



SPARK newsletter

Promoting community-based approaches in natural resource management in South East Asia



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The SPARK newsletter is a quarterly publication produced in Thai, Bahasa Indonesia and English aimed at practitioners of community-based natural resource management in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. It is received by about 900 organizations in these countries. The newsletter is intended to serve as a networking tool to encourage the sharing of knowledge, experiences, ideas and cooperation among different groups implementing CBNRM activities in the three programme countries.

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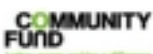
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Community and Trade

BY MARIEL DE JESUS, ESSC, PHILIPPINES

With millions of people making their homes in and living off the forest, there is a need to ease the tension between conserving and protecting forestlands, and the livelihood needs of local communities. Although many organizations working with communities in natural resource management and conservation have tried to integrate these concerns with community trade and livelihood, the latter have not always been successfully addressed. The reality is that not many NGOs know the needs of communities, and are not equipped to strategically deal with livelihood issues. The general principle behind efforts to unite conservation and sustainable livelihoods is that if local communities receive sufficient economic benefits from the utilization and marketing of forest products, then they will be motivated to protect and manage these resources.

While there is an increasing understanding and appreciation of the economic potential of forest products for communities, current initiatives have not always guaranteed responsible use of resources, or improvement in livelihoods. In some cases, livelihood schemes utilizing forest products have resulted in the degradation of the environment, and the continuing impoverishment of communities.

Marketing assumes several factors – secure tenure, access rights to the resources, management skills and financial mechanisms. Aside from these, sustained quality and quantity of the product is also necessary. However, ensuring these factors are met is not always easy. In the Philippines, tenure may be obtained, but this does not guarantee access to the resources. Conflicting policies often confuse matters even further. In the Cordillera, for example, the Philippine Forestry Code (PD 705) effectively declares communities living there as squatters, even if they have received recognition of their ancestral domains. Communities may also be unfamiliar with the market and how to operate within it. The reality is that in the existing order, communities with the raw materials are at the end of the chain. And even if they can provide that elusive “added value” to their product, often they are not even given credit for it, and still receive the bottom price.

The good news is that the international market is showing an interest in “fair-trade” and community products. This suggests that a market exists for these items. However, it means that communities must compete with commercial producers, and this may damage their cultural ways of doing things, as well as the environment upon which their products depend. The challenge is in how communities can be given access to markets and assistance in understanding markets and how to deal with them.

This issue of the SPARK newsletter presents the challenges and opportunities faced by communities and the organizations they work with in developing feasible options for improving community trade and livelihood. The stories show that communities face the same problems, and that there is a need to network and share what strategies have worked and how these can be replicated by other communities in the future. *For more info contact: esscsprk@mozcom.com*



World Summit on Sustainable Development Updates

By OY SIRISOOK, SDF THAILAND

Ten years after the Earth Summit in Rio, has the global community achieved sustainable development, or has Agenda 21 become a story of broken promises? The Johannesburg Summit 2002 – the World Summit on Sustainable Development – provided an exciting opportunity for government, national delegates, children, youth, farmers indigenous people, local authority scientific and technological communities, women and workers and trade unions, leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for better implementation of Agenda 21. This took place in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 26 August to 4 September 2002 at the Sandston Convention Center. This had a parallel event, exclusively organized for non-governmental organizations from all over the world, which took place at the nearby Gallagher Estate.

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk from the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), the hub organization of the SPARK programme in Thailand was one of the participants who had the opportunity to witness this challenging event and can share the atmosphere and the outcome of the events. Over a period of 10 days, a wide range of issues were under negotiation during the Summit in order to come up with a final Plan of Implementation. This was drawn up at the end but with no clear targets and timetables. The most contentious issues were energy, trade, sanitation and the biodiversity target whereby the United States and OPEC countries tried to prevent the Summit from reaching the result on energy and climate change issues while the G77 developing countries also failed to produce a forward-looking agenda for sustainable development. Below is the summary of the Plan of Implementation on Specific Issues.

Water and Sanitation: The Summits have a target to halve the number of people without access to clear water by 2015. However,

they do not mention River Basin or Sustainable Development, which are essential in order to secure the water resource.

Renewable Energy: It is apparent that countries like United States, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Canada and Australia have succeeded in protecting their fossil fuel interest. The final agreement states nothing on energy supply for the two billion people worldwide with no access to modern energy services. Furthermore, the plan has no targets of any kind for uptake of renewable energy and reduction of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.

Kyoto Climate Treaty: All countries that have ratified the Kyoto Climate Treaty urge all countries that have not yet ratified to do so as rapidly as possible, but have not added anything to what has already been agreed to in the meeting under the Climate Change Convention.

Biodiversity: From the last Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) on the target to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010, the summit confirmed the decisions made

during the convention. The US also agreed on the target.

