

# Workshop on forests financing in low forest cover countries

**How CSOs will be able to finance  
ourselves for maintaining forest alive**



# How CSOs will be able to finance themselves for maintaining forest alive

This is the most difficult questions that I have asked myself till today

CSOs are not able to do anything without :

- Public sector,
- Local communities and their customary laws coming from centuries of trial and errors;
- Indigenous people;
- NGOs;
- In many countries CSOs are very susceptible (vulnerable) regarding the involvement of private sector as a finance support;

# CENESTA's experiences with forest peoples, pastoralist, farmers and fisher man

- Maintaining and reviving, entirely their own social organization
- Establishing Community Investment Fund based on their social organisations to achieve economic sustainability;
- Creating council of elders
- Identifying and prioritizing needs and problems of the community by the community it selves;

Sustainable Forests management

Livestock;

Economy;

Culture;

Migration;

Women and Youth

to achieve economic sustainability

# **CENESTA's Experiences with Forest – Dependent communities**

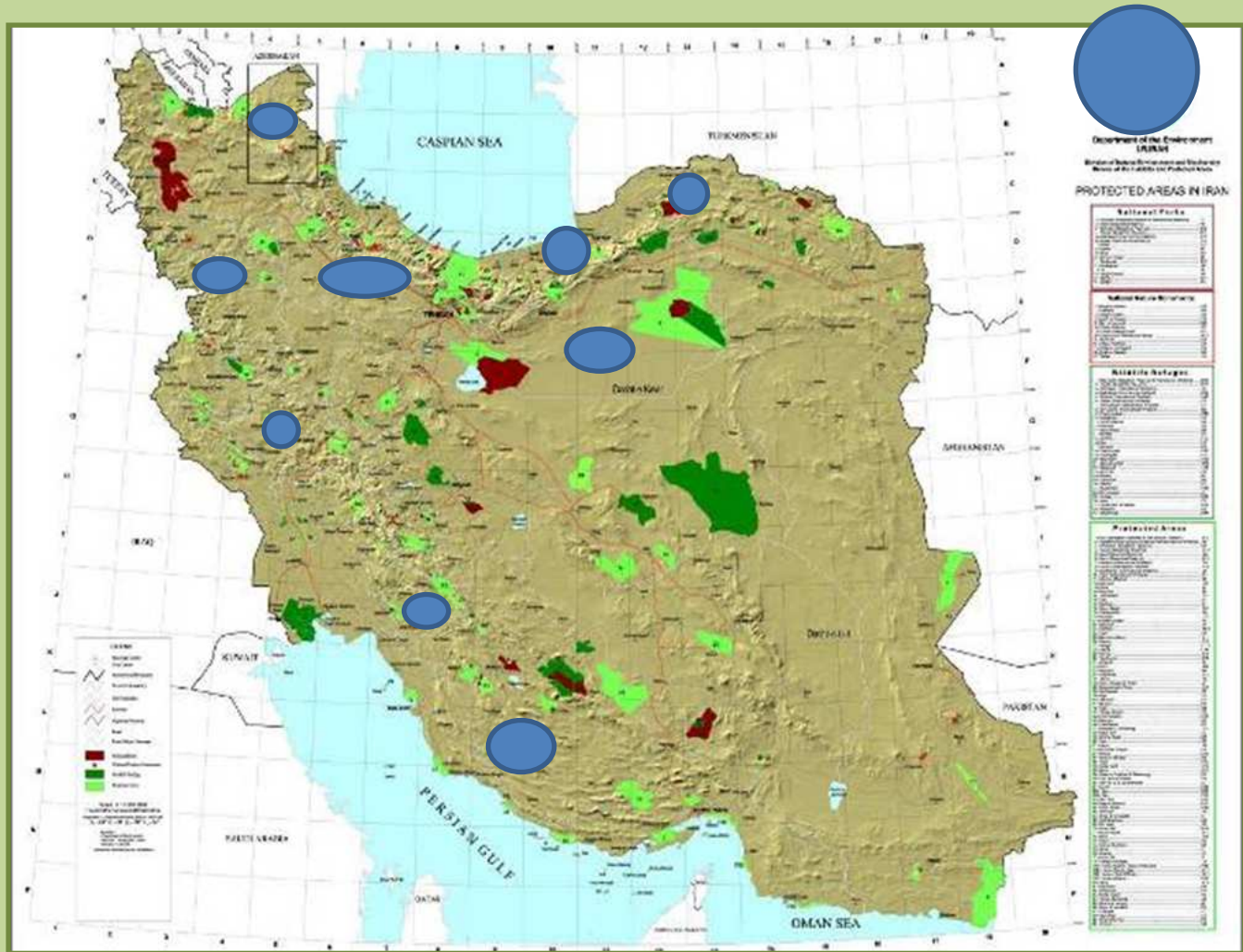
- **Cenesta has worked with Forest – Dependent communities for years in many projects including:**
- **Introducing solar cookers in the local communities of the Area Based project, A participatory field-trial and scaling-up protocol; 2000;**
- **Social Survey on Anzali Wetland in the framework of the Study on Integrated Management for Ecosystem Conservation of the Anzali Wetland, 2003;**
- **Study on Livelihood Improvement for Forest Dependent communities for the Study on Integrated Management for Ecosystem Conservation of the Anzali Wetland in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2004;**
- **Study on Flood and Debris Flow in the Caspian Coastal Area Focusing on the Flood-hit Region in Golestan Province, 2005;**
- **Socio- Economic Survey (Part 2) of the Ecological Management of the Anzali Wetland project, 2011**

