

**Land use and land cover change in forestry:
A status quo of forest area and livelihood dependence in relation
to land use policy changes.**



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Introduction

land use and land use change policy is a complex and interdisciplinary concern with the;

- Social, economic, political, legal, physical and planning aspects of urban and rural land use (Pushkarev & Zupan 1997).

Global environmental, economical and social drivers on land-use are critical for leading;

- Strategic decisions that can help nations adapt to change, foresee opportunities, and cope with surprises (Bryan B.A et al, 2016).

Additionally,

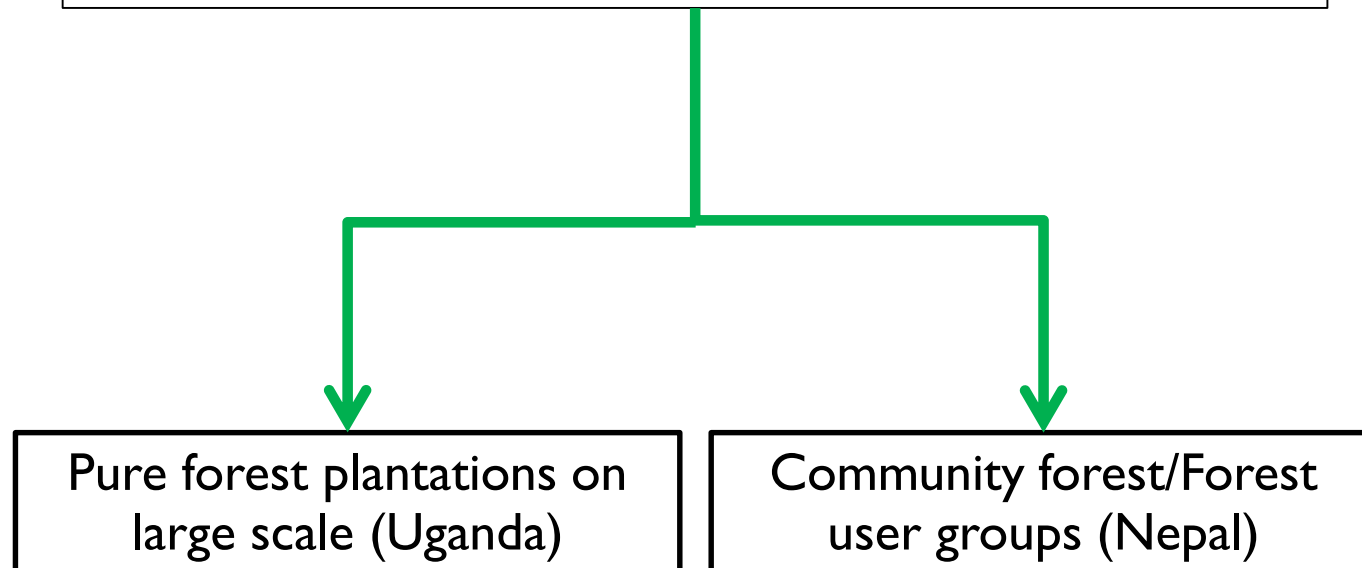
- sustainable land management requires land-use policies and management actions that achieve the greatest environmental and socio-economic benefit for the least cost (Le et al; 2010).

Justification

Status quo of forest area

- The world forest area has highly decreased from 4128 million ha of forest by 1990 to 3999 million ha by 2015 (FAO 2015)
- There has been dynamics in forest gain and losses (FAO 2015) which are coupled up with forest plantations and deforestation respectively
- Forest resources are highly decreasing mostly in low-income countries mainly in the tropics (Sandewall et al., 2015)

To increase forest covers and sustainable provision of forest resources, various countries took different paths



Objectives

To assess;

- Change in forest coverage in relation to land use change policy “forest policy”
- Socio-economic impacts and forest dependence of marginalized groups using examples from Nepal and Uganda

Methodology

Data collection

- Objective 1: Data on forest area (FRA website) [www.fao.org/forest-resourcesassessment].
- Objective 2: Review of secondary literature