Marine Environment: The Summit agreed to target recovery of depleted marine resources in particular fish stocks by 2015 and on elimination of harmful subsidies.

Trade and globalization: After tense and heated debates among different stakeholders and increasing pressure from the non-governmental organizations sectors, it was decided that Multilateral Environmental Agreements be subject to WTO consistency. WWF and many other non-governmental organizations commented that this is pitiful since WTO agenda is a shadow of globalization and thus doesn't necessarily favor the poor or the natural environment. The Summit also failed to ensure that the international environmental treaties in particular the Kyoto Protocol are protected by WTO rules on free trade.

Additional source: WWF Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 15-1 September 2002. For more information please contact: preecha@mozart.inet.co.th



Local communities and international markets: making a link

BY JEAN FRANCOIS MOYSAN, VSO VOLUNTEER-MARKETING ADVISER

Association of Partners for Fairer Trade, Inc. (APFTI), a Manila-based NGO, provided marketing assistance to 73 small and medium enterprises of the Philippine handicraft sector in the year 2001. Training courses on marketing, export marketing and trade fair participation were offered, as well as trade facilitation services, such as linkaging with buyers and sponsorships to participate in trade fairs. A "Market Awareness Tour" in Manila was also organized for regional producers. This was to facilitate linkage with potential buyers and to get a glimpse of what the latest trends are from the displays in shops. APFTI partners also joined a total of thirteen trade fairs, and sales from these amounted to 48 million pesos. Product innovation, development of new markets, and increased confidence when dealing with buyers were other results from participating in these fairs.

Despite these successes, the road to sustainable livelihoods is still an uncertain one for communities. Lack of confidence, absence of modern communication equipment, and inconsistency in product quality still prevent local producers from making the most of their opportunities and reaching a further stage of their development.

In May 2002, Filipinas Fair Trade Ventures (FFTV) was created within APFTI. FFTV's mission is to alleviate poverty among small and medium enterprises of the handicraft sector. FFTV works with local suppliers on the development of original and quality handicraft products, takes care of the marketing and sales activities and, most importantly, buys the products to sell to interested buyers.

In fair trade, "trade" is as important as "fair". Buyers will not purchase products just because they come from fair-trade producers. A guaranteed supply of products is crucial. Ensuring the right product, the right price, the expected quantity and on-time delivery is a challenge! Communities often lack reliable communication facilities, and workers are usually involved in farming and not just in production of handicrafts. International buyers would not understand these situations; FFTV sees itself as a link between the international buyers and the communities.

FFTV's market is mainly abroad and its focus is the mainstream market. Alternative Trading Organization's (ATO's) policy to have long-term relationships with the same suppliers is a positive one for established suppliers, but it makes it difficult for the newcomer who needs encouragement and assistance.

The difficulty is not so much in

identifying buyers, but in getting their attention. The "marketing tools" that we use include web site that displays our partners' products, a small show room in our office for walk in buyers, a digital camera, and the use of email. These investments would not be possible for local producers on their own.

Participation in fairs, while costly, still provides the best marketing opportunity. In the handicraft sector the Manila fair allows Filipino organizations to meet overseas buyers. FFTV decided to join the upcoming fair in October. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed in June between FFTV and producers of Region 8 and Region 5 (15 in total employing more than 200 workers) who were selected according to their adherence to fair trade principles and their regional profiles (non exporter). Under the supervision of APFTI, samples are being produced and almost 100 original products using native materials will be exhibited. FFTV will market these products after the fair and orders will be placed with the community that produced the sample.

To get a regular customer base is obviously the main concern of our partners and this is what FFTV is about. Much has yet to be done, but FFTV and its partners are looking to the future with confidence and enthusiasm.

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The Kalahan Experience

“We thought it would be easy”

BY PASTOR DELBERT RICE

Philippines

The Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF) is a small People's Organization in Northern Luzon. We needed to improve the livelihood of our people without damaging the watershed. So we used wild fruit to produce excellent jellies, jams, marmalades and other products. Our city friends quickly bought the first products that we produced. We decided to increase production to make a profit. We thought it would be easy.

An NGO helped us develop a brand name and logo, Mountain Fresh, and labels. We registered these and thought our problems were over. Unfortunately, the NGO went out of business before they could market anything for us.

Several *sari-sari* (variety) stores were willing to sell our products so we made many deliveries on consignment and waited for the profit. Five months later our products were returned because they were not being bought. However, rats and rain had already damaged the labels and lids. We could not sell them anymore, but the merchants refused to accept responsibility or pay for the damage. Some did not even return the products. We were never able to collect from them. One merchant gave us post-dated checks but we later discovered that the account was

closed. Marketing, we discovered, was not easy.

