



TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

# REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY

15 – 25 May 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## PROGRAMME BOOK



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



FAO-ED FLEGT PROGRAMME



Deutscher Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



ICIMOD



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## INTRODUCTION

Society-nature relationship is undergoing rapid changes and there is a need for continuous adaptation to ensure that resources are sustainably managed to benefit the present and future generations. Forests and forestry are part of this larger change and policies, legislation, institutions and the management practices need to adapt to the changing needs of society. Adapting to changes and confronting various uncertainties require significant improvement in the policy analysis skills and it is in this context that Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission during its 21st session recommended that FAO pursues efforts to improve the capacity in policy analysis, development and implementation. The Executive Forest Policy Course was initiated in 2007 in pursuance of this recommendation. Hitherto nine such courses have been held – Thailand (2007 and 2009), Fiji (2008 and 2014) Vietnam (2010) China (2011), Bhutan (2013), Myanmar (2015) and Indonesia (2016) – enabling over 175 forestry professionals from twenty five countries to gain policy analysis skills.

Facilitated by leading experts, participants are exposed to various developments at the global, regional, national and local levels that impact forests and forestry, sharpening their policy analysis and leadership skills. Each course is tailored to address topical issues enabling policy makers and planners to understand the changing socio-economic and political landscape and how new knowledge, skills and tools can be applied to fulfil new functions demanded by a changing world.

## THEME OF THE COURSE

Eradication of poverty remains one of the greatest challenges confronting the world, in particular the developing countries. Poverty reduction is an integral component of sustainable development and forms the core of the Millennium Development Goals and its successor, the Sustainable Development Goals, which envisage ending of poverty by 2030. No doubt significant progress has been made in alleviating poverty during the last few decades and since 1990 about 1.1 billion people have moved out of poverty. Enabling the rest of the population to lift themselves out of poverty remains a challenging task considering that many of the strategies and approaches adopted in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are no more effective and the environment for social and economic progress is significantly different from what existed a few decades ago.

There is therefore a need to assess whether the approaches being pursued are adequate and whether the full potential of forestry in poverty alleviation is being realized. Policy interventions need to be developed and fine-tuned to enable forestry to contribute better to the goal of poverty reduction. Climate change related issues are adding to the complexity of forest management. It is in this context that the 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Forest Policy Course has been designed focusing on the theme **“Revisiting the poverty reduction agenda in the context of Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities and challenges for Asia-Pacific forestry”**.

## OBJECTIVES AND ISSUES ADDRESSED

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Gain an understanding of the larger changes taking place at global, regional and national levels and how these will impact forests and forestry in the coming decades;
- Understand the future scenarios for sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly focusing on their implications on policies, institutions and science and technology giving due attention to poverty alleviation;
- Learn how innovations in governance and technology are helping to address poverty alleviation;
- Examine options to capture the full potential of forestry to alleviate poverty and enhance its contribution to rural livelihoods in the context of climate change and SDGs; and
- Fine-tune the policy analysis skills of forestry professionals, enabling them to better understand the larger changes in society and to enhance the effectiveness of interventions that could significantly improve the contribution of forests to poverty reduction.

The course aims to examine a number of policy related issues in enabling forests and forestry to play a greater role in poverty alleviation in the Asia-Pacific countries. Particular attention will be given to address the following questions/ issues:

- What are the emerging scenarios as regards the linkage between forests/ forestry and improvement of livelihood of rural communities, including poverty alleviation?
- How effective has been some of the past efforts in forestry to address poverty? What are the lessons that can be learnt from successes/ failures?
- What are the reasons for the persistence of the “rich forests – poor people” syndrome in that there is a strong overlap as regards the distribution of forests and distribution of poor people?
- In what way current forest governance arrangements are impacting the poverty alleviation agenda? To what extent forest policies, legislation and institutions have mainstreamed the poverty alleviation objective?
- What has been the impact of forest tenure reform on poverty alleviation? What are the lessons that can be learnt from the past tenure reform efforts?
- How could commercial forestry help to improve rural livelihoods? What should be done to overcome some of the limitations of traditional commercial forestry in reducing poverty?
- What needs to be done to improve the economic viability of small scale enterprises enhancing their contribution to poverty alleviation? What are the impacts of globalization on value chains of small scale forestry enterprises and how they have helped/ impeded poverty alleviation?
- Will PES emerge as a major win-win option helping to improve the provision of environmental services and at the same time enhance income of rural communities?
- What should be done to ensure that plans and programmes in forestry are designed to better address poverty alleviation?
- How do we improve the skills in communicating policy options to decision makers?

