



# IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST PLANS: Extent of Compliance and Constraints and Ways to Redress Them

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# Importance of Implementing Forest Plans

- **Plans are nothing, planning is everything.”...**

A famous phrase by Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969, a US general and later president, about the difference between “Plans” and “Planning”.

The actual quotation is: "In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."

José Antonio Venegas ( 2019) a business consultant asks the following questions, and analyses same in Table 1

- ❖ Why are plans nothing or useless?
- ❖ Why is planning everything or is indispensable?
- ❖ What is the relationship between plans and planning?
- ❖ Why is planning more relevant than plans?
- ❖ Can we apply this phrase in today's businesses?

**And I ask, can we apply this phrase to forest plans, planning and management?**





# Importance of Implementing Forest Plans

	Plans	Planning
Meaning	A plan is a blueprint for goal achievement and specifies the necessary resource allocations, schedules, tasks, and other actions.	Planning means to think or decide in advance what to do and how to do.
Scope	Plans are the documentation of planning at one point of a time.	Planning is an active ongoing process of discussing the goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks that we need to accomplish.
Update	Since things change, plans need to get updated on a regular basis.	Planning is a continuous process that helps us adjust course, keep on-track and make accomplishing goals more likely.
Basics	Formats and Templates	Hypothesis and Assumptions
Sequence	Second	First

In our second presentation, we reviewed the adequacy of forest plans in the countries under study. **Planning**, as against **plans**, must therefore, as a matter of necessity, include **compliance**.





# Definition and Concept of Compliance

- Compliance refers to the adherence to laws, regulations, rules, standards, conventions and guidelines that govern forest management.
- This requires managing the forest land in a way that is sustainable and beneficial for all stakeholders. It's thus an active and not a passive process
- Compliance ensures that the objectives of forest plans are met and that the forest ecosystem's sustainability is maintained.
- We highlighted the levels of compliance in our previous presentations as not being encouraging from the studies undertaken
- It is therefore, vital to understand the concept of compliance in forest management and its importance in ensuring the achievement of desired outcomes.





# Importance of Compliance in Forest Management

- Effective compliance is essential for sustainable forest management.
- Failure to comply with forest plans can lead to adverse consequences, such as loss of biodiversity, degradation of soil health, and a negative impact on the socio-economic conditions of forest-dependent communities.
- Without proper compliance, the effectiveness of forest plans would be negligible.
- Economic and Financial losses may arise if compliance is observed in the breach.





# Key Issues Inhibiting Effective Compliance

- The implementation of forest plans can be challenging as it requires strict adherence to rules and regulations, financial resources, and human capital.
- However, there are several factors that may inhibit compliance. Identifying these constraints is critical to the development of effective interventions.
- Key issues that inhibit effective compliance include inadequate resources (financial, time, human capacity), conflicting laws, inadequate monitoring and enforcement, and lack of stakeholder participation, poor ethical and professional culture of operators, policy reversal and political interference





# Key Issues Inhibiting Effective Compliance

- Also, lack of regulatory enforcement, poor bureaucratic process management, poor intra- and inter-sectoral coordination, conflicts among stakeholders, communal conflicts and insecurity.
- Other challenges inhibiting effective compliance with forest plans are inadequate data on the dynamics of forest ecosystem and overdependence on external support.
- These challenges demand critical strategies that can support effective compliance with forest plans.





# Strategies for Redressing Constraints

- Addressing barriers to compliance with forest plans requires proactive measures that take into account the various constraints inhibiting implementation.
- A proactive approach that can help overcome these obstacles includes collaborations among all stakeholders, involving communities in decision-making processes, leveraging on Indigenous Knowledge, adapting to climate change challenges, and leveraging emerging technologies like remote sensing, use of drones, AI to support forest management.
- Other measures include developing and enforcing effective legislative frameworks, providing training and capacity building, and ensuring proper monitoring and enforcement.







# Strategies for Redressing Constraints

- Expansion of revenue base, improvement of forest product pricing system, and promotion of domestic private sector participation, particularly in the investment process.
- Integrating effective and up to date forest information generation, including inventory and analysis of demand and supply of forest products among the planned activities.
- Also, important is conflict resolution and effective administration of land areas, and review of policies and reforms in organizations involved in forest management.
- These approaches foster dialogue, promote transparency and accountability, and encourage SFM and sustainable development.





