

# *The significance of Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives for Indigenous communities and their rights.*

The Institute for Ecology and Action Anthropology

Expert Discussion

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# Outline

- Indigenous peoples and forests
- Situation at national level
- Principles of FLR
- Frameworks of rights-VGGT,PA,SDGs
- Nexus of ecology and rights
- Case studies

# Indigenous peoples and forests

- Indigenous peoples symbiotic and interdependent relations with their environment and ecosystems is central to their collective survival
- Their knowledge systems and climate resilient livelihood systems have contributed least to emissions but immensely to nature conservation
- They constitute one of the most vulnerable sector to adverse impacts and risks of climate change and historically marginalized
- If not adequately considered, they may end paying a triple negative price of climate change due to un-safeguarded response measures

# Local realities...

- Indigenous peoples' situation presents unique challenges that state-centered and driven non-targeted restoration approaches do not adequately address.
- At the national level, they continue to suffer from historical and continued marginalization and exclusion, where they've no voice in decision-making
- Increasingly a number of FLR Initiatives target their territories.

# Relevant Principles of FLR

- ✓ Multi-Functionality Principle-multiple outputs with least trade-offs with maximized synergies.
- ✓ Multi-stakeholders-iterative process clarifying interests, building trust, empowering and rights
- ✓ The Clarification of Rights and Responsibilities Principle-development of negotiated working institutional arrangements with responsibilities equitably agreed upon
- ✓ Resilience Principle-ecological capacity of livelihood systems to absorb be maintained or reorganize functions and structure.

# Frameworks with Rights...

- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure-Promoting secure and equitable access determines fair forest use.
- Paris Agreement-establishes a platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices in a holistic and integrated manner.
- 2030 Agenda-an indicator secure land rights in reference to collective land rights
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples-an important standard of international legal norms.

# Nexus of ecology and rights

- ✓ Exercise their rights to secured traditional lands consistent with applicable law.
- ✓ Participate in decision-making to improve transparency and governance.
- ✓ Shape national strategies and policies and make own contributions to implementation.

# Case Study

- ✓ Experience in Shinyanga, Tanzania illustrates the importance of working with local people, state imposed solutions failed. HASHI project not only involved local people in the whole process of landscape restoration, it has built on local institutions instead of creating new ones. Villages have been encouraged to pass their own by-laws to protect communal *ngitilis*.
- ✗ Loita Forest Project, Kenya initial objectives of forest sustainable management did not materialize as local Indigenous Maasai resisted the project due to concerns about gazettement of the forest.



Thank You...



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