Welcome to the NFP Facility Newsletter.
You will find a thematic article, some country stories and updated information on the recent activities implemented in the partner countries. Happy reading!

Highlight

Forestry Investments in Emerging Markets

Between 17-19 May 2011, about 50 participants - such as institutional investors, investment advisors, timber funds, forest business developers, and forestry specialists - attended the meeting "Forestry Investments in Emerging Markets" organised by FAO, the NFP Facility and Tropenbos International with support of the Business in Development (BID) Network, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands. Participants, from selected NFP Facility countries, included forest finance professionals that have worked domestically to identify promising business opportunities. The meeting took place in the Netherlands, a country with significant expertise in tropical forestry, and history of public and private investment in forestry in developing countries.

The objectives of the meetings were to:

1. Share perspectives on challenges and opportunities regarding the greater involvement of investors in forestry (REDD+, biodiversity, forestry) in emerging markets.
2. Showcase and discuss a variety of forestry-based business cases and fund structures as a basis to better understand the requirements and potential of such business cases.
3. Contribute to an action plan to narrow the gap between investors and forestry opportunities.

The interactive programme - consisting of plenary, panel and group sessions - offered an informal opportunity for exchange and engagement among participants. Seventeen business fact sheets from various countries provided the basis to discuss in concrete terms the risks and opportunities to invest in forestry in emerging and frontier markets. The cases included plantation forestry, natural forest management, processing and alternative businesses. In addition, several participants shared short notes on their work, which were contained in the information package.

The meeting generated a number of recommendations for follow up that will take place at the national and international level. More information on the meeting can be found on:

The Tropenbos website
The NFP Facility website

For further information, please contact Marco Boscolo at Marco.Boscolo@fao.org.
Country focus

Starting the second partnership between NFP Facility and Viet Nam

Viet Nam became a partner of the NFP Facility in 2005 and implemented 11 activities which have had a significant impact on Viet Nam forestry sector through information sharing, capacity building, pilot models and policy analysis. The activities conducted by NGOs and community-based organizations became an important information channel which has contributed to policy dialogue at government level. The analysis, researches and piloting models serve as good tools to strengthen the Viet Nam Forestry Development Strategy (2006 - 2020) implementation. The first Facility partnership with Viet Nam has been a real success in supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other stakeholders, especially local NGOs and association in the policy process.

To build upon the progresses and lessons learnt of the first partnership, Viet Nam has launched in April 2011, in Hanoi, a second partnership with the Facility, led by the Forest Sector Support Partnership Coordination Office. The objectives of this new phase are:

i. To establish, manage, protect, develop, and utilize forests and forest land in a sustainable way.
ii. To improve forest coverage and forest land.
iii. To promote forestry economy development.
iv. To increase sectoral contributions to national socio-economic development, poverty reduction, environment and biodiversity conservation.
v. To deliver environmental services of forests more effectively.

Besides NGOs, which are the traditional recipient organizations of the Facility, government agencies, research institutes, forestry universities and civil associations attended the launching workshop. They discussed the new priorities and were informed about the principles of submitting proposal and screening procedures, and the result-based management approach of the Facility. As a result of the workshop, a call for proposals was launched. All the information has been uploaded on the Forest Sector Support Partnership website for transparent and public purpose.

Source: Nguyen Bich Hang, Forest Sector Support Partnership Coordination Office, Hanoi, Vietnam

New round of proposals selected in Honduras

First Partnership with the Facility 2003-2007

Honduras entered a fist partnership with the Facility in 2003 to catalyze the implementation of the forest policy, laws and plans of strategic development leading to SFM in the framework of the Honduras National Forest Programme (PRONAFOR). In September 2007, the new forest law was approved, which established a new institutional set-up: the National Institute for the Conservation and Forest Development (ICF), in charge of forestry and forest policy implementation.

The main outputs of the first Facility partnership, through activities implemented mainly by the NGOs, are the following:

i. Increased capacity of forestry organizations to become active participants in the implementation of the NFP and to take part in the discussion of the new forest law and forest policy;
ii. Successful awareness raising at local and national level, including support of strategic alliances between the forest stakeholders; and
iii. Revitalisation and consolidation of the NFP process.