# **CENESTA's Experiences in Dryer Zones**

- **Mobile (nomadic pastoralist):**
- **Helping restore customary natural resource management systems (combinations of forest, rangeland and wetland)**
- **Reviving indigenous knowledge of resource management;**
- **Helping indigenous people and local communities organise themselves to regain their right of access to and use of their ancestral territories;**
- **Helping these restored and adopted institutions to cope with national policies and to influence the latter's change and reform;**
- **Bringing about and increasing collaboration among local communities, government agencies and the relevant international organisations;**
- **To helping other stakeholders recognise the tremendous capacity of Indigenous and local communities in sound resource management and their contribution to both production and conservation;**

# **Community Sanduqs– a new mechanism for local financial sustainability?**

- **Cenesta has helped many Indigenous and Local Communities (ILCs) design and setup a community sustainable livelihoods Funds (Sanduq), which are community institutions to investment and channelling and mobilisation of internal and external resources and the sustainable management of natural resources (forest, rangeland, wetland, desert etc.);**
- **The Sanduqs are managed by customary institutions of ILCs such of tribal Council of Elders;**
- **The main mandate of Sanduqs are: Defending ILCs collective rights over their lands and territories and support sustainable economic and livelihood activities such as: sustainable management of rangelands, forests, deserts, wetlands, conservation of biodiversity, community based ecotourism etc.**



# CENESTA's field projects

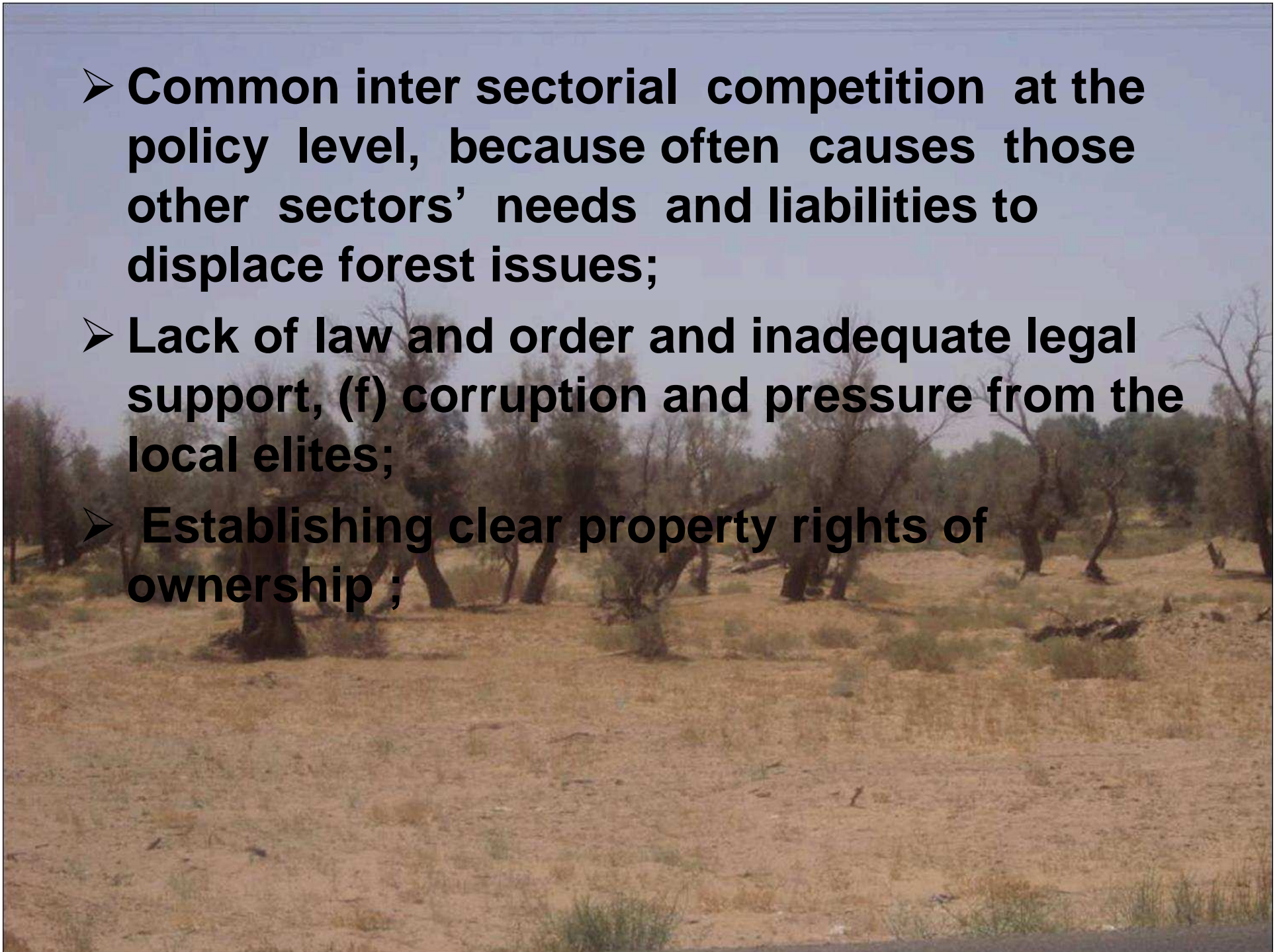
**For reaching this objective we need practical and purposeful tools such as:**