Finally someone introduced us to a man who taught marketing in a university. One of his classes did market research for our products. We learned that people who buy jellies do not shop in sari-sari stores but in super markets. Also they prefer to buy the 8-oz or 16 oz containers while our products were packaged in 12 oz bottles. The buyers expect high quality products with high quality labels. Our products were clearly high quality but the labels were not.

After studying the results, we knew we had to get our products into the supermarkets and we needed to change our labels. A design center agreed to design new labels at a reasonable price but printing was expensive. We had no alternative, however, if we wanted to make a profit. They even designed a booth to use in trade fairs. Both helped but our problems were not completely solved.

Convincing big supermarkets to sell our products was more difficult. None of our adults were fluent in either Tagalog or English. None of us

were good sales persons. We tried our youth at marketing, but they were uncomfortable with the work and thus, ineffective. Marketing is not easy.

We received funding and established a marketing arm. We hired professionals from Metro Manila and shared the information we had. At first they tried to teach us how to sell but they realized that we were producers by nature, not merchants.

Finally they convinced one super market chain to accept our products and sales began to increase. We focused on the desires of customers, and even changed labels again. Once our products were on display in one supermarket it was easier to convince the others. In the beginning they accepted our products only on consignment but soon they began paying us 30 days after delivery.

Our experiences have taught us that marketing is not easy, but it can be effective if people know what they are doing. We know enough about marketing now and can understand the problems of the marketing group but we let them do the selling and instead work to provide them with the best possible products. If we do that we can both be happy. It may not be easy but it can be effective.

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Being Self-reliant: Community Business in Songkla Lake

By BENJAWAN PENGNOO

Thailand



courtesy of Kim Claydon

While urban areas like Bangkok are growing very fast, with modern technology and as a result of globalisation, rural areas are being impoverished by inappropriate development that has brought undesirable economic, environment and cultural changes in rural communities. In Songkhla Lake, an area composed of 168 villages or 18,800 people who are mostly small-scale fisherfolk, excessive consumption of natural resources is a critical issue. Aquatic resources are being depleted through the invasion of trawlers and other destructive fishing techniques. This has resulted in a rapid decrease of fish stocks, resulting in instability of local livelihoods. Many are forced to leave their homes in search of informal work in nearby towns, resulting in the breaking up of the family.

NGO and community initiatives have fostered an awareness that self reliance is crucial in order to survive. Therefore, the communities have mobilized and organized groups to solve problems in the area. For instance, a saving schemes group was organized to encourage savings and investment in a local fund. Also a women's group was established to participate fish processing for shrimp paste and sun-dried

fish, thus enhancing women's roles and increasing domestic income. There is also community enterprise in the form of local shops in particular the locally owned fishing gear and welfare shops.

At present, almost every village has adopted these kinds of activities and some have evolved into community cooperatives with financial assistance from the Federation of Southern Fisherfolk, Thailand. Community fishing gear shops have largely benefited the community by selling inexpensive fishing gear at prices set and agreed upon by the cooperative members. In addition, there are also community welfare shops that sell general daily-needs goods such as shampoo, food, medicine, and locally-made products such as shrimp

paste and sun-dried fish.

The shops are considered owned by the community, wherein members are encouraged to invest 100 baht as a shareholder. Each member can hold up to ten or more shares, and at the end of the year, the profits gained through selling goods from the shops will be divided in two: one part returning to the shareholder and the other part going back to support the community groups. The community members participate in the management of the shops in collectively setting the price of goods, and establishing rules and regulations. In addition, shop committees are elected to assist in overall management, accounting and shop assistance.

In the past three years, the community welfare shop in Songkhla Lake has expanded into three shops. A very concrete outcome of such initiatives is that the community benefits from cheaper goods without going through the price set by the middleman. Also, the shops help reduce traveling cost and time to purchase goods. Thirdly, the community members gain monetary benefits at the end of the year.

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Rattan from the Mahakam *towards prosperity through sustainability*

SUMMARIZED AND EDITED BY CRISSY GUERRERO,

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM FROM A BROCHURE BY SHK-KALTIM IN EAST INDONESIA

Indonesia is by far the largest rattan producer in the world, accounting for 80% of the total supply. The greatest rattan species diversity occurs in Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia. In Borneo, 160 different species have been identified so far. In East Kalimantan, a sophisticated rattan cultivation system has been practiced since ancient times. Indigenous people, called Dayak, developed the system called Simpukng. Simpukng is highly sustainable and productive. Now, it is very important, due to depletion of rattan stocks.

Today, the forests of Indonesia, and the Simpukng system are threatened. The risks to biodiversity and local culture and livelihoods are heightened. The conversion of forests into revenue earning, mono-crop plantations or logging concessions characterises government treatment of such systems. Rattan farmers face low prices due to the bureaucratic hurdles and fees that hamper the industry. The individual nature of rattan sales and the number of those involved in the trade chain often place rattan farmers at a disadvantage.

