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Forest Transition Deficiency Syndrome

Buch

The Case of Forest Communities in the High Forest Zone of Ghana

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OUTLINE

Introduction

1. *Forest Transition Theory* – Pathways to Forest Sustainability
2. *Globalization Pathway* Policies and Deficiencies
3. *Domestic Pathway* Policies and Deficiencies
4. *Case Study* of Policies in Practice
5. Hybrid Pathways for Ghana – *Recommendations*

Conclusion



Introduction (1)

- ▶ If all deforestations should cease and in addition with reforestation, world's CO₂ *emissions could reduced by 24 to 30%* (Seymour and Busch 2016).
- ▶ “*The climate problem simply cannot be solved without tackling tropical deforestation*” (Seymour and Busch 2016:31).
- ▶ Resource scarcity, biodiversity

However...

- ▶  Forests take care of about *a 6th of the global population* (1.6 billion p.) (World Bank 2002).



Introduction (2)

(Local People as a Core Management Challenge)

☞ *“The concern about [tropical] forests is not so much about the ability to provide the world’s increasing demand for timber and fibre but about the ability to continue providing livelihoods for forest-dependent people outside of the formal economy [...]” (UNEP 2011b:164).*

“DFID [Department for International Development, UK] believes in sustainability. It must therefore work with rural people to help them understand the contribution [...] that their livelihoods are making to the environment and to promote sustainability as a long-term objective” (Carney 1998).



Introduction (3)

Previous Research:

- ▶ Non-compliance behavior as a result of *lack of forest values* (Ramcilovic-Suominen 2012)
- ▶ Forest *conflict* Management (Derkyi 2012)
- ▶ Deforestation as a product of local *poverty* (Rudel 2013)
- ▶ *Corruption, lack of enforcement* of management rules (World Bank 2006)



Management dominated by *instrumental-approach*

The Gap:



Lack of systematic and holistic analytical framework to ascertain compliance/non-compliance behavior of forest dependent people.

Research Question and Core Hypothesis

Central Research Question:

“How can we understand and what factors lie beneath forest illegalities related maladaptive behavioral patterns of local people of the High Forest Zone of Ghana through the lenses of the forest transition theory?”

Core Thesis:

- ▶ The *failure to embed forest management strategies and efforts in forest society's collective moral solidarity and peoples needs* is a core explanatory factor for non-compliance behavioral patterns and hence deforestation in HFZ of Ghana.

Core Thesis:

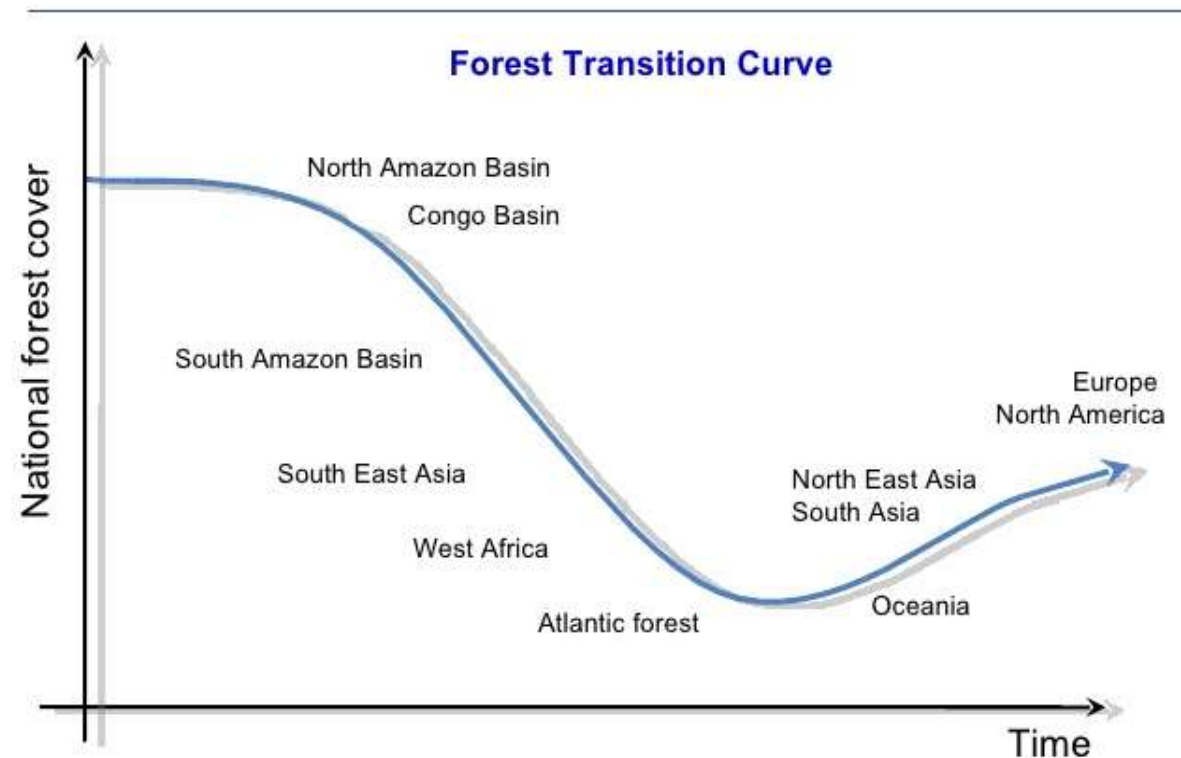
- ▶ Systematic analysis of the *Forest Transition Theory's* core variables provides a holistic analytical lens for the study of compliance/non-compliance behavioral patterns of forest dependent people.