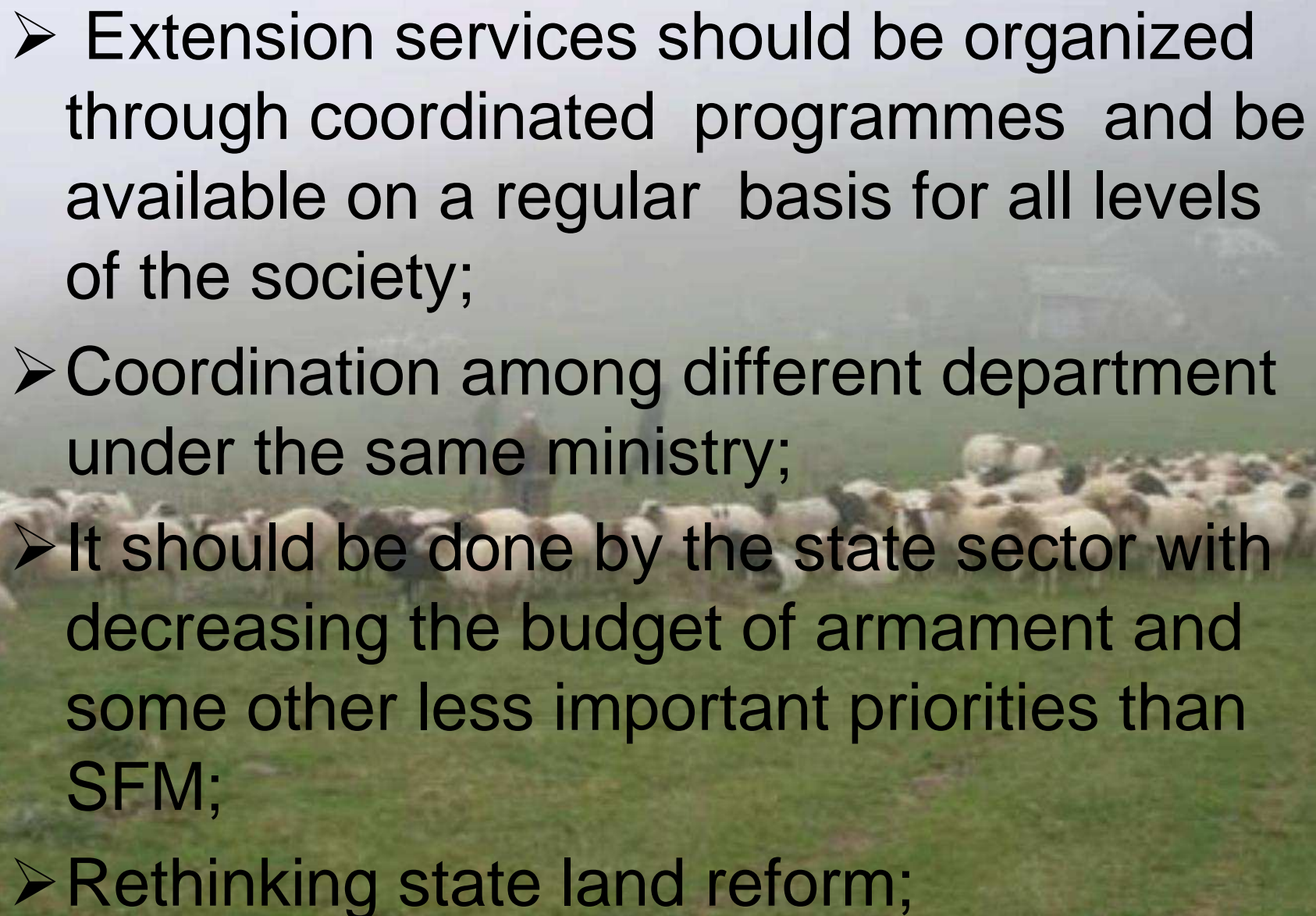
- **Sustainable Development priorities strategies ;**
- **Forest policies document ;**
- **Coordination between sectors: forest policies, strategies and legislation, land use- and natural resource-related policies;**