## COURSE FORMAT

The course objectives will be accomplished through a highly interactive learning programme of debates, dialogues, role-playing sessions, panel discussions and drafting of policy briefs facilitated by leading experts. The programme consists of eight modules addressing key issues confronting forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region (see Box 1). Particular thrust is given to sharing participants' experiences and analysing case studies. The course also includes field visits to give insights into how forestry interventions in Sri Lanka are helping to reduce poverty.

### Box 1: Tenth Executive Forest Policy Course: Modules

Module 1: Changing society, SDGs and poverty reduction  
Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction  
Module 3: Making forestry practices and programmes pro-poor  
Module 4: Lessons from poverty reduction efforts through forestry interventions  
Module 5: Economics of forestry interventions  
Module 6: Tools for assessing forestry's impact on poverty  
Module 7: Communication skills 1 – Presentation skills and social media  
Module 8: Communication skills 2 – Preparation of policy briefs

## DATES AND VENUE

The Course will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from **15 to 25 May 2017**. All participants are required to arrive Colombo on 14 May. The opening ceremony will start at 0900 hrs on Monday, 15 May and the course will close in the afternoon of Wednesday, 24 May 2017. The venue will be:

Hotel Renuka City  
328 Galle Road, Colombo 3  
Sri Lanka  
Tel +94 11 2573598/602 or 2577345/8  
Fax +94 11 2574137/2576183  
Email: [renukaht@renukahotel.com](mailto:renukaht@renukahotel.com)  
Website: [www.renukahotel.com](http://www.renukahotel.com)

All the participants will stay at the venue of the course.

## LANGUAGE

English will be the language of the course.

## SIGHTSEEING

Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, has a long history as a port on ancient east-west trade routes, ruled successively by the Portuguese, Dutch and British. That heritage is reflected in its architecture, mixing colonial buildings with high-rises and shopping malls. The imposing Colombo National Museum, dedicated to Sri Lankan history, borders sprawling Viharamahadevi Park and its giant Buddha.

During the 19th-century Colombo was known as 'the garden city of the East', it is today a sprawling city which is also fast becoming a worthy destination in its own right competing with the beaches to the south of the island. The legacies of colonial Colombo's garden roots are still very much intact along its often shady boulevards.

Hotel Renuka City, where the course will be held, is on Galle Road and close to the beach fronting the Indian Ocean. The hotel is just 30 km (18 Miles) from the Bandaranaike International Airport, a leisurely 45 minutes' drive. A large number of local and international banks, vibrant restaurants, exciting nightlife including casinos, major shopping malls and traditional markets, embassies and high commissions are just steps away from Hotel Renuka City.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Mr. Patrick B. Durst**

Senior Forestry Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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### **Dr. Yurdi Yasmi**

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### **Dr. Sim Heok-Choh**

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## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

14 May – Sunday – Arrival of participants		
Time	Session/ Topic	Presenter/ Facilitator
<b>Day 1: Monday 15 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening session</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 1: Changing society, sustainable development goals and poverty reduction.</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs</b></li> </ul>		
0830 - 0900	Registration	APAFRI
0900 -09.45	<b>Opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Introductory remarks</li> <li>• Remarks by partners</li> <li>• Inaugural address</li> <li>• Vote of thanks</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul>	
0945 – 10.00	Coffee	
1000 - 1030	Ice breaker	Yurdi Yasmi
1030- 11.00	Introduction to the course	CTS Nair
11.00 – 12.00	Forests and poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka	Anura Sathurusinghe
12.00 – 13.00	Drivers of change and future scenarios for forestry in the Asia-Pacific	Patrick Durst
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
1400 – 15.00	An overview of forestry and poverty alleviation	Yurdi Yasmi
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee	
15.30 - 1630	Contribution of forests to GDP, employment and poverty alleviation: What are we missing from statistics?	CTS Nair
16.30 - 1730	Introduction to the preparation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi
<b>Day 2: Tuesday 16 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 7: Communication skills 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs</b></li> </ul>		
08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 1	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Integrated natural resource management and poverty reduction: Rhetoric and action	Jeff Sayer
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30.	Making communications more effective	Caroline Liou
11.30 - 12.30	Forest tenure reform and poverty alleviation	Yurdi Yasmi
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	How pro-poor are national forest policies? –	Patrick Durst/ CTS Nair