# Case Studies from African Countries

- Successful implementation of forest plans offers valuable lessons in compliance. Therefore, examining various case studies can provide insight into strategies that have proved effective, challenges encountered, and how these challenges were resolved.
- A few case studies that highlight successful implementation of forest plans, include:
  - ✓ Angola, company and community collaboration in forest planning and management.
  - ✓ Tanzania, Community based forest planning and management.
  - ✓ Zambia, Structured multi-level stakeholders forest planning and management.





## Case Studies of Best Practices from outside Africa

- ✓ the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and
- ✓ the Brazilian Amazon protected areas network.





# The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

- The Yellowstone Yukon Conservation Initiative (YYCI) successfully implemented forest planning in their initiative to protect and sustainably manage the wilderness areas of the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) region.
- The YYCI is a collaborative effort among government agencies, NGOs, and indigenous communities to conserve the region's biological diversity.
- In 2004, the YYCI developed a comprehensive forest plan that outlined strategies for sustainable forest management, including reducing the risk of forest fires, protecting sensitive areas, and restoring degraded ecosystems.





# The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

- The identified objectives were for long-term sustainability, ecosystem health, wildlife habitat conservation, and social and economic vitality.
- The plans were based on science and traditional ecological knowledge and were designed to maintain biodiversity, improve human well-being, and secure cultural values of the region.
- The case study highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership in developing and implementing effective forest plans for sustainable management of natural resources.





# The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

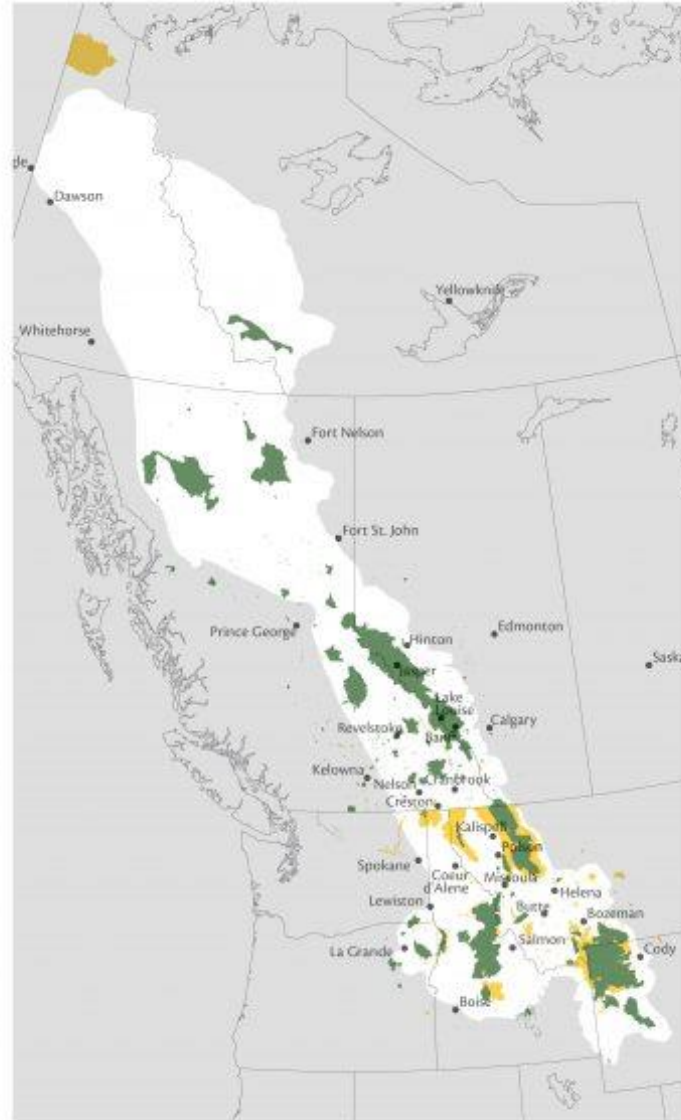
- Key factors contributing to the success of the forest plan implementation include strong partnerships among stakeholders, extensive public engagement, and advanced technologies for monitoring and evaluation.
- The YYCI's forest plan has resulted in numerous positive outcomes, such as a significant reduction in forest fires, the restoration of key wildlife habitats, and increased economic opportunities for local communities through sustainable forest management practices.
- Lessons learned from the YYCI's success can be applied to other conservation projects worldwide, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, community engagement, and science-based decision-making.