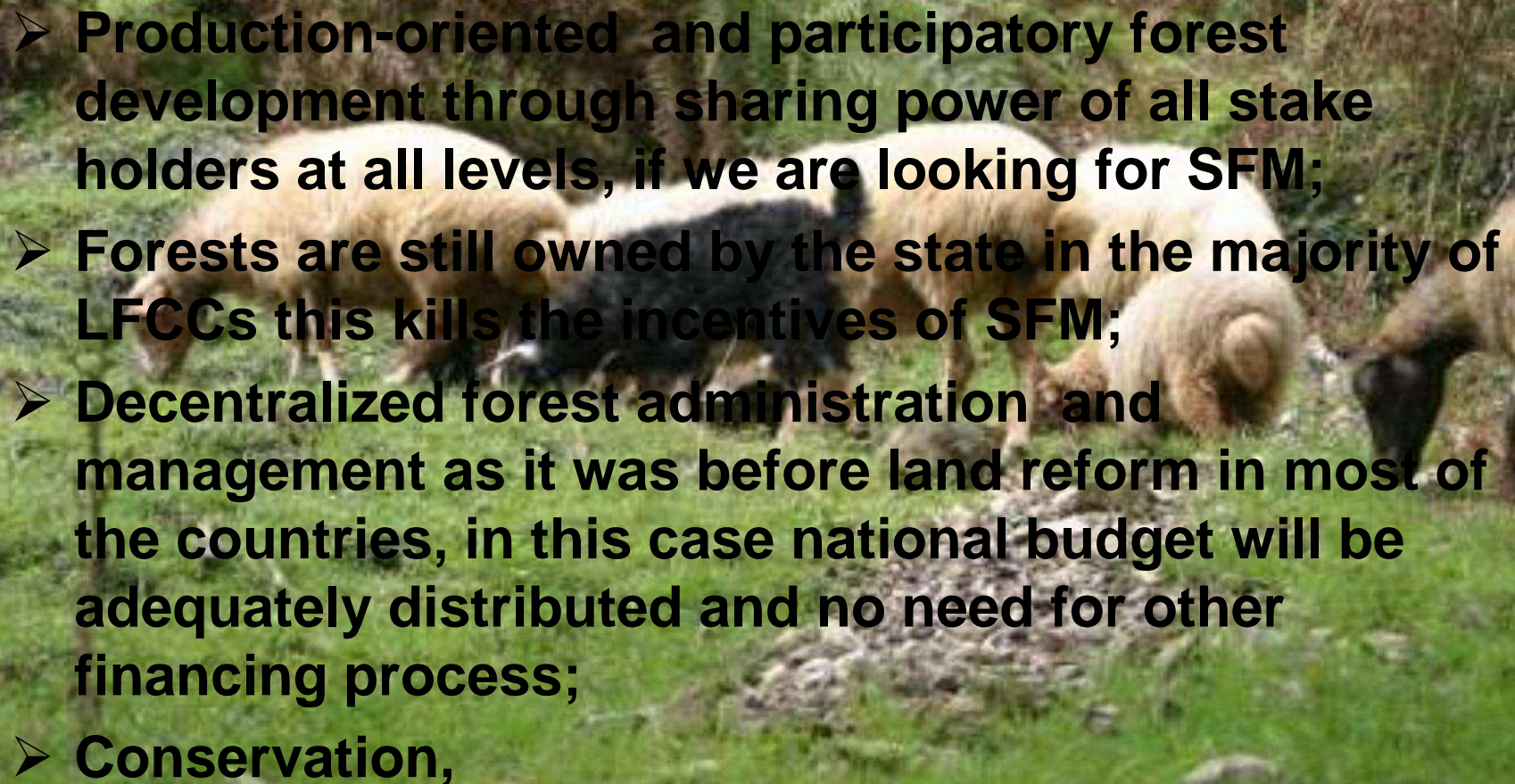




- **Common inter sectorial competition at the policy level, because often causes those other sectors' needs and liabilities to displace forest issues;**
- **Lack of law and order and inadequate legal support, (f) corruption and pressure from the local elites;**
- **Establishing clear property rights of ownership ;**



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- Extension services should be organized through coordinated programmes and be available on a regular basis for all levels of the society;
  - Coordination among different department under the same ministry;
  - It should be done by the state sector with decreasing the budget of armament and some other less important priorities than SFM;
  - Rethinking state land reform;

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- **Production-oriented and participatory forest development through sharing power of all stake holders at all levels, if we are looking for SFM;**
  - **Forests are still owned by the state in the majority of LFCCs this kills the incentives of SFM;**
  - **Decentralized forest administration and management as it was before land reform in most of the countries, in this case national budget will be adequately distributed and no need for other financing process;**
  - **Conservation,**

