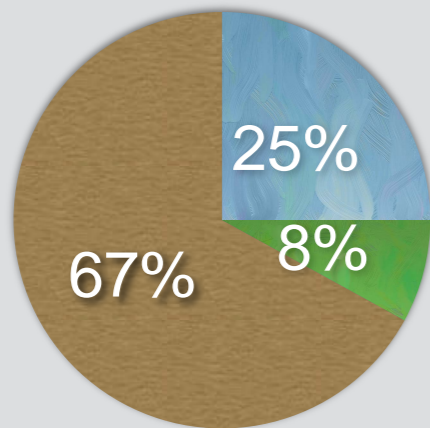
- owned by community/indigenous groups
- set aside for communities
- govt/firm/individual



Mexico



Brazil



- community/indigenous
- govt/ind/firm



Ecuador



Bolivia



**community  
forestry**

**community-based natural  
resource management**

# Community-based (local) managers

## advantages

- ✱ more attuned to local environment
  - ✱ traditional/local knowledge
  - ✱ pick up on changes - more adaptive
- ✱ vested interest in long-term maintenance
- ✱ cheaper monitoring/enforcement
- ✱ [socio-economic and empowerment benefits]

## disadvantages

- ✱ **local interests may diverge from non-local interests**
- ✱ **may not see bigger/landscape picture**
- ✱ **limited capacity**
- ✱ **limited science**
- ✱ **[local tyrannies/elites; discrimination]**

# Forests and poverty

- ✿ many forest-dependent communities among the world's poorest
- ✿ dependence on forests as safety net vs. daily net
  - ✿ poorer households more reliant on forests for income/subsistence than moderately poor
- ✿ Community forestry and community forest enterprises seen as a potential pathways out of poverty and to broader prosperity

# International mobilization for community forestry

poverty alleviation & conservation combo





# Wrap up

- many models of community forestry, introduced or traditional; difficult to define clearly
- promoted because it's seen as a win-win-win situation
- many examples worldwide, some success stories, many challenges

## **Acknowledgements**

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