

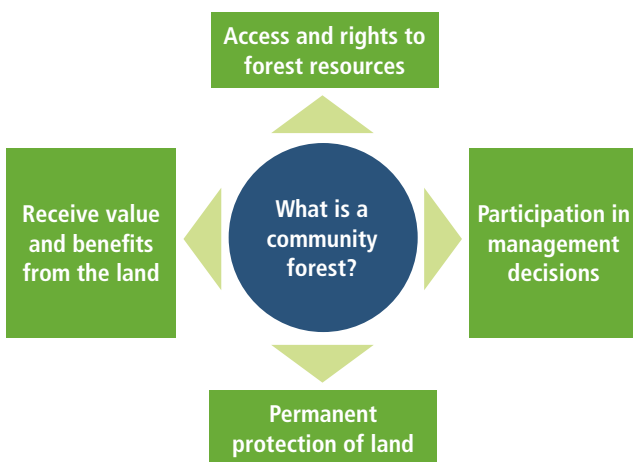
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

CHALLENGES

Community forestry was initially defined by the FAO as, "any situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activity". Community forestry gives the local people the chance to be participatory involved in forest management and land use decisions.

Depending on the needs of the communities, the specific forest management objectives can be multiple and vary from environmental to financial or subsistence-based to social, spiritual and cultural ones. But in general there are four primary functions or characteristics of community forests:



Around 450 million local people rely to some degree on forests for their livelihoods in the Asia-Pacific region. But often local people are not involved in forest management decisions and also don't benefit from it which results in ongoing forest decline and rural poverty.

Promoting natural forest ecosystems' integrity and its biodiversity values while at the same time ensuring sustainable forest product utilisation for the livelihood development of forest dependent people will require major shifts in the national policy frame, market mechanisms and finally awareness of engaged forest managers. Facilitating this process is seen as one of the biggest challenges for the forest sector while at the same time opens up valuable opportunities to reduce the burden for the administrative on forest management and protection by sharing such responsibilities with traditional communities.

GFA CONCEPT AND SERVICES

GFA Consulting Group has supported the implementation of more than 200 forest related projects and studies worldwide in the last 30 years. In most of these projects, the participatory involvement of the local communities played an important role and GFA experts have contributed to secure long-term rights of local people to use and to manage the forests in a sustainable manner. GFA offers an extensive knowledge in all community forestry related fields like forest policy, good governance, institutional development, forest certification and traceability of timber, reforestation, forest monitoring and sustainable forest management techniques. In the Asia-Pacific region GFA has elaborated concepts for community forestry since 1990/1993 starting with the Social Forestry Development Projects (SFDP-GTZ) in Indonesia and Vietnam respectively. Since then we have continuously improved and applied the concept in GIZ, KfW, ADB, and national Tropical Forest Trust funded projects and thereby supporting to shape the development of national community forestry concepts in various countries.

The GFA implementation strategies are based on combining international best practice with local knowledge and methods, field experience with scientific knowledge, and extensive knowledge of financial and institutional requirements to ensure services that meet customers' demands.

Several challenges need to be addressed in order to establish a self-sustaining community forestry management program. Our range of services includes the handling of all these challenges such as:

- securing land ownership and forest stewardship;
- strengthen organizational capacities;
- ensuring free, prior and informed participation of local population (both, men and women) into project activities;
- provide the technical knowledge to manage forest resources legally and sustainably;
- develop legal forest and land use management plans;
- establish forest patrolling to identify illegal logging and fire control;
- establish market access;
- establish the infrastructure for forest management such as roads and logging equipment;
- develop managerial and marketing skills, promote forest-based enterprises;
- securing long-term economic returns and improvement of rural livelihoods;
- upscaling of innovations and lessons learned into national programs.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY – PROJECTS

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE PROTECTION IN THE GUNUNG LEUSER ECOSYSTEM, INDONESIA, KFW, 2015–2020

The project supports selected communities in conservation oriented development activities and in resolving conflicts with the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem or adjacent forests. GFA advises on community border demarcation and community conservation agreements through participatory natural resource zoning and land use planning. This aims to improve the management and stewardship of forest landscapes through sustainable forest management and afforestation measures. As well livelihoods and welfare shall be improved with more rewarding and conservation-orientated alternative income opportunities, such as agroforestry, the use of non timber forest products (NTFP), Ecotourism and payment for ecosystems services (PES).

CONTRACT VALUE: EUR 3,936,271

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO DECREASE CO2 EMISSIONS (KFW 8) 2014–2021

The aim is to promote sustainable management and protection of forest ecosystems as a contribution to enhanced biodiversity values and to decreased CO2 emissions, while providing the unique opportunity to link eco-system integrity with livelihood improvement for the local population. Furthermore, effective biodiversity protection of forest ecosystems will be demonstrated by engaging local populations in performance-based protection and monitoring agreements. The project directly contributes to the Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006–2020.

CONTRACT VALUE: EUR 1,706,540



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SMALLHOLDER AFFORESTATION HUNAN II PR CHINA, KFW, 2004–2015

The Hunan II project successfully established 9,000 ha of forest by afforestation and supported the natural regeneration of more than 10,000 ha through strict protection of mountainous areas. From 2009, the project further introduced Sustainable Forest Management systems on 17,858 ha of existing forests. Participatory Land Use Planning as well as stable land use rights were promoted by the project, as they are the precondition for the project implementation.

CONTRACT VALUE: EUR 1,269,933

PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS (KFW 10) 2014–2020

The aim is to contribute to the maintenance of ecological integrity and biodiversity of natural forest ecosystems in the wider Central Highlands regions while enhancing local communities living standards. Valuable natural forest resources are placed under secure long-term land tenure of local ethnic communities for sustainable use, performance-based incentive systems for forest protection and management as well as livelihood improvement measures are set up and experiences are included in regulatory frameworks at subnational and national level.

CONTRACT VALUE: EUR 1,181,240



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