THE RATTAN PROJECT

'Improving the Rattan Resources Management and Trading System in Kalimantan' was conceptualised with local farmers. The Rattan Project is hosted by a Samarinda-based organisation, SHK Kaltim. It aims to contribute to better forest management and community-based, sustainable economic development by strengthening rat-

Indonesia

tan management and the position of rattan farmers in the market.

This started in the Kedang Pahu watershed, Kabupaten (regency) Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan. The total watershed area is around 800,000 hectares, with 40-60% forest cover. The population is a little over 30,000; about 60% are rattan farmers.

The Rattan Farmers and Crafts Association (RFA)

In 2002, The Rattan farmers and Crafts Association (P3R: Perkumpulan Petani dan Pengrajin Rotan) was launched by 5 organizations of the Kedang Pahu Watershed Village Alliance

Members are individual rattan farmers and collectors from Kedang Pahu. The association seeks partnership with selected local traders, but sees its role in helping to:

- Guarantee sustainability of the rattan harvest.
- Share information with members on aspects of quality and market price
- Promote rattan from Kedang Pahu and the way it is produced.
- Contribute to development of policy affecting rattan trade
- Monitor trade and other partners
- Develop handicraft skills and markets

Apart from harvesting and selling raw rattan (the more commercially important ones being *Calamus caesius*, *Calamus trachycolus* and *Daemonorops* sp) some communities manufacture rattan handi-

crafts, including baskets, mats and lampit carpets. The Dayak Benuaq are known for their traditional designs. The effort now is to diversify and develop new products with top-end customers in mind.

P3R has already developed a network of producers, traders, technical and marketing experts within and outside Indonesia. They continuously try to expand this through company visits, meetings with trade promotion organizations, and participating at trade fairs.

Perspectives

There is growing international interest in knowing the source of the raw materials used for the products in the market. A senior IKEA officer visiting East Kalimantan explained that social and ecological aspects of products are becoming key concerns of their clientele.

To monitor and influence primary producers (in this case, rattan farmers), large furniture chains prefer short lines between the source of materials and manufacturers. This matches the rattan farmers' desire to know more about the market and its requirements. Direct communication between organised primary producers and the user industries seems the best way to ensure that quality, volume and format of the raw materials conform to buyers' requirements. Not only today, but also in the future!

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Profiles of Philippine Fair Trade Organizations

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Oxfam has been assisting small producers in the Philippines, from building their capabilities, to designing and producing products, to accessing markets and developing their organisations and business strategies. Oxfam Fair Trade buys handicrafts, including iron, basketwork, and food products, and helps small producers to access local and export markets, and to get a fair price for their work. Local initiatives include supporting the establishment of a local Fair Trade shop, *Mano-mano* ('By Hand'). Recently, Oxfam has started to look at how the plight of small producers is linked with the negative impacts of national and international trade policies.

Community Crafts Association of the Philippines

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The Community Crafts Association of the Philippines (CCAP) is a non-profit, non-government organization. It is into crafts, development marketing and sustainable development. CCAP eliminates the many layers of middlemen in the marketing system by directly linking with the buyers and the producers. With a strategy it calls *development marketing*, CCAP advocates for *fair trade* and endeavors to pay the producers what is due them, in a trading relationship built on partnership. Its strategy includes building small but viable community-based enterprises that are effectively organized and self-reliant. At present, CCAP has helped evolved nine producer associations that strive to stand on their own and eventually snowball development within their own communities. While CCAP likewise deals with entrepreneurs and family-based handicraft businesses, it expects wider spread and longer-term benefits from handicraft trading for the organized producer associations.

Association of Partners for Fairer Trade, Inc. (APFTI)
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The Association of Partners for Fairer Trade is a non-government organization which seeks to contribute to poverty alleviation through its advocacy of Fair Trade practices and provision of business development services to the micro, cottage and small enterprises.

APFTI enhances the entrepreneurship of the producers by aiding them in their business activities from product development to market access to training and the upgrading of their skills and technology. By addressing some major difficulties encountered by an emerging enterprise, for instance, APFTI strengthen its chances of becoming a competitive participant in the domestic and global markets.

USWAG Development Foundation, Inc. • 36 Osmeña Avenue, Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines • Tel nos. (6336) 262-5420; 262-3059 • Telfax no. (6336) 262-5140

The USWAG Development Foundation is a non-government organization advocating for women and children's rights. Whilst advocating for these concerns, and in support thereof, specially to women's and communities' needs, the foundation has been involved in employment and income generating programmes. It has been a Grameen Banking system replicator, currently serving over 1,000 poor rural entrepreneurs. For several years now, it has also provided various trainings to improve the skills of rural craftmakers and thus making their product more market competitive.

