

**ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST POLICY THINK TANK
6TH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**

27 May – 6 June 2013

SAARC Forestry Centre, Thimphu, Bhutan



FOREST POLICIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

COURSE REPORT

Prepared by CTS Nair

Course Co-ordinator

July 2013



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The sixth Executive Forest Policy Course for Asia and the Pacific was implemented as an activity of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. Arrangements were coordinated by the Department of Forests and Park Services of Bhutan, the SAARC Forestry Centre and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The course was coordinated by CTS Nair, Natural Resource Management Consultant and Jennifer Conje, Acting Assistant Director for Policy, USDA Forest Service.

Grateful thanks are due to a number of partner agencies, which provided crucial support to the course including supporting participants, making available resource people, and assisting with logistics to ensure a highly successful event. These include the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), European Forestry Institute (EFI), European Union (EU), Ford Foundation, the USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program, Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT), The Nature Conservancy, and USDA Forest Service.

Sincere appreciation is due to the various resource people who willingly contributed their time and expertise to presenting and facilitating course modules: CTS Nair (Natural Resource Management Consultant), Jennifer Conje (Acting Assistant Director for Policy, USDA Forest Service, International Programs), Patrick Durst (Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), Sim Heok Choh (Executive Secretary, APAFRI Secretariat), Eva Muller (Director, Forest Policy and Economics Division, Forestry Department, FAO); Aimi Lee Abdullah (Policy Analyst, European Forest Institute, FLEGT Asia), Nigel Sizer (Director, Forests Initiative & Global Forest Watch 2.0, World Resources Institute), T. R. Manoharan (Consultant - European Forest Institute & FSC National Representative for India), Yurdi Yasmi (ICRAF, Viet Nam), Karma Ura (President, The Centre for Bhutanese Studies), Sangay Wangchuk (Director General, SAARC Forestry Centre), Chenchu Norbu (Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests), Karma J. Tempel (Participatory Forest Management Specialist, SAARC Forestry Centre).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	BACKGROUND	3
	• Objectives and expectations	3
	• Participation	3
2.	COURSE PROGRAMME	4
	• Opening session	4
	• Ice-breaking session	4
	• Technical sessions	5
	• Closing session	10
3.	EVALUATION OF THE COURSE	10
	• General organizational issues	10
	• Societal changes and crafting forest policies	11
	• Policy process	11
	• Production of wood and other products	12
	• International agreements and national policies	12
	• Effective communication	12
	• Governance and institutions	13
	• Social issues and forest policies	14
	• Environmental services	14
	• Analysis of national forest policies	14
	• Other activities	15
	• Assessment of individual scoring	15
	• Specific comments	16
4.	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	20
	• Factors that contributed to the success of the course	20
	• Recommendations	22
	ANNEXES	24
Annex I:	List of participants	25
Annex II:	Programme of the course	29
Annex III:	Resource persons	34
Annex IV:	List of reading materials	36
Annex V:	Outline of the 6 th Forest Policy Course	39
Annex VI:	Policy briefs prepared by participants	43
Annex VII:	Evaluation form	58

1. BACKGROUND

Enhancing the capacity for forest policy analysis has been an important thrust of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and since 2008 FAO in collaboration with other organizations has been conducting short policy courses to fulfil this objective. These courses have been geared to address regional, sub-regional and national issues and to provide a coherent framework to improve policy analysis skills. The sixth policy course was organized under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank at the SAARC Forestry Centre from 27 May to 6 June 2013 focusing on the theme “*Forest policies for the 21st century*”. This report provides an overview of the course, outlining the key issues addressed, the overall outcome of the course, important lessons learnt and recommendations for organizing future policy courses.

1.1. Objectives of the course and expectations

As with the previous policy courses, this was also organized with the objective of enhancing policy analysis capability of forestry professionals in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly focusing on senior policy makers in the South and Southeast Asian countries. Although initially South Asia was the focus, the theme attracted wider interest and it was decided to broaden the geographical scope of the course to cover other countries also. The entire thrust was to provide a broad framework, enabling the participants to understand the challenges in the formulation and implementation of forest policies during the coming decades of the 21st century. The specific objectives of the course were:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the implications of larger societal changes including globalization and localization and the imperatives of current and emerging international agreements and conventions on the forest sector.
- Enable sharing of experiences and best practices in adapting the forestry sector in the context of the transition to a Green Economy.
- Explore ideas and tools for policy analysis and development and their application in Asia.

By the end of the course, it was expected that the participants would have:

1. Gained a better understanding of the complexity of the problems that forestry will have to face in the next few decades.
2. Equipped to analyze the problems and to identify options appropriate under different circumstances.
3. Enhanced the ability to effectively communicate ideas/ perceptions/ views to the different stakeholders.
4. Produced briefs on selected policy related issues.

1.2. Participation

In all 22 participants from 11 countries (see Table 1) attended the course (see **Annex I** for the list of participants). Although the course was initially targeted at senior officials, the

divergent nomination process as also the specific conditions in each country led the participation of persons with experiences ranging from less than 10 years to over 30 years.

Table 1: Participants in the Sixth Forest Policy course

Country	Number of participants
Bangladesh	2
Bhutan	5
China	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Laos	2
Myanmar	4
Nepal	1
Pakistan	3
Philippines	1
Sri Lanka	1
Total	22

While most of the participants belonged to public sector forestry departments there were also those from civil society organizations, timber trading association, and academic and research institutions. This diversity of experience and background provided a very rich blend enhancing the learning experience.

2. COURSE PROGRAMME

Detailed programme of the course is given as **Annex II**.

2.1. Opening session

Mr. Sangay Wangchuk, Director General, SAARC Forestry Centre welcomed the participants and Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office outlined the background to the course. In his inaugural address Mr. Chenchu Norbu, Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan highlighted the multiple challenges in the formulation and implementation of policies and the need to have a better foresight of emerging issues. He welcomed the initiative of the FAO in launching this joint effort involving the SAARC Forestry Centre, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Research Institutions and the various organizations who sponsored participants and provided resource persons. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Sim Heok-Choh, Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)

2.2. Ice-breaking session

An ice-breaking session facilitated by Jennifer Conje and Karma Temphele provided a solid informal environment for the entire course. Participants were requested to outline their

background and how they got involved in forestry. The way the ice-breaking session was conducted helped to break communication barriers between participants and to create a very dynamic environment.

2.3. Technical sessions

CTS Nair provided an overview of the course and how the different modules/ sessions have

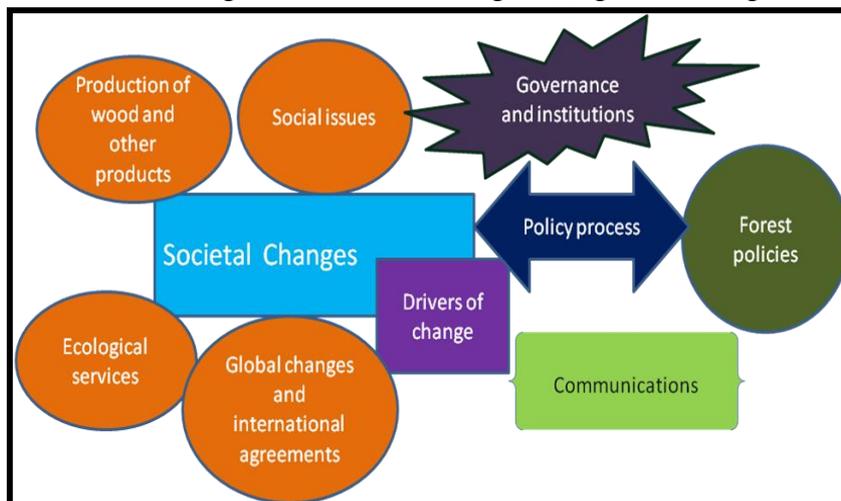


been designed. Right at the outset it was emphasized that discussions sharing the diverse expertise and experience of the participants will form the foundation of the course. Soft copies of relevant articles and reports were provided to the participants (see ANNEX IV). The lectures were kept at a minimal level and considerable emphasis was given for group discussions, role playing and group work. Through

out the various sessions participants were encouraged to intervene and to raise questions and share their views. The presentations made by various resource persons are available at the APAFRI website and a CD containing soft copies of all presentations has been provided to all the participants

2.3.1. Overall framework

Giving due consideration to the emerging challenges for forestry during the coming decades, the course focused on 10 key areas as depicted in the figure below. These included (a) drivers of change and societal changes (b) global changes and international agreements, (c)



provision of ecological services, (d) production of wood and other products, (e) social issues, (f) governance and institutions, (g) effective communication, (h) policy process and (i) national forest policies. ANNEX V provides the broad areas addressed during the course. The main thrust was to outline key issues under each of the theme

and to discuss their implications on forest policy formulation and implementation in the future.

2.3.2. Sessions

A short description of the various sessions is provided below:

Change drivers and societal changes

The session was facilitated by Patrick Durst and CTS Nair. Short lectures were followed by group discussions encouraging participants to identify important drivers of change and how they affect forests and forestry. Some of the main points emerging from the discussion are:

- Society in the future will be very different from what is now on account of the collective impact of multiple drivers – demographic, economic, social, environmental, political and advancements in science and technology.
- While individual drivers will impact forests directly and indirectly, this may be accentuated or moderated by other drivers.
- Collectively the drivers of change will bring about fundamental changes in societal characteristics and the proportion of different segments – pre-agrarian, agrarian, industrial and post-industrial – will be very different from what it is now.
- Divergence in societal characteristics would also imply divergence in the demand on forests.
- Densely populated countries will face major challenges, especially considering the limited availability of natural resources and policies will have to be robust to address increasing conflicts over the use of natural resources including forests.

The forest policy process

This session, facilitated by Jennifer Conje and Patrick Durst, dealt with the following

- The various phases in the policy process were examined indicating what may be done during policy analysis, development, implementation monitoring and evaluation phases.
- The divergences between theory and practice of policy making and implementation were highlighted.
- Most often many of the policy problems in forestry are “wicked problems” requiring non-linear approaches.
- Conveying policy issues in a succinct and brief manner is critical.

During the session a special lecture was given by Dasho Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan Studies on Bhutan’s effort to measure socio-economic progress adopting the Gross National Happiness framework.

Production of wood and other products

During the session, facilitated by CTS Nair and TR Manoharan, the main thrust was to identify the implications of changing demand for and supply of products (including timber, woodfuel and non-wood forest products) and some of the key issues relating to cross-border trade in the South Asian context. Presentations and discussions focused on how the objectives

of forest policies have been redefined and will continue to change in the context of changes in demand for and supply of products, increasing cross border trade and changes in policies in other sectors. In particular it was noted that in the context of climate change policies, the demand for wood could increase as it being a more energy efficient/ environment-friendly material requiring and this may require changes in forest policies. Some of the key points emerging from the session are:

- There could be a significant increase in the demand for wood, especially if countries pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation policies giving thrust to the use of environment friendly / renewable materials.
- Densely populated resource poor countries will exert considerable pressure on resources in forest rich countries. In the absence of effective policies and strong institutions such demand pulls could lead to unsustainable use of resources.
- The challenges due to the rapid increase in demand for wood in countries like India, its implications on cross-border trade and the relevance of forest law enforcement and improvement in governance were highlighted.
- Climate change policies could also pave the way for increased use of wood as energy. There will be a need to enhance efficiency and convenience in the use of wood as fuel.
- The NWFP sector will witness considerable diversification, with domestication and large scale cultivation. Yet collection from the wild will persist for a large number of products, which in the absence of strong policy and institutional arrangements could undermine sustainability.

International agreements and national forest policies

The session was facilitated by Jennifer Conje and CTS Nair and the main thrust was to outline and discuss how international agreements are influencing national forest policies, particularly focusing on the post 1992 developments. Specifically the presentations and discussions addressed the following:

- Considering the growing linkages between countries through globalization and the trans-boundary nature of environmental problems, international agreements will play an important role in shaping national forest policies.
- Crafting international agreements and their implementation will continue to be challenging, as countries and blocks of countries attempt to balance their national interests with what is expected on account of commitments arising out of international agreements. It will remain a slow and often frustrating process.
- Yet there will be no escape from just and equitable arrangements in a more globalised environment.

Presentations by groups of participants focused on important international agreements and the role playing session helped to critically assess the implications of international agreements. It brought out how conflicts could emerge on account of local and national compulsions in resource use as international agreements create obligations to provide global public goods.

Effective communication

The session, facilitated by Nigel Sizer and Jennifer Conje, underscored the critical importance of improving communications in the formulation and implementation of forest

policies. It was noted that diversification of stakeholders and divergence of interests and objectives would require improving communications to build consensus. The emerging role social networking media was also discussed, emphasizing the very rapid changes taking place in communication technologies. Presentations, group-work and discussions focused on the following:

- The 10 steps involved in effective communications at the institutional and project levels.
- Credibility and building alliances were underscored as key to effective communications.
- Making the messages stick depends on simplicity, credibility, concreteness and unexpectedness. Emotion backed stories enhance effectiveness.
- We should not feel that big changes are beyond our capabilities; all the changes witnessed in the world are outcomes of individual actions.
- Social media will play an important role in bringing about changes; the rapid changes in communication technologies will impact social networking and many of the existing networking platforms (for example face book, twitter, etc.) may undergo major changes or even fade out, as new platforms emerge.

