

The Poverty-Forests Toolkit

Showing what forests mean to the poor

Forestry often has a low profile within national policies and strategies for poverty reduction because the contribution of forest products and services to rural livelihoods is not sufficiently understood. The PROFOR **Poverty-Forests Toolkit** aims to address this gap. It provides a framework, fieldwork methods and analytic tools to understand and communicate the contribution of forests to the incomes of rural households.

Over an 18-month period, from February 2007 to July 2008, a multi-country team will present, test and evaluate the Poverty-Forests Toolkit in four countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Uganda. This process will provide useful data and indicators for policy decisions, which can be easily understood by local people, district officials and national policy-makers. It will also contribute to refining the toolkit for future use around the world. We welcome your participation in this process.

Poverty-Forests Toolkit: framework and process

Step 1: National level analysis

At the national level, working primarily with government agencies, identify (i) available data of the dependence of poor people on forests, and impediments to their advancement out of poverty, in the contexts of national policies including those for poverty-reduction and forestry (ii) statistics collected regularly by government agencies (iii) criteria for field site selection.

Step 2: Local situation assessment

At the chosen field sites, working with communities, use the toolkit to identify (i) their use of forest resources (ii) their level of dependency on forests/tree products (iii) the contribution of forest products to their household income (iv) key constraints in the existing system (access, policy, markets). Prepare the results.

Step 3: Presenting information and priorities at the district level

Working with district officials, discuss and evaluate the outcomes of the local situation assessments and decide what data on use of forests by the poor could be usefully included in district-to-national reporting.

Step 4: Presenting information and priorities back to the national level

Share the data with national agencies to spread knowledge on the role of forests in the cash and non-cash incomes of the poor. Discuss ways in which national data collection could be modified to incorporate the roles forests play in contributing to livelihoods of the poor.

For further information, please contact:

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