USWAG is also involved in marketing craftmakers' products. This is to help producers access bigger and more stable markets for community products. Uswag Arts and Crafts, the organization's marketing arm, currently operates a display and sales shop in Kalibo.

Peoples Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City • Tel nos. (63 47) 223 9629; 223 9630; 222 4994 • Fax nos. (6347) 223 9628 ; (63) 47 222 5573 • Email address: preda@svisp.com • websites: <http://www.preda.org>; <http://www.preda.org/fairtrading>



Uswag Arts & Crafts: Networking for Community Trade

One of the first people I met when I joined Uswag Arts & Crafts as a marketing adviser was Manang Luz. Manang Luz is a leader of a group that produces beautiful nito vine products for the export market. She is one of many local skilled artisans who are accessing new markets through Uswag A & C.

The Uswag Development Foundation was formed more than ten years ago to help uplift the lives of the rural and urban poor of Aklan. Under Executive Director Didi Quimpo's leadership, Uswag focused on three main areas: advocacy against HIV/Aids, child abuse and family violence; micro finance under the Grameen Banking system and livelihood skills training. However, the training was limited, and did not go far in improving livelihoods. For example traditional weavers of the bariw sleeping mats - banig - were producing mats for a market controlled by three main traders. To enable the weavers to break away from this, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), TESDA and Uswag trained them in bariw bag and cushion cover making. However, local demand for these was limited.

To help partners access new markets, Uswag A & C was started four years ago through the assistance of funding agen-

Philippines

cies such as AUSAID, USAID, PBSP (Philippine Business for Social Progress) and Uswag itself. There are twelve groups specializing in six local materials: nito forest vine, handwoven abaca, handwoven raffia, knotted abaca twine, bariw leaf and tayok-tayok paddy grass.

On an extended visit to the UK, I brought some samples for market research. Uswag, at that time hadn't entered the European market. People liked the products, encouraging me to find an outlet in the UK. The organizations I met there said I had to contact their Manila partners. One of these was Association for Partners in Fair Trade (APFTI). Upon assessing Uswag for fair-trading practices, they offered assistance. They provided workshops for product development, local and international designers, and financial assistance for trade fair participation and sponsored Didi attendance to the global marketing workshop and exposure trip to the UK, and facilitated linkage with Traidcraft UK. Traidcraft UK promotes fair trade products through catalogues and some retail outlets. They assisted USWAG by displaying our prod-

ucts at the Birmingham Spring Trade fair, the largest show in the UK. Uswag's attendance at the international trade fair and the link with Traidcraft UK, resulted in orders from Europe, United States, Japan and Malaysia - all for nito!

With Traidcraft's partnership, Manang Luz's nito products are now available in the UK, at Liberty's shop, London, and through the Natural Collection catalogues of Green peace and Green dot. Visiting her recently, we found her working hard to meet another order from Liberty's. She was busy weaving and giving advice to her sons who help her. The weaving helps pay for school. Education is seen as a way out of poverty, and the income puts their dreams within reach.

The challenges are great. The producers need to maintain the market with consistent quality and dependable shipments, as well as develop new products to meet the demand. Full time production will increase income and improve people's lives.

Uswag's success is due to the support of many organizations and individuals. So get networking!

[Kim Claydon is a VSO volunteer - Marketing and Gender specialist at the USWAG Development Foundation, Inc. at Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines]



Conflict Dynamic and the Institutional Model of Sustainable Zone Management:

Case Study of Meru Betiri National Park, East Java, Indonesia

BY MUSTAFA-LATIN

How can development address both economic interests and environmental goals? This is the question that the research on Meru Betiri National Park attempts to answer. The question is not only interesting in an academic context, but also in a broader social perspective. It is a question that is particularly important in assessing current issues in Indonesia. The reform process in Indonesia, which promised bigger opportunities to local government in natural resource management, has in fact resulted in a complex and uncertain situation for environmental stability and integrity.

Meru Betiri National Park (TNMB) is located in East Java Province. TNMB's management is unique, with strong community participation in the efforts to rehabilitate the area's critical zone. Success is indicated by the improved standard of living for the community and decreased illegal logging. However, conflicts regarding regional autonomy and decentralisation are emerging. The research is an attempt to understand these conflict issues and uncover what can be done to ensure sustainability in the future.

Data was collected through

literature review, questionnaires, and Participatory Research Appraisal (PRA) methods. Data was subjected to qualitative-descriptive and quantitative analysis. Results showed that conflicts between local community and the TNMB manager are dynamic. Conflicts were rooted in the history of the community and the TNMB management, economic condition and social structure of the community, and the institutional and organisational model of TNMB. Quantitative analysis shows that conflict intensity is strongly related to participation factors and to the relative power between community and TNMB manager. A weak correlation was found between conflict intensity and conservation cost, wood price, and the participation cost.