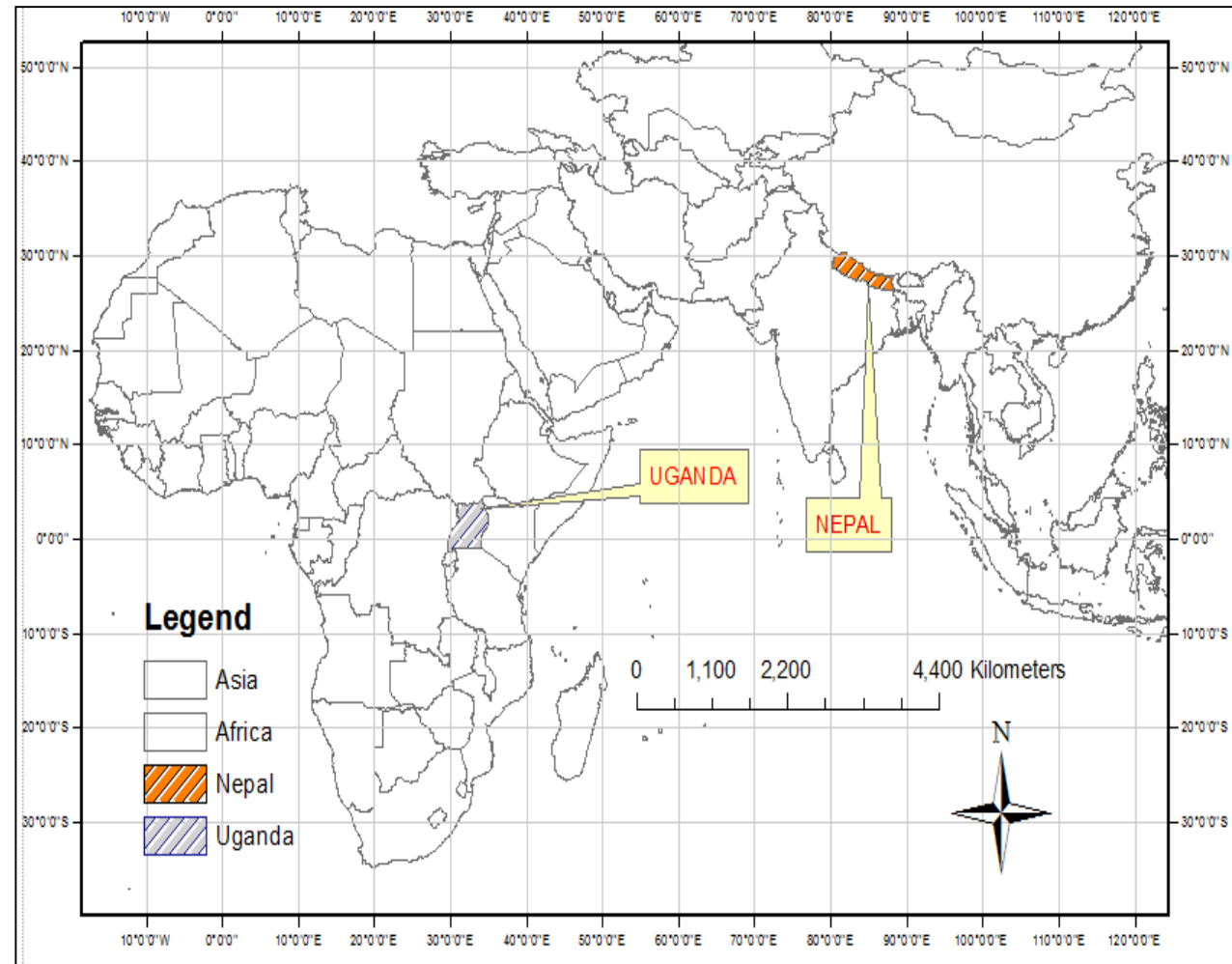
Location of case study

Uganda

- Latitude and longitude $1^{\circ} 00' \text{ N}$ and $32^{\circ} 00' \text{ E}$
- Agriculture and forest products

Nepal

- Latitude and longitude $28^{\circ} 00' \text{ N}$ and $84^{\circ} 00'$
- 80% depend on agriculture and forest products



