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Improving forest justice

POWER TOOLS



Purpose:

This tool kit, based on experience in Uganda, aims to help forest institutions support law enforcement agencies and others create systems to eliminate illegality and corruption and install justice for forest-linked livelihoods.

Activities:

Identify the key producers, traders and final consumers of timber and visualise the production-trade-consumption chain.

- List the laws, regulations and procedures that the players in the chain are supposed to follow in accessing and using timber.
- List the enforcement agencies and other mandated institutions the players are meant to relate to.
- Sketch out how the formal processes are supposed to work.
- Then sketch out how they actually work, or don't work.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the process, at all stages, for the poor and marginalised to access justice.
- Define a strategic approach to improving matters, using a mix of tools which can

improve justice in the following areas:

- Institutions for justice, law and order: training kits, public awareness programmes, compendium of case law, independent litigation by civil society organisations.
- Timber production: streamlined and better used management plans, better timber marking and documentation, independent audit of forest authority operations, competitive bidding, forest user associations and collaborative management agreements.
- Timber trade: financial and fiscal instruments, improved pitsawyers and saw millers associations, professional codes, auction of confiscated timber.
- Timber consumption: certify dealers of timber and require large-scale procurers to use them.
- Record and analyse observations and impact of the tools used in empowering the poor and promoting sustainable forest management.
- Adapt and modify tools and work to install successes in policy and institutions.

Keep in Mind

★ Improving justice for forest-linked livelihoods usually requires a combination of better practices of law and order institutions and better practices of forest institutions – we need to work on both, and get them cooperating.

★ Tools for the job will vary greatly from one place and time to the next – the kit presented here will be practically useful for some, but will lack vital tools for others. In the latter case we hope it will still provide some useful ideas.

★ Laws and procedures for securing justice for forest-linked livelihoods should be changed when they are going wrong – we hope this kit helps practitioners move forward in the belief that they can be changed.

Further information

Find full tool and other related tools and resources at: www.policy-powertools.org or contact:

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