



CALL FOR PAPERS

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

‘Linkages of Forest Protection, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction - Issues and Approaches in Vietnam

March, 4 to 6, 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam

BACKGROUND

Environmental degradation, rapid population growth and stagnant production are closely linked with persistence of acute poverty in the uplands of many countries of Asia, including Vietnam, despite economic progress at national scale. The increased attention to poverty eradication and economic development of Vietnam has cast light upon the fact that 85% of protected areas are located in areas of “medium” and “high” poverty. The Government of Vietnam has already recognized the important link between poverty reduction and forest conservation, by aiming to reduce national poverty to less than 40 per cent and restore forest cover to 43 per cent by 2010. To meet these goals, several major programmes and strategies have been designed. Some examples of emerging opportunities defined are: (a) Payment for Environmental Services (ES) is considered in policy. The development of mechanisms supporting the poor through rewarding the ES they provide is undergoing; (b) Community-based Forestry Management (CBFM) is promoted thanks to the recent acknowledgement of community as a legal entity in forest land tenure; (c) Market-oriented and Private-Public Partnership is promoted by donors and government in supporting reforestation, avoiding deforestation and degradation and getting alternative income generation for upland food security. Encouragingly, pilot projects in Southeast Asia and Vietnam have demonstrated opportunities for win-win solutions to resolve poverty and environmental problems, especially in historically intractable cases. Furthermore, approaches using rewards as incentives for environmental management are becoming more popular, helped by the implementation of new and sophisticated international market mechanisms.

The National workshop on *‘Linkages of forest protection, economic growth and poverty reduction - Issues and Approaches in Vietnam’* will bring together diverse stakeholders and international experts to share experiences related to the topic. The workshop will highlight the issues, opportunities, obstacles and realistic options for harmonizing conservation and development works, aiming at forest conservation and improve livelihood of forest owners and agro-foresters, particularly to benefit the poor. The workshop is part of CIFOR's Lower Mekong Conservation and Development Project, the ICRAF' project ‘ and the ICRAF' project ‘Rewards, Use and Shared Investment in Pro-poor Environmental Services – Rupes II’.

OBJECTIVES

1. Getting feedback on findings from reviews of different conservation approaches

2. Identify constraints to and opportunities for Rewards, Use and Shared Investment in Pro-poor Environmental Services – Rupes II
3. Establish a national advisory group for the promotion of Rupes II.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Enhanced awareness and commitment by a broad group of stakeholders to support the best practices for the benefit of the poor and forest conservation .
2. Publication on the state-of-the-art knowledge and recent experiences of conservation approaches and Payment for Environmental Services provided by forestry and Agroforestry, and pathways for integrating conservation, PES with poverty reduction through national and local forest programme processes.
3. Commitment by the national advisory group for the promotion of Rupes II established during the workshop and terms of reference for the national advisory group.

VENUE AND TIMING

The workshop will be held 4-6 March 2009, in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Presentations will be selected and invited by the Conference Organizing Committee. The Workshop organizers welcome proposals for insightful papers and posters. The papers and posters should address one of the themes outlined in the workshop program. The abstracts of papers and posters should be submitted no later than 15 January, 2009. The accepted abstracts are expected to develop further to full papers and should be submitted not later than 21 February, 2009.

WORKSHOP CONTACT PERSONS

Additional information will be made available on registration and the program as it develops. For more information please contact:

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WORKSHOP PROGRAM

The first day of the workshop will set the stage for several conservation approaches, including the MacArthur project looking at conservation and development trade-offs in project intervention. The second day will focus on a wide range of pro-poor PES issues as well as Rupes II. Working

groups will develop terms of reference for follow-up activities of Rupes II. Field trips will be offered during the third day of the workshop.

Day 1: Conservation approaches

- **Session I:** Challenges to effective conservation and development in Vietnam and Mekong.

Day 2: Pro-poor Payment for Forestry/Agroforestry Environmental Services

- **Sessions II:** Presenters are expected to cover topical issues in pro-poor PES provided by Forestry and Agroforestry, which highlight the opportunities for PES mechanism and markets better serving the interests of the poor. Issues to be presented during case studies and discussed in the sessions include the following:

- *Accessing market:* How does voluntary carbon market for A/R CDM and REDD?
- *PES policy and institutional issues:* What are the most effective rules of the game? Are the rules equitable?
- *Technical aspects:* Appropriate measuring and monitoring methods for forestry carbon (both A/R CDM and REDD) and watershed function.

Case studies are expected from different agro-ecological zones of Vietnam. Experience from SEA region will enrich the diversity.

- **Session V:** Working groups will develop options for follow-up activities, elaborate workshop recommendations and draft the terms of reference for the proposed Rupes II national advisor group.

Day 3: Field trip (destination to be announced at a later stage)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Both the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) are part of a global network of 15 Future Harvest centres, funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It is an autonomous, not-for-profit research and development institution supported by over 50 different governments, private foundations, regional development banks, and the World Bank.

CIFOR

CIFOR was established in 1993 and is based in Bogor, Indonesia. CIFOR's vision is of a world in which forests remain high on the world's political agenda, and people recognise the real value of forests for maintaining livelihoods and ecosystems services. In CIFOR's vision, decision-making that affects forests is based on solid science and principles of good governance, and reflects the perspectives of developing countries and forest-dependent people.

ICRAF

ICRAF was founded in 1978, and is based in Nairobi, Kenya. ICRAF's mission is to advance the science and practice of agroforestry to help society realizing an Agroforestry Transformation

throughout the developing world. ICRAF activities are in the fields of Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM), with focus on the understanding of complex role of **trees** in **livelihoods** and the **environment**, and promote the use of this knowledge to improve decisions and practices impacting on **the poor**.

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, MARD

The Department of Forestry (formerly Department for Forestry Development) was established in 1996. The Department of Forestry is MARD affiliated agencies, performing the function of state management over the forestry sector in the whole country. The Department has its legal entity, seal, operational funds and its account is opened in accordance with the legal regulations. The Department is coordinating the nation-wide implementation of the 5-million Hectares Reforestation Program (5MHRP), where several conservation approaches were developed. Recently the Department takes an important role in the link between forestry and climate change, combating land degradation and sustainable forest management, and is the national focal point of UNCCD and the coordinator of the national REDD initiative.