Governance and institutions

This session included a series of presentations addressing challenges in reforming forestry institutions, critical issues in forest governance, FLEGT in the larger and Asia-Pacific context and the Bonn challenge of greening and restoration. The sessions were facilitated by Eva Muller, CTS Nair, Aimi Lee and Nigel Sizer.

- In the context of larger changes it becomes imperative that forestry institutions undergo fundamental changes. While policies and legislation have undergone changes, institutional changes have been very slow.
- The significance of improving governance was highlighted and it was noted that repeated failure to implement solutions is due to unaddressed governance deficiencies and power imbalances.
- Lessons learnt from governance assessments in Brazil and Indonesia were highlighted.
- The implications of EU Timber Regulations and the EU FLEGT Action Plan in the context of the increasing demand for wood in the Asia-Pacific region, especially India and China were highlighted.



Based on a questionnaire, participants made an assessment of changes in the institutions they have been working and this provided an insight into the differing perceptions/ pace of changes in public sector forestry institutions. .

In view of the limited time and the complexity of governance and institutional issues, some of the participants were unable to fully grasp the underlying thrust of institutional reform. At least one participant felt that institutional reform agenda is being used as a pretext to weaken public sector institutions and to promote private sector involvement. There is a need to dispel this and the way the issue of institutional reform is presented requires significant changes. Obviously such a critical issue cannot be addressed effectively in just a couple of presentations/ exercises.

Social issues and forest policies

The session was facilitated by Yurdi Yasmi with substantial thrust being given to elaborate factors that lead to forest related conflicts and what needs to be done to resolve them. In particular the following aspects were highlighted:

- Divergent perceptions on the use of forests by different sections in society could accentuate resource use conflicts in the coming decades.
- Equity and justice should form important planks of forest policies and under no circumstances local communities should feel that they are left out of the process of policy formulation and implementation.
- Forestry institutions will have to be strengthened to provide a level playing field and skills in conflict resolution need to be strengthened.

Provision of ecological services

CTS Nair and Jennifer Conje facilitated the session which started with short video clips on forest derived environmental services in Bhutan and Nepal. Important issues discussed in the various presentations and group discussions are:

- Society is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of forests in the provision of ecological services. With the looming water scarcity, improved management of water will remain a major thrust of forest management.
- Managing forests for water could be integrated with the provision of other ecological services like biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, arresting land degradation and improving amenity values.
- Although market driven options like PES could be of some limited use, the role of policies will remain critical in ensuring justice and equity in the provision of ecological services.
- There should be a more systematic assessment of the options like REDD+, which should be made an integral component of SFM.



Analysis of national forest policies

Considering the fact that national policies were discussed during the earlier sessions, the entire thrust of this session was on preparing policy briefs on selected issues. Although participants came up with a long list of issues, eventually it was decided that policy briefs will be prepared as a group effort. Accordingly the following 5 policy briefs were prepared by the participants:

1. Addressing governance issues within forest policies of Asia: the need to reform forestry institutions and to build local capacity;
2. Land use conflicts: an interface between forest and non-forest use of land;
3. Agricultural expansion: the driver of deforestation and degradation;
4. Halting forest degradation by co-management of NTFPs;
5. Increasing demand for fuelwood in Pakistan.

Participants devoted substantial time to identify the problems, define the issues involved, assess the different options and to draft policy briefs on the topics so identified. These briefs were subjected to open discussion and peer review (**ANNEX VI**).

2.4. Closing session

The closing session was held on 6 June. CTS Nair provided an overview of course and thanked the various partners. It was pointed out that overall the course has been extremely effective, largely stemming from a combination of several factors. Mr. Chencho Norbu, Director General of Department of Forests and Parks Service congratulated all the participants and awarded the certificates.

3. EVALUATION OF THE COURSE

At the conclusion of the course, a questionnaire was distributed to all the participants (questionnaire attached as **Annex VII**) seeking their feedback on the course. In addition to requesting the participants to grade the different components of the course (from very good to very poor), they were requested to give comments on what they found most useful, what parts of the course they found least useful and suggestions to improve the course in future. Key findings of the assessment made by the course participants are summarised below:

3.1. General organizational issues

Table 2 below provides the assessment made by the participants as regards the overall organizational aspects relating to the course:

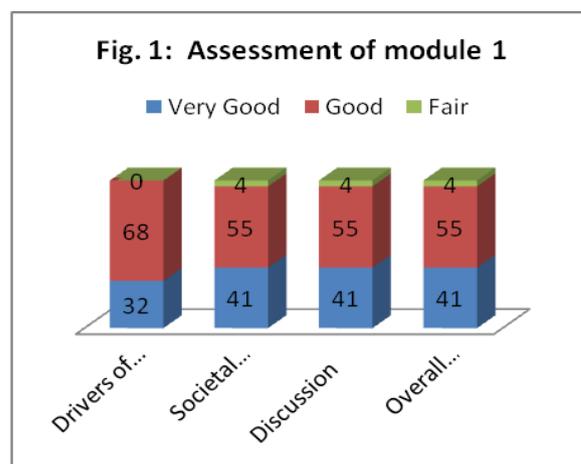
From Table 2 it is evident that more than 95% of the participants found the overall arrangements for the course to be very good or good.

Table 2: Assessment of overall organizational aspects (in percentage of responses)

Organizational issues	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Total
Information received on the course	54	32	14	0	0	100
Information on general arrangements	80	15	5	0	0	100
Accommodation arrangements	68	27	5	0	0	100
Meals, breaks, etc	59	41	0	0	0	100
Venue arrangements	67	33	0	0	0	100
Opportunities for interacting with other participants	82	14	4	0	0	100
Overall arrangements	73	23	4	0	0	100

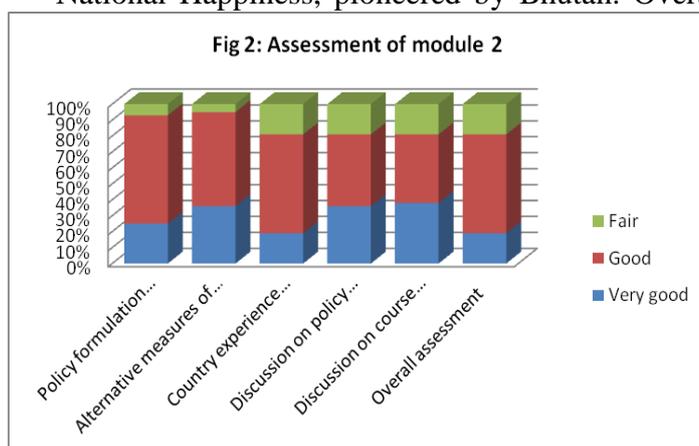
3.2. Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future

Figure 1 provides how the participants have evaluated usefulness of the different components of Module 1. Overall 96 percent of the participants assessed the module as very good (41 percent) or good (55 percent). The remaining 4 percent (just 1 participant) rated the module as fair.



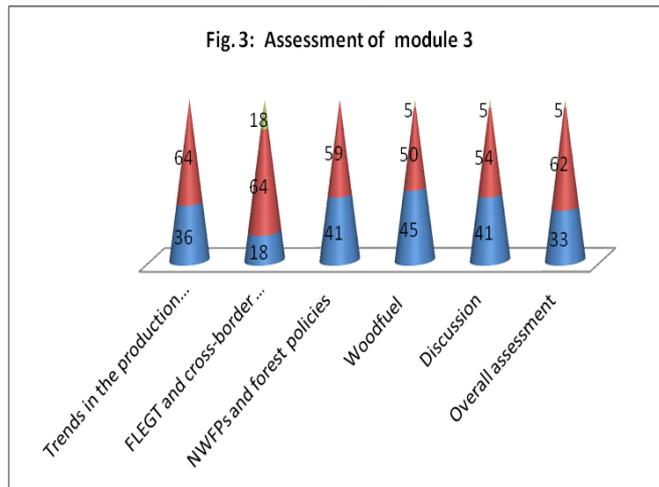
3.3. The policy process

Module 2 looked into the different aspects of policy process and involved integrated presentations and discussions. This module also included a presentation on the concept Gross National Happiness, pioneered by Bhutan. Overall 80 percent of the participants rated the module as very good (19 percent) and good (62 percent). In comparison with other modules a larger number of participants rated this module as fair.



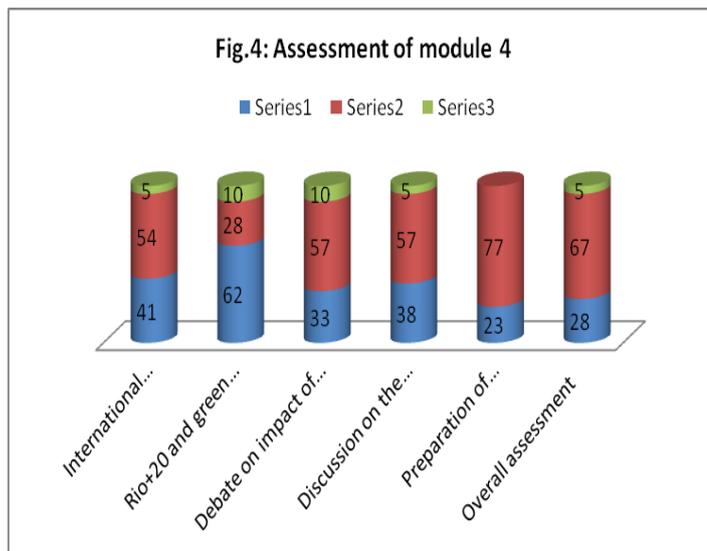
3.4. Production of wood and other products

This module consisted of presentations and discussions on (a) trends in the production,



processing and trade of wood products, (b) FLEGT and cross-border trade in South Asia, (c) non-wood forest products and forest policies and (c) the future of woodfuel. Excepting the session on FLEGT, more than 95% of the participants rated the module as very good or good (see Fig.3). In the case of the FLEGT and cross border trade 82 percent rated it as very good or good and the remaining 18 percent as fair.

3.5. International agreements and national forest policies

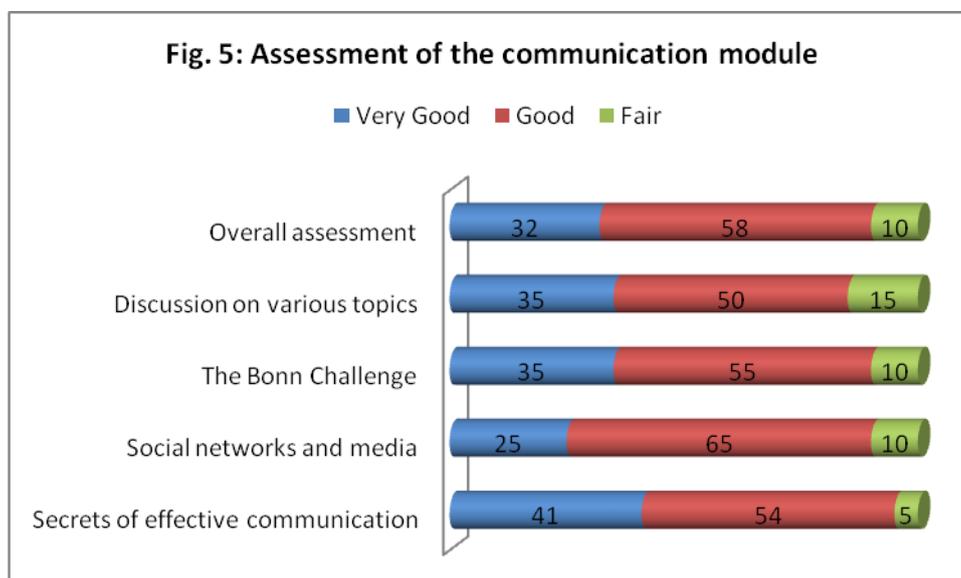


This module was also appreciated widely with 95 percent of the participants rating this as very good (28 percent) or good (68 percent). The rating assigned to the different components is indicated in Figure 4:

3.6. Effective communication

Overall this module was also received has been regarded as very useful with 90 percent of the participants rating this as very good (32 percent) and good (58 percent). Among the different components

of the module, the one on Secrets of effective communications received very high scores with 95 percent of participants rating it as very good or good (see Fig 5).