# What to do for facilitating finance for CSOs...

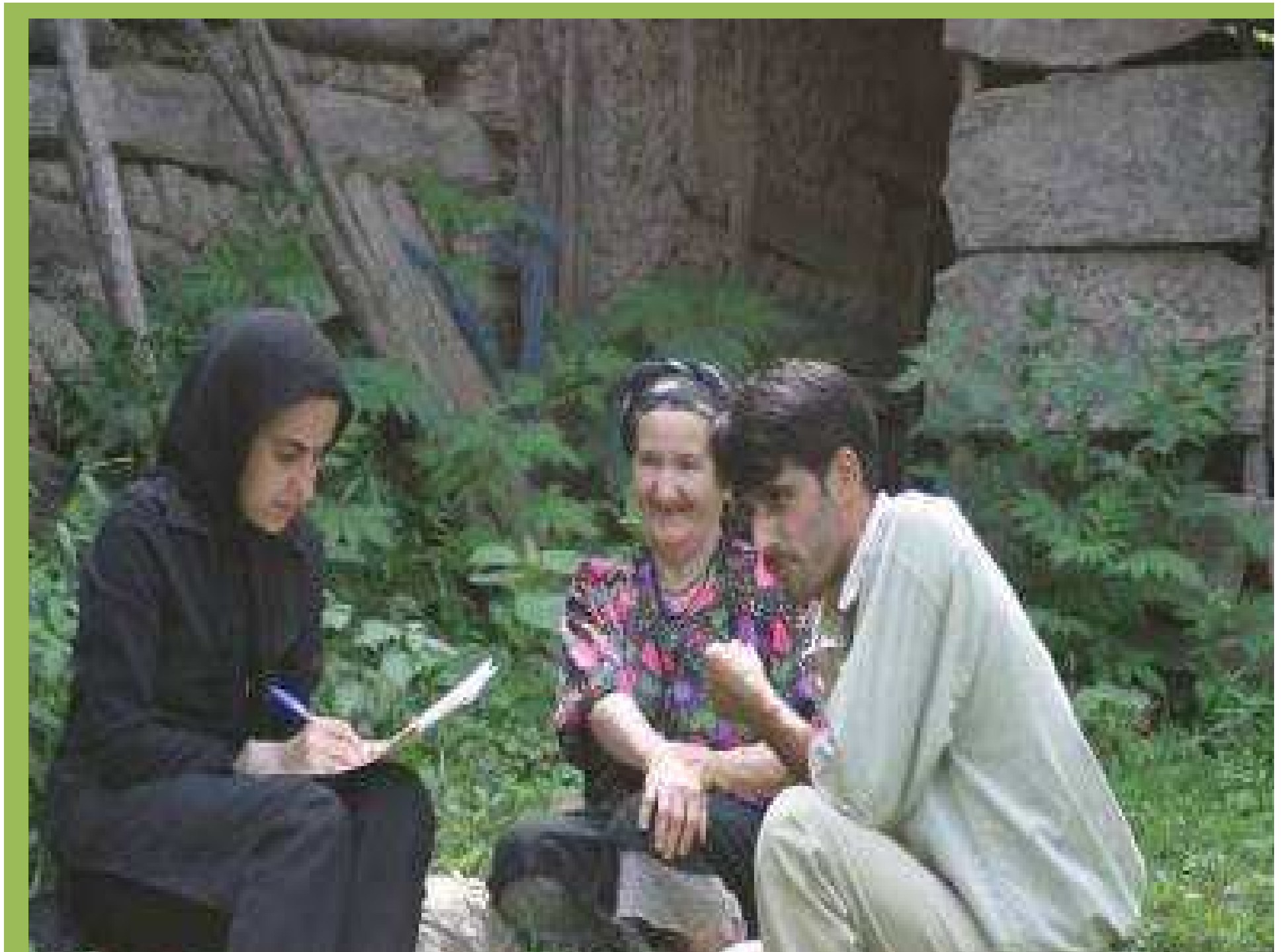
- Before thinking about the role of CSOs for forests financing in low cover countries we should find out the reason of low forests cover countries?
- LFCCs should be honest and open to critics and adaptation;

# What to do for facilitating financing for CSOs...

- Forests should be a national priority in the LFCCs in which agriculture, food production and food security are most urgent. The forest sector is often viewed as a backward, non-dynamic and corrupted niche sector, and forests are not linked effectively with other relevant sectors in policy and administration, many LFCCs countries has not yet taken seriously Climate Change reality!!!!!!!

# What to do for facilitating financing for CSOs...

- Rehabilitation of Traditional institutions managing Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) have been undermined by colonial or centralised political systems, whereby governments have taken over most of the relevant functions and powers, LFCCs should rethink participatory forest policy and strategy;



# What to do for facilitating financing for CSOs...

- **Free prior and informed consent' (FPIC), is the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use. FPIC, for years advanced by indigenous people, is now a key principle in international law and jurisprudence related to indigenous peoples**



# What to do for facilitating financing for CSOs...

- At the end of the day the best way of financing CSOs should be Public funding with a supportive legislative framework may generate private funding for participatory sustainable forestry;
- Government should consistently developed policies and legislation to encourage and support participatory afforestation activities;
- Governmental subsidies should supported the Forest Law;