1. FOREST TRANSITION THEORY

Forest Transition Theory (FTT)

Forest cover change passes through a sequence of changes: it first reduces in geographical size, attains a minimum level and then gradually increases and finally stabilizes (Angelsen 2007:31).

Following traditional development paths, most countries lose most of their native forests



Forest Transitional Pathways

(Developed Countries)

France, Norway, Finland, Germany etc.

A.

Classical/Conventional Pathways

1. Economic
Development
Pathway

2. Forest
Scarcity
Pathway

(Developing Countries)

Guatemala, Costa Rica, The Gambia, India etc.

B.

Non-classical/Unconventional Pathways

3. Globalization
Pathway

4. Domestic/Policy-
induced Pathway

National

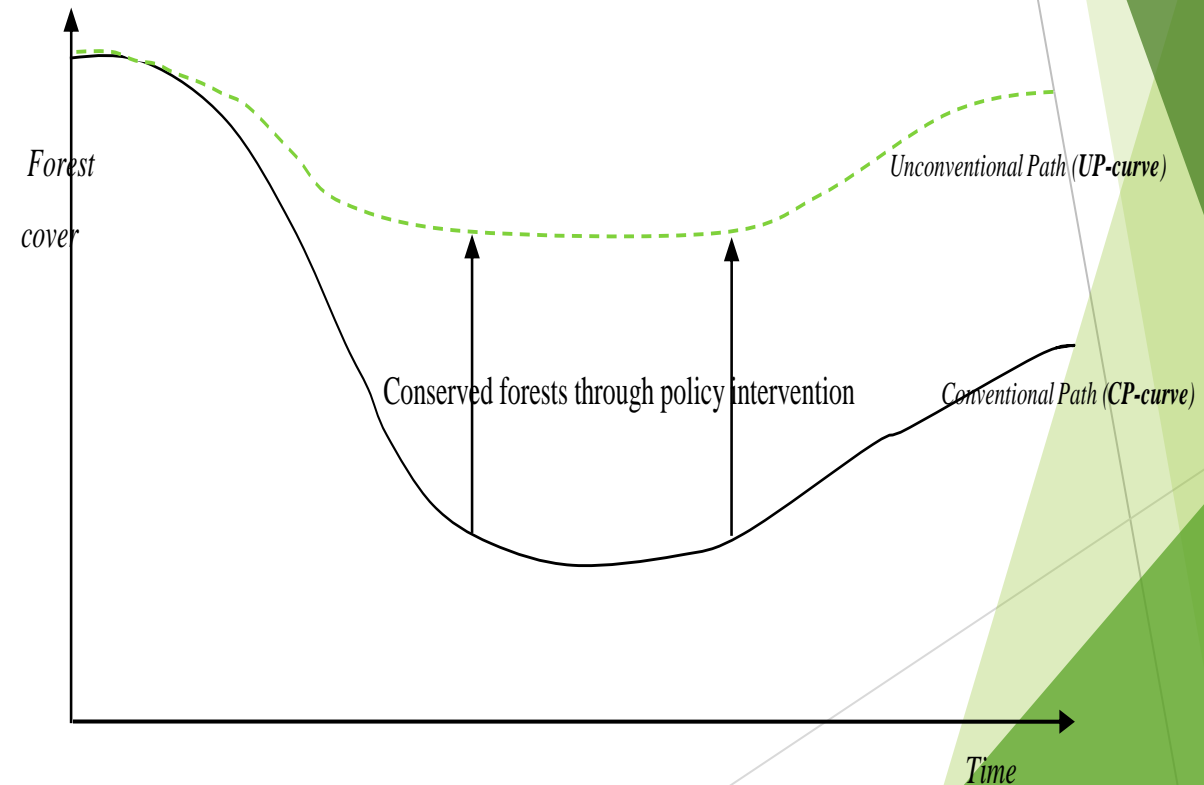
Local

The Forest Transition Pillars

- **Agriculture**
- Collaboration/**Participation**
- **Tenure** (land, tree)
- **Livelihood**/ecological Transition
- Transitional **Financing**