Taking into account the outputs from the national self-evaluation and the challenges represented in the establishment of the legal and institutional framework, Honduras applied for a second partnership with the NFP Facility, which was signed in 2008.
Second Partnership with the Facility since 2008

The overall objectives of this current agreement are i) to support the consolidation of the national efforts and the implementation of the new forest policy and law within the framework of the NFP, and ii) to contribute to poverty alleviation at national and local level.

End of May 2011, an important meeting of the National multi stakeholder Committee of the PRONAFOR, was attended by about 50 representatives of key forest stakeholders. During this meeting, the updated version of the PRONAFOR document was presented; the main ongoing projects related to forest and climate change issues in Honduras shared information about their progresses and discussed possibilities for an improved coordination, and six organizations of the civil society were selected to implement activities with the NFP Facility support.

Those 6 activities will focus on:

i. strengthening the Forest Consultation Committees at local level;
ii. capacity development of communities for the preparation of projects and the implementation of the Community Forestry; and
iii. implementing a compensatory mechanism to the forest for the Water production.

High level commitment and challenges

A remarkable high level governmental commitment with the NFP process was made evident during the meeting, when the Minister and other Forest authorities presented and discussed with the participants the NFP (PRONAFOR). The Minister of the ICF will monitor and coordinate - in close collaboration with the Agenda Forestal de Honduras (AFH) - the activities implemented by the organizations with the NFP Facility support. The Minister nominated the Department of planning and assessment (Unidad de Planificación y Evaluación de la Gestión - UPEC) as the NFP focal point in Honduras. The Facility support will provide a key added value for the national coordination of the PRONAFOR and the initiatives related forest and climate changes in the country.

Details of the 20 activities implement under the Facility partnership in Honduras can be found here.

Recent activities implemented

Kids to forest - For the future of the world!

Why education is so important?
Sustainable forest management can help address a number of global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, and poverty reduction. By ensuring forests remain healthy and in balance over the long term, sustainable forest management can ensure that forests continue to provide diverse and multiple ecosystem services and products. Despite these benefits, many countries still do not manage forests in a sustainable manner, in part because they lack the human resources to conceptualize, implement, and monitor sustainable forestry practices. Foresters and non-foresters alike are also inadequately engaged in efforts to achieve sustainable forest management. Education can address this knowledge gap: it is a key to shaping how people engage with forests!

With the aim to expose younger generations to the multiple benefits of forests through hands-on learning experiences that can lead to a better understanding of sustainable forest management, the NFP Facility and FAO’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific have launched the Kids to Forests initiative in Asia and the Pacific to address this educational deficiency and to help advance forest education in the region. The target group of the initiative are primary and secondary school students and teachers in select schools of these countries.
Implementation has been kicked off in six countries in Asia and the Pacific
In May 2011, the implementation has been launched in six NFP Facility partner countries including Cambodia, China, Mongolia, the Philippines, Lao PDR and Fiji. The implementation of the Kids to Forests initiative will be carried out in two phases.

Phase 1: country programmes (May-November 2011)
During Phase I, NFP Facility will provide fund to the selected institution in each country to organize country programmes, such as interactive field visits, games, activities and discussions that excite and educate students about sustainable forest management as well as developing appropriate educational materials.

Phase II: Experiences sharing (November - December 2011)
The Phase II will focus on sharing the experiences and lessons learned through a reflection workshop. Two representatives from each country will be invited to a workshop to be held during the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and the 2nd Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in November 2011 in Beijing, China. Country representatives will synthesize and evaluate lessons learned from Phase I to determine if benefits, opportunities, and funding prospects exist to implement a Phase III Kids to Forests programme or to scale-up existing Kids to Forests into a larger project in Asia and the Pacific.

Integrating climate change into national forest programmes
FAO and the NFP Facility support countries on the integration of climate change in their national forest programmes (nfp). A main part of this effort is a guide for policymakers with the aim to assist policy makers and stakeholders in the process of integrating climate change into nfp.

The main objective of the guide is to provide policy makers and stakeholders with an operational framework for integration of climate change issues in coherence with already existing national strategies and regulations and forest sector objectives. Furthermore to identify needed adjustments in existing forest policy or practices to better respond to climate change. Also included in the approach is a check for forestry-related issues that need to be addressed by policy at national level. The guide can be used on/at several levels ranging from awareness raising and as a check list to analysis of country status and support to a full revision through NFP process. Depending on the use it is recommended that the guide is adapted to regional or country situations.