# What to do for facilitating financing for CSOs...

- **Government should granted tax-exemptions for native forest under management and financed a credit programme for afforestation activities  
General investment promotion legislation complemented these subsidies.**
- **State ownership should start to be bring to an end this should be a beginning of rehabilitation of the forests with bringing back incentives and ownerships**

# Role of private sector for financing CSOs in LFCCs

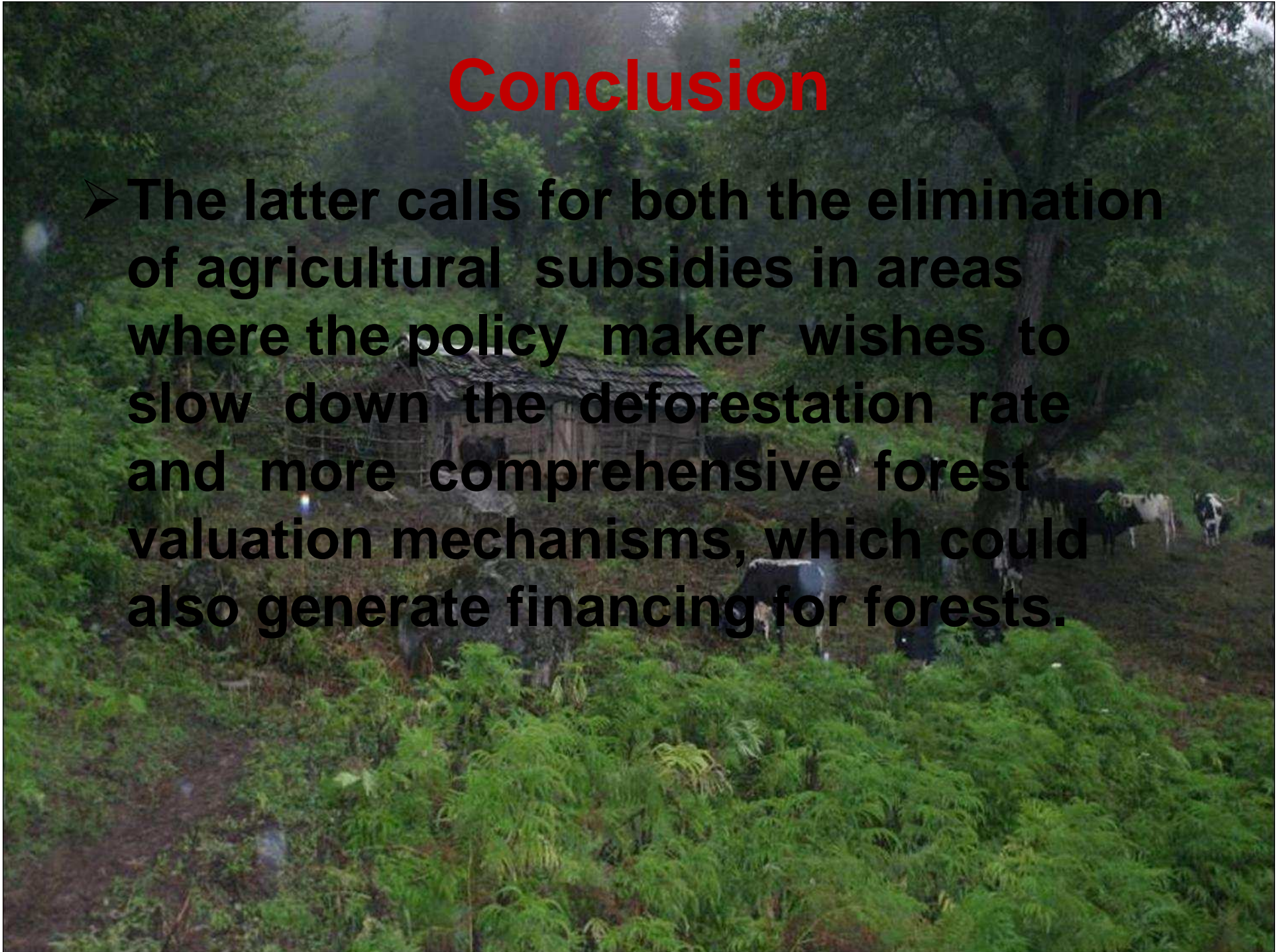
- The role of private sector financing in developing countries and countries in transition is expected to grow further;
- But our question is HOW?
- But unfortunately in most of the countries the deforestation has been done by the same private sector since colonialism period all over the world

## Conclusion...

- According to many studies, the most common reason for deforestation is the land use change from a less profitable option (forest/forestry) to more profitable use, such as agriculture or animal husbandry.
- According to current estimates, in most LFCCs, climate change will increase periodic droughts, which will affect not only the local people but also the forests on which they depend;

# Conclusion

- The latter calls for both the elimination of agricultural subsidies in areas where the policy maker wishes to slow down the deforestation rate and more comprehensive forest valuation mechanisms, which could also generate financing for forests.