	<b>Group Discussion</b>	
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee	
15.30 – 16.30	Preparation of policy briefs: How to make messages stick.	Caroline Liou
16.30 – 17.30	Preparation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sim Heok Choh
<b>Day 3: Wednesday 17 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 7: Communication skills 1</b></li> </ul>		
08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 2	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Forest governance improvement and poverty reduction: The challenges	Doris Capistrano
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30.	Environmental conservation and livelihood improvement: Where and when it leads to a win-win outcome	Jeff Sayer
11.30 - 12.30	How FLEGT could help in poverty reduction	Josil Murray
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	<b>Panel discussion:</b> The role of forests and forestry in poverty reduction – Expectation and reality	Jeff Sayer/ Doris Capistrano/ Patrick Durst/ Josil Murray/ Yurdi Yasmi
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee	
15.30 – 16.30	Living in the era of social media: Opportunities and challenges	Caroline Liou
16.30 – 17.30	Making good presentations	Yurdi Yasmi/ Caroline Liou
<b>Day 4: Thursday 18 May</b> <b>Field Trip – Hosted by the Forest Department, Ministry of Mahaveli Development and Environment</b>		
<b>Day 5: Friday 19 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 3: Making forestry programmes pro-poor</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs</b></li> </ul>		
08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 3&4	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Making forestry institutions responsive to the needs of the poor	Doris Capistrano
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30.	Commercial forestry and rural livelihood improvement.	Josil Murray
11.30 - 12.30	Managing non-wood forest products and poverty alleviation.	CTS Nair
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	

14.00 – 15.00	Leadership in forestry: Coping up with the challenges – <b>Group Discussion.</b>	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee	
15.30 – 17.30	Preparation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sim
<b>Day 6: Saturday 20 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Module 5: Economics of forestry interventions</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs</b></li> </ul>		
08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 5.	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Economic aspects of poverty reduction through forestry	CTS Nair
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30.	Payment for ecological services: A win-win option for poverty reduction?	CTS Nair
11.30 - 12.30	Paris Agreement, REDD+ and poverty alleviation: Lessons learnt and the way forward.	Beau Damen
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Gender, poverty and forestry: <b>Group discussion</b>	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Beau Damen
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.30	Preparation of policy briefs	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sim Heok Choh
<b>Day 7: Sunday 21 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Module 6: Tools for assessing forestry’s impact on poverty</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 4: Lessons from poverty reduction efforts through forestry interventions</b></li> <li>• <b>Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs</b></li> </ul>		
08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 6.	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Tools for making the right choice – Social cost benefit analysis.	CTS Nair
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.30.	Korean experience of reforestation through social mobilization.	Dong Geun Han
11.30 - 12.30	Financing environmental and forestry programmes – GCF and GEF.	Beau Damen
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Group Discussion - Topic to be proposed by participants	Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.30	Preparation of policy briefs	CTS/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sim Heok Choh
<b>Day 8: Monday 22 May</b> <b>Field Trip – Hosted by the Forest Department, Ministry of Mahaveli Development and Environment</b>		

**Day 9: Tuesday 23 May**

- **Module 4: Lessons from poverty reduction efforts through forestry interventions**
- **Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction**
- **Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs**

08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 7&8.	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Dealing with divergent values and resolution of conflicts.	Yurdi Yasmi
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.30.	Joint forest management in India	CTS Nair
11.30 - 12.30	Community forestry and poverty reduction: Lessons from Asia.	Yam Malla
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Decentralization and devolution of forest management: An evolutionary process – Group Discussion.	Yam Malla/ Yurdi Yasmi/ CTS Nair
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.30	Finalization of policy briefs.	CTS Nair/ Yurdi Yasmi/ Sim Heok Choh

**Day 10: Wednesday 24 May**

- **Module 8: Communication skills 2: Preparation of policy briefs**
- **Closing session**