3.7. Governance and institutions

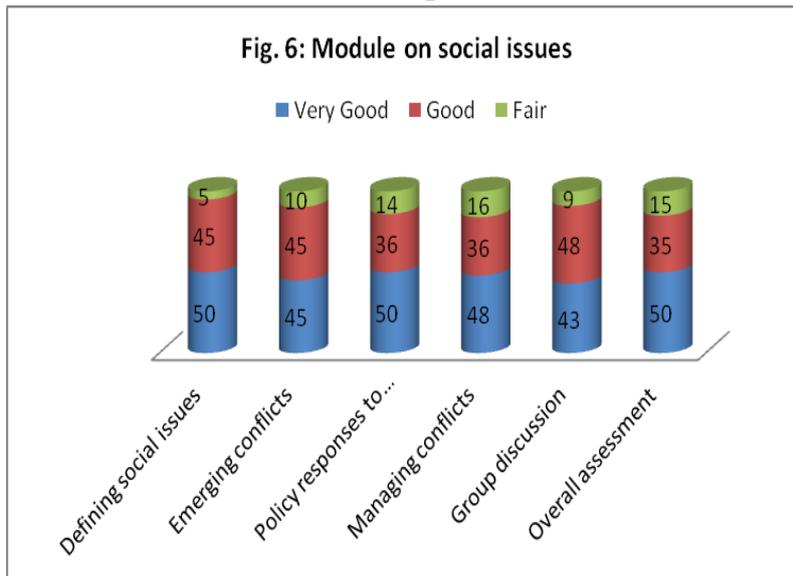
Table 3 provides an indication of how the participants rated the module on governance and institutions.

Table 3: Participants assessment of governance and institutions (in percentages)

Topic	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Challenges of reforming forestry institutions	41	54	0	5	100
Critical issues in forest governance	27	68	5	0	100
Emerging issues in FLEGT	32	50	18	0	100
FLEGT in the Asia-Pacific	26	47	27	0	100
Emerging revolution in forest monitoring and information	40	55	5	0	100
Group work on institutional changes	43	57	0	0	100
Overall assessment	38	62	0	0	100

Overall 100 percent of the participants rated this module as very good (38 percent) and good (62 percent). Among the different components of the module, one participant (5 percent) rated the presentation on challenges in reforming forestry institutions as poor. This was obvious from the discussion immediately after the presentation. Somehow one participant felt that the reform agenda underpinning the presentation is being spearheaded by some of the international agencies which could severely undermine the capacity of forestry departments and he was expecting something very different focusing on strengthening existing forestry departments. Although every effort was made to clarify the issue, this participant remained unconvinced. Obviously the topic on institutional change needs to be handled carefully avoiding potential misinterpretation. There is a need to address this key topic much more systematically giving significantly more time so that participants are well prepared to absorb the entire idea of improving performance of institutions and bringing in the idea of institutional change as part of performance improvement.

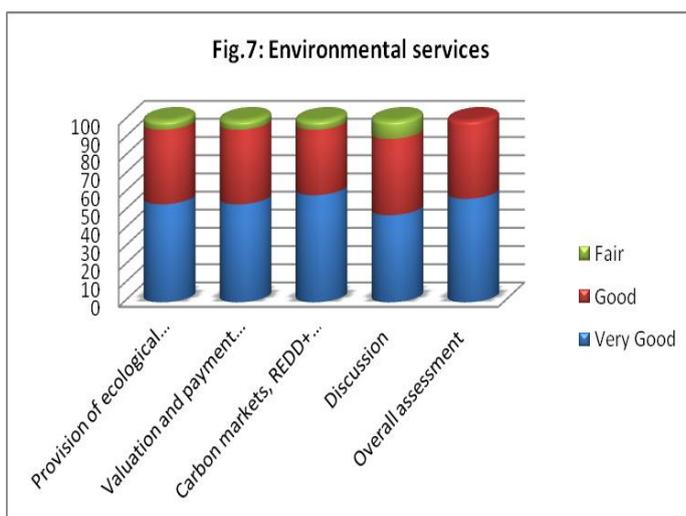
3.8. Social issues and forest policies



Overall this module of the course also received high rating (see Fig 6), with 85 percent of the participants grading the module as very good (50 percent) and good (35 percent). On the sidelines however some participants indicated that more thrust on actual experience of managing forest related conflicts is required; in most cases forest managers are

aware of the existence of conflicts, but have inadequate understanding of how conflicts are actually resolved based on actual experience.

3.9. Environmental services



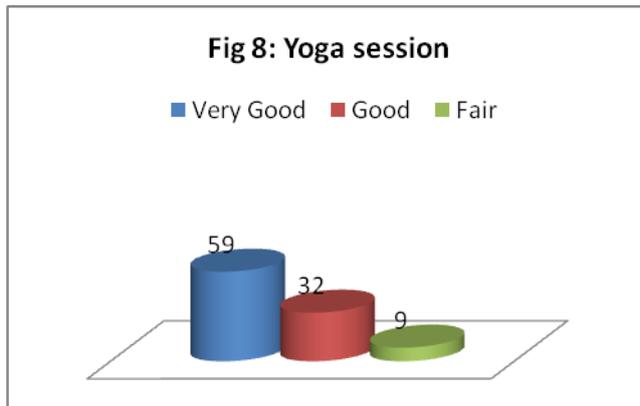
This module was also rated very highly by the participants with almost all participants grading the module as very good (57 percent) and good (43 percent) (Fig.7). Largely this is an outcome of comprehensive presentation of key issues relating to provision of ecological services, issues relating to their valuation and topical issues like carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies.

3.10. Analysis of national forest policies

In view of time constraints much of the thrust of this module was on preparing the policy briefs and their presentation. A separate session on analysing national policies was skipped considering that most of the issues have already been addressed in the earlier sessions. During the session participants worked in groups drafting policy briefs and presenting the key findings. Each of the policy brief was critically commented by the participants. All the participants who provided their assessment rated this session as very good or good.

3.11. Other activities

During the course, the participants had an opportunity to visit some of the forests in Bhutan and obtain an idea of some of the larger management issues. Further most of the participants also attended a one-hour yoga session on alternate days. Both these were evaluated as very good or good by most participants (See Figure 8).



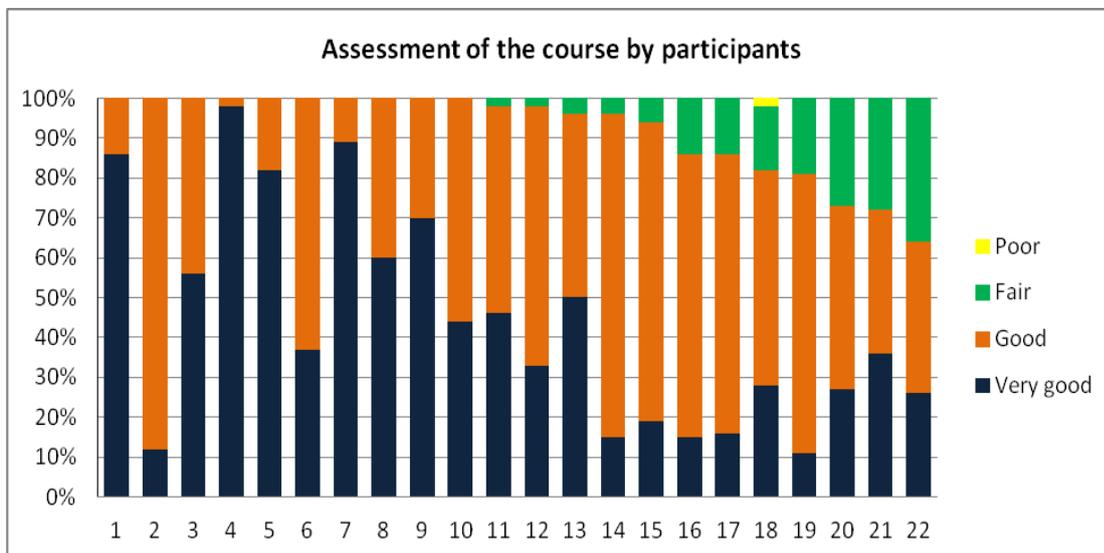
and obtain an idea of some of the larger management issues. Further most of the participants also attended a one-hour yoga session on alternate days. Both these were evaluated as very good or good by most participants (See Figure 8).



The field trip was also judged as very good (68 percent of the respondents) and good (32 percent).

3.12. Assessment of individual scoring of the different components of the course

Putting together the grades that each of the 22 participants have assigned to the different components of the course provides an overall picture of how the course has been perceived (see Figure below). Some of the conclusions that can be drawn from this are:



- Ten participants rated all elements of the course as very good or good;
- A further 9 participants ranked more than 80 percent of the course as very good or good.
- Three participants graded 27 -36 percent of the course as fair;
- Just one participant assigned a grade of “poor” to one element of the course. Even this participant graded 82 percent of the course as very good or good.

From the above it is clear that overall the course was very well received. Of course there is still scope for improvement so that the grading assigned moves up.

3.13. Specific comments and suggestions

In addition to ascertaining the level of satisfaction, the participants were requested to provide specific comments on the topics they liked most and liked least, topics that should have been included and suggestions to improve future courses. Comments received in this regard are summarised below:

Parts of the course most liked by participants

The response in this regard varied significantly as evident from the preferences indicated below:

- Governance and institutions
- All parts, in particular governance and institutions and policy process;
- International agreements and forest policies;
- Trends in the production, processing and trade of wood;
- Governance issues and social issues;
- Societal changes and crafting forest policies and governance and institutions;
- Modules 1,2,4,6,7 and 8;
- Effective communication skills and good governance.
- Policy process;
- Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future;
- Policy process;
- Provision of ecological services, valuation and payment for ecological services;
- Drivers of change and conflict management;
- Group discussions on various topics;
- Societal changes, social issues, policy process and governance and institutions;
- Governance and social issues
- The interactive sessions
- Woodfuel future
- International agreements and national policies
- International agreements and national policies, provision of ecological services and governance and institutions

Synthesizing the responses by course participants would suggest the following order of preference as regards the different topics/ modules.

Table 4: Topic preferences of course participants

Preference	Topic	Number of participants indicating preference
1	Governance and institutions	9
2	Societal changes, social issues and policy process	5 each
3	Provision of ecological services and International agreements and national forest policies	3 each
4	Effective communication and production of wood	2 each

From the responses it may appear that governance and institutions followed by societal changes, social issues and policy process are the modules most liked components of the course.

Parts of the course least liked

Here again the response of the participants has been extremely varied as indicated below:

Table 5: Least liked topics by some of the participants and the reasons

Topics	Reasons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social networking and media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a key concern in my country
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secrets of effective communications and conflict resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These sessions ended as just introduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of wood and other products • Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too technical • Not deep and too general; did not help in skill improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social issues/ conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More thrust to be paid to managing conflicts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in reforming forestry institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lecture generated a lot of confusion as to the attitude of international organizations regarding public sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the weather the visit to villages had to be cancelled, depriving opportunity to discuss with villagers,

• Governance	• Needs to be improved to avoid biases against government organizations
• FLEGT	• Should have been based on specific examples
• Production of wood and other products	• No relevance to policy formulation in the country
• Secrets of effective communication and social networking media	• Nothing was unexpected in the course
• Policy process	• Difficult (unable) to implement the process described.
• Challenges in reforming forestry institutions	• Impossibility of implementation
• Social issues and forest policies	• Not backed up by examples of actual conflict management.
• Payment for environmental services	• It is still in the early stages of discussion and the countries lack the legal and technical framework.

The above responses clearly indicate the need for improving delivery of the programme, especially as regards the component on governance and institutions (to avoid the perception of bias against public sector institutions) and to give more examples of how conflicts are actually resolved.

Parts of the course most useful to the work of participants

The response to this question varied significantly depending on the tasks undertaken by the participants. Several participants did not give any preference as regards the modules useful for their work and opted to say that all the modules are useful. The response of those who gave a clear indication of the preferences is summarised in Table 6: The table suggests that modules 1, 2 and 6 as the most important in terms of the present work of participants followed by module 4 (international agreements) and modules 7 and 8.

Table 6: Parts of the course most useful for work

Topic	Number of participants rating these as most useful to their work
Societal changes, policy process and governance and institutions	8 each
International agreements and forest policies	5
Social issues and provision of ecological services	4 each
Effective communication and production of wood and wood products	2 each

Topics that should have been included

The participants also gave suggestions as regards topics that should have been included in the course as indicated below:

1. Forest tenure and ownership
2. Negotiation skills
3. Forest governance and biodiversity monitoring and reporting;
4. Environmental degradation
5. Timber tracking at national and global levels;
6. Improvement of personal communication skills;
7. Elaboration of factors influencing life cycle of conflicts;
8. Concept of institutions and state and new institutional economics
9. Hands on training on SWOT analysis
10. Impact of implementation of present policies

Certainly some of these are outside the realm of a policy course, but worth considering for separate courses.