Policy changes in Uganda

Tree planting act
1993: within forest
reserves to
establish forestry
plantations

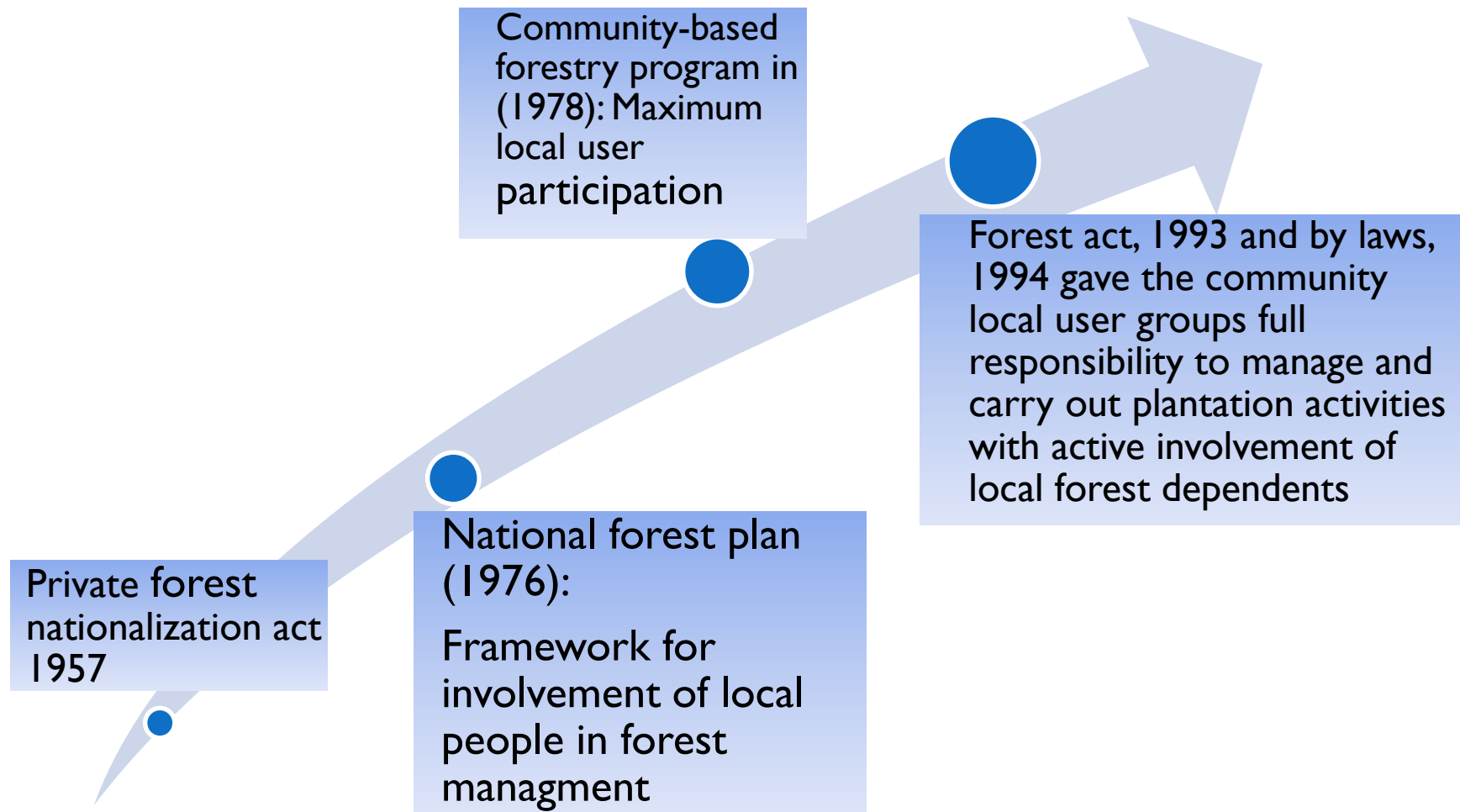
Forestry Policy (2001),
National Forestry and Tree
Planting Act (2003):
expressively gave commitment
to the privatization of Uganda's
forestry.

The New Land Policy
(2011) : grants title to
citizen thereby
exercising private
sovereignty over land

Hence increased
forest plantations as
central route to
green development
in Uganda