# Conclusion

- Sustainable Forest Management is usually an investment rather than a loss:
- It is more economical to prevent the problems rather than to try to solve it when it already occurs important
- Should we not create appropriate mechanisms, which will allow business/industry to contribute more effectively to SLM?
- Should we not consider a more trans-boundary/regional approach to combating desertification?
- Don't disempower people
- Create an enabling environment for learning and change
- Regulate and legislate

# Conclusion

- Should we not consider a more trans-boundary/regional approach to combating desertification?
- Don't disempower people
- Create an enabling environment for learning and change
- Regulate and legislate



**Summering grounds of livestock herders of Salim Abad Village**





**Village in the high forest lands of  
Masal**



**Summering grounds of livestock herders**



**CENESTA's Research team on  
the way to the summering  
ground of Masal**



**Limited animals husbandry in  
halfway rangelands of Masoule**

# Remembering the peaceful time of life in the forest before state nationalisation and ownership of their forests



# House of a livestock herder and forest dweller prior to demolition



# **CENESTA' s Research team on their way to the livestock herders in Masoule**

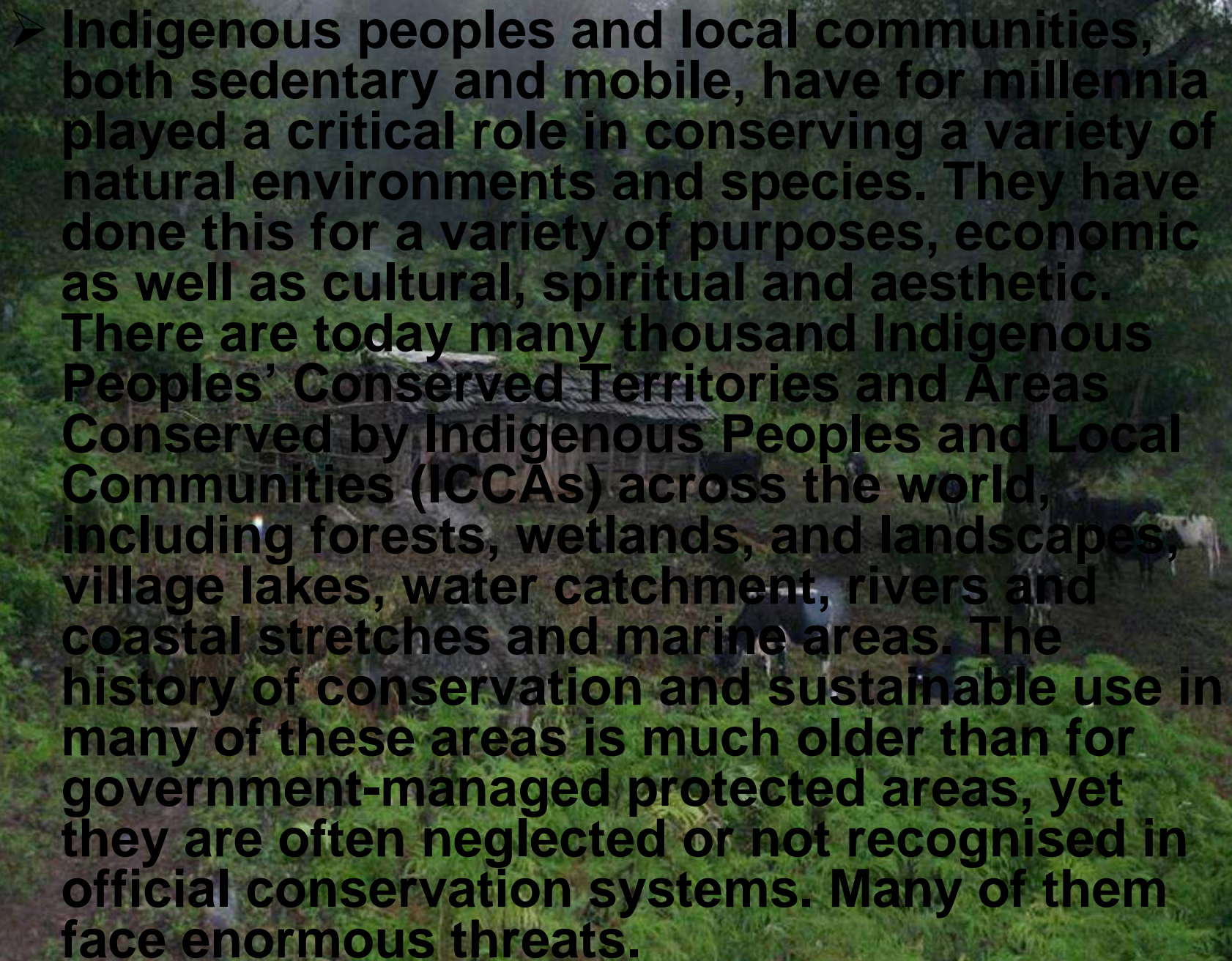


A photograph of a rural landscape. In the center-left, there is a small, rustic wooden house with a thatched roof. The house is surrounded by lush green vegetation, including ferns and other plants. In the foreground and middle ground, several cows are grazing or standing. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage, creating a sense of a forested or mountainous area. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

