

triple bottom line, though progress toward a more critical perspective is slower. “‘Green business’ promoters avoid attention to the fundamental structures of modern capitalism that are incompatible with sustainability” (p. 77). Particularly welcome in this chapter and several others is attention to political processes and power structures.

The attention to paradigmatic shifts can be seen in the chapter on nurse education (Chapter 7), which focuses on the impact of climate change and advocates a shift from a biomedical and individually-focused system of care to an ecocentric model of health. Chapter 14 on the sustainably-built environment, organizes curricular transformation into knowledge, practice, process, and paradigm and offers an interesting review of the kinds of evidence that can be used to document transformative change. Chapter 15 presents the contrasting world of economics, in which sustainability is at the margins of the discipline.

Chapter 10’s exploration of engineering curricula contrasts classroom and applied learning, noting innovations in study abroad and community service opportunities for hands-on learning. Summer placements in Cambodia, Uganda and Bolivia illustrate practical experience through international cooperation. (p. 188)

Chapter 17’s review of teacher training in 41 schools in England and Wales in 2008 reveals rather limited uptake of sustainable development approaches, followed by insights into what a paradigm shift in teacher education would entail. A culture of sustainability encourages exploration of the more radical values of self-reliance, economic localization, and frugality, “as well as the vast range of methods for finding personal fulfillment within” (p. 325).

A minor concern for some readers may be the tendency of many chapters to assume a universal applicability of their recommendations, despite the unique clientele, mission, programme

and place of each college or university. Contributors and the contexts from which they write are well identified at the end of the book.

In conclusion, the volume documents significant conversation and coordination around sustainability education within and between academic institutions in many areas of the world. The individual chapters can be used to stimulate dialogue within one’s own university or organization, and for some readers, the chapter bibliographies will be useful. The volume calls on us to build on the experiences of these leaders and highlights the need for continuing research about alternative higher education strategies and their results, both the expected and unexpected.

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Governing Africa’s Forests in a Globalized World

Laura A German, Alain Karsenty, and Anne-Marie Tiani (editors)
Earthscan, London 2010, 413 pages.

In the volume *Governing Africa’s Forests in a Globalized World*, edited by Laura A German, Alain Karsenty, and Anne-Marie Tiani, forest management and governance are addressed in the context of the main theme of decentralization in Africa. The introductory chapter serves as a crash course in the language and literature, the agencies and players, of decentralization and forest management. The editors rationally skip the colonial and post-colonial history of forest tenure in Africa, relegating it to a concise Box (1.4), and start their discussion in the 1990s, in the midst of decentralization and establishment of democratic processes in many African nations. Much of this occurred as part of structural adjustment programmes,

spurred by international donors and multilateral agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Decentralization — the transfer of power, responsibility and governance itself from a central authority or government to lower levels of the political hierarchy — is aimed at creating equity and participation at local levels. How this in fact plays out, at the national, sub-national, and local level, and is reflected in forest management and governance, is the substance of this book.

The book is structured into three main sections: Framing the Dialogue; Decentralized Forest Management: Forms and Outcomes; and International Trade, Finance and Forest-Sector Governance Reforms. It is the third section that really makes this book about the relationship between the main issue of decentralization and forest management in Africa and global relations. While it may seem like quite a “bucket category” section, with disparate subject matter addressed, such as: intergenerational business networks in China and Italy (Chapter 17), implementation of free prior and informed consent for non-standard legal systems (Chapter 16) and climate change (Chapter 18), it all maps back nicely onto the central issue of the international timber trade, the laws governing it, and how it operates at a local level, in terms of sustainability and livelihoods. This, in turn, has been elegantly contextualized by the previous sections demonstrating how and when decentralization operates in African countries, and how and when this diverges from the norm or constructed norm.

This comprehensive examination of how Africa’s forests both fit into and differ from a general pattern of forest management, evolved from a series of workshops on forest governance in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The 2004 Interlaken Workshop on Forest Governance in Federal Systems, led to the Yogyakarta Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Asia and the Pacific in 2006, and the Workshop on Forest

Governance and Decentralization in Africa, held in Durban in 2008. The Durban workshop was organized to examine the challenges faced in implementing lessons from previous workshops, and to synthesize Africa's experiences with decentralization and forest governance. It aimed to explore the next layer of complexity — the roles, challenges and opportunities of trade, investment and financial movement into and out of Africa, and how that interfaces with forest governance, even to the extent of the most recent challenges of climate change, emission reduction and forest degradation. This book compiles the lessons and themes from the Durban workshop in 19 chapters contributed by a range of experts, both local and international, from NGOs, academia and independent forest consultancies.

Throughout the book, major themes emerge from the central theme of decentralization. For example, the extent to which decentralization policies have been put into practice is examined in context of how decentralization challenges traditional power relations and that this can generate bureaucratic push-back (Chapter 10). Similarly, Chapter 6, discussing community-based forest management implementation in Tanzania, touches on the problems with illegal logging networks, and those arising when government officials who formerly received rent from forests introduce taxes and permitting systems restricting local rural access to business markets. This theme of how information on regulations, and how both the law and assets flow to local administrators of forests and the resulting impact on local livelihoods is particularly emphasized in Chapter 13, looking at Ghana's international timber trade and the implications for local livelihoods and forest management. Chapter 7 takes on the complicated issue of

gender in decentralized forest management, using case studies in Senegal and Cameroon to examine the language of policies governing forest access rights by local communities. As the authors of the chapter point out, gender neutral or gender blind local policies — a lack of mention of the rights of women as a distinct social group — are only non-consequential if the rules governing access to and control of forests, forest resources, and society as a whole, are equitable in terms of gender. While this chapter is restricted to case studies, the implications of the political marginalization of women in forest management are far more widely applicable. Gender differences in forest uses and the feminization of poverty are important considerations for local management of forest resources, particularly in appropriate distribution of resources to support sustainable decentralized management.

The question of whether decentralized management actually leads to environmental sustainability runs through the chapters, although the line between local institutional success — community based management — and successful resource management is not always clear. The Box (5.1) by Banana *et al.* compares Kenya and Uganda in terms of their decentralized forest management. Kenya's Forest Act seems somewhat contradictory as it is a top-down managed community participation, but has encouraged income-generation without forest degradation. Uganda, in contrast, devolves power to local elected officials, meaning that there is political accountability, options for redress for local actors, and recognition of the importance of forests for local livelihoods of adjacent communities. After only a couple decades of political stability, it is hard to know which of these will lead to better environmental sustainability in the long term.

While the title of this book will likely restrict its audience to certain disciplines, the central theme of decentralization and what it looks like in different countries as applied to the management of a natural resource is part of a wider issue. I particularly appreciated the almost comical five page long list of abbreviations and acronyms, given prior to the introductory chapter. While it seems like a daunting foreshadowing of impenetrable text, the writing is in fact very readable, and the quality and texture of the chapters — while clearly penned by different authors — is not so divergent as to be distracting, which is a rare treat in edited volumes.

The syndrome, for lack of a better word, of lumping African countries together in governance and international contexts is well addressed in this book. While globalization, particularly of business and regulation, requires a one-size-fits-all set of rules, democracy and sustainable governance look very different under different regimes. Discussions of globalization often overlook the fact that Africa comprises a land area larger than the United States of America, China, Japan, India and all of Europe combined, and is made up of 54 sovereign States. The sheer diversity of economies, legal systems, governance and social practices and customs must be reconciled with the somewhat monocultural language of business. This book gives us an in-depth yet broad look at how this currently plays out in representative African nations, and paves the way for continuing the dialogue in the global context.

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