Community participation has helped ease conflict and improve livelihood. However its impact on equity issues is weak. Although the community gets a relatively small net income (1,657,482.17 rupiahs/year), it gives almost all a half of the total income (48.87%). The participation program benefits the large-scale farmers more, than the medium and small-scale farmers, in terms of income.

Collaboration is a possible solution to illegal logging. This would entail the TNMB manager giving the community a mandate to supervise the area with an accompanying incentive mechanism. In turn, the community must do the work honestly. This would be an ideal solution. However, if there is no trust on the part of TNMB, or if the community cannot deliver then the result would be dissatisfaction for both parties.

Sustainability can be achieved by building institutional models that provide both ecological and socio-economic benefits to communities. The dominance of central government, in this case the TNMBs, should be reduced, and power decentralized to local government and communities. Central government would be responsible for monitoring local government planning and the sustainable management of the TNMB zone.

Institutional engineering should be undertaken through dialogue, building and maintaining trust, and enhancing the learning process to achieve stable institutions, good governance and sustainable development.

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Enu Village: Improving Livelihood Opportunities and Building Capacity in Farming and Fishing Communities in Central Sulawesi

BY LISA OWEN, VSO VOLUNTEER (YAKIS)

Yayasan Katopasa Indonesia (YAKIS) works with fishing and farming communities in Central Sulawesi to improve livelihood opportunities and enhance the capacity of community members to better manage and protect the natural resources on which they depend. Located approximately 46km from the Provincial Capital of Palu, the communities of Enu Village range from settlements of fisherfolk on the shores of Palu Bay, to subsistence farmers living alongside hutan lindung (forest that is protected under Indonesian law). Villagers depend on the sale of fish, fruit, kopra (dried coconut) and cash crops (coffee, cocoa and cloves) to make a living.

In May 2002, YAKIS received a SPARK grant, to finance a 2-day workshop in Enu Village to assess the natural resource potential of the area, explore community problems and needs, and carry out a stakeholders analysis.

During the workshop, 32 community members joined participative exercises to map natural resources, collect information on sources and assessment of income/ expenditure, village history, seasonality of resources, market flows, and to identify problems and needs.

Village problems could be grouped into those faced by (i) fishermen (lack of equipment, bomb fishing), (ii) farmers (problems with pests and a need for fertilizer), (iii) general environmen-

tal problems (wood felling, erosion, landslides), and (iv) community problems such as lack of schools, electricity, running water health/ sanitation facilities and transportation. Problems were then prioritized and an action plan was drawn up for continuation of activities.

The workshop succeeded in uniting villagers to discuss problems and devise strategies for bringing about change. However, actual impact of the workshop extended beyond the two-days:

1. Workshop identified persons who were knowledgeable about environment and community issues, enthusiastic and respected by the community. For example, Ibu Golia, despite having no formal education in participative techniques was able to lead a group in the production of a Village Map and transect profiles, and pinpoint areas of land-use conflict and sites of bomb fishing and illegal logging.

2. The workshop provided a mechanism for villagers to develop a joint action plan. Together, they have a greater capacity to resist outside influences, bring about change, and tackle larger-scale problems such as illegal logging.

3. The community appreciated the assistance provided by YAKIS, VSO and SPARK. This is the first time a promise of external assistance was fulfilled. Community pride has increased, as well as the feeling that others have

taken an interest in their village.

In June 2002, five villagers from Enu joined a 4-day training course organized by YAKIS (Training in Investigative, Monitoring, Reporting and Information Systems for the Prevention of Illegal Logging). They established links with the Forestry Dept, National Park Office, Nature Conservation Dept, Forest Rangers Forestry Police, media, (radio and the weekly Indonesian news magazine TEMPO). Villagers recently intercepted illegal loggers in their area and successfully confiscated their load.

YAKIS and community members are currently developing longer-term village agriculture programmes, and programs for the fishing community of Batu Sandu. Women's' groups will receive business and financial training, and assistance in establishing micro-enterprises.

VSO volunteer Jon Hunter, who will assess the potential for application of alternative technologies, and conduct training for micro-hydropower surveys, will visit Desa Enu in October (*This article was written in Sept. - Ed*). Plans are also underway for improvement of nutritional standards and educational facilities for the community.

