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Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection

Final Workshop

20-21 December 2016 | Swissotel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok

Background

The regional 'Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection' project¹ has designed a new low-cost mechanism that enables investors to promote mangrove protection and restoration through provision of funding to local communities. The new mechanism provides a simple yet credible methodology to ensure mangrove areas are monitored and protected, carbon stocks are accounted for, and local communities are thoroughly involved in project activities.

Under the mechanism, mangrove mapping and monitoring are implemented using low-cost tools such as GPS units, smartphones, and open-source online platforms. Carbon stocks are estimated using two simple parameters – plot latitude and standing mean basal area – thus reducing field time and equipment costs. The majority of the tasks are undertaken by local communities after initial training by mangrove experts, reducing costs and improving project ownership and sustainability. The mechanism clearly identifies parties to be involved, and provides step-by-step instructions on establishing project implementation and financing arrangements.

By reducing the costs of mangrove monitoring and carbon estimation, the mechanism allows restoration and protection of smaller areas of mangroves which are currently priced out of international carbon initiatives. It is designed to be used by private- and public-sector investors throughout Asia, including corporate social responsibility initiatives, international development partners and government agencies. By providing a simple, standardised project methodology, it is expected to significantly increase the involvement of the donors and the private sector in mangrove protection activities throughout the region.

The mechanism was designed by Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) over a period of two years, with contributions from international mangrove experts, government agencies and academia. It was informed by visits to mangrove sites in Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, which included field-testing and extensive consultations with mangrove communities and local governments. The carbon estimation component was designed at Yale University and will be published in PLOS ONE journal in the coming months.

¹ The 'Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection' project was launched in February 2015 and will be completed in December 2016. The project is part of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative which is funded by Danida, Norad, Sida and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Thailand. The project is implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Office, with assistance from the USAID Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) Program (now completed) and the UN-REDD Programme. Project activities are taking place in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam.



Spatial Informatics Group - Natural Assets Laboratory

The new mechanism is presented as a series of four publications, intended to be used in conjunction to establish sustainable financing for mangrove protection:

1. 'Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring guide'
2. 'Incentive allocation for mangrove protection'
3. 'Mangrove-related policy and institutional frameworks in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam'
4. 'Financing for mangrove protection with emphasis on Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam'

Objectives

The Final Workshop for the project seeks to share information on project outputs with mangrove experts and stakeholders in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam. It also seeks to identify ways to pilot and ensure the uptake of the new low-cost mechanism developed by the project. Specific objectives of the workshop are:

1. To share information on project outputs, focusing on the low-cost mangrove monitoring, carbon estimating, and incentive allocation mechanism for mangrove protection.
2. To collect expert and stakeholder feedback on project outputs.
3. To identify partners and sources of funding to pilot the new mechanism in project countries.

Expected outputs

1. Validated project outputs.
2. Identified partners and sources of funding for piloting.

Participants

Around 40 participants are expected to attend, including:

- Experts in mangroves and carbon, preferably with knowledge of community development, micro-finance, carbon marketing, corporate relations, forestry and small-scale fisheries
- Representatives from government agencies in target countries, international and national NGOs, development agencies active in mangrove protection, and potential private-sector partners
- MFF, FAO, UN-REDD and USAID staff involved in the project

Location and timing

The workshop will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 20-21 December 2016, at the Swissotel Nai Lert Park (<http://www.swissotel.com/hotels/bangkok-nai-lert-park/>).

Contact

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Agenda

20 December 2016

- 08:00 – 08:30 **Registration**
- 08:30 – 09:00 Opening remarks – Steen Christensen (MFF) and Pat Durst (FAO)
Introduction of participants
- 09:00 – 09:20 **Session 1: Project overview**
- Project objectives, funders and implementing arrangements (Kenichi Shono, FAO)
 - Project methodology, including key activities and outputs (Kenichi Shono)
 - Next steps (Kenichi Shono)
- 09:20 – 10:35 **Session 2: Mangrove policy and institutional frameworks in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam**
- Project findings and recommendations for each country (presented by MFF National Coordinators)
- 10:35 – 11:00 Workshop photo, coffee and tea
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 3: Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring mechanism – overview**
- Project area mapping (Jeremy Broadhead, SIG-NAL)
 - Biomass and soil carbon stock estimation (Jacob Bukoski, UC Berkeley)
 - Mangrove monitoring with point photography and Global Forest Watch (Jeremy Broadhead)
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:15 **Session 4: Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring mechanism – demonstration**
(facilitated by Jeremy Broadhead, Jacob Bukoski and Nick Beresnev)
- Project area mapping using GPS and QGIS
 - Biomass and soil carbon stock estimation
 - Mangrove monitoring with and point photography and Global Forest Watch
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee and tea
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Session 5: Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring mechanism – demonstration (cont.)**
- 18:00 – 21:00 **Cocktail reception**

- 08:30 – 08:40 **Introduction of Day 2** (Nick Beresnev, FAO)
- 08:40 – 10:15 **Session 6: Incentive allocation mechanism for mangrove protection** (presented by Jeremy Broadhead and Nick Beresnev)
- Roles and responsibilities involved
 - Financial management
 - Development of agreement
- 10:15 – 10:45 Coffee and tea
- 10:45 – 12:00 **Session 7: Financing for mangrove protection with emphasis on Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam**
- Project findings and recommendations for each country (presented by Nick Beresnev, FAO)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Session 8: Project piloting and implementation**
- Potential project impacts and follow-up activities (Nick Beresnev, FAO)
 - Presentation on UN-REDD mangrove investment plan in Viet Nam, IPSARD (Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development)
- 14:00 – 15:15 **Session 9: Country-level group discussions on pilot implementation (location, partners, financing)**
- Group 1: Thailand
 - Group 2: Viet Nam
 - Group 3: Pakistan
- 15:15 – 15:30 Coffee and tea
- 15:30 – 16:10 **Session 10: Country groups report back**
- a 10-minute presentation by each country group on their findings, including recommendations on next steps
 - Q&A
- 16:10 – 16:30 **Workshop summary**
- summary of next steps (Nick Beresnev, FAO)
 - closing remarks (Patrick Durst, FAO)