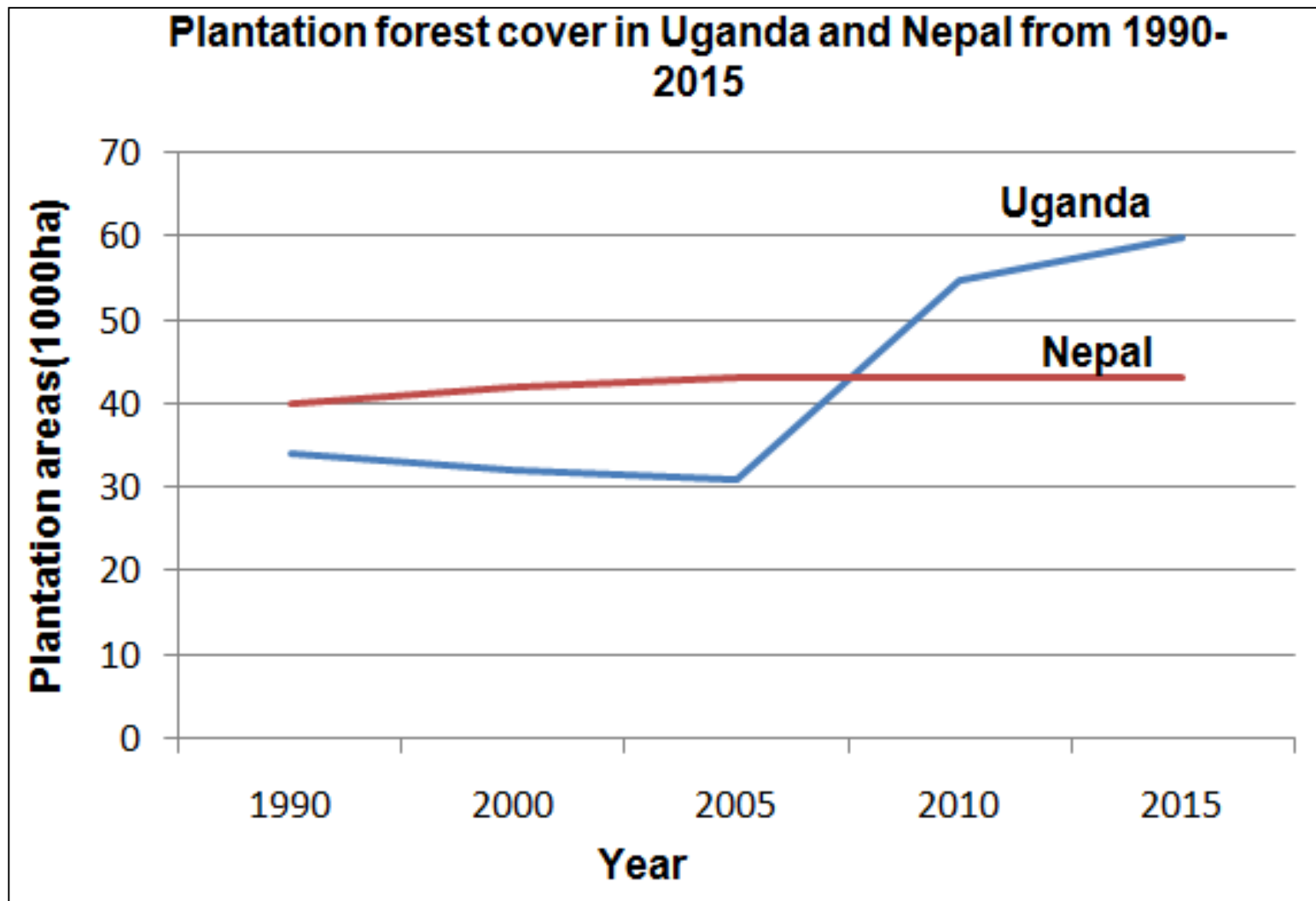
**Policy changes in
Uganda**

Policy changes in Nepal and Uganda



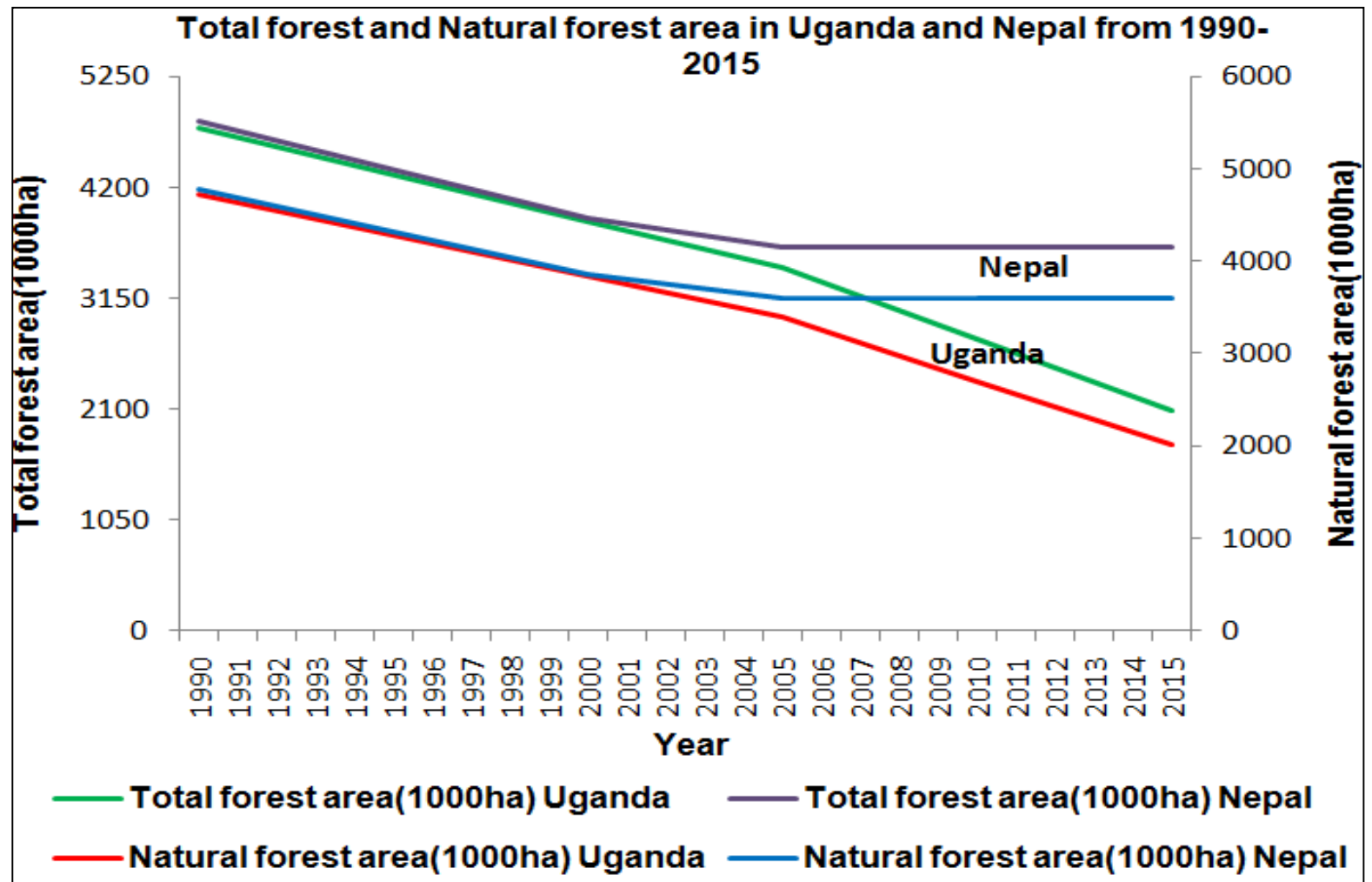
Policy changes in Nepal

Changes in plantation forest cover in 1000ha



Data Source: FAO 2016

Change in forest cover in Uganda and Nepal after Policy changes



Data Source: FAO 2016

Resource access and Use by Local communities

A case of Uganda

- Violent eviction,
- Harassment and imprisonment of individuals
- Destruction of people's homes
- Disorganization and constraint access of cultural sites
- Locals pushed into ecologically sensitive wetlands and riparian zones
- No active participation of the community at large
- No fair benefit sharing

Migrant laborers, and local people who work the forest plantations;

- work in poor conditions, inadequate training and experience late/no payments in some instances

(Kill 2015; Peskett et al. 2010; Lyons et al 2014; Lyons and Westoby 2014).

Case of Nepal

- ❖ Increased access to forest resources
- ❖ Fulfillment of subsistence needs by forest user groups
- ❖ Increased capacity building and participation of women and minority groups
- ❖ Financial support to local livelihood by providing loans from FUGs (Kanel 2006; Kanel and Niraula, 2004; Kanel 2004, Shrestha and Khadka 2004, Koirala 2007).

Bottlenecks in case of Nepal

- ❖ Exclusion of the marginalized local people, landless people, indigenous ethnic groups from;
 - Decision making, forest access and benefits of forest production
 - Development opportunities where forest user groups (FUGs) are formed.
- (Baral 1993, Agarwal 2001, Lama and Buchy 2002, Winrock 2002, Adhikari 2005, Dev et al. 2003, Dhakal 2006, Rai Paudyal 2008, Yadav et al. 2008)



Failure of integrating the local poor marginalized groups both in Uganda and Nepal is due to the fact that,

- ❖ Powerful interest groups are often close to national policy makers,
- ❖ Government control mechanisms are often weak to influence field reality
- ❖ Patronage politics is common and;
- ❖ Lack of analysis and understanding the hidden objectives of institutions in order to obtain a clear picture of institutional stakeholders' motivations

Conclusion

- ❖ Since most of the local people in both tropics and sub tropics highly depend on forest resources;
- their integration and consideration in policy formulation and implementation would create a positive visible change in forest utilization and management, conflict reduction e.g. as seen in Nepal.

