

PEOPLE AND FORESTS

**- COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT IN NORTH EAST INDIA**

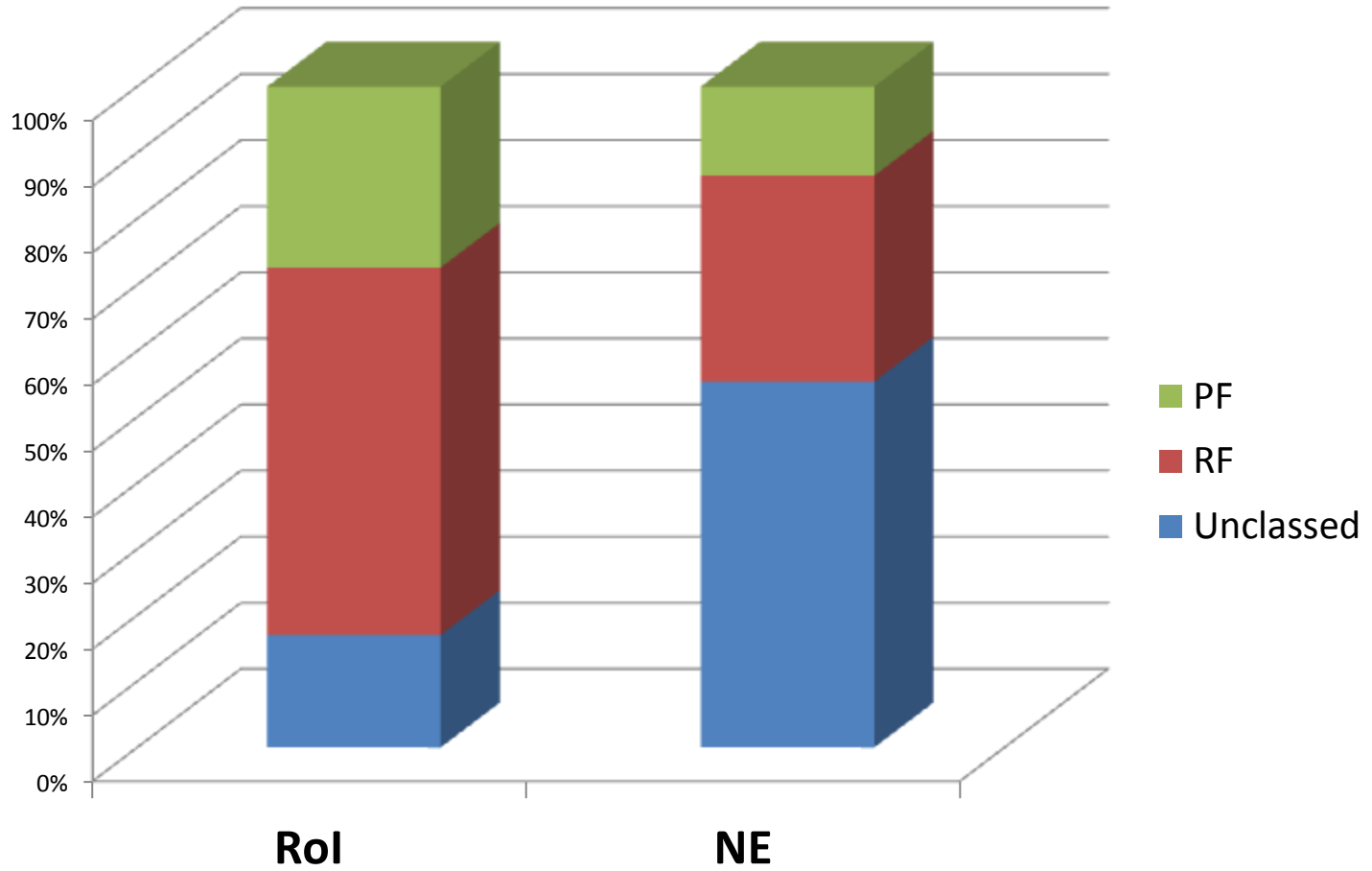
Ownership of Forests in NE

(Source- ISFR- 2015)