Suggestions to improve the course

The participants gave several suggestions to improve the conduct of future courses, the most important of which are listed below:

- Policy formulation theory should be strengthened with relevant practical examples from the region;
- Course materials should be circulated in advance;

- Include more case studies and debates;
- More thrust should be given to land use planning.
- Country specific needs to be assessed to improve the design of the course;
- The duration of the course should be reduced to seven days;
- The number of hours of the course per day should be reduced by at least one hour;
- More field trips to be included;
- Local forest officers may be given an opportunity to make presentation on the issues they deal with and share their experience.
- After the inaugural session there should be an opportunity to make a presentation highlighting the forest situation, culture, etc. of the host country/ participating countries.
- Need to improve mentoring of group work through intensive facilitation;
- Need to have unbiased resource persons;

Participation in on-line discussion group on forest policy analysis

Almost all the participants expressed interest in joining an on-line discussion group on forest policy analysis. This is something that FAO should facilitate at the earliest so that the interest and enthusiasm of the participants can be fully taken into advantage. One option would be to assign the operational responsibility of this to APAFRI with technical inputs from FAO.

4. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Factors that contributed to the success of the course

Overall the course could be rated as a highly successful event considering the very high scoring that participants have assigned to the different components of the course. Also almost all resource persons pointed out that the level of involvement of the participants as very high. This is entirely due to the excellent team work of the different institutions/ individuals involved in the course as indicated below:

- The SAARC Forestry Centre, the local host, looked into every details of the organization of the course starting from facilitating visa for entry to Bhutan, receiving participants at the airport, transporting to the hotel, transport from the hotel to the course venue and back, arrangements at the venue, food, coffee and so on. The entire facilities at the newly constructed SAARC Forestry Centre were made available for the course and the Director General (Sangay Wangchuk) and the Centre's course focal point (Karma J Temphe) looked into every aspect of the arrangements and provided outstanding technical and administrative support.

- Participants were contacted in advance and were provided with a very detailed write up on the course structure and how it has been designed, clearly indicating that the course will focus on sharing their experience and they will have to identify issues/ problems prior to their arrival. This in a way helped to take the course into a participatory framework right from the beginning.
- The logistic/ secretariat support provided by APAFRI and FAO was really outstanding. Notwithstanding the fact that often nominations were received at the eleventh hour APAFRI was able to provide tickets and make all the arrangements relating to the travel in a short time. The Executive Director of APAFRI, Sim Heok Choh along with two of the APAFRI staff (Syuqiah Abdul Hamid and Nazratul Abd. Rahman) ensured the smooth conduct of the course. The two APAFRI Secretariat staff provided very efficient support, especially by putting together reading materials for the course as also the various presentations made during the course. Undoubtedly the success of the course (as reflected by the high grades given by participants) owes a lot to this off-site and on-site support provided by APAFRI and FAO.
- Although the course dates were firmed up only in mid February 2013, FAO did an excellent job in speedily completing the various arrangements and effectively engaging the different partners and potential sponsors. It is to the credit of the FAO Regional Office (in particular the team consisting of Patrick Durst, Chris Brown, Simmathiri Appanah, Fan Xiaojie, Sansiri Visarutwongse and Kallaya Meechantra) that the nomination process was completed in a relatively short period and, more important, substantial support could be mobilised from various organizations by way of sponsorship of participants. In fact 17 of the 22 participants were funded by various organizations, largely reflecting the ability of FAO Regional Office to attract funding based on a credible and relevant programme.
- In addition to putting up a highly relevant programme, FAO was also able to mobilise the services of highly competent and experienced resource persons, most of whom offered their services without charging any honorarium.
- Substantial support was provided by FAO Forestry Department, especially by way of providing technical advice in designing the course and providing relevant materials. Further, Eva Muller, Director, Forest Policy and Economics Division facilitated a number of sessions.
- The USDA Forest Service made available the services of Jennifer Conje, who as co-coordinator of the course helped in the design of the course and shared the responsibility of facilitating a number of sessions. Some of the representatives of course sponsors like EFI/EU – Aimi Lee – attended part of the course and facilitated the various sessions including through actively participating in the debates and discussions.
- The Department of Forests and Parks Services, Government of Bhutan, in particular Chencho Norbu, Director General and his staff extended substantial support for the

conduct of the course. Chencho Norbu inaugurated the course as also gave the valedictory address during the closing session. The Department also provided excellent support for the field trip on 2 June.

Overall the outstanding teamwork of several individuals and institutions contributed to the success of the course.

4.2. Recommendations

Continuation of the policy course

As an overview of how emerging issues will impact forests and forestry, the course has been extremely useful and certainly there is scope for repeating the course in other regions/ sub-regions within and outside the Asia-Pacific. The framework developed for the 6th Course could be appropriately modified/ adapted to suit the specific situation in the different countries/ sub-regions/ regions emphasizing/ de-emphasizing some of the modules/ topics.

Topic specific courses

From the response of the participants, it is evident that some of the topics (for example governance and institutional reforms) require much more in-depth handling. Considering the large number of topics addressed during the 11 day programme, it was not possible to go deeper into some of these critical topics. It is therefore recommended that separate 3-4 day courses be organized on some of the topics like (a) governance and institutions, (b) societal changes and forest policies, (c) forest policy processes, (d) international agreements and national forest policies, (e) social issues and national forest policies and (f) environmental services.

Need to focus on real-world situation and better integration of theory and practice

The right balancing of theory and practice is quite critical in making these courses effective and useful. Some of the sessions focused more on the conceptual issues and processes and in view of time constraints adequate attention could not be given to buttress them with actual field level experience. More needs to be done to synthesize theory and practice so that the course takes participants to a much higher level of integrated knowledge. There is a need to put together a series of well researched case studies on each of the topic and these should form an important component of the course. One option would be to request participants to provide case studies they are aware of and to undertake in-depth discussion and analysis based on these case studies. Of course a lot of examples are provided in most of the presentations; while certainly helpful, often they tend to be just snap-shots and are inadequate to provide a clear perspective of the complexities of policy formulation and implementation.

Follow up networking by the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

There is a felt need for sustaining interaction among the policy course participants to encourage sharing of experience and to update developments that have direct and indirect implications on national forest policies. Almost all the participants have indicated their interest in participating in an on-line discussion group. The nucleus of the discussion group could be the participants and resource persons of the 6th Policy Course and this could be expanded to cover the participants and resource persons of the earlier courses and the panel of the Think Tank policy experts. FAO with the help of APAFRI may establish the discussion group taking advantage of the interest and momentum created by the 6th Forest Policy Course.

Publication of policy briefs

The course participants have made significant effort to draft policy briefs and some of these with appropriate refinement could be developed as Think Tank policy briefs. APAFRI/ FAO should take up this and this could be a good starting point in developing policy briefs and papers involving expertise from the region.

ANNEXES

PARTICIPANTS

Ratan Kumar Mazumder
Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests
Bangladesh Forest Department
12 R. K. Mission Lane, Asker Dighi West, Chittagong
Bangladesh
Phone: 00 88 01738360221 Fax: 00 88 01738360221
Email: rtnmzmdr@gmail.com

Mohammad Shah-E-Alam
Deputy Conservator of forests
Department of Forest, Ministry of Environment and Forest
Banabhaban, Divisional Forest Office
Cox's Bazar North Forest Division, Cox's Bazar
Bangladesh
Phone: 00 88-0341-63409 Fax: 00 88-0341-64446
Email: shahealam84@gmail.com

Ngawang Gyeltshen
Deputy Chief Forestry Officer
Department of Forests & Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture & Forests
Thimphu, Post Box. 1251
Bhutan
Phone: 00 975-1716 4535 Fax: 00 975-1716 4535
Email: nawang@cantab.net

Kezang Yangden
Sr. Forestry Officer
Forest Resources Management Division
Department of Forests and Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu
Bhutan
Phone: 00975-327723 Fax: 00975-322560
Email: kezangyangden@gmail.com

Thinley Choden
Forestry Officer
Wildlife Conservation Division
Department of Forests and Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Bhutan
Phone: 00975 17744398 Fax: 00975 02 335806
Email: Thinley012@gmail.com

Kaka Tshering
Deputy Chief Forestry Officer
Department of Forest and Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Samtse Territorial Division, Samte Dzongkhag
Bhutan
Phone: 00975-05365359 Fax: 00975-05365510
Email: Caca_shering@hotmail.com or dfosam@maof.gov.bt

Rinzin Dorji
Senior Planning Officer
Policy and Planning Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Thimphu
Bhutan
Email: Rnzn_dorji@yahoo.com

Lixin Shen
Professor, Southwest Forestry University
Bailongsi 300#, Kunming City 650224
Yunnan Province, China
Phone: 00 86-871-63862218 Fax: 00 86 871-63862218
Email: yafslx@gmail.com

Amruth Mangalappalli Illam
Scientist
Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi, Thrissur, Kerala - 680653
India
Phone: 00 91-9400 930 968 Fax: 00 91-487-2690111
Email: amrutham@gmail.com; amruth@kfri.res.in

Hasbi Berliani
Program Manager
Kemitraan (Partnership for Governance Reform)
Jalan Wolter Monginsidi No 3 Kebayoran Baru , Jakarta
Indonesia
Email: hasbi.berliani@kemitraan.or.id

Kinnalone Phommasack
Deputy Director of REDD+ Office
Department of Forestry
Thaddam Road, Chantabuly District
Vientiane Capital, P.O.Box 2932
Lao PDR
Phone: 00 856 2022006777

Sangvane Bouavong
Director, Division of Administration and Personnel
Department of Forest Resource Management
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Vientiane Capital
Lao PDR
Phone: 00 856 21 261187 Fax: 00 856 21261187,216921
Email: bsangvane@yahoo.com

Win Maw
Deputy Director
Training and Research Development Division
Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Phone: 00 95-67-405395 Fax: 00 95-67-405395
Email: winmaw80@gmail.com

Myo Lwin
Central Executive Committee Member
Myanmar Timber Merchants Association
29, Minye` Kyawswa Street, UMFCCI Tower
Lanmadaw Township, Yangon
Myanmar
Phone: 00 951-214838/253543 Fax: 00 951-214840
Email: mtma.mm93@gmail.com; myolwin21@gmail.com

Tun Maung
Central Executive Committee Member
Myanmar Timber Merchants Association
29, Minye` Kyawswa Street, UMFCCI Tower
Lanmadaw Township, Yangon
Myanmar
Phone: 00 951 214839 /959 506 5002 Fax: 00 951 214840
Email: mtma.mm93@gmail.com

Htun Wai
No (2), Bygoke St. (8) Block
Bogalay TSp: Ayeyawady Division
Myanmar
Phone: 00 95 9 5110561
Email: htunwai7854@gmail.com

Devesh Mani Tripathi
Monitoring Officer, Department of Forest
Nepal Forester's Associations
Nepal
Email: deveshmanitripathi@yahoo.com

Shaukat Ali
Additional Secretary, Environment Department
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
C-4, Pakistan Forest Institute Colony, University Campus
Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Pakistan
Phone: 00 92-346-9443331 Fax: 00 92-91-9210536
Email: asadplaryusufzay@yahoo.com

Gulzar Rahmen Khalil-ur-Rehman
Section Officer (Technical), Environment Department
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Category II Bungalow, Pakistan Forest Institute
University Campus, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Pakistan
Phone: 00 92-300-5748727 Fax: 00 92-91-9210536
Email: Gulzar.Rahman1963@gmail.com

Ali Asghar
Conservator of Forest, Forest Department
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Civil Line Forest Offices, Abbottabad
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 22010
Pakistan
Phone: 00 92-992-9310410 Fax: 00 92-992-9310343
Email: ccfnorth@gmail.com

Ma. Aleta Nunez
USFS Philippines Local Liaison
USFS International Programs
DENR-USAID-USFS/IP Partnership for Sustainable Forest Management
Office of the Director, FMB Building
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Philippines
Phone: 00 63-917-3067325
Email: alettnunez@gmail.com

Marasinhe Arachchillage Ananda Mahesh Jayarathne
Assistant Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
No. 266, Dippitigoda, Kelaniya, Colombo
Sri Lanka
Phone: 00 94322265360 Fax: 00 94322265488
Email: Dfoput@Yahoo.Com

PROGRAMME OF THE COURSE

Day 1: Monday 27 May

Opening ceremony

Module 1 : Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators
09.00 – 09.30	Opening Ceremony Welcome remarks Introductory remarks Keynote address Vote of thanks	Sangay Wangchuk Patrick Durst Chencho Norbu Sim Heok-Choh
<i>09.30- 0945</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
09.45 – 10.45	Icebreaker: Getting to know one another	Jennifer Conje/ Karma Tempel
	Introduction to the course: objectives, structure, and expectations	CTS Nair/ Jennifer Conje
10.45 – 12.30	Introduction – Drivers of change and societal changes in the Asia-Pacific	Patrick Durst
<i>12.30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Societal changes and forest policies	CTS Nair
<i>15.00 - 1530</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30 – 17.00	Group discussion on change drivers and their impacts	CTS Nair/ Patrick Durst/ Jennifer Conje
17.00 – 18.00	Discussion on course work: Presentation of the problems	Sim Heok-Choh
19.00 – 21.00	Welcome dinner	