👉 The FTPs serve as *analytical toolbox to understand* forest people's management behavior in order to *employ* the necessary policies to coordinate their behavior towards a dual purpose of sustainable livelihoods and forestry.

Figure 1.4: Outlook of forest transition through deliberate policy intervention



Comparative Cases for Analyses

India: Domestic Pathway

- ▶ Pre-1988: **Instrumental-approach** - Rampant illegalities and conflicts, „trauma“ of neglect
- ▶ Post-1988: **Normative-approach** - Purposeful measures to *activate people's collective ecological consciousness*
- ▶ Birth of **JFM: Political will** to response to the FTPs
- ▶ Outcome: Change of people's attitude - **Internalization of management mentalities** „“

➡ Thus, systematic „healing“ and learning process through *„environmentality“* training (Agrawal 2006)

Costa Rica: Globalization Pathway

- ▶ Tapping from global opportunities: *Migration, tourism, neoliberal policies, ideas of sustainability*

A community forest protection group in an open discursive interaction in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.



. Case Study Findings (1)

(4.1 On Agriculture)

➡ Two key findings

- ▶ Farmers: **86.6%** want forests eliminated to make way for farming. Forest as “*natural fertilizer*” for most farmers – Maladaptive behavior of “*symptoms of insatiable demand for forestland*”
- ▶ Non-Farmers: (esp. the youth): Forest illegalities as source of livelihood due to lack of alternatives – “*full-time forest-illegality experts*”

Illegal mining operations in the Nwinso Forest Reserve of Atewa (August 2016)



Case Study Findings (2)

(4.2 On Tenure)

1. “*The behavioral pattern of survival strategy-alliance*”

- About 80% of illegal loggers access timber trees through farmers

➡ Severe *symptoms of social approval of non-compliance*/illegality

2. “*The Strategy of pre-emptive Strike*”

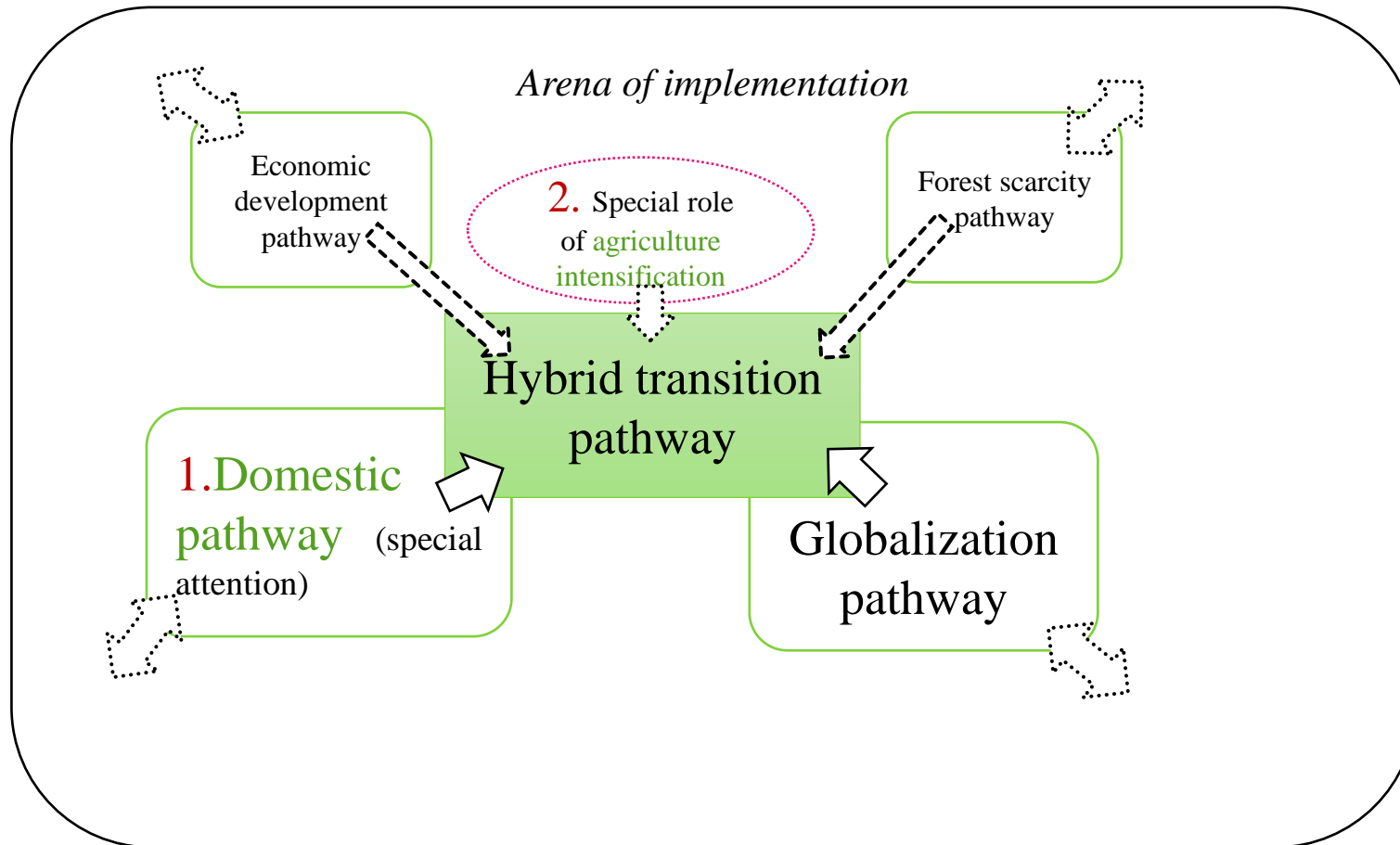
AM: “You see, we do not get anything from these trees on our farm, and if we cut them, we would be in trouble with the forestry people. *So sometimes, you just have to give it ‘dirty medicine’* [e.g. hot water] *to drink*. If they come and the trees are dead, what proves that I am responsible?”

