

FGLG-RECOFTC

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011

Narrative report RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests for period