



FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership

*A Community Forestry Journey from India and USA to BC with
Elephants, Aboriginals and Rural Communities*

*A Slide (and fun) Presentation at the
2007 BCCFA Conference*

Ajit Krishnaswamy
Socio-economics Extension Specialist
Ajit.Krishnaswamy@forrex.org





Outline

- ◆ Something about my background
- ◆ Some theories about CF and Social Justice
- ◆ Some slides of my journey living these theories





My Background

- ◆ Worked for the Indian Forest Service in Bihar State
- ◆ Studied Forest Sociology at U of Wash. (Seattle)
- ◆ Last job – National Network of Forest Practitioners, USA
- ◆ With FORREX as the Socio-economics Extension Specialist since Sept. 2006





Community Forestry and Social Justice - Quotes from the CF Guidebook

- ◆ “Participatory decision making is an important concept underlying community forestry, people affected directly by a decision should participate directly in the decision making process”

– The hardest thing I have ever done





Underlying CF is Social Justice

- ◆ Big Picture View – Ultimately what's CF all about?
- ◆ Community Forestry is a platform for dealing with social justice issues, many beyond forestry
- ◆ My argument - Different CF context, but social justice is common thread





Social Justice in Forestry - 1

Social Justice in forestry

- is to ensure equal, effective and intentional **inclusion of all groups** that care for, work in, and depend on forests
- is possible through **equitable policies**
- recognizes the **reciprocal relationship** between forest health and community well-being.





Social Justice in Forestry - 2

Social justice in forestry involves:

- the engagement of **rural and aboriginal peoples** whose knowledge, perspective, and experience can inform management and policy
- access to information, education, and economic opportunities for **rural and aboriginal communities**

Maybe a more comfortable (to some) terminology?
Equity?



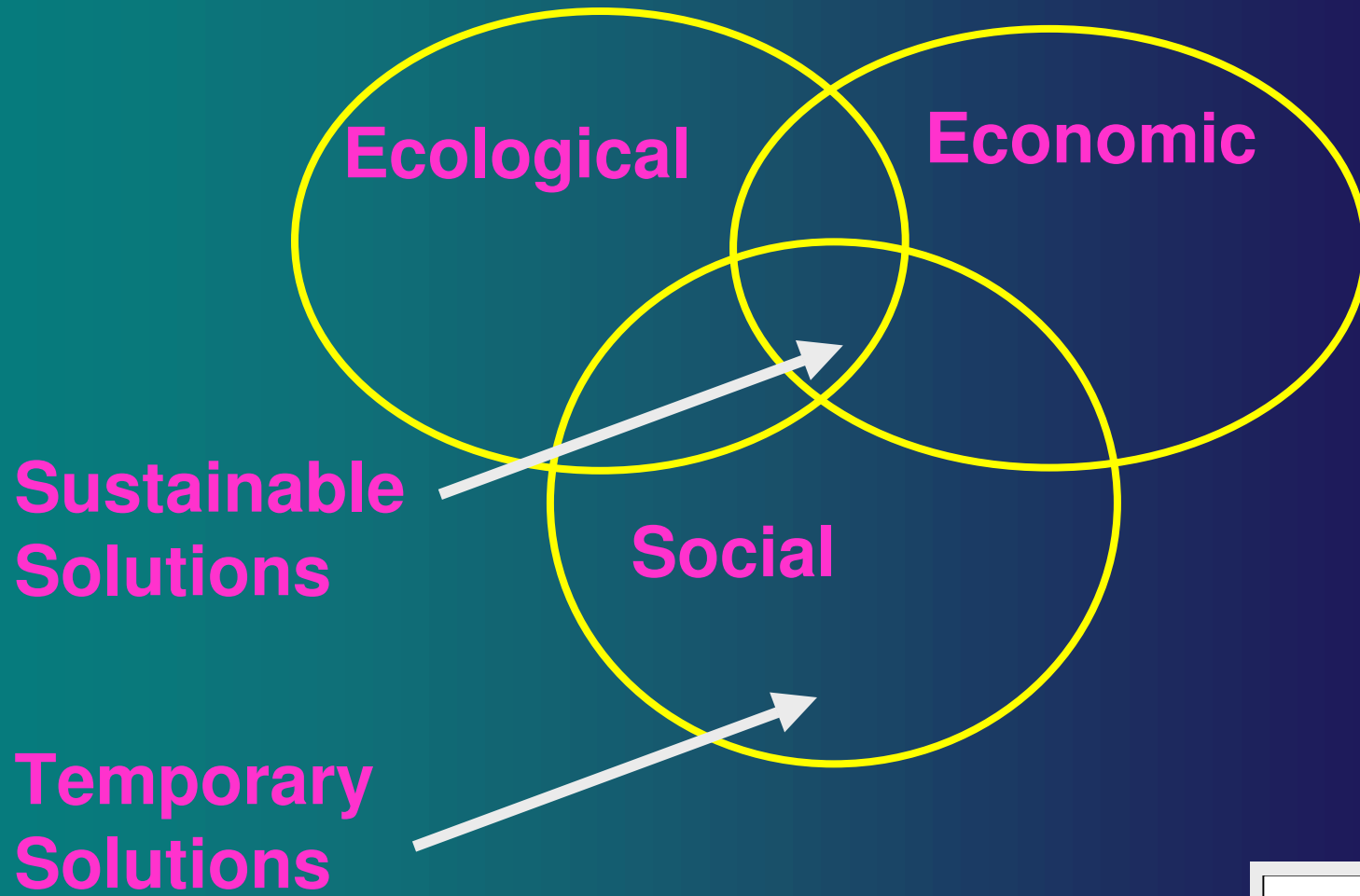
Forest Areas of Canada, USA and India

COUNTRY	LAND AREA (M. HA.)	FOR. AREA (M. HA.)	% FOREST AREA	PER CAPITA FOREST (HA.)
Canada	921	417	45	14.0
USA	936	296	31.6	1.44
India	329	75	22.8	0.14

