Local Forest Governance and Role of Community-Based Forest Management

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Yam Malla, Executive Director
Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok
General Introduction

Background

• Introduction to RECOFTC
• The changing context of forests

Local Forest Governance and the Role of Community-Based Management

• Contributions of community-based management to forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods
• Elements of good (forest) governance

Future Challenges and Opportunities

Summary/Conclusion
Introduction to RECOFTC

• The only international organization in Asia committed to community-based management of natural resources.

• 20 years experience in designing and delivering training courses and capacity building services.

• Ability to attract participants from across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

• Networks of over 60 GOs, NGOs, CBOs and research and educational institutes.

• A regional ‘hub’ for community forestry knowledge and information.
  • Documentation and dissemination
  • Community Forestry E-News
  • A ‘neutral platform’ for sharing experiences and lessons learned
The Changing Context of Forests

- Forest and other linked laws
- Trade in forest products
- International forest regimes, laws and organizations
- Forest tenure and ownership
- Decentralization and devolution of forest management
- Local communities’ increasing involvement in forest management
- Role of government forest agency
Contributions of CBFM

• Protect existing forests and regenerate degraded forestlands

• Improve forest quality and flow of benefits to local people

• Strengthen existing (or build new) local forest institutions

• Serve as important source of investment
Local Forest Governance and Role of Community-Based Management

Elements of (good) Forest Governance

- Enabling policy and legislation
- Transparency and disclosure
- Public participation
- Accountability
- Combating illegal logging and corruption
Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

• Scaling up of activities for improving local forest governance
• Equitable distribution of benefits
• Forest product market
• Power relations
  • Community/Village level
  • Regional/National level
• Impact on forests and livelihoods
  • Forest-dependent people
  • Environmental sustainability
Summary / Conclusion

• The perceived role of forests in society is broadening dramatically.

• Debates on policies and legislation at international and national levels are important.

• The key to effective forest governance is how these policy legislations are translated on the ground.
Summary / Conclusion

• Community-based management:
  • Plays an important role in forest governance which is transparent, participatory and accountable.
  • Effectively places local communities in the national development agendas.
  • Represents a major contribution to our understanding of the path to sustainable development.

• At the same time these lessons also reveal many challenges ahead.
Thankyou

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