08.30-08.45	Introduction	CTS Nair
08.45-09.00	Recapitulation of issues discussed on Day 9.	Course participants
09.00 – 10.00	Presentation of policy briefs.	Course participants
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.30.	An overview of the course	CTS Nair
11.30 - 12.00	Course evaluation	APAFRI/ FAO
12.00 – 13.00	Closing ceremony	FAO/ APAFRI
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
AN	Free	

**25 May – Thursday - Departure of participants**

## RESOURCE PERSONS



### Dr. Doris Capistrano

Regional Advisor, ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)

Dr. Doris Capistrano is Regional Advisor of the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC), Senior Fellow of the Southeast Asia Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), and Senior Fellow of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). She was Director of Forests and Governance of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and Visiting Professor in Forest and Conservation Policy of Wageningen University, Netherlands. She served as Ford Foundation's Deputy Representative for India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka and Program Officer for Rural Poverty, Resources and Environment in Bangladesh. She was previously a post-doctoral fellow in Tropical Conservation and Development at the Center for Latin American Studies of the University of Florida, USA and Instructor of Economics at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos, Philippines.



### Beau Damen

Beau is the Natural Resource Officer – Climate Change and Bioenergy – for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Over the past 12 years Beau has worked as a natural resource management specialist focused on promoting equitable, climate resilient and low emissions development in the region.

Beau has experience in delivering policy and field-level technical assistance programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation and renewable energy development in over 15 countries in South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Most recently Beau has been leading the implementation of FAO work programs in Asia on resilient, low emission agriculture and initiatives to scale-up investment in the agriculture and land-use sectors in support of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Beau has also worked as a senior policy analyst for the Australian Government's Department of Resources and Energy in Canberra and as a Senior Climate Change specialist for the International Centre for Environmental Management in Hanoi.



## Patrick B. Durst

Pat began his career with the USDA Forest Service in 1976, and joined FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, in 1994. He assumed the position of Senior Forestry Officer three years later. His responsibilities include developing, implementing, coordinating, and monitoring the programme of work and activities of the Natural Resources Management Group of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with national government agencies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. These programmes cover the fields of forestry, fisheries, land, water, and climate change.

Over the years, Pat has monitored trends and performance of the forestry and natural resources sectors in Asia and the Pacific; collected, analyzed, and disseminated relevant information on natural resources development in the region. He also provided technical assistance and advice to member countries of Asia and the Pacific (through direct consultations, organization of workshops and meetings, publication of reports, etc.) on policies and strategies for forestry and natural resources development, particularly in the areas of investment, institutional development, planning, rural development, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change, bioenergy, socio-economic aspects of natural resources management, agroforestry and community forestry, forestry research, and forest products development and marketing. He is responsible for organizing the biennial sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and serves as Secretary for the Commission. This also requires him to coordinate follow-up to the Commission's recommendations, including inter-sessional activities.

Pat meets regularly with heads of forestry agencies, research institutions, and industry associations to discuss issues and potential FAO support in the Asia-Pacific region; and to ensure a regular flow of information among government officials, NGOs, and other forestry stakeholders in the region, including key forestry and development organizations in Asia and the Pacific, such as UNDP, UNEP, ESCAP, ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, ITTO, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, CIFOR, RECOFTC, APFNet, AFoCo, ICRAF, IUCN, WWF, TNC, IUFRO, APAFRI, ICIMOD and others.



## Dr. Dong Geun Han

Dr. Han earned his Ph.D from Purdue University, USA, in the area of international economics before joining Yeungnam University as a faculty member in the Department of Economics and Finance. He has taught economics, finance, and international development for 22 years. He served as a Vice President for Budget and Planning, and the Director General of the Institute for International Development

Cooperation of Yeungnam University. Currently Dr. Han is the Executive Vice President of Yeungnam University. His interest areas include international development cooperation, poverty reduction programmes, and Saemaul Undong as a community development framework.



## Caroline Liou

Manager, Strategic Communication,  
RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests

Ms. Liou has extensive experience working on global, regional, national and local communication initiatives in Asia. Prior to joining RECOFTC in 2013, Ms. Liou worked as Communication Specialist at the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Center in Bangkok, Communications Manager for

WWF China in Beijing, Publishing Manager for Lonely Planet Publications in San Francisco, and Editor at Random House in New York. She has a B.A. in history and journalism, an M.A. in Human Rights from Mahidol University, and studied at the Yale in China program in Hong Kong.