- ◆ Canada's forest area is more than five times that of India
- ◆ India's population is more than 30 times that of Canada
- ◆ Per capita forest area indicator of the "social" in forest management



Sustainable NR Solutions

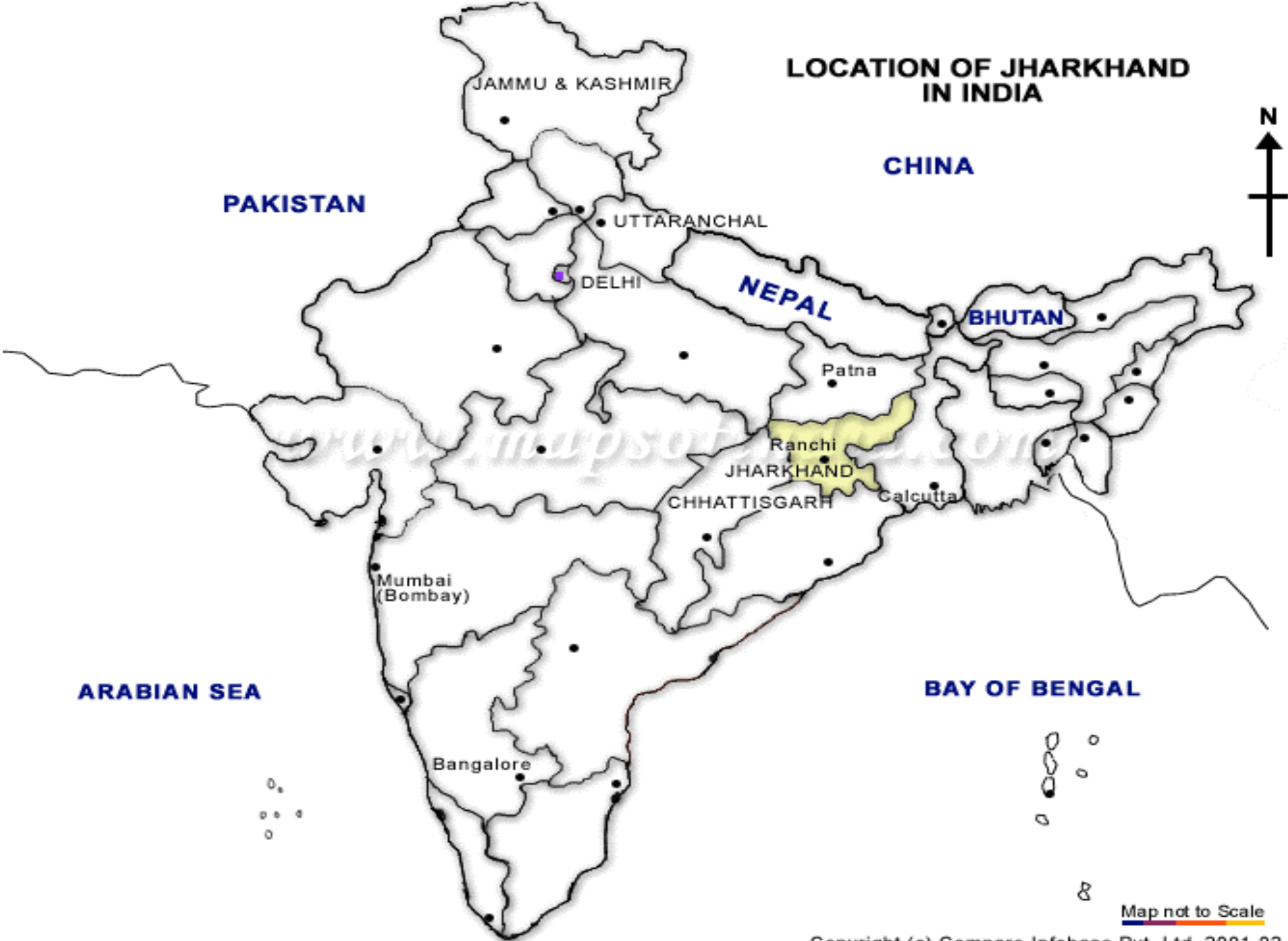


**Sustainable
Solutions**

**Temporary
Solutions**



LOCATION OF JHARKHAND IN INDIA



Map not to Scale



India – Forest Resource Use

- ◆ 300 million people use forest resources
- ◆ 2-3 million people depend on selling fire-wood

Firewood and Charcoal as a percentage of domestic energy

- ◆ **NORTH INDIA**
 - Rural 65% Hills, 67% Plains
 - Average (Rural and Urban) 42%
- ◆ **SOUTH INDIA**
 - Average 31%
- ◆ To meet Delhi's firewood needs, 6 ha. of forests must be clear-cut every day
- ◆ (Source: National Commission on Applied Research and Institute of Technoeconomic Studies, 1981)





India's Aboriginal Population

- ◆ 52 million – 1981 census
- ◆ Forest-dependent (80% live in productive forest zones)

Jharkhand Tribes

- ◆ 17.5 million – 30% of Plateau population
- ◆ Hos, Mundas, Oraons, Santhals





Forestland Ownership in the USA

- ◆ Total Commercial Forest Land 483 m. acres (195 m. ha)
 - Private Owners – 57%
 - Forest Industry – 15%
 - Government – 28%
- ◆ Private Ownership
 - 71% own less than 10 Acres
 - 1% own more 500 Acres
- ◆ CF in US identified by communities of place and communities of interest