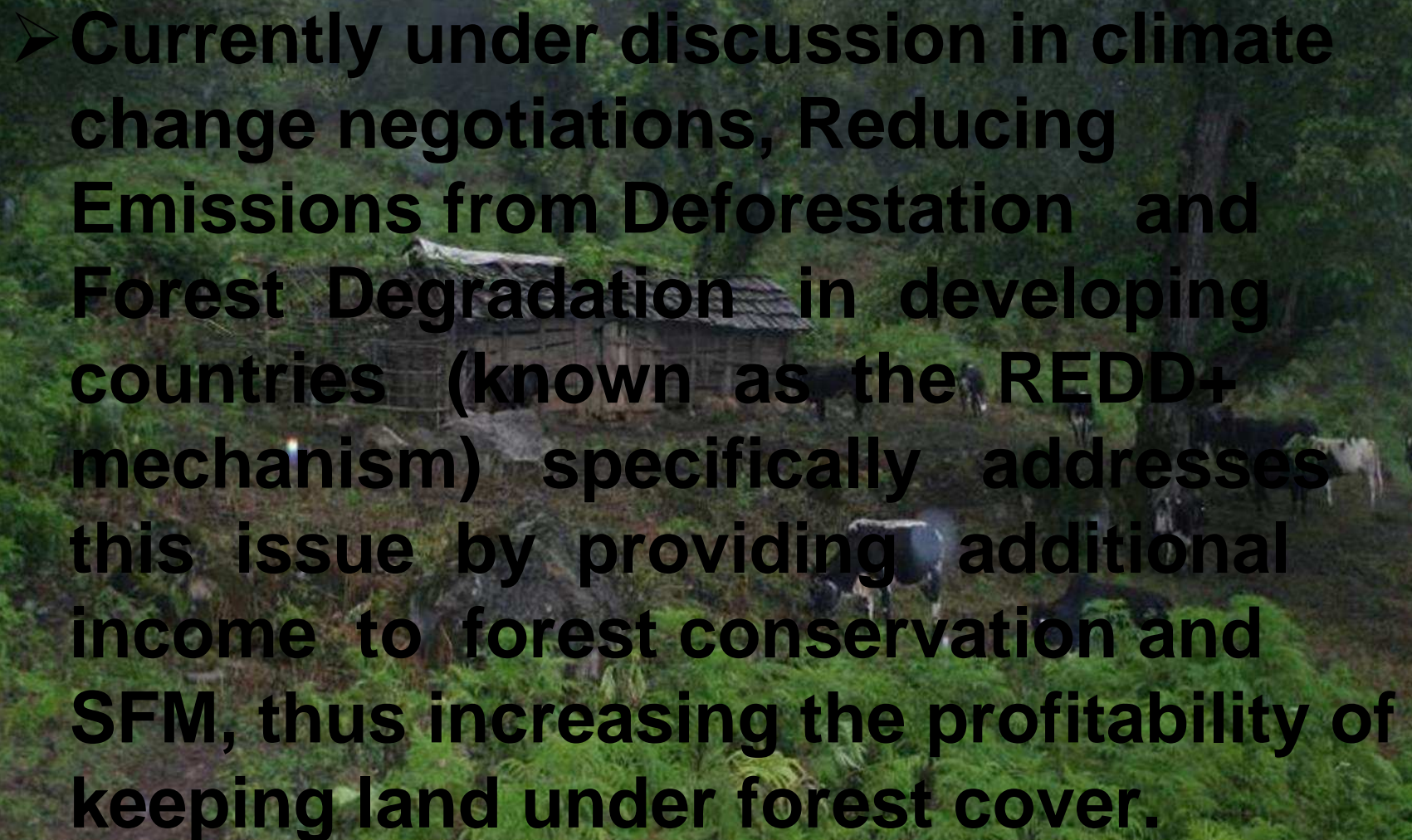
Thank you for your attention

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CENESTA





➤ **Indigenous peoples and local communities, both sedentary and mobile, have for millennia played a critical role in conserving a variety of natural environments and species. They have done this for a variety of purposes, economic as well as cultural, spiritual and aesthetic. There are today many thousand Indigenous Peoples' Conserved Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ICCAs) across the world, including forests, wetlands, and landscapes, village lakes, water catchment, rivers and coastal stretches and marine areas. The history of conservation and sustainable use in many of these areas is much older than for government-managed protected areas, yet they are often neglected or not recognised in official conservation systems. Many of them face enormous threats.**

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense field of green ferns. In the middle ground, a wooden house with a thatched roof is visible, surrounded by several cows. The background is a lush, green forest with tall trees. The overall scene is a typical rural setting in a developing country.

➤ **Currently under discussion in climate change negotiations, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (known as the REDD+ mechanism) specifically addresses this issue by providing additional income to forest conservation and SFM, thus increasing the profitability of keeping land under forest cover.**