YAKIS is an NGO for nature conservation and community empowerment, located in Palu, Central Sulawesi. C/o Jln Gunung Loli No. 2, Palu 94112, Sulawesi Tengah, INDONESIA Tel/ Fax: (0451) 423752



Comparative Terms of Governance

Political Unit	CAMBODIA	INDONESIA	PHILIPPINES	THAILAND	VIETNAM
No legal status	Phum – Thmei (Bondos-Asaan)	Kampung (20-30 households)	Sitio or Purok (20-50 households)	Klum Ban / Pok (hamlet)	Cum
Village	Phum (100 households)	Dusun (50 households)	Barangay (1000+ people)	Moo Ban (more than 50 households)	Bàn / Lang (30-60 households)
Local Administrative Unit	Commune (10-20 villages)	Desa / Kelurahan (300 households or 5-10 desa)	Munisipyo (Municipality)		Xa (commune; 8-15 villages)
Sub-district	Phume Khum	Sahak-kum-Nésat		Kecamatan (10-15 village /desa)	Tambon (8-15 villages)
District	District	Kapupaten or Kota (10+ kecamatan)		Amphoe (8-10 tambon)	Huyèn (12-18 communes)
Provincial	Srok	Propinsi (5-40 kabupaten)	Probinsiya	Chang Wat (8-20 districts)	Tinh (8-16 districts)
National Government	National Government	National Government (32 provinces)	National Government (79 provinces)	National Government	National Government (62 provinces)

Legal Frameworks for Community Forest Management as of 2001

Country	Legal Framework	Year Approved	Status
Cambodia	Community Forestry Sub-Decree	Pending	Draft review in progress
Indonesia	Decentralization Policy and CBFM support legislation (SK-667)	1998	Implementation in progress
Philippines	CBFM national strategy for the uplands Sustainable Forest Management Bill	mid-1990's pending	Implementation in progress Draft review in progress
Thailand	Community Forestry Bill	Nov 2001 (ratified by Congress)	Bill ratified by congress; to be approved by senate
Vietnam	Law on Forest Protection and Development	Pending	Draft review in progress

* completed during the Asia Forest Network Cebu Regional Field Workshop on Strategies in Community Forest Management Diagnosis and Planning



Identifying stakeholders within a community

Description

Often in stakeholder analysis, a “community” is treated as one stakeholder group. There is a danger in doing this, as the diversity within the community and between communities is an important factor in the generation and management of conflicts. This tool allows community development workers and community leaders to explore the diversity of stakeholders within their communities and how they relate to natural resource conflicts.

When to use

This tool is specifically useful when organisations tend to look exclusively at conflicts between the ‘community’ and external forces, such as between a mining company and indigenous peoples and forget that there can be conflicts within communities.

Steps to do it:

1. Prepare a matrix like the one below:

Variables that differentiate people in a community	How differentiation may affect use, management or value of natural resources	Potential conflict

2. Ask participants how they would differentiate people in their communities. You can prompt some examples of variables such as: age, religion, gender, social status, ethnic background, sources of income, perceived level of income, members and non-members, clan relations, belonging to different political parties, etc. But do not offer these right off, just give one example and allow the participants to think up the others.

3. Then ask the participants to discuss how the differentiation may affect use, management or value of natural resources. Eg. indigenous peoples regard the forest as sacred while it is merely seen as a resource by migrant farmers.

4. Finally ask the participants to discuss if there is any potential conflict that may arise between the identified different groups. Write the results in the matrix. An example is shown below. There are only two cases in the example, but there can be many cases identified:

Variables that differentiate people in a community	How differentiation may affect use, management or value of natural resources	Potential conflict
Agtas (an indigenous tribe) and migrant upland farmers (based on ethnic origin)	Agtas see the forest as sacred, migrant upland farmers see the forest as a mere resource so practice illegal logging	The Agtas might plan some action against the migrant farmers
Agtas who work for a local illegal logger and Agtas who belong to a community organisation (based on source of income)	Agtas who work for logger do not mind the destruction of the forest as they get income from local logger, while the Agtas belonging to the community organisation are already in conflict with local logger.	Social division within the Agta community is already apparent

Discussion

Like in any other tool, the important thing here is the quality of the discussion that it generates and the action that it leads to. Some of the questions that can prompt the discussion are:

- How does better understanding of the different sub-groups affect the process or outcomes of conflict management?
- What are the possible impacts of ignoring some of the subgroups within a conflict?

This tool can be used in conjunction with the previous tools described in this section, ie PIN analysis and modified Venn diagram to further analyse the situation and think of ways to prevent or manage potential conflicts.

Source: Adapted from RECOFTC and Warah, S; Svendsen, S; and Ongleo, C. 1999. Integrated Conservation and Development. A trainer's Manual. WWF UK. Godalming, UK.



Generating funds for community-based forest management

By GEORGE MAGUIGAD

INTERVIEWED BY RONET SANTOS

George Maguigad is one of the farmer-members of the Board of Directors of New Land Resource Development Cooperative, or Nelardeco.

