

Appendix 4. Recommendations from individual working groups

Working group 1: India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives

Recommendations for national and regional/international level action to promote improved management of coastal forests and trees:

Information collection

Key considerations and requirements:

- Accuracy of data.
 - Methodology used in data collection
 - Independent verification
- Technology adoption.
 - Use and interpretation of data from different sources, e.g. satellite images
 - Capacity in relation to utilization of information technology
- Information collection at the field level.
 - Capacity in relation to information collection
 - Knowledge to be balanced across a wide range of stakeholders

Coordination

Key considerations and requirements (FAO to facilitate at regional/international level):

- A planning authority with a holistic approach.
- Centralized authority.
- Steering committees.
- Ensure that technical excellence of individual disciplines is not compromised by integration with other areas/sectors.
- Implement bottom-up planning.

Policy, legislation and institutions

Key considerations and requirements:

- A central policy instrument that takes local customs and laws into consideration.
- Facilitation at the regional/international level.
- Awareness raising within relevant institutions.
- Better definition of the role of NGOs and interactions with local level civil servants.

Capacity building, technical assistance

Key considerations and requirements:

- Networking.
- Social capital.
- Not to confine to government.
- Multistakeholders — partners.

Working group 2: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar

Task 1: Information collection/coordination

Constraints

- Unclear links with governments and other institutions.
- No knowledge of existing information.
- Dispersed information — not easy to access (language differences, etc.).
- Tight control of information by countries and institutions.
- Objectives of information collection — not always clear.

Recommendations

- Collate/summarize information (formats already available — UNDP–DAD database).
- Produce synthesis papers.
- Include local translators in the team.
- Country level can provide translated material through FAO representatives in each country (formal request required).

Task 2: Policy, legislation and institutions

Constraints

- Local level actions are often not concerted and may be harmful.
- Authority to act at local levels may not be clear or granted.
- FAO interdepartmental coordination.

Recommendations

- Establish coordination forums at various levels.
- FAO can coordinate at the provincial level (in Thailand).
- Communities need to be consulted during planning.

Task 3: Capacity building, technical assistance

Constraints

- Limited technical skill and local level know-how (lack of knowledge available or no knowledge of its whereabouts).
- Limited communication skills in relation to use of modern equipment and language differences.
- In many places government officials are less familiar with community level participatory activities.

Recommendations

- Technical training for government and other institutions including local communities.
- Communication and policy level training for governmental and NGO staff (depending on roles).
- Promote partnership in rehabilitation efforts.

- Improve links with research and education institutions, particularly regarding technical expertise.

Working group 3: Regional

Information collection, generation and dissemination

- Regional and international support for collection of data on distribution, types, trends and status of coastal forest (e.g. beach forest, *Casuarina*, etc.).
- Collection and sharing of lessons learned on rehabilitation, establishment and management of coastal forests (both tsunami-related and more generally).
- Preparation of guidelines of good practice in coastal forest protection/management.
- Collection and dissemination of technical materials for training and extension.
- Preparation of generic information, awareness and technical materials for country-level adaptation.
- Continued mangrove assessment and monitoring through the FAO Forest Resources Assessment and initiation of assessment of other coastal forest types.
- Long-term monitoring of coastal forest rehabilitation pilot sites in the region.

Policy, legislation and institutions

- Assessment of countries' experience in incorporating forests into coastal area planning and management plans.
- Sharing of experiences on how to clarify jurisdiction over coastal forest areas (including land tenure, access rights, responsibility of agencies).
- Development of guidelines on how to incorporate forestry into coastal disaster management strategies and plans (risk, enhancing resilience, immediate relief and long-term recovery).
- Documenting and promoting best practice in collaborative coastal forest protection and management.
- Strengthening information exchange and coordination among international, regional and bilateral agencies supporting coastal forest management and rehabilitation.
- Support Mangroves for the Future as a strategic and collaborative initiative to facilitate sustained investments in coastal ecosystem conservation.

Capacity building and technical assistance

- Use and strengthen existing organizations for long-term capacity building.
- Develop general training modules that could be adapted for national and local use.
- Provide increased support (including financial resources) for more South–South cooperation and exchange.
- Support capacity building through strengthened regional networking.