(Labikrom)

➡ Defective tree tenure arrangement as source of maladaptive behavioral pattern of *symptoms of sustainability insensitivity* as a form of survival strategy

5. HYBRID PATHWAYS FOR GHANA - (Three Core Recommendations)

3. Arena of *political will* galvanization



Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Core result: The extent at which local *people's organic institutional order and immediate concerns* are inculcated into the forest management plan, is an important indicator of their compliance behavioral patterns and hence management success.
- ▶ Core implication: Adequate understanding into *structures of socio-psychological order* of natural (forest) resource dependent rural populations is central to understanding their management compliance behavior.
- ▶ Core future research: Inquiries into means to adequately *harness structures of rural social order and group solidarity* for sustained natural resources management is still in its *enfant stage*.

Thus,

👉 conditions for management success of forests in the HFZ include management strategies executed *with* local people, *for* local people and *by* local people.



Thank You for Your Attention!

AL: *“You see ... didn’t you realized that when you were asking the question about illegal wood harvesting in the forest, I was silent? I do not really like what is going on here about how some people in this community collaborate with the timber people to cut the trees, but I was afraid to talk. If I had opened my mouth, I would have said something which would have turned me to an enemy of the whole the community. So **that is why I decided to keep quiet**”* (p. 263).

“Prospering Deforestation” and Forest-Mining

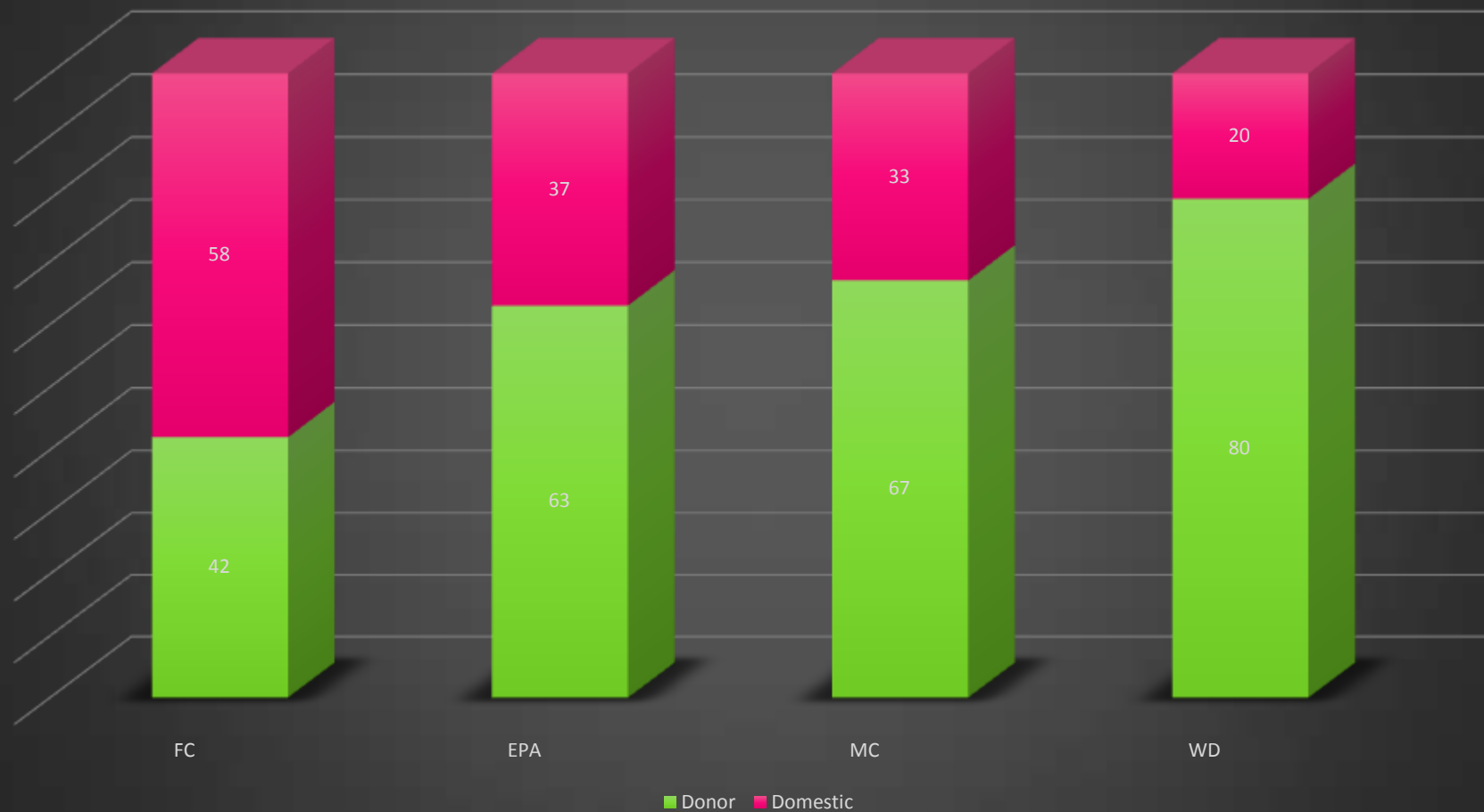
Large scale liquidation of part of the local Ajenjua Bepo Forest Reserve due to large scale forest-mining (May 2015)

- ▶ OM: “We are told our activities are illegal, but see, [...] some of my boys are from Yayaaso and Adausina. They were promised mining jobs when the mining company was coming, and for that their lands were taken away. Most of them do not have any land for farming. Even this big mining company could not employ them. So, **if I employ them** so that they can earn something for a living, **what is wrong with that?**”