## Dr. Yam Malla

Dr Yam Malla has over 35 years experience of working in natural resource management and rural development fields particularly focusing on forestry. Being one of the pioneers of Nepal's community forestry initiatives in the 1980s, Dr. Malla has worked in countries of Asia, Africa and Europe. Dr. Malla currently works as a freelance consultant and work for forestry and natural resource management, and community and rural development related programmes and projects. Dr. Malla has worked for International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nepal - first as Country Representative (October 2011 - January 2016) and later as Senior Advisor (February 2016-January 2017). Prior to this, he has served as Executive Director of RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests – a Bangkok based international organization for nine years (November 2002 – October 2011), and Lecturer and Director of Masters Programme on Participatory Natural Resource Management and Extension in the United Kingdom's University of Reading for seven years (September 1995 – October 2002). With PhD in Forestry from Australia, Masters and Post Graduate Diploma in Agriculture Extension and Forestry from UK, Dr. Malla has published his work widely in various international refereed journals.



## Dr. Josil P. Murray

Dr. Murray is an International Consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) based in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. She currently provides technical and administrative support to the FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme for 8 countries in the region. Her role is to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the grants awarded through competitive calls-for-proposals open to governmental, private sector and civil society organizations. As part of the Regional Forestry Team at FAO, she also works on wider forestry issues such as REDD+, Voluntary certification and Sustainable Forest Management.

She is a tropical forester with over 10 years of experience working in the Conservation and the Forestry sector with a particular focus on productive forest landscapes. Her career in Forest Conservation began in 2005 with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Malaysia where she worked under the Forest Conservation Programme for 6 years. Prior to joining the FAO, she undertook extensive research on REDD+ implementation and its impacts on forest and biodiversity. From 2011 to 2015 she was Research Fellow at Bangor University in North Wales (UK) where she carried out research in collaboration with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and taught Forest Conservation at the School of Environment, Natural Resource and Forestry (SENRGY).

She has extensive knowledge and experience working on issues relating to REDD+, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), FLEGT- Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), Forest Certification and sustainability standards. Her field experience extends to Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil where she has worked on a wide range of biodiversity and social forestry issues. Her work to date has been published in peer reviewed journals and featured in popular science. She holds an M.Sc in Forest Governance from the University of Padova (Italy) and an M.Sc in Environmental Forestry and a PhD in Forest Conservation from Bangor University (UK).



### **Dr. CTS Nair**

Dr. Nair is currently a freelance consultant in natural resources management based in India. He has a multi-disciplinary academic background as also a diversified experience profile with over 45 years in various capacities in India and abroad. He was in the Indian Forest Service for about 20 years and a major part of his career was with the Kerala Forest Research Institute. Dr. Nair was with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for about 20 years and worked in Sudan, Thailand and Rome in various capacities, including as Chief Economist in the Forestry Department. After retirement from FAO he worked in India in Kerala state as Executive Vice President of the State Council for Science, Technology and Environment as also the Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department. His main areas of interest are assessment of long term changes in the use of natural resources, policy and institutional analysis and science and technology management. He has been coordinating the Executive Forest Policy courses since 2013.



### **Prof. Jeff Sayer**

Jeff Sayer is a British ecologist who began his working life researching large mammal ecology in Africa. Research and conservation activities in Africa brought him into daily contact with the realities of the lives of poor rural people trying to make a living in the wildlife rich areas around parks and reserves. He subsequently worked in nature conservation projects in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Thailand where similar conflicts between conservation and poverty alleviation were widespread. He later spent more than 10 years in Indonesia as founding Director General of CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research) where he championed a multi- disciplinary ecosystem approach to sustainable forest management. He has worked at various times for WWF and initiated the Forest Conservation Programme of IUCN. He is now Professor of Conservation and Development at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia where he is a member of the Center for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science and directs a Graduate Programme in Development Practice.

In almost all of his work Jeff has been confronted with the issues of reconciling the interests of poor local people with the task of conserving global environmental values. He has maintained a strong interest in systems and landscape approaches to reconciling conservation and development conflicts. He believes strongly that long term forest conservation is not likely to be sustainable in situations where people live in extreme poverty.