Day 2: Tuesday 28 May

Module 2: The policy process

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 1	
09.15 – 10.30	Policy formulation process: The theory	Jennifer Conje
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.30	Alternative measures of societal progress: Gross National Happiness	Dasho Karma Ura
<i>12.30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Common problems in forest policy formulation	Patrick Durst/ Jennifer Conje
15.00 – 16.00	Yoga	John
15.30 – 17.30	Country experience sharing on forest policy formulation	Patrick Durst/ Sim Heok-Choh
17.30 – 18.30	Discussion on course work topics	Sim Heok-Choh/CTS Nair/ Jennifer Conje/ Patrick Durst

Day 3: Wednesday 29 May**Module 3: Production of wood and other products**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 2	
09.15 – 10.30	Trends in the production, processing and trade of wood products	CTS Nair
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.30	FLEGT and cross border trade in the South Asian region: Challenges and opportunities	TR Manoharan
<i>12.30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Non-wood forest products and forest policies	CTS Nair
<i>15.00 – 15.30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30 - 17.30	Woodfuel: What future?	Jennifer Conje/ CTS Nair
17.30 - 18.30	Drafting policy briefs	Sim Heok-Choh/CTS Nair/ Jennifer Conje

Day 4: Thursday 30 May**Module 4: International agreements and forest policies**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 3	
09.15 – 10:30	International agreements and national forest policies	Jennifer Conje
<i>10:30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12.30	Rio+20, Green economy and national forest policies	CTS Nair
<i>12:30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Debate on impact of international / regional agreements: Do they have any positive impact?	Sangay/ Sim Heok-Choh/ Jennifer Conje/ CTS Nair
<i>15.00 – 16.00</i>	<i>Yoga</i>	<i>John</i>
16.00 – 17.30	Group work: Drafting reports on the implications of international agreements on national forest policies	Jennifer Conje/ CTS Nair/ Sim Heok-Choh
17.30 – 18.30	Preparation of briefing notes on international agreements and its implications on national policies	Sim Heok-Choh/ Jennifer Conje/ CTS Nair

Day 5: Friday 31 May**Module 5: Effective communication in building consensus on forest policies**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 4	
09.15 – 10.30	Secrets of effective communications.	Nigel Sizer
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.00	Secrets of effective communications (Contd)	Nigel Sizer
<i>12.00 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Social networks and media: Potential impacts on forestry	Jennifer Conje/CTS Nair/Sim Heok-Choh
<i>15.00 – 15.30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30 – 17.30	Emerging revolution in forest monitoring and	Nigel Sizer

	information	
17.30 – 18.30	Preparation of policy briefs - Course assignments assistance	CTS Nair/ Jennifer Conje/ Sim Heok-Choh

Day 6: Saturday 1 June

Module 6: Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

Module 7: Institutions and implementation of forest policies

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators:
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 5	
09.15 – 10.30	Challenges in reforming forestry institutions	Eva Muller/ CTS Nair
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.30	Critical issues in forest governance	Nigel Sizer
<i>12.30 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.30 – 14.15	Governance in forestry: FLEGT in the Asia-Pacific	Eva Muller
14.15 – 15.00	Emerging issues in FLEGT	Aimi Lee
15.00 – 16.00	Yoga	John
16.00 – 17.30	The Bonn Challenge: re-greening and restoration – opportunities and challenges in Asia	Nigel Sizer
17.30 – 18.30	Group work: Assessment of forestry institutions	CTS Nair/ Eva Muller/ Sim Heok-Choh

Day 7: Sunday 2 June

Field trip

Timing	Programme	Remarks
08.30	Leave Hotel for field trip	
09.45	Arrive at Silvicultural Operation site at Hongtsho <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing about the silviculture operation - Visit operation site - Discussions 	Kinley Dorji, Thimphu Division
10.30	Leave the Silvicultural Operation site	
11.15	Arrive at Royal Botanical Garden at Lamperi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing about the Garden & Video show - Walk inside the Garden - Discussions 	Kezang Tshering
12.30	Lunch at Royal Botanical Garden	
12.45	Leave for Thinley Gang village	
13.30	Arrive in the Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefing about the village and human-wildlife conflict - Interaction with villagers 	Kinley Geog Forestry Extension Officer
15.00	Tea in the Village	
16.00	Leave Thinley Gang Village for Thimphu	
18.00	Arrive at Hotel	

Day 8: Monday 3 June**Module 8: Social issues and forest policies**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators:
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 6	
09.15 – 10.30	Defining social issues in the context of forest management	Yurdi Yasmi
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 12.30	Emerging conflicts over forests as a major social issue in Asia	Yurdi Yasmi
12:30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	Policy responses to forest conflicts	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
15.00 – 1600	Yoga	John
16.00 – 17.00	Managing forest conflicts	Group work
17.00- 18.30	Facing the crowd – dealing with human-wildlife conflicts - Role playing session	Yurdi Yasmi/ Jennifer Conje

Day 9: Tuesday 4 June**Module 9: Provision of ecological services and forest policies**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators:
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 8	
09:15 – 10.30	Case studies on provision of ecological services	Jennifer Conje
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12.30	Valuation and payment for ecological services: Opportunities and challenges	CTS Nair
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13.30 - 1500	Carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies – Facilitated discussion	CTS Nair
1500 - 1600	Yoga	
1600 – 17:30	Preparation of policy briefs	Jennifer Conje/CTS Nair

Day 10: Wednesday 5 June**Module 10: Analysis of national forest policies**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators:
09.00 – 09.15	Review of topics addressed on Day 9	
09.15 – 10.30	Are forest policies are becoming irrelevant?	CTS Nair
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00 – 12.30	An overview of the 6 th Forest Policy Course: What we have covered, what has been learnt and what more needs to be addressed?	CTS Nair
12.30 - 1300	Presentation of course work by participants departing on 6 June	
13.00 – 13.30	Lunch	
Afternoon	FREE	

Day 11: Thursday 6 June

**Presentation of course work
Course evaluation
Closing ceremony**

Time	Agenda	Presenters/ Facilitators:
09.00 – 10.30	Presentation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Karma Tempheh
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00 – 11.30	Course evaluation	CTS Nair/ Karma Tempheh
11.30 – 12.30	Closing ceremony	Karma Tempheh/ Sangay Wangchuk/ CTS Nair/ Chencho Norbu
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
1900 - 2030	Farewell dinner	

Day 12: Friday 7 June

Departure of participants and resource persons

RESOURCE PERSONS

<p>CTS Nair Natural Resource Management Consultant Sivagiri, Muthukad Puthenveedu P:O Naduvath, Wandoor, Kerala 679328 India Cell: 00 91-9995305542 Email: ctsnair47@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jennifer Conje Acting Assistant Director for Policy US Forest Service, International Programs USA Phone: 00 1-202-644-4624 Email: jconje@fs.fed.us</p>
<p>Patrick Durst Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200 Thailand Phone: 00 66 2 6974000 Email: patrick.durst@fao.org</p>	<p>Sim Heok Choh Executive Secretary, APAFRI Secretariat c/o Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) 52109 Kepong, Selangor Malaysia Phone: 00 603-6279 7536 Fax: 00 603-6272 2516 Email: simhc@frim.gov.my</p>
<p>Eva Muller Director, Forest Policy and Economics Division, Forestry Department FAO of the United Nations Rome Italy Phone: 00 39-06-57054628 Email: eva.muller@fao.org</p>	<p>Aimi Lee Abdullah Policy Analyst, European Forest Institute, FLEGT Asia c/o Embassy of Finland 5th Floor, Wisma Chinese Chamber, 258 Jalan Ampang 50450 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Phone: 00 603-42511886 Fax: 00 603-42511245 Email: aimi.lee@efi.int</p>
<p>Nigel Sizer Director, Forests Initiative & Global Forest Watch 2.0 World Resources Institute USA Phone: 00 1-202-729-7764 Email: NSizer@wri.org</p>	<p>T. R. Manoharan Consultant- EFI & FSC National Representative for India European Forest Institute & FSC National Representative for India B3/77, 2nd Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058 India Phone: +91-11-25503065 Email: manoharan7@gmail.com</p>

<p>Yurdi Yasmi ICRAFT Viet Nam Email: yurdi2002@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Karma Ura President, The Centre for Bhutanese Studies Thimphu Bhutan Email: dasho.k.ura@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sangay Wangchuk Director General, SAARC Forestry Centre Taba, Thimphu Bhutan sangaywangchuk33@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Chencho Norbu Director General, Department of Forests and Park Services Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Thimphu Bhutan</p>
<p>Karma J. Temphe Participatory Forest Management Specialist SAARC Forestry Centre P.O. Box: 1284 Taba, Thimphu Bhutan Phone: 00 975-2-365148 Email: kj_temphe@yahoo.co.uk</p>	

LIST OF READING MATERIALS

Module 1 Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future

- 1 *Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. New challenges - New opportunities*
FAO RAP Publication 2012/ 11
- 2 *South Asian forests and forestry to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2012/ 11
- 3 *Forests and forestry in the Greater Mekong subregion to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2012/ 04
- 4 *Pacific forests and forestry to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/06
- 5 *Southeast Asian forests and forestry to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/20
- 6 *East Asian forests and forestry to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/15
- 7 *Forest policies, legislation and institutions in Asia and the Pacific: Trends and emerging needs for 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/10
- 8 *Asia Pacific forests and forestry to 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/06
- 9 *The future of forests in Asia and the Pacific: Outlook for 2020*
FAO RAP Publication 2009/03
- 10 *Forest transition case studies. The greener side of REDD+. Lessons for REDD+ from countries where forest area is increasing*
Hans Gregersen, Hosny El Lakany, Luke Bailey, and Andy White.
The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) www.rightsandresources.org.
- 11 *Forest transitions, trade, and the global displacement of land use*
Patrick Meyfroidt, Thomas K. Rudel, and Eric F. Lambina
www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1014773107
- 12 *Journal of resources energy and development*
Volume 8, Issue 2, September 2011
The Energy and Resources Institute
- 13 *Land use policy- Forest transitions: An introduction*
Thomas K. Rudel, Laura Schneider, Maria Uriarte
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/landusepol>

Module 2 The policy process

- 1 *Developing effective forest policy – A guide*
FAO Forestry Paper 161 / 2010
- 2 *Wicked problems and social complexity*
Jeff Conklin
CogNexus Institute (<http://cognexus.org>)
- 3 *Reaching consensus. Multi-stakeholder processes in forestry: Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region*

Module 3 Production of wood and other products

- 1 *What does it take? The role of incentives in forest plantation development in Asia and the Pacific*
FAO RAP Publication 2004/27
- 2 *Forests out of bounds: Impacts and effectiveness of logging bans in natural forests in Asia-Pacific*
FAO RAP Publication 2001/08
- 3 *Economic and policy issues in forest plantation development*
- 4 *2011 Global Forest Products facts and figures*
FAO Forestry Department
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics>
- 5 *Global trends and outlook for forest resources*
- 6 *An assessment of recent regional trade patterns in wood and wood products in the Asia Region*
Dr. John Perez-Garcia
Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR)

Module 4 International agreements and forest policies

- 1 *Policy Brief- Embracing complexity in international forest governance: A way forward*
International Union of Forest Research Organizations/ 2010

Module 5 Effective communication in building consensus on forest policies

- 1 *PROFOR Poverty Alleviation and Forests Toolkit* (<http://www.profor.info/node/3>)

Module 6 Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

- 1 *Forest law enforcement and governance: Progress in Asia and the Pacific*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/05

Module 7 Institutions and implementation of forest policies

- 1 *Growing green assets: Removing constraints to private sector investment in forestry in Asia and the Pacific*
FAO RAP Publication 2010/18
- 2 *Re-inventing forestry agencies. Experiences of institutional restructuring in Asia and the Pacific*
FAO RAP Publication 208/05

Module 8 Social issues and forest policies

- 1 *Making forestry work for the poor*
FAO RAP Publication 2012/06
- 2 *A cut for the poor. Proceedings of the international conference on managing forests for poverty reduction: Capturing opportunities in forest harvesting and wood processing for the benefit of the poor*
FAO RAP Publication 2007/09
- 3 Can biodiversity conservation go hand in hand with local livelihoods? A case of conflict resolution in Thailand
Unasylva 236, Vol. 61, 2010
- 4 *Forest-Related Conflict - Impacts, Links and Measures to Mitigate*
Ruben de Koning, Doris Capistrano, Yurdi Yasmi, and Paolo Cerutti
The Rights and Resources Initiative (www.rightsandresources.org.)
- 5 Predicting Future Conflict under REDD+ Implementation
Forests 2013, 4, 343-363; doi:10.3390/f4020343
www.mdpi.com/journal/forests

Module 9 Provision of ecological services and forest policies

- 1 *Community guidelines for accessing forestry voluntary carbon markets*
FAO RAP Publication 2012/16
- 2 *Forests and floods. Drowning in fiction or thriving on facts?*
FAO RAP Publication 2005/3

OUTLINE OF THE 6TH FOREST POLICY COURSE

Forest Policies for the 21st Century

Below is a provisional indication of the issues proposed to be addressed under the different modules of the 6th Forest Policy Course. While the issues relating to a given topic will be introduced by an expert, much of the thrust will be to capitalize on the varied experience of the participants through a system of seminars by participants, group work and debates. Participants attending the course will be required to undertake advance preparations from their home countries. Once nomination is received the course coordinator will get in touch with the participants requesting them to prepare for seminars, debates and group discussion on specific topics based on their experience/ expertise.