Out-look

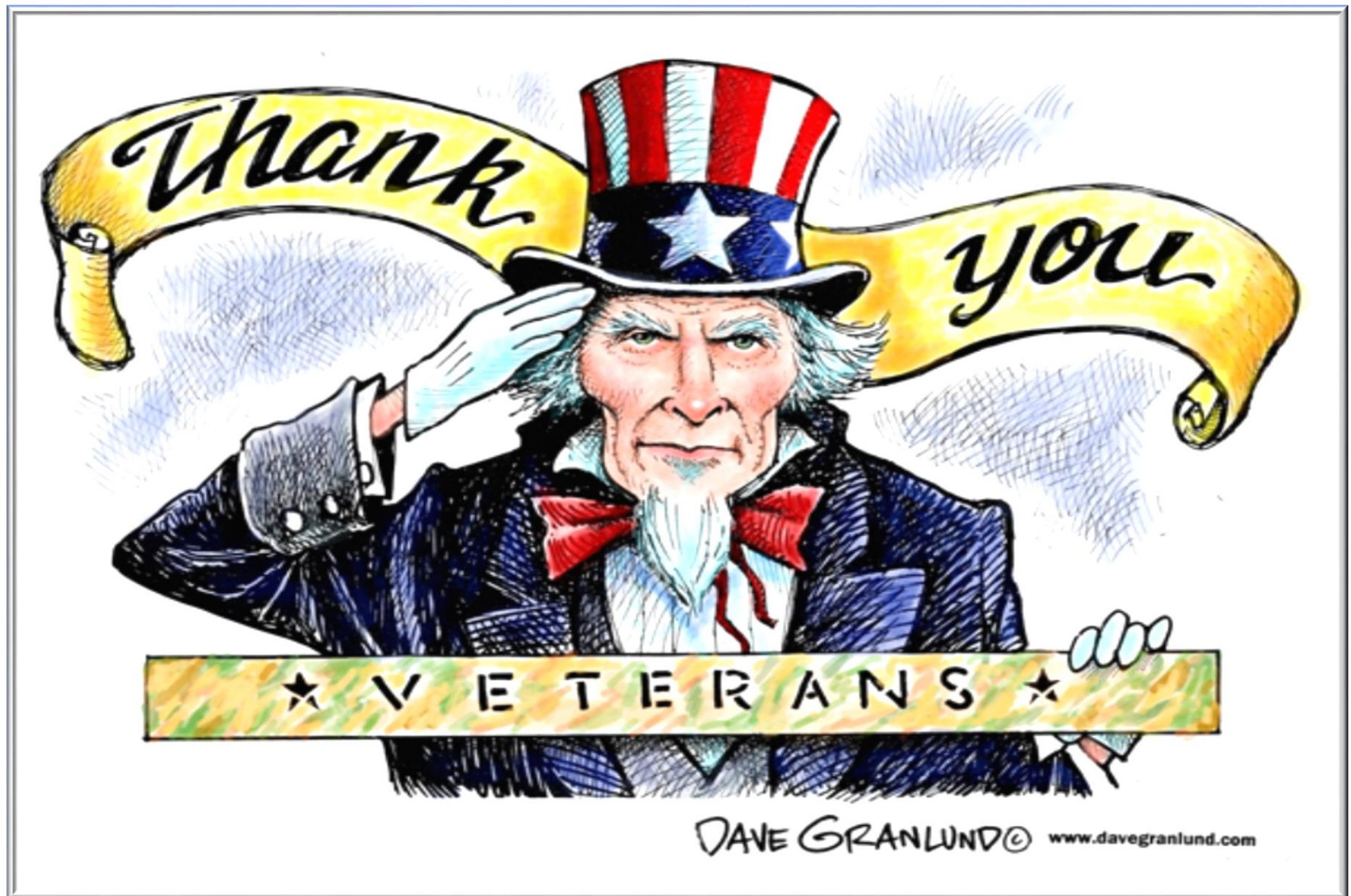
- ❖ Forest policies must explicitly address forests' role in providing food, energy, high quality water and shelter.
- ❖ Provision and acceptance to local communities to access forest resources and markets backed up with **capacity building** and **government support** can enhance socioeconomic benefits.
- ❖ Out grower's schemes, agro-forestry and community woodlot plantations can be options to supply the nation's demand.

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Gracias