The guide has been developed based on experience from a number of country workshops on the issue (Tanzania, Cambodia, Paraguay and South Africa). Furthermore an expert consultation was held. The guide is currently being tested in interested countries and a open review has been launched in May 2011. The First version of the guide is expected to be published in September 2011. For more information on the development process of the guide, as well as possible national support for using the guide, visit the Facility website.

Empowering Communities in Sumatra Indonesia
Several activities were successfully implemented in 2010 and finalised recently by the Indonesian Communication Forum on Community Forestry, Radio MITRA FM and Gita Buana Foundation with Facility Support. In particular, the community skills in sustainable non forest timber product usages, and in sustainable water resource management were improved. Lessons learnt from the communities were shared at a regional workshop to strengthen communities’ capacities of the entire region. The summary and recommendations of the activities can be found on the Facility website.
Strengthening Smallholder Forest Producers in Kenya

A seminar organized by the Swedish Family Forest Owners Association and funded by the NFP Facility, was held in Nairobi on 23rd and 24th May 2011. It was attended by Smallholder tree growers groups and associations, Community forestry associations, Researchers, Kenya Forest service, Africa Forest Forum, FAO Kenya office, and representatives from the Swedish funded VI-Agroforestry project. Others included World Bank, Swedish Forest Agency, Swedish Cooperation Centre and Embassy of Finland.

There was consensus in the meeting for the need for smallholders to strengthen their cooperation and partnerships to be able to address challenges related to markets, policy bottlenecks and the gaps between policy wish for farm forestry and the administrative realities. The seminar also recommended to establish a "national committee" consisting of representatives from the more advanced existing associations from Kisumu region, Western Kenya, the Mountain Kenya region, the Semi dry area and the Costal region, to spearhead and catalyze actions towards a more national - level association to deal with policy and market - related issues.

GFP Mozambique - National Community Based Natural Resource Management Conference

In Mozambique, participants in the GFP initiative have identified several key challenges, including community based natural resource management (CBNRM) and other community forestry initiatives. As part of their strategy to improve CBNRM, a large conference entitled the National Community Based Natural Resource Management Conference IV was held from 28 - 30 April, 2011 in Maputo City, Mozambique. 300 participants attended, including high level government officials; administrators and representatives from the Districts of Namaacha, Magude, Chokwe, Massingir, Jangamo, Missinga, Lichinga and Lago; technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Coordination of Environmental Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism; academics; students; NGO and private sector representatives; the media; and others.

The objective of the conference was to reflect on the results of community-based natural resource management as an approach to development in Mozambique. The event was highly successful, resulting in a wide array of recommendations and lessons learned, as detailed in the summary report which will be available on the GFP website.

The Growing Forest Partnerships initiative, co-facilitated by IUCN, FAO, IIED, and the World Bank, focuses on the development of partnerships and capacity amongst forest smallholders, indigenous people and forest dependent communities. GFP is active in five countries, including Ghana, Guatemala, Liberia, Mozambique and Nepal.

ACP FLEGET Support Programme - Call for proposals closed

The ACP FLEGET Support Programme has closed en of May 2011 the fourth call for proposals, 197 proposals from 40 different African, Caribbean and Pacific Island countries were received. The programme has completed three previous calls for proposals and now currently funds 64 projects that support country driven initiatives to implement the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan in 31 countries. Projects are managed by government, civil society and private sector stakeholders.
The NFP Facility, hosted by FAO, was created in 2002 to support countries to develop, implement and valorize their NFP. It has allocated 700 small grants (70% to the civil society and 30% to governments) based on national priorities, agreed by the stakeholders, in 80 partner countries and regional organizations, through a transparent process of call for proposals. The wide range of thematic supported through studies, trainings, knowledge sharing and pilot activities include forest resources, agroforestry, climate change, development of national forest financing strategies, conflict resolution, national timber industry, indigenous knowledge, governance and land use. The added value of the NFP Facility is to develop sustainable institutional mechanisms for consultative processes.