Theodore Trefon

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- DRCongo area specialist
- PhD Political Science Boston University
- Senior Researcher at the Belgian Royal Museum for Central Africa
- Professor at ERAIFT
- 61 field trips to DRC over the past 20 years





Holistic Research Training in Africa



The emblamatic ‘Château’ of ERAIFT

ERAIFT Goal

Capacity building for a new generation of broad-minded natural resource managers

ERAIFT

- Regional approach (23 African countries)
- Interdisciplinary
- Respects class room / field work balance
- Innovative & forward thinking

ERAIFT

- Pragmatically works on forest management challenges
- Strong engagement with donors & policy-makers
- A good example of scientific diplomacy
- Emphasizes ‘cross-fertilization’

Field trip Ibi Village






Coopération belge au développement
.be
WWF
RESERVE DE BIOSPHERE DE LUKI
MAYUMBE, BAS - CONGO, RDC.
Créée par Ordonnance royale n°5 AGRI du 12 janvier 1937
Agréée par Unesco le 23 juillet 1979
SUPERFICIE : 32.714 ha
BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS & RESIDENCES
INERA, MAB, WWF ERAIFT
A 7 Km



Research themes

- Protected area management
- Business plans for logging concessions
- Payment for Environmental Services
- Environmental governance

Research themes

- Participatory management
- Urban pressures on forests
- Traditional knowledge
- Land tenure

Philosophy

The burden of learning is on the shoulders of the students....uncommon in many African institutions

The holistic approach in practice

ERAIFT emphasizes the interconnectivities between sectors…

- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Employment
- Economy & Finance
- Security




National policies have to be pegged to regional priorities & international agreements



Impossible d’avoir une bonne politique forestière sans une bonne politique agricole

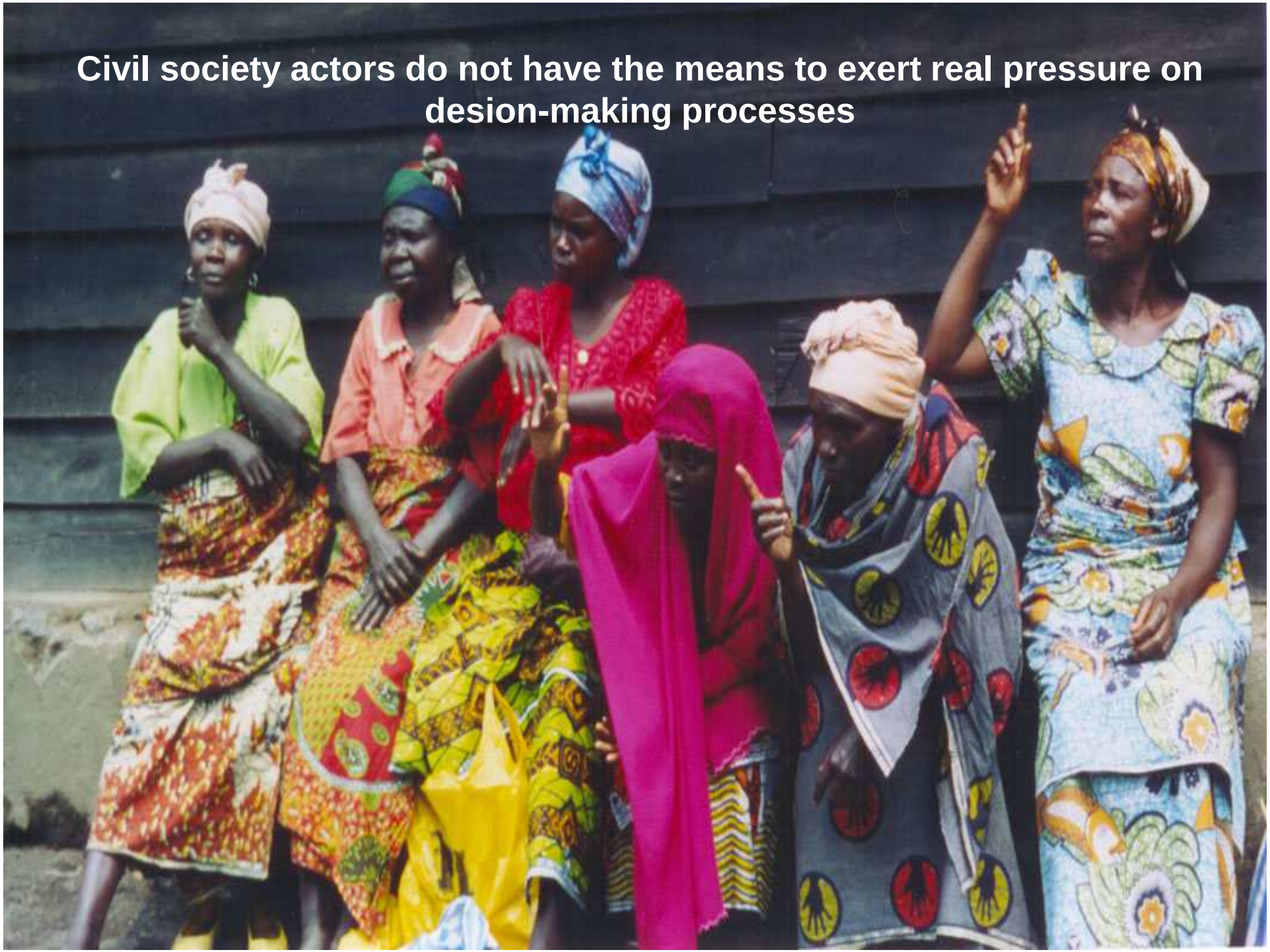



JORDAN



Institutional constraints to forest management

- Land use and rights of traditoianl authorities vs state rights are unresolves
- National zoning schemes are incomplete
- Agriculture, forest, mining and conservation codes are in competition
- Inadequat state budgets for environment sector
- Civil servants are poorly paid & poorly trained


Civil society actors do not have the means to exert real pressure on desion-making processes


Work in industrial, service or commercial sectors is unavailable – agricultural work is the only option

Doing business in central Africa is not easy!

The World Bank's *Doing Business 2013* ranks RDC 181 / 185.

Trapped in a vicious circle

Weak institutions & political problems handicap improved management of the forestry sector.

At the same time, the absence of efficient forestry policies reduces States' chances of redressing the crisis.

Improved forestry management depends on

- Holistic thinking
- Concerted actions with all stakeholders
- A better understanding of social & cultural realities
- Improved scientific research & training
- Assimilating lessons learned from other regions & other sectors



Improved management of central Africa's rich forest resources depends – more than anything else, on good governance