Monday 27 May

Module 1: Thinking ahead: Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future

This module will focus on the long term changes in South and Southeast Asian society and how this affects the policies especially as societal changes get translated into changes in policy objectives and policy instruments. Drawing upon the findings of the recently completed Asia-Pacific Outlook Study, in particular the South Asia and Southeast Asia Sub-regional Reports, this module will set the stage for the course providing the larger picture of how forestry is evolving in the region. Specifically the module will focus on:

- Drivers of change and societal changes in South and Southeast Asia.
- Current and emerging perceptions about forests and forestry.
- Adapting forestry to the future
- Issues in crafting forest policies for a changing society
- Discussion – What is the likelihood of forest transition in South and Southeast Asian countries in the next two decades and how forest policies should be crafted to facilitate forest transition.

Tuesday 28 May

Module 2: The policy process

A major issue relating to forest policies is how exactly they are formulated. Invariably the lead responsibility for forest policy formulation/ revision is assumed by the Forest Ministry/ Department. Although mechanisms are often in place for adopting a consultative process, their effectiveness is often questionable and this leads to policies that fail to take cognizance of broader concerns. This module will assess the processes adopted in policy formulation and how the processes could directly and indirectly influence policy implementation.

- Case studies on policy formulation process
- Stakeholder participation
- Discussion on the pros and cons of different approaches
- Group work: designing more effective processes

Wednesday 29 May

Module 3: Production of wood and other products

Historically wood production has been the main focus of forest management in almost all South and Southeast Asian countries and most of the wood continues to be used as fuel. However increasingly forest policies are giving greater thrust to the provision of ecological services and wood production has been scaled down by way of logging bans and setting aside more forests as protected areas. While imports and trees grown outside forests have helped to fill up the gap, it is important to examine the long term prospects of wood production in the region, the options available and the implications on forest policies.

- Changing demand and supply of forest products: The situation in the next 20 years and its implications on forest policies.
- Trade of forest products – intra-regional and interregional – in South and Southeast Asia and emerging opportunities and challenges
- The future of wood energy in South and Southeast Asia
- Emerging opportunities for non-wood products
- Discussion: The future of production forestry and its implications for forest policies

Thursday 30 May

Module 4: International agreements and national forest policies

In a globalised world what happens to the economy and environment in one country tends to have an impact on human well-being elsewhere. In many cases isolated action by individual countries may not help to address the problems, especially considering the transboundary nature of the problems. It is in this context that global community has crafted a number of agreements/ conventions. The purpose of the module is to provide an overview of the evolution of various international agreements that have directly and indirectly impacted forests and how these have been accommodated in the national policies and programmes. In particular the discussion will focus on how international initiatives have altered the objectives of forestry at the country level.

- Post UNCED developments and their impact on forest policies
- Rio+20, green economy and forest policies
- Trade liberalization, forest products trade and forest policies – protectionism and trade barriers
- Changing competitive advantage – how forest products trade is affected?

Friday 31 May

Module 5: Effective communication

Effective communication plays a critical role in the development and implementation of forest policies; however in the top-down approach that prevailed for a long time, communication remained a totally neglected area. Increasing demand on forests for a wide array of goods and services in the context of diverse perceptions and needs of people warrant a significant improvement in the communication skills of policy makers and planners. Establishment of trade-offs between competing demands and resolving conflicts would

require excellent communication/ negotiation skills. The module will provide an understanding of the different strategies/approaches to effectively communicate with the major stakeholders of forests and forestry.

Saturday 1 June

Module 6: Governance, accountability and transparency in the forest sector

As resource use conflicts intensify informal and illegal transactions increase governance and accountability are severely compromised. Forest sector in almost all countries are prone from problems stemming from poor governance and accountability. However the public is demanding better accountability and transparency and it is imperative that these are improved. The module will focus on the national and international efforts to improve transparency and accountability.

- State of governance of public forests: Dealing with corruption and illegal activities
- Improving transparency in public forest administration
- Discussion: Improving governance in the forest sector – Challenges and options
- Group work: Measuring governance and accountability

Module 7: Institutions and implementation of forest policies

Institutions form the core of all societal action. Yet this remains a neglected area especially in the forest sector and many of the problems of poor policy delivery stems from weak and outdated institutional framework. There have been several efforts to reform and reinvent forest sector institutions, especially government forestry departments, to make them more responsive to the larger changes. This module will focus on sharing the experience of institutional reform, the lessons that have been learnt and what more need to be done in the South and Southeast Asian context. Discussions will examine the indicators of institutional transformation and how they can be measured.

- Changing institutional scenario in the forest sector
- Challenges in making public forestry institutions responsive to emerging changes
- Private investors, industries, community groups, farmers and forestry departments: Evolving a framework for collective action
- Group work: Measuring performance of institutions

Monday 3 June

Module 8: Social issues and forest policies

A very large number of rural people are dependent on forests for their day to day needs and the persistence of widespread poverty in forested regions requires that forest policies address the problem directly. Historically policies and legislation have excluded local people's access to benefits from forests and invariably only a negligible share of the products and income accrue to local communities. There are several initiatives to address this, especially in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of poor people. Forest policies are hence required to address social concerns, especially poverty reduction

and gender. This module will assess how forest policies have fared in mainstreaming social concerns.

- Poverty alleviation and forests: What forestry can do and what it cannot
- Gender and forestry: How have we fared and what more needs to be done
- Social conflicts and forestry: How forest policies may address them?
- Group work: Benchmarking and measuring forest policies for social objectives

Tuesday 4 June

Module 9: Provision of ecological services and forest policies

In almost all countries environmental concerns are receiving increasing attention, especially in the context of continued loss of biological diversity, climate change on account of global warming, decline in the quantity and quality of water and increasing land degradation. The module will help to get a picture of current and emerging environmental issues and how forest policies are responding to the greater thrust being given to the provision of ecological services.

- Ecological services and forest policies: How environmental concerns have been taken into account in forest policies
- Carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies
- Biodiversity conservation and protected area management in forest policies
- Managing forests for water: How forest policies have responded to the water challenges in Asia
- Land degradation and desertification
- Discussion: What is the best option to provide ecological services and what are the potentials and limitations of market driven approaches? - Economics of the provision of ecological services

Wednesday 5 June

Module 10: Analysis of national forest policies

Having discussed and debated the different dimensions to be considered in forest policies and the processes to be pursued, this module will focus on analysis of national forest policies and how they are catering to the different challenges facing the forest sector. Selected policies will be subjected to SWOT analysis and group work will focus on how policies could be redrafted.

- Case studies on forest policies in South and Southeast Asia
- Case studies on forest policies in other countries
- Group work - redrafting policies

POLICY BRIEFS PREPARED BY PARTICIPANTS

Policy Brief 1

Addressing Governance Issues within Forest Policies of Asia: The Need to Reform Forestry Institutions and Build Local Capacity

(Prepared by Htun Wai, Kinnalone Phommasac, Ngawang Gyeltshen and Ratan Mazumder)

The issue in Asia

In trying to redefine forest policies for the 21st century¹, we found that governance was seen as the single most determinant of all issues and opportunities relating to forest policy implementation. Forestry sector in Asian countries has been traditionally accompanied with poor governance on various issues relating to conflicting land use, forest law enforcement and administration among others. We scanned governance issues that are addressed within forest policies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Laos and Myanmar and those that are prevalent in these countries. Despite economic progress in the region, standards of governance continue to fall² and institutional adaptation lags behind, unable to cope with changing policies³. We found that weak institutional frameworks coupled with poor capacity, was the most common governance issue in these countries. We notice ourselves dealing with issues of the 21st century with policies and institutions developed for the 20th century¹.

Situational analysis of policy support in the region

Encouragingly, institutional strengthening is a strong focus within forest policies of all countries. Bangladesh's forest policy necessitates strengthening of Forest Department to realise policy objectives, and calls for an establishment of a new Department for Social Forestry⁴. Bhutan's National Forest Policy supports the establishment of a dynamic organisational set-up to implement its policy objectives⁵. Similarly, Myanmar's forest policy strongly focuses on institutional strengthening including human resource development and organisational restructuring⁶. In Laos, the forestry strategy document recognizes the need for strengthening local forestry institutions and capacity development for long term sustainable forest management⁷.

However, the implementations of these policy objectives have been poor. For example, in Bangladesh the creation of new

department was not feasible due to the fact that general and social forestry activities needed to be harmonised within the existing department. In general there has been a lack of initiatives for reorganisation of the forest department as a whole. In case of Bhutan, the scope of sustainable forestry has broadened completely that includes climate change and payment of ecosystem services. Although new divisions were created to address watershed management and ecotourism, lack of technical capacity to deal with complex challenges deters effective policy implementation. Similar cases have been reported from Laos and Myanmar where forestry sector receives little attention, and weak institutional framework coupled with low capacity prevails. Sustainable forest management is now more than timber harvesting and conventional institutional silos with limited capacity is unable to cope with new drivers of change and societal

changes facing the region. While some forms of institutional reorganization have taken place in these countries including increased number of employees, forestry sector still faces challenges in overcoming emerging challenges and issues. Some field staffs still fail to understand the complex tasks assigned to them.

The complex web of actors

With widening scope of forestry, a plethora of stakeholders and stakeholder institutions exist. We found common stakeholder diversity in the countries that includes government ministries, private sectors (mining, transport, tourism, etc), institutions (academic & research) and local communities. While such diverse stakeholders portray pluralism in terms of varying interests and value system, they are also critical partners to ensuring sustainable forest management. Ultimately weak forestry institutions affect partnering with stakeholders or providing effective services to them.

Policy options/recommendations

To address these shortfalls in governance we recommend strengthening forestry institutions with following policy options;

- Carry out institutional reforms (including legal institutions) to deliver effective multiple services from forests with clear mandates and functions at various levels
- Review roles and responsibilities of different stakeholder institutions to improve cooperation and minimise duplication
- Enhance training and research to generate knowledge, technology and information to support policy implementation
- Build local capacity in forestry and conservation science/management, including capacities and awareness of local people
- Source adequate funding for forestry and allocate sufficient budget to the forestry

sector

- Ensure political commitment and devolve administrative and financial power through a proper matrix

Analysis of options

Institutional reforms and capacity building will incur government costs. But returns from these investments will help shape forestry institutions and ensure effective and efficient policy implementation in future. It will facilitate conventional institutions break away from silos and ensure nimbleness to emerging challenges. Well trained staffs through strengthened research and training institutions will ensure effective handling of complex tasks and service delivery to stakeholders. External donors are now demanding to do more for less in the current context of regular economic crisis. Such reforms will not only ensure our effectiveness, but also improve our image to donors and partner organisations including key stakeholders.

Concluding remarks

We are mindful that such reforms will take time and also draw initial resentment from within and outside our organisation. But the learning process will expose us to increasing complexities of problems facing forestry and equip us to deal them adequately. It will assist us in adapting to the accelerating pace of change; understand the drivers of change and societal changes they bring about, and ways to manage them. But most importantly, our institutions must function as dynamic systems to continuously adapt to any external changes.

Endnotes

1. *Forest Policies for the 21st Century, 6th Executive Forest Policy Course* (2013).
2. *FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Southeast Asia*. (2011).
3. *FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector*

- Outlook Study II: South Asia.* (2011).
4. *National Forest Policy of Bangladesh.* (1994).
 5. *National Forest Policy of Bhutan.* (2011).
 6. *Myanmar Forest Policy.* (1995).
 7. *Forestry Strategy 2020 of the Lao PDR.* (2005).

Policy Brief 2

Land Use Conflict: An Interface between Forest and Non Forest Use of Land

(Prepared by: Devesh Mani Tripathi, Kezang Yangden, Sangvane Bovavone and Mohammad Shah-E-Alam)

Background

Forests are under severe pressure of being converted to other land use options. The underlying causes are often the result of perceived economic benefits of alternative land use options, such as agriculture expansion, industry development, mining, urbanization in most countries. Some countries like Laos are confronted by rubber plantation causing loss of almost 300,000 hectares of forest over the last ten years. The coastal areas like Bangladesh faces forest loss due to Shrimp –farming causing massive loss of mangrove forests. Almost one-third of its forests are lost due to shrimp-farming in Bangladesh. Other land use pressures in Bangladesh come from conversion of forest land to ship-breaking docks.