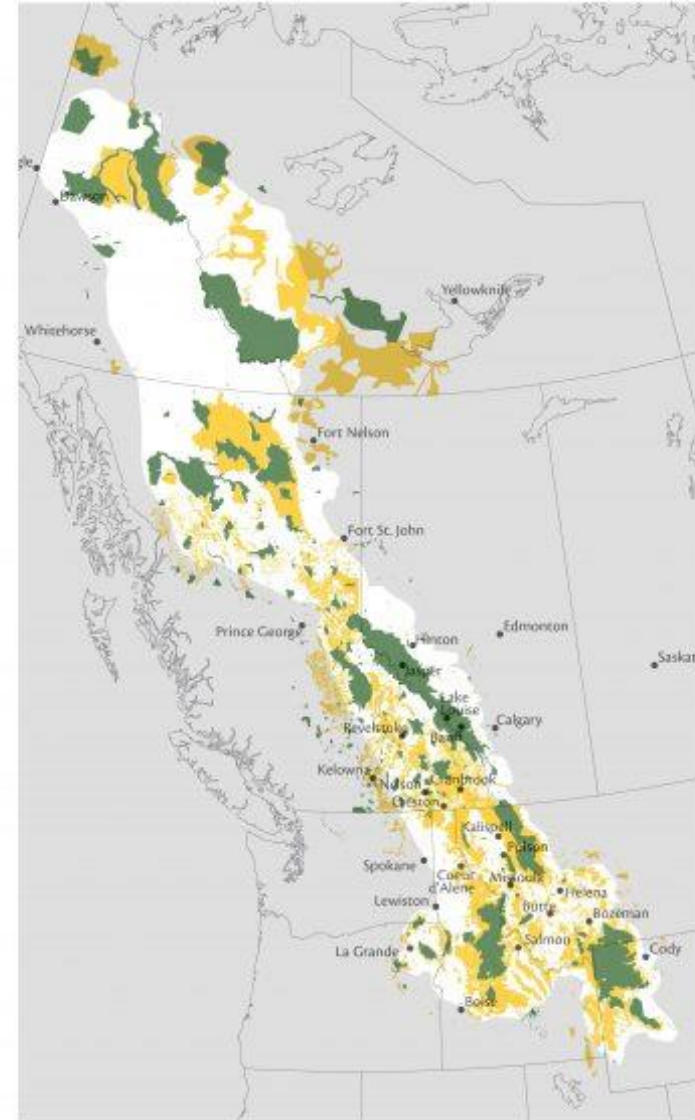


# Increase in protected areas over two decades in the Y2Y region of North America © Y2Y

Source: Conservation Corridor. 2023



1993



2013







## The Brazilian Amazon protected areas network.

- The Brazilian government implemented forest plans in Amazon protected areas network in 2006 to reduce deforestation rates in the region.
- The forest plans included measures such as zoning, land use planning, environmental monitoring, and community participation.
- The plans were developed through a participatory process involving government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.
- Plan development involved a bottom-up approach; tapping into local knowledge and clear understanding of social and environmental factors, which enhanced community ownership.