### **Anura Sathurusinghe**

Anura is currently the Conservator General of Forests and Head of the Sri Lanka Forest Department. He has served in different capacities in the department for over 30 years, including more than 10 years as director of a number of forestry projects. He also represents Sri Lanka Forest Department in several national and international forestry related agencies and networks.



### **Dr. Sim Heok-Choh**

Dr. Sim Heok-Choh is a mechanical engineering graduate from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He obtained his Master and Doctoral Degrees in Forest Products from the University of Idaho, USA. Starting his career with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in 1977, Dr Sim has been an active researcher in forest products for more than twenty years. His work focused on wood processing and utilization, and production management in forest products enterprises. He has also involved in short term assignments in a number of countries, including Peru, Chile, the Philippines, China and Laos. He moved on to head a unit administrating consultancy and technical services of FRIM for about four years, and was also responsible for several research management activities for a couple of years before being assigned to be the administrator of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) Secretariat, hosted by FRIM, in 2002. He was the Executive Secretary of APAFRI until 2015.



## Dr. Yurdi Yasmi

Dr. Yasmi is a leading natural resource manager, thinker and scientist. With 20 years of experience, he currently works as the Focal Point for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery & the Forest Policy Officer for Asia and the Pacific at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) based in its Regional Office in Bangkok.

Before joining FAO in 2013, he was with the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) in Hanoi as the Coordinator of the Humid Tropics Mekong Region and Manager for Agroforestry for Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers Programme (AFLI). Prior to that, he worked as the Head of Research and Capacity Building, the largest Unit, at RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests – in Bangkok. Between 2003 and 2007, he worked for the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group of Wageningen University, Netherlands. Dr. Yasmi started his career as a researcher at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia where he worked for six years.

He has served on a number of high level panels. He was appointed by the World Bank as one of the eight high level members of the Expert Panel for Forest Investment Program (FIP). He was a member of IUFRO Review Panel Committee and a member of Global Expert Panel of IUFRO's global initiatives on International Forest Regime; and World Forest, Society and Environment (WFSE). Additionally, he was an expert member of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for sustainable forest management in the tropics.

He has been guest lectures in Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Germany, Viet Nam and Netherlands. He has published over 70 scientific publications in scientific articles, books, book chapter, etc. He received a PhD and MSc from the Forests and Nature Conservation Policy Department of Wageningen University, the Netherlands; and BSc from Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia.

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Isabelita is a Career Executive Service Eligible Professional Forester. She is the Chief of the Community Forestry Section in FMB, DENR; and the Philippines' focal point in the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry. She has extensive experience in community-based forest management, forestry planning and in setting-up local-level monitoring systems. She believes that institutional support for simple transformative enabling policy is one of the keys for poverty reduction in the context of SDGs.



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Nabin has over 8 years of work experience in forestry and biodiversity, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions research. Currently, he is enrolled as Agroforestry Associate with the ICIMOD. Nabin has authored a number of publications including books, REDD+ and Climate Change Action Plans, scientific papers.



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Citra worked as Legal Researcher at the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law for five years and currently is the Head of Forestry and Land Division. Her focus is on Forest Governance, Review Legality of Permits, TLAS, Palm Oil, and Land Use Planning. She has been Escord Team member for Periodic Evaluations and Impact Monitoring IDN - EU FLEG-T VPA and also representative of CSO member at Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) since 2014.



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Madeline started her career as an Executive Forester with the Forest Department Sarawak in 1995. Her first assignment was with the Forest Operation Branch specifically focusing on Sustainable Forest Management. Since then she has worked in several areas such as planted forests, SFM, International Affairs, community engagement, etc. Currently she is Senior Executive Forester dealing with Forest Management Certification in Sarawak.



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Nimal has experience on sustainable land management, poverty reduction through agriculture development and value addition, watershed management and conservation and participatory approach for village development planning.



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Hany joined as a civil servant at the Secretariat General of the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia in 2000 and has been promoted as Head of Programme and Evaluation Directorate General for Climate Change Control occupied in 2015.



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Since graduating in January 1986 Elizabeth has worked with the National Forest Service. Her services to the community through forest development have been recognised by Her Majesty, the Queen and honoured with an MBE award. A very knowledgeable and experienced forester with more than thirty years of experience in the field of forestry Elizabeth has held various senior management positions within the organisation.