Migration, encroachment of forests and conversion of the forest into human habitats and farm land is a major issue in Bangladesh and Nepal. Within last three years, Nepal has seen encroachment of over 0.1 million hectares of forest resulting in fragmentation of forest and loss of forest cover.

Even country like Bhutan which has been pursuing strong conservation policies and having more than 72 percent of the country under forest cover are now facing growing land use pressures from urbanization and infrastructure development like road networks. As per the statistics available from Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan has lost approximately 1862 hectares of Government Reserve Forests to road construction within 2008 to 2011. Construction of roads and clearing of forests

for transmission line alone contributes to 44.65 percent of total allotment of forest to other purposes .The loss of forest to other land use practices places immense pressure on maintaining the target of 60 percent forest cover as mandated by the Constitution of Bhutan.

Although loss of forest cover has acute environmental impacts, the consequences and sustainable forest management policies already in place are overlooked and immediate benefits of alternative land use, such as food security, revenue generation, and infrastructure development favoured by key decision makers and stakeholders (farmers, industrialists and investors).

The environmental impacts of deforestation are often not instantaneous but observed over a period of time, wherein, the land becomes prone to erosions and run-offs and its hydrology affected negatively. Fragmentation of forest cover and habitat loss for wildlife caused by urbanization are often irreversible and may trigger human wildlife conflict. Loss of forest cover also means major loss of carbon sink. Bhutan has committed to remain carbon neutral for all times to come and forests are the most significant sink of carbon that can offset the carbon produced from other sources. Loss of forest cover would affect the commitment to remain carbon neutral.

For a country like Bangladesh, the mangrove forests play a very important role

in protecting the inland by reducing the impacts of natural disasters.

The capacity of the region/country to meet its demand for forest produce is also greatly hindered with loss of forest.

Unchecked diversion of forest to other land use options would have detrimental social, economic and environmental impacts on the country and there is need to study all the policies related to land and forest resources.

Way Forward

While it is not possible and even suggested to impede forest land use change entirely, it is important to have clear direction on sustainable forest management policies and practices. It is not only because we are having multifaceted environmental problem in our region but also because we are the signatories of several conventions and have international obligations as well. Hence there is need for a very strong monitoring mechanism that would allow having close look on land use change dynamics thus the information can be used to control over forest cover change.

If the forest cover is to be managed in a sustainable manner, the following approaches are called for:

- Systematic study of land use change drivers and underlying causes to assess the consequences of different types of land use changes. The result of such studies should be considered in any land use change decisions and planning to ensure its sustainable use.
- A broader perspective on land management by the government and need to study all the cross-sectoral policies related to land and forest resources is recommended to reconcile these policies and come up with an integrated approach to land resource management. Integrated assessments could address the range and likelihood of various land-use options for optimizing forest landscapes and carbon stocks, which may aid in addressing questions of the future potential for carbon sequestration that depend as much on historical baselines as future forest-management and land-use decisions (Rhemtulla et al. 2009). Land use options should consider not just immediate economic and political benefits rather other variables related to social, ecological and environmental must be considered prior to any land use decisions.
- Clarify the legal status of Temporary Land Use Certificates (TLUC), which were issued more than five years ago.
- Review and improve the land forest allocation program in terms of impacts on villagers' livelihoods including agriculture production, NWFP collection and other available resources for flexible implementation according to village socio-economic conditions.
- Conduct national land use zoning based on land use policy and system e.g.: forest land ,agriculture land, industrial land, cultural land and land for other purposes in order to avoid confusion over land use.
- Establish National Forest Monitoring System, a periodic Remote sensing-based forest cover monitoring system fed with forest land use change information and collaborative efforts of cross-sectoral agencies that will allow visual monitoring of deforestation and land use change. The use of on-line technology like "Global Forest Watch", a real-time deforestation monitoring system, can also be used after studying its functionality and efficacy.
- Application of Gross National Happiness (GNH) principles in the process of

formulation, legitimatization and
implementation of policies.

Policy Brief 3

Agricultural Expansion: The Driver of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

(Prepared by: Shaukat, Win Maw, Shen and Thinley)

Background

In many parts of the world, fertile land is scarce and, compared with long-term forest management, more money can be made from growing and harvesting crops that mature more quickly and require another land use, such as farming, grazing or orchards. Forests have been the ultimate target to be cleared to expand agriculture and to feed the ever increasing human populations. Forest loss can range from small scale clearing by the communities to large scale commercial agriculture by huge private investors. It involves cutting and burning to release the minerals into the soil for better production.

FAO projects that there is need to increase the agricultural production by 70% by 2050 to cope with a 40% increase in world population, so agriculture is estimated to be the proximate driver for around 80% of deforestation world- wide. In Latin America, commercial and subsistence agriculture accounts for (around 2/3 of total deforested area) and in Africa and (sub) tropical Asia for around 1/3 of deforestation.

Problems associated with agricultural expansion into forests;

Asian developing countries are confronted with the highest severity of forest loss. Though it makes up about one-quarter of earth's land area, but holds almost 60% of the world's population and has increasing demand for the food and other natural resources. On the other hand, it is tremendously driven by the markets outside Asia resulting to the region's substantial forest loss to agriculture. This has led to inappropriate **land use change**, decrease in the forest acreage and **environmental degradation and other ecosystem services** (biodiversity, watershed, carbon sequestration) from the forests have been jeopardized extremely. It is foreseen that crop yields would continue to grow but at a slower rate than in the past, though large areas have been cleared, due to depletion of soil nutrients.

But if the land is abandoned after no longer productive, drought-resistant grasses may move in or cattle ranchers may plant imported African grasses for cattle grazing. The land is now only **marginally productive**. During the process of change in land use pattern, the **resilience of the soil** and other ecosystem to respond to the negative impacts of the climate change will be deteriorated and will not revive, even if the efforts are put in place.

The forest clearing has huge impact on the **biodiversity values** whereby, of the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world; little less than half of them are located in Asia. **Habitat** of the endemic and endangered faunal and floral species are fragmented and degraded, ever increasing extinction risks of species. The most productive ecosystems and **carbon reservoirs** such as rain forests, peat-lands and **mangrove forests** are threatened with pressures to be cleared for high yielding monoculture crops like palm oil, rice, citrus fruits, coffee, cocoa, opium, tea, soybeans cacao, rubber, bananas etc. Mangrove forests are lost to fish and shrimp farming in the tropical countries.

In some parts of the world, large-scale commercial agriculture impacts large chunk of the productive floodplain and volcanic soils, while leaving smaller farmers little choice but to cut farmland from the rainforest. The ownership of these large commercial farms is concentrated in the hands of a **wealthy minority**. These large farm businesses generally do not employ large numbers of locals, though when they do, workers are used seasonally for low wages, devoid of assurance to help the **local economy** and their livelihood. (See Box-1)

Box-1 Non - desirable effects of forest clearing.

1. Large scale deforestation
2. Land and soil degradation
3. Loss of ecological services
4. Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat
5. Poor agricultural practices
6. Loss of source of livelihood
7. Human displacement

The players/stakeholders and their issues

1. **Local communities** – loss of their source and base of natural resources for their livelihood, loss of soil fertility and may face threats from natural calamities such as soil erosion, land degradation, tsunami etc..
2. **Investors/private firms** – interested to clear the high yielding forests to plant more profitable market crop
3. **Government agencies**- have priority to increase the revenue for the country and as well as to balance conservation and protection of forest resources
4. **NGOs and CSOs**- Oppose the loss of forests and support the livelihood of the communities and sustenance of the forest resources sustainably and environmental conservation at the large scale.

What actions can be done?

1. Master plan for the Land Use;

Lack of clear and enforceable ownership rights to forest land and land use plans results to attraction of diverse group of people to the resources. Agriculture is one of the drivers for deforestation. A **master plan for the land use**, classified based on the land capability classes is recommended, in order to facilitate ban on the clearing of the forests in the areas not feasible and its strict appliance and adherence should be ensured. The **land tenures** will be clear, wherein the investors and other stake holders would not waste in resources to invest in the banned areas.

2. REDD+ Readiness and strategy

Since the forests provide variety of ecological services and there are mechanisms to tag the price to it. Preparing **REDD+ readiness strategies** is one of the option to start with, which will prepare the nations to evaluate the monetary values of the services provided by forests. This is foreseen to prepare nations to sell their carbon credits to the developed nations or nations having high emission rate. Such mechanism will prepare the nations with huge potential as carbon sinks scientifically with effective **MRV systems**.

3. Agriculture intensification programs

The increasing population demands for the increasing food production simultaneously. Without having to lose the rich forests to the agriculture, the other viable options can be to intensify the agriculture programs on the existing farm lands. Such recommendations should

be supported by **research findings** and by preparing **an implementation strategy along with sustainable financing mechanism** to meet the food demand and to secure food security.

Though such interventions may have negative impact to the environment in the future with usage of high yielding varieties, fertilizers and pesticides but have huge potential to contribute substantially to increase food production.

4. Community based natural resources management

Community based natural resources management can help in the reconciliation of **social and environmental values** of forests resources. **Indigenous communities** have long lived in coexistence with the natural resources and this gives them opportunity to imbed their traditional with modern ecological knowledge. They can be **empowered with formation of groups** and cooperatives to manage the resources with **scientific management plans for sustainability**. Such initiatives will develop responsibilities in the communities living around the forests to conserve the biological diversity and as well as to protect forest resources for their livelihood. This will distribute the **power and benefits equally with the communities** and will further aid in decreasing conflict situations in the communities.

5. Mass Awareness and education programs

The role of forests beyond the tangible benefits should be reached to the mass people, especially who are interested to destroy the forest resources and invest for the commercial agriculture. They should be educated to appreciate the **intangible services** provided by the resources. The productivity and dynamism of the undisturbed forest ecosystem should be informed to the communities, investors, policy makers and to all the drivers of deforestation. For this a framework for education is required for the effectiveness of program delivery.

6. Streamline public forest governance and institutional mandates

Forest governance and institutional mandates may be streamlined for the implementation of the arising **challenges and issues facing the natural and forest resources at this 21st century**. **An analysis** is recommended for assessing the performance of the existing public institutions and their mandates and for the reforms as per the analysis. **Capacity of the institutional** should be built for the effective implementation of the mandates. A **viable local institution** may be built to generate the support from the local communities to generate public understanding and support for both economic and development and environmental conservation.

Policy Brief 4

Halting Forest Degradation by Co- Management of NTFPs

(Prepared by: Group 4)

Traditionally NTFPs (Non Timber Forest Produces) are source of livelihood and income for rural communities in South and South East Asia. NTFPs include produces ranging from food, fodder, fibre, firewood, resins, medicinal herbs, honey, shellac and minerals (Refer Box-1). However the access to these resources have reduced considerably for the rural people due to enactment of forest laws by the state in order to manage forests for timber. Consequently, the Forests Department lost support of the local communities in protection of the natural resource. The result was weak village institutions and living standards. Moreover, the communities resorted to illegal harvest, over extraction of the NTFP and caused widespread forest fires, thereby aggravating the degradation of forest and NTFP base around the villages (Refer Box-II).

Succumbing to the pressure of communities, extraction of NTFPs were allowed selectively in various regions. In some of the regions Forest Department established co-operatives to regulate and market the NTFPs. However, private markets and intermediaries being powerful have made these efforts ineffective. Under the influence of powerful intermediaries the local NTFP collectors resort to unsustainable harvesting and depletion of NTFPs. The result is unequal sharing of benefits between the trader and the local collector. The unsustainable collection of NTFP leads to resource depletion at the local level directly affecting the livelihood and income of the rural communities on the long run. This complex set of social-economic and socio-political factors have aggravated the situation adversely by affecting the ecosystem services and biodiversity from the forests while increasing the rural poverty in the region. As a result a vicious circle of poverty and forest degradation has set in (Refer Diagram-1).

What can be done?

Studies and action researches from the region clearly suggested an action programme involving:

- Developing a network of co-operative institutions and quasi governmental apex body for Identification of suitable marketing channels, ensuring sustainable extraction,

BOX-1

Varieties of NTFPS

Plant Products

- Fruits and Nuts
- Spices and Condiments
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- Fatty Oils, Gums, Resins, Tans & Dyes
- Saponin & Marking Nuts
- Fibre & Floss
- Bamboos, Rattan and Small Wood
- Fodder & Forage
- Fuel wood & Charcoal
- Beedi Leaves and Leaves for Plates
- Beads for Ornaments

Animal Products

- Honey & Wax
- Lac & Shellac
- Silk cocoons
- Insects, Animal-Hides, Skins & Feathers
- Horns, Bones and Ivory and Musk

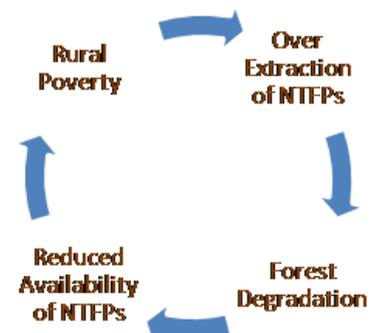
Mineral Products

- Mica, Sand, Gravel
- Other Minerals

BOX-2

Unsustainable Extraction of NTFPs in the absence of institutional arrangements

- **Over harvesting** of resource resulting in their quantitative depletion
- **Destructive harvesting** resulting in their qualitative degradation
- **Early harvesting** affecting regeneration



participatory monitoring and evaluation of the NTFP resource base.