Nelardeco, with 148 farmer-members, was given the right to manage a 5,500-hectare forest land in Baggao, Tuguegarao, Philippines through the community-based forest management agreement (CBFMA) programme of the Philippine government. The CBFMA programme allows organised local communities to manage a forest area where they reside. Local communities are given collective tenure of 25 years over the area, renewable for another 25 years.

The organised community can then submit a management plan for the forest area to the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This plan can include zoning (production zone, protection zone, etc), resource utilisation, resource rehabilitation and protection activities.

George says that Nelardeco gets technical support from PROCESS, an NGO and financial support from the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE). They also got support from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) that placed a volunteer social forester in their area for more than two years through the SPARK programme. SPARK also supported George's participation to the SPARK study tour to Thailand in 2001 and to the SPARK regional workshop on conflict management in November 2001.

The organisational and technical capacity of Nelardeco to manage the forest area has tremendously improved with the help of PROCESS and the assistance of VSO volunteer social forester Daniel Blackburn. They are now adept at resource inventory, community mapping, zoning, establishing nurseries, carrying out agro-forestry activities, organisational planning, keeping financial records and files, and making reports. There has been an observed 60% reduction in illegal logging activities in the area. They however still need to improve on their documentation and communication skills, so that they can share their experiences to other groups



George Maguigad of Nelardeco explains a point in a workshop for communities involved in Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Philippines.

like them.

In order to sustain the operations of Nelardeco and decrease its financial dependence from FPE, Nelardeco applied for the harvesting of mature gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*) trees and rattan poles in the forest area and their application has been granted. They have also established a nursery for indigenous tree species that they use for their resource rehabilitation programme and for sale.

Their initial experience with rattan harvesting was very disappointing. Rich local traders, seeing them as a potential competitor, did not hire their trucks for hauling the poles from the mountains. The poles rot. The sale of indigenous tree species, however, is getting brisk. Since November 2001 when they started, they have sold more than 700 seedlings for a little over half a US dollar each. They are negotiating with an exporter the harvest of gmelina trees.

The earnings are still too small to sustain the operations of Nelardeco. But George sees this as a good start. He says they need help from people who can link them with buyers and markets. He says they have started to think about linking with local traders, who he thinks should not see them as competitors but as potential partners.



Books

(We are featuring these books to announce their existence, but we are sorry that we cannot help in securing copies of these resources).

Incomes from the forest. methods for the development and conservation of forest products for local communities. 1998 (227 pages). English.

Published by Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia; edited by Eva Wollenberg and Andrew Ingles

This book documents and compares methods to assess options for forest-based livelihoods and their outcomes. Sixteen authors report on the strengths and weaknesses of methods that have been tried in the field. *ISBN 979-8764-19-6*

Community-based tree and forest product enterprises: market analysis and development. A manual containing 7 booklets. English

Published by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, Forest Trees and People and Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC). Prepared by: Isabelle Lecup and Ken Nicholson

The manual gives a detailed description of the process of assessing existing information on market systems, identifying products, markets and means of marketing and planning enterprises for sustainable development.

Gender dan Pengelolaan Sumberdaya Alam: Sebuah Panduan Analisis Penguatan Institusi dan Kepastian Lokal (PIKUL). (Gender and natural resources management: a guide for analysis). T Simatauw, Meence, L. Simanjuntak dan PT. Kuswardono (2001)

This book provides a good understanding of gender issues in relation to natural resources management, equipped with a guide for gender analysis and several case studies from various places in Indonesia.

Conferences

East Asian Forum on Rice: Regional cooperation for Small Rice Farmers (October 2002)

Oxfam, Rural Reconstruction Alumnia and Friend Association (RRAFA), Kwao Kwan Foundation, Greenet, BIOTHAI and many other non-government organizations in Asian regions will hold a forum on rice and the peasant movement in Thailand. The forum will provide an opportunity to share agenda of small rice farmers in the region, and to foster a collaborative action to strengthen small rice farmers given the reality of agricultural liberalization. The conference will take place on 9-11 October 2002, Rose Garden Hotel, Nakornpratom Province, Thailand.

For information please contact: rrafa@loxinfo.co.th

Call for Expressions of Interest

The ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) is calling for expressions of interests from Universities, Training Institutions, Conservation Projects, National and International Biodiversity Conservation Agencies, and NGOs to develop and deliver training programmes in applied biodiversity conservation, to include training for trainers, for delivery in 2003.

Interested organisations or groups should complete the attached expression of interest form and return it to training@arcbc.org.ph before 18 October 2002. Also check our website <http://www.arcbc.org.ph>

For more details email m.appleton@arcbc.org.ph

NEXT ISSUE: *Asian Crisis and CBNRM. Kindly e-mail contributions to esscspark@mozcom.com by Dec. 15*

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