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Jayaweera is a field officer for the rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land in central highlands in Sri Lanka. This project provides policy support for sustainable land management (SLM) and establishment of demonstration sites for SLM, as well as capacity development of officers and farmers on SLM and knowledge dissemination.



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Loraini has been working with SPC for the past 3 years and is currently their Forestry REDD+ Technician. She came in as a national consultant for an FAO project on Strengthening National Forest Monitoring Systems in the Pacific. She also worked in the Geoscience Division of SPC with the Disaster Risk Management Programme under the Policy and Planning team. Before joining SPC, she was working for the University of the South Pacific as a Teaching Assistant and Lab Demonstrator for Geography and Land Use Planning. She has great experience and knowledge in Geography, Disaster Risk Management, Forestry and Sustainable Land Use Planning.



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Wei is currently the Director of Communication and Outreach Department of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet). She has been working with APFNet for 9 years. She has over the years held positions ranging from administrative management, human resources, and institutional communications to programme management, with experience in communication management, communication strategy development, training or event planning and management.



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Mohammad has worked in different national and international organizations since 2006, particularly in the Forest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) of Afghanistan. He is currently working as a forest development manager with Forest Department of MAIL and is also a focal point with UN-Food and Agriculture Organization in Afghanistan.



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A social forestry specialist, Nguyen joined ICRAF team as ASFCC Project Manager in 2015. Before joining ICRAF, he worked in different ODA projects under Management Board of Forestry Projects for fifteen years. Having rich experience in social forestry and community forestry development, he is engaged with the project “Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)” funded by SDC. Dr. Hai obtained his MSc degree in Tropical Forestry specializing in Social Forestry.



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Florence has been a nursery officer for six years, raising seedlings for plantation and extension purposes and undertaking surveys and mapping as well as liaising with non- governmental organisations for forestry extension purposes. She also was an Acting Project Supervisor for four years managing a 2,846 ha forest plantation. Previous to that, as a Community Forester for three years Florence provided technical advice and assistance to local tree farmers to plant trees in their customary land. Also she has been responsible for awareness generation among various stakeholders addressing local and global issues such as climate change and gender issues.



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It aims to improve the livelihoods of rural women and men, many of whom are from ethnic minorities. She is also the civil society representative in the Lao CSOs FLEGT/VPA committee of Lao PDR, and has participated in many activities to support Lao PDR to enter into a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU.



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Subasingha has for more than 14 years of experience in a variety of development projects funded and implemented by international and national agencies including UN, Government Ministries and Departments. Currently Subasingha is Programme Assistant of FAO liaising with the project "Promoting Sustainable Biomass Energy Production and Modern Bio-Energy Technologies".



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Niroj worked as GIS/ RS Expert/ Environmentalist in many renowned organizations in Nepal: Ministry of Forest, HELVATAS and other private firms. Niroj has also worked as researcher in the formulation of 'Master Plan of Chure-Tarai Madhesh'- an important document of GoN. Presently he is Remote Sensing Associate at ICIMOD's initiative, contributing in MRV and FRL. He has two books and a book chapter published with three articles as lead author and many other articles including several reports.



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Currently holding the post of Principal Forest Officer at the headquarters managing the Forestry Planning, Policy and Statistics unit. Noa has 20 years of service in the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, gained skills and management experience in the field of plantation and natural forest harvesting, forest mapping and inventory and community forestry.



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Waheeda obtained her BSc Honours and MSc degree in Botany from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh in 1997 and 1998 respectively. In 2014 she obtained her PhD in Microbial Plant Pathology from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia. She has been serving at Bangladesh Forest Research Institute since 2006. She has more than 10 scientific articles published in national and international journals and has attended several seminars and conferences at home and abroad.



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Wilawan graduated from Kasetsart University and ANU (Australia). She has been working with the RFD for more than 30 years. She had worked with Forest Research and Development Bureau and participated in collaborative research projects between RFD and several international research institutes and organizations such as JICA, ACIAR, JIRCAS, APFNet and AFoCo. Her main experience involves silviculture and forest rehabilitation. Now she is working as Community Forest Management Expert.



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Jessica was recently appointed as Acting Senior Allocating Officer with responsibilities which include conducting pre-approval inspection on forest clearing authority application. Prior to this, she has been a Timber Authority Officer for six years, a Forest Supervisor for five years and a Junior Forester for two years.



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