- Transparent pricing of NTFP and equitable benefit sharing through marketing of processed and value added NTFPs.

Some of the agencies, including the government and private, with strong stakes in the NTFP markets have conflicting interests in the NTFP management. So developing an institutional mechanism with above mentioned principles is needed for integrating stakeholder interests in NTFP management (Refer Diagram-2).

Realizing importance of biodiversity conservation and sustenance of NTFPs resource base enactment of a comprehensive NTFP (sustainable utilisation and livelihood) Act is necessary. In order to make the enactment people friendly it is also necessary to set up an NTFP Regulatory and Control Authority with following objectives:

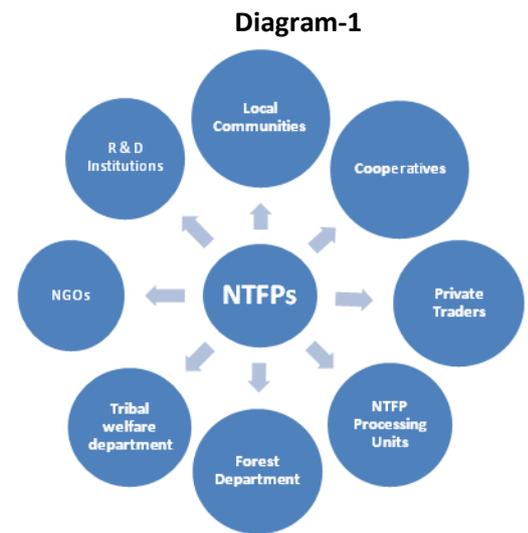


Diagram-2

NTFP (sustainable utilisation and livelihood) Bill:

- Establishment of a separate authority for sustainable management of NTFP .The composition of authority shall be forest department with adequate representation form local villagers, NGOs working in the area marketing channels.
- Enhance the capacities of village communities with regards to collection, and marketing
- Develop co-ordination mechanism to develop harmony among various departments / organization
- The VDC shall be responsible to oversee the extraction, processing, marketing and monitoring of NTFP resource in sustainable manner.
- Collect inventory data of NTFP, formulate a plan harvesting from the forests with participatory resource appraisals
- Ensure transparency in NTFP pricing, monitoring, sales and certification process for all NTFP marketed.
- Introduce NTFP revolving fund for development of resource, participatory monitoring and evaluation and community development programme in the village.
- Develop standard procedures for local processing (sorting and grading; semi processing; processing; and marketing) quality control, brand development, certification and effective marketing.
- Develop efficient (and web based) supply management in marketing.
- Explore and develop silvicultural alternatives for species of natural rarity.

For more information:

- NTFP Exchange programme <http://keystone-foundation.org/networks/ntfp-exchange-programme/>

- Saving Forests, Making Profits: A Field Guide for Facilitators of Community-based NTFP Enterprises <http://www.ntfp.org/sub.php?gosub=info-pub-vid&pubid=300383887&class=NTFP-EP%20Publication>
- Increasing Livelihood Opportunities and Socio-economic Development of Tamenglong District Using Bamboo and Cane Through Community-based Industrial Approaches. <http://tamenglong.nic.in/tambac/default.htm>
- Enterprise Development Assistance to Emerging Community-based NTFP Enterprises (Forest Honey and Indigenous Crafts) in Northeast Cambodia <http://www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/60702/en/>
- Exploring marketing models of Non Timber Forest Produce: strengthening forest based livelihood in Odisha <http://ntfp.keystone-foundation.org/exploring-marketing-models-of-non-timber-forest-produce>

Policy Brief 5

A Policy Brief to Address the increasing Demand for Fuel Wood in Pakistan

(Prepared by Alett Nunez, Gulzar Rahman, Hasbi Berliani, Tun Maung and Rinzin Dorji)

Background

Pakistan's forest is rapidly declining due to increasing pressure on the fuel wood as it is the main source of energy in the rural areas. According to Siddiqui 1997, about 50% of the domestic energy requirements are met from the forest. Further, the annual fuel wood consumption is estimated at 29.5million m³, which is the second highest in South Asia after India. It has been calculated that by 2018 an additional 23million m³ of fuel wood is required to fulfill energy requirements¹.

The increase in demand for fuel wood has resulted in increased pressure on the forest cover posing severe threats to the eco-system services. With an increasing demographic pressure on the fuel wood, the household requirements might go up to 3% per annum and at this rate, the country's woody biomass (fuel wood) will be consumed in the next 10-15 years². Other pressing factors include 1) easy access to fuel wood, 2) lack of access (Availability & affordability) to LPG and fossil fuels, 3) increasing demand from industries.

Community of Interest Groups

The diagnostic analysis of different stakeholders vis-a vis their capacities was

¹ National Report to the Third Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

² Land degradation — a threat to agriculture, Zia-ul-Hassan & Muhammad Arshad available at <http://www.pakissan.com/english/issues/land.degradation.threat.to.agriculture.shtml>, Accessed on 4 June 2013.

carried out to address the widening gap between the demand and supply of fuel wood. Given the implications of climate change and forest degradation on the socio-economic conditions, all the stakeholders reached a consensus to address the increasing demand for fuel wood sustainably through adoption of viable options. More importantly, all the stakeholders called for an effective and efficient policy to address the widening gap between the demand and supply without compromising social, economic, culture and environmental parameters.

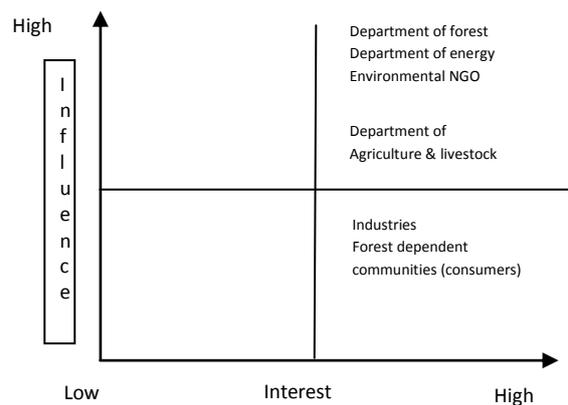


Figure 1: Stakeholder Analysis

Proposed Policy Options

The following policy options were scrutinized keeping in view social, economic, cultural and environmental concerns.

Development of Fuel Wood Plantation:

Economically vulnerable communities depend more on fuel wood as it has multipurpose benefits. For example, the leaves are used as fodder for their livestock

and as green manure for their crops. Further, plantations on degraded and wastelands can enhance eco-system goods and services. A study in 2010 found out that 2million hectares of land are available for plantation³.

Use of Alternative Renewable Energy:

As reflected in the National Forest Policy of Pakistan 2001, the energy system has to undergo transition from traditional to environmental friendly renewable energy systems to fulfil the socio-economic needs of forest dependent communities without compromising eco-system services. Further, the switch over to the renewable energy sources will reduce drudgery and enhance livelihood through creation of jobs.

Use of Efficient Cooking and Heating Devices:

The over utilization of fuel wood could be attributed to use of poor cooking and heating devices, which has poor heat retention capacity. One of the studies indicated that improved cooking and heating devices have reduced fuel wood consumption from 10%-50%, improved air quality and reduced green house gases as compared to traditional stoves⁴.

Implications of the proposed policy options

The proposed policy options will foresee both technical as well as financial implications. However, the policy options were assessed and selected based on potentiality of providing long term

³ Syeikh Saeed Ahmad, 2012, declined of Forest Cover in Pakistan

⁴ Cooking over the World and in Turkey, available at www.saeed.etch.ch/events/cleancooking/ISLER_and_KARAOZMANOGLU-turkey.pdf. Accessed on 4 June 2013

sustainability, and high cost-benefit ratio both at the local, national and international level.

Recommendations

1. Promote Energy plantation on degraded land (both private and government land) on community-based approach with an effective and efficient benefit sharing mechanism in place.
2. Promote the development and utilization of the alternative renewable energy sources (Solar, biogas, wind, hydro-power etc.) by focusing on research and development of economically viable and environmentally friendly technologies. Further, incentive mechanisms have to be institutionalized with monitoring and evaluation system in place.

Conclusion

The economically vulnerable communities depend on fuel wood for energy owing to its multipurpose benefits. The increase in demand for fuel wood has been exerting pressure on the forest resources posing threats to the provision of Ecosystem goods and services.

The analysis of different interest groups revealed that there is a need for concerted efforts to address the widening gap between the demand and supply of fuel wood. Further, prevailing forest degradation and climate change related issues demanded greater interventions keeping in view sustainability, socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

Taking into account the intended benefits and implications, the study recommended the development of energy plantation and the alternative renewable energy sources.

References

1. Cooking over the World and in Turkey, available at www.sae.ch/events/cleancooking/ISLER_and_KARAOSMANOGLU-turkey.pdf. Accessed on 4 June 2013
2. Food and Agriculture Organization (2011): A Guide for developing effective forest policy
3. [Land degradation — a threat to agriculture](#), Zia-ul-Hassan & Muhammad Arshad available at <http://www.pakissan.com/english/issues/land.degradation.threat.to.agriculture.shtml>, Accessed on 4 June 2013.
4. National Forest Policy of Pakistan, 2001
5. National Report to the Third Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
6. Syeikh Saeed Ahmad, 2012, declined of Forest Cover in Pakistan

EVALUATION FORM

Completion of this form is voluntary. However, your response would be very valuable for us – it would help us in improving the design of future courses enhancing their value for all participants.

Please tick one response for each question, but you may leave some questions unanswered.

General organizational issues

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
1. Information received on the course was					
2. Information on general arrangements (travel, hotel) was					
3. Accommodation arrangements for the course were					
4. Meals, breaks and general comforts provided were					
5. Venue arrangements for conducting course were					
6. Opportunities for interacting with other participants were					
Overall the arrangements for the course were					

Comments:

Modules

1. Societal changes and crafting forest policies for the future, 27 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
1.1 Drivers of change and societal changes in the Asia-Pacific					
1.2 Societal changes and forest policies					
1.3 Discussion: change drivers and their impacts					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

2. The policy process, 28 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
2.1 Policy formulation process: The theory					
2.2 Alternative measures of societal progress: GNH					
2.3 Country experience sharing on forest policy formulation					
2.4. Discussion on the policy process					
2.4 Discussion on course work topics					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

3. Production of wood and other products, 29 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
3.1 Trends in the production, processing and trade of wood products					
3.2 FLEGT and cross border trade in the South Asian region: Challenges and opportunities					
3.3 Non-wood forest products and forest policies					
3.4 Woodfuel: What future?					
3.5 Discussion on the various topics					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

4. International agreements and national forest policies, 30 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
4.1 International agreements and national forest policies					
4.2 Rio+20, Green economy and national forest policies					
4.3 Debate on impact of international/regional agreements					
4.4 Discussion on the topics					
4.5 Preparation of briefing notes					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

5. Effective communication in building consensus on forest policies, 31 May

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
5.1 Secrets of effective communications					
5.2 Social networks and media					
5.3 The Bonn Challenge: re-greening and restoration – Opportunities and challenges in Asia					
5.4. Discussion on the various topics					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

6. Governance and institutions, 1 June

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
6.1 Challenges in reforming forestry institutions					
6.2 Critical issues in forest governance					
6.3 Emerging issues in FLEGT					
6.4 Governance in forestry: FLEGT in the Asia-Pacific					
6.5 Emerging revolution in forest monitoring and information					
6.6 Group work on institutional changes					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

7. Social issues and forest policies, 3 June

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
7.1 Defining social issues in the context of forest management					
7.2 Emerging conflicts over forests as a major social issue in Asia					
7.3 Policy responses to forest conflicts					
7.4 Managing forest conflicts					
7.5 Group discussion and role playing					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

8. Provision of ecological services and forest policies, 4 June

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
8.1 Provision of ecological services and forest policies					
8.2 Valuation and payment for ecological services: opportunities and challenges					
8.3 Carbon markets, REDD+ and national forest policies – Facilitated discussion					
8.4 Preparation of briefing notes on selected topics					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

9. Analysis of national forest policies, 5 June

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
9.1 Are forest policies are becoming irrelevant?					
9.2 An overview of the 6 th Forest Policy Course					
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

Yoga sessions

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
Yoga sessions					

Comments:

Field trip, 2 June

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
This part as a whole was					

Comments:

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. What parts of the course did you like best?

Why?

2. What parts did you like least?

Why?

3. What parts of the course are most useful for your work?

4. What other topics should have been included in the course?

5. What other comments would you like to make?

6. Suggestions to improve the course?

7. Are you interested in joining an online discussion group on forest policy analysis?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!