p. 286




*“The company destroyed our farms day and night without our consent until we took cutlasses and arms to confront them. Just as our forefathers shed their bloods to claim this land for us, **so shall we.**”* Jatropha Investment (2012), comment of Openin Frimpong. p. 285

Share of Donor vs. Domestic Contributions to environmental Management (2009-2011)



KK: *“Anybody who is educated, has some sense to analyze a situation critically, as for these **villagers**, because they are illiterate, even if you discuss issues about forest preservation with them, it seems they don’t even understand you. Sometimes you feel they are just wasting your time”* (Senior field personnel, Eastern Region research area) p. 243.

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- EA: *“For those of us who live in the protected forest areas, our belief is that the **forest belongs to us** and the government also believes that it is protecting it for the good of the nation. But the problem arises when you take it without given them anything. If you take something from somebody, you must give him something back. Here is the case where we have not given them anything back and we expect them to protect the same resource we have taken away from them. Where on earth is this possible?”* p. 252.

Lack of Tenure:

“The behavioral pattern of survival strategy-alliance”

OH: *“As law enforcement officers in the surrounding communities, some local farmers have developed their own means of monitoring our movements. For example, if we take our motorbikes now, and head towards the next forest community, within 5 minutes, **their agents would alert the farmers per phone** that we are on our way to their village. They would also quickly inform those engaging in the unauthorized timber activities on their farms to take cover. Before you reach there, you would be sometimes confronted with destroyed forest and trees, but you have no one to arrest. They would already vanish into the bush, and it is often dangerous to pursue them, because sometimes they have guns on them.”*