STATE	RESERVED	PROTECTED	UNCLASSIFIED	TOTAL RFA	TOTAL GA
Arunachal Pradesh	10589	9779	31039	51407	83743
Assam	17864	0	8968	26832	78438
Manipur	1467	4171	11780	17418	22327
Meghalaya	1113	12	8371	9496	22429
Mizoram#	7909	3568	5240	16717	21081
Nagaland	300	500	7800	8600	16579
Tripura	3600	500	2900	7000	10486
TOTAL	42842	18530	76098	137470	255083

since huge difference between RFA figures reported in ISFR 2015 and ISFR 2013 was observed, figures of ISFR 2013 has been retained.

NE Vs RoI



Community Forests in NE through the ages..

- Marked by long history of communities protecting their territory from each other
- British failed to control the Hills and limited themselves to plains of Assam and certain hill tracts for tea cultivation, timber
- Manipur and Tripura were governed by local Maharajas and AP, Nagaland and Mizoram were designated as beyond “Inner Line”
- Special provisions enabling customary systems of Forest Management during colonial times
- Indian Constitution also retained these special provisions in the form of Sixth schedule, Article 371 A-H
- Autonomous District Councils established on recommendations of Bardoloi committee
- Local/ District Acts recognized community ownership

NE- Policy Process

- Three more tiers of institutions involved in the policy processes.
 - (i) Regional Planning Body, i.e., the North Eastern Council (NEC)
 - (ii) Autonomous District Councils (ADC)
 - (iii) Village Councils/ Traditional Bodies

1980s to present – Increased Government Control

- Timber removal and transit regulations introduced in 1980s (Assam, AP, Meghalaya)
- Vesting of additional powers with Forest officers
- Top Down Approach in designing and implementing programmes
- Recent increasing centralized control through courts and tribunals

Arunachal Pradesh

- Unclassified State Forests- USF (tricky!!)
- Arunachal Pradesh has adopted Assam Forest Regulation-1891 and the state does not have its own Forest Act so far
- The AP Forest Act, 2014 (Draft) does not recognize community ownership of forests and aims to bring more areas under centralized control of SFD.

Meghalaya

Autonomous District Council Policies and Policy instruments impacting NRM sector in Meghalaya

- The Garo Hills District (Jhum) Regulation, 1954
- The Garo Hills District (Forest) Act, 1958
- The United Khasi & Jaintia Hills Autonomous District (Management and Control of Forest) Act, 1958.
- United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District (Management and Control of Forests) Rules, 1960.
- United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District (Management and Control of Forests, Rates of Royalty) Rules, 1959.
- Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Management and Control of Forests, Revised

State Policies and Policy instruments impacting NRM sector in Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Forest Regulation (Application and Amendment) Act, 1973
- The Garo Hills Regulation, 1882 (Regulation 1 of 1882)
- Meghalaya Forest Regulation (Application and Amendment) Act, 1973
- Meghalaya Forest (Removal of Timber) Regulation Act, 1981
- Meghalaya Tree Preservation Act, 1976
- Meghalaya Forest (Removal of Timber) (Regulation) Rules, 1982
- Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991
- Meghalaya Protection of Catchment Areas Act, 1988
- AWIL Fees Act, 1960
- The Bengal Cruelty to Animal Act, 1869
- The Meghalaya Wild Animal and Birds Protection Act, 1971 (Act 9 of 1971)

One size fits All!

- All NE State Govts have adopted JFM guidelines of Gol without any significant local modifications
- No safeguards for community/privately owned forests in NAP guidelines, 2006

PRIVATE SECTOR FORCES

- Proliferation of forest based Industries and commercial crops
- Market accessibility (national and international) and high demand
- Privatisation of community land

COMMUNITY FORCES

- weakening of institutional structure due to changing values and belief systems, growing inequality and politics
- Transition from subsistence economy to cash economy (growing need for cash)

COMMUNITY FOREST MGT IN NE INDIA

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

- increasing control and regulation (court orders etc)
- expansion of Govt owned forests
- parallel CFM institutions
- Poor for mgt of NTFPs
- low priority for livelihood issues