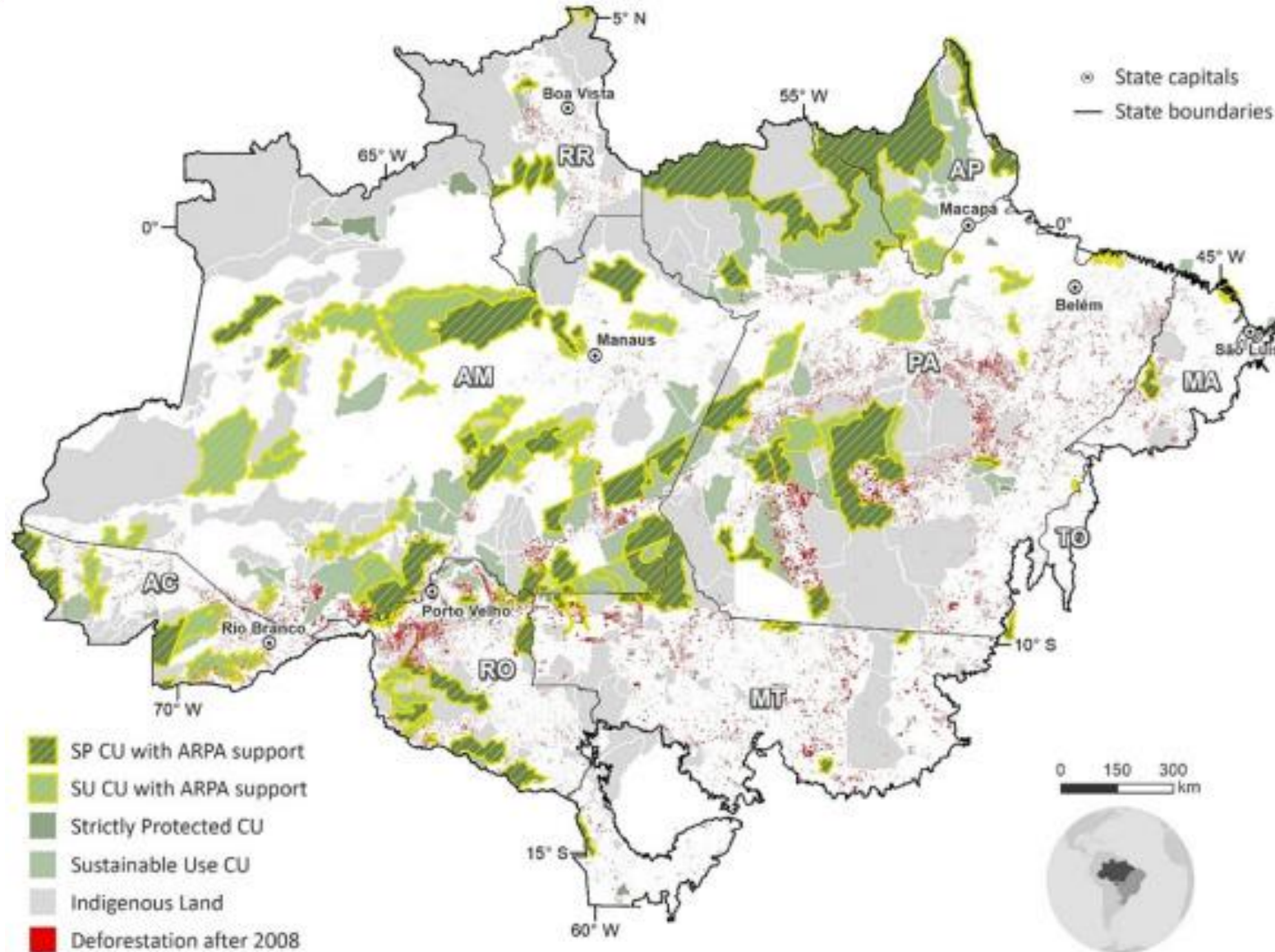


## The Brazilian Amazon protected areas network.

- The forest plans were successful in reducing deforestation rates by 72% between 2004 and 2014, according to a study by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM).
- It was also found that the forest plans contributed to increased enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, improved governance, and increased awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

The success of the forest plans in the Brazilian Amazon protected areas network can serve as model for successful protected area implementation in other regions.





Indigenous Lands and Conservation Units in the [Amazon](#) biome per category and with and without ARPA support. States: AC - Acre, AM - Amazonas, AP - Amapá, MA - Maranhão, MT - Mato Grosso, PA - Pará, RO - Rondônia, RR - Roraima, TO - Tocantins.

Source: Soares-Filho *et al.* 2023





# What Prospects...?

- ❖ The above-listed success cases are not rocket science. They can be replicated with strict compliance to the approaches adopted in those cases
- ❖ The cases have further proved the advantages inherent in sincere and healthy collaboration
- ❖ They reinforce the need for the convergence of traditional/Indigenous Knowledge and Science, as well as science-policy interface
- ❖ Again, somethings may have to change, fundamentally, about our curricula to respect and accommodate our IK systems. I wonder why a pupil from an African village should be taught the alphabets with, for example, **A for Apple**, when he or she has never seen one...
- ❖ Significantly, these issues advise the need for a shift away from short-termism to sustainability and long-termism
- ❖ Can Africa chart this course? Methinks the answer is YES...





# Concluding Remarks

- ❖ Compliance demands discipline, commitment and consistency
- ❖ It lessens the burden of managing any natural resources
- ❖ The opportunity cost of non-compliance can be deleterious
- ❖ Continuous learning, relearning, skilling, reskilling and upskilling as well as incentives to operators will enhance compliance, while non-compliance should also attract sanctions
- ❖ Forest managers and researchers need to “come down” to the level of our clients (high and low). We need to understand their language to be able to engage them effectively. Seeing them as partners in progress, and not as adversaries or rivals will be helpful
- ❖ Advocacy, lobbying and awareness creation are also key to



success



Thank you

