

Forest & Farm Facility



Mission & Focus



Forest & Farm
FACILITY
*good governance for multiple
benefits of forests*





Time to Get Organized

Over the past decade, the National Forest Programme Facility has supported more than 80 countries worldwide in implementing national forest programmes (nfp). This has led to a process of democratization at country level, which has empowered a broad range of stakeholders to participate more fully in national-level policy processes with increased transparency and a stronger voice on forest related issues. Despite the significant progress made, considerable challenges remain which require urgent attention, first and foremost the increased visibility and integration of forestry into other sectors.

With the NFP Facility drawing to a close at the end of 2012, a new global initiative is now being launched under the title, Forest & Farm Facility (hereafter named simply "Facility").

Drawing on the lessons learned from both the NFP Facility and the closely related Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) Programme, the new Facility will address the remaining challenges in nfp implementation. In addition, it will support brand new initiatives to help countries improve their governance structures at different levels (local, national and regional) to achieve sustainable forest landscape management, whilst boosting food security and promoting climate-smart agriculture.

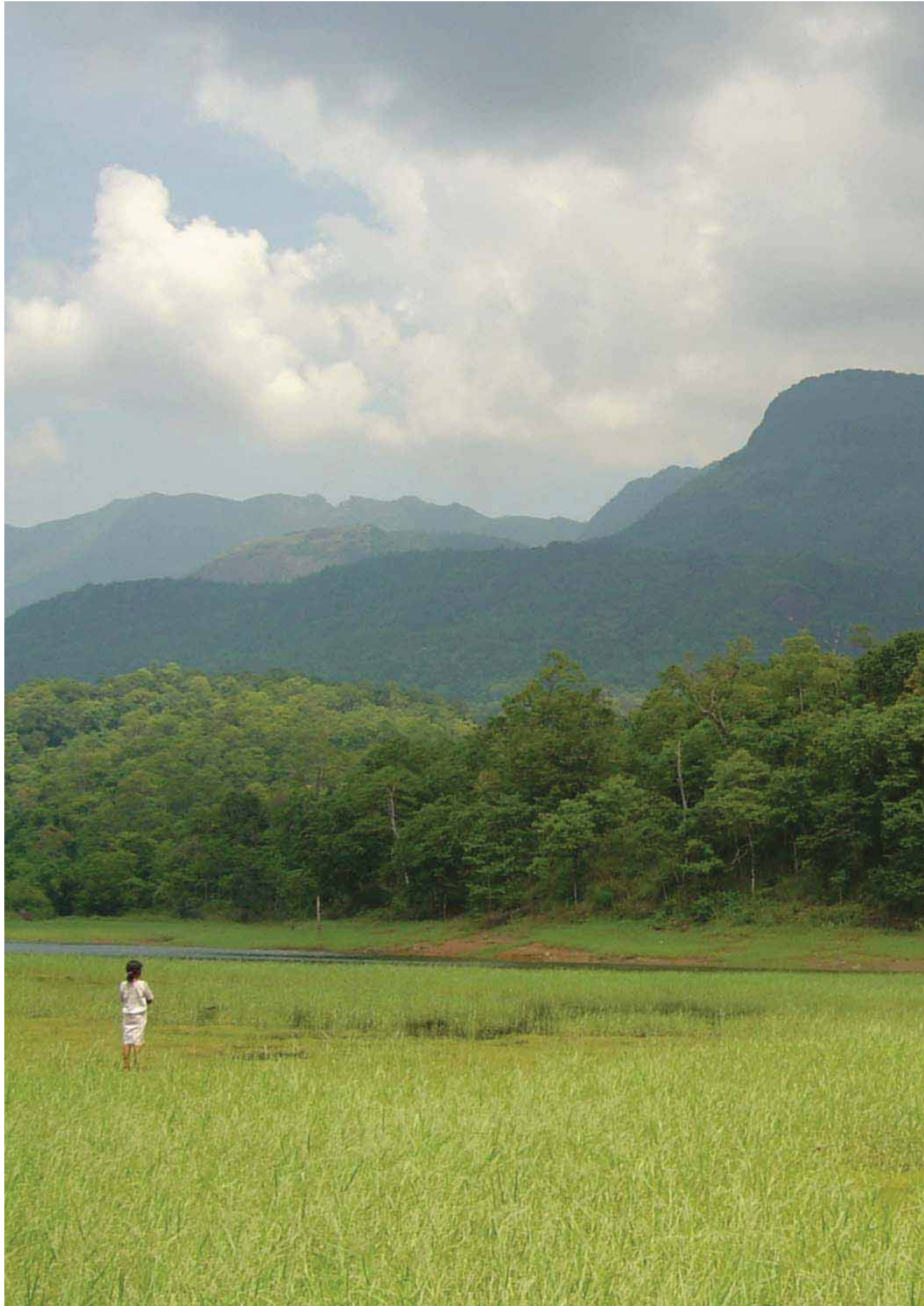
The Facility will promote cross-sectoral coordination and further enhance the organization and capacity of local people and communities so they can engage in policy dialogues and decision-making processes at all levels. This will help equip local people with better skills and opportunities to also access investments for sustainable forest and farm management.

The Facility will develop and fund partnerships at local, national, regional and international levels, and offer grants that enable local stakeholders to form organizations and alliances. In addition, it will provide grants to governments to encourage the establishment or strengthening of cross-sectoral platforms, to better coordinate multi-stakeholder and multi-sector cooperation and dialogue. In this way, the Facility will catalyze more equitable and inclusive governance and finance mechanisms at national, sub national and local levels.

The work of the Facility will be coordinated by a small management team, hosted by The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in Rome. A Steering Committee will evaluate and refresh the vision, principles, policies, strategies and basic activities of the Facility, while a Donors Support Group will develop eligibility guidelines for selecting partners and criteria for grant applications.

Expected Impact and Outcomes

At the end of the 5 year programme, local people in the Facility partner Countries will be well informed, self-organized, and actively engaged in forest and farm related policies. During this period, it is also anticipated that local people will have boosted their income and long-term food security, all the while using environmentally friendly practices and production processes. In addition, Governments will have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms to increase the visibility and leverage of the forest sector in decision making processes.



Call for a Forest & Farm Facility

Global funding opportunities and investments are increasingly turning to forests and farms as a means of alleviating poverty, enhancing ecosystem services and mitigating and adapting to climate change. Today about 30% of the world's forests are managed by local people, either formally or informally and it is these local groups — smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples — that make many forest investments work on the ground.

And yet, forest and farm smallholders are often marginalized from decision making processes and isolated from economic and market opportunities. Moreover, the effective delivery of investments into locally managed forests and farms is currently being hindered by a variety of challenges including:

- poor governance mechanisms
- inadequate skills and capacities
- limited access to market opportunities
- lack of coordination amongst multiple funding streams
- low awareness on the complexity and multiple values of forests.

The mission, therefore, of the Facility is to promote sustainable forest and farm management by supporting local, regional, national and international organizations and platforms for effective engagement in policies and investments that meet the needs of local people.

Operations and Approach

The Facility is designed to support local groups and governments to respond to the aforementioned challenges using a two pronged approach:

At local grass-root level – by facilitating strong and equitable partnerships amongst smallholders, communities and indigenous peoples, enabling them to make their voices heard in policy making processes at local, regional, national and global levels on forest landscape issues. The Facility also supports capacity building of local groups to unlock financial opportunities for investments in forest and farm development.

At national level – by supporting governments to ensure that forestry is part and parcel of new and/or existing multi-sectoral platforms. This is done through enhanced dialogue, information and capacity building in order to better coordinate the various ministries, private sector and civil society stakeholders involved in, or affected by, policies and activities on forest landscapes.

Facility Services





Promoting equitable governance mechanisms

- Support local organizations to strengthen and/or create networks in order to influence local and national decision making processes.
- Foster genuine ownership of, and financial allocations to, in-country demand driven processes.
- Support multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms that respond to issues related to the social, economic and environmental services of forests and trees at the farm level.
- Strengthen access to economic and market opportunities for smallholder, women, community, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized groups.

Improving coordination between multiple funding streams

- Build capacities of forest and farm dependent people to effectively organize themselves to engage actively (for instance, through associations or alliances) in policy and decision-making processes, in partnership with ongoing initiatives like REDD+, FLEGT and other country initiatives.
- Enhance the capacity, organization and representation of forest enterprises, active in the domestic market, in policy processes towards inclusive legal frameworks.
- Create networks of forest and farm based right-holders that will be essential for rolling out food security, climate smart agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.

Skills development and access to market opportunities

- Build local capacities to help make global and domestic funding opportunities respond to locally identified needs and priorities, thus increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of grant delivery.
- Support the establishment of partnerships between the private sector and forest and farm smallholders, women, community and Indigenous Peoples groups, building on the successful support to National Forest Financing Strategies and Mechanisms piloted by the NFP Facility.
- Strengthen links, and the exchange of skills and knowledge between enterprises, as developed through the Forest Connect network coordinated by FAO/IIED.

Added Value of the Facility





Small and well targeted support makes a difference

Over the past 10 years, some 900 grants have been delivered by the NFP Facility. This experience has demonstrated that small grants (average 25.000 USD) transferred directly to the bank accounts of local organizations have had a significant impact.

The new Facility will use its experience in small grant delivery to support local associations in increasing their involvement in policy decisions, stimulating improved access to financial resources and a better share of the benefits.

Effective mechanism for channeling resources

Building on the experiences of the NFP Facility, the new Facility will continue to channel resources to country activities, whilst ensuring their effective management and monitoring.

Convening power

The Facility, together with its partners FAO, IUCN, IIED and WB, will help catalyze coordination between different governmental organizations, thereby harmonizing approaches from different sectors which take into account forest and farm management.

Unblocking investment bottlenecks

Turning 'hard' financial investments into sustainable forest and farm management can only begin once there are local associations that can effectively absorb investments and deliver credible benefits at acceptable transaction costs and manageable risks.

'Soft' investments are needed to help establish such associations and build the necessary capacities to ensure that they are credible actors in the policy and market arena.

Global Outreach

The Facility will disseminate best practices at the global level, with a view to forging south-to-south learning experiences across divergent contexts and topics.

Efficient and low transaction costs

The Facility will use FAO's in-country offices and staff, to gradually roll out the new Facility programme. This will guarantee a smooth start and low transaction costs. The funds of the Facility are managed in a multi donor trust fund, making it a fully donor coordinated effort. Furthermore, the highly demanded coordination at country level is considerably improved by the close cooperation between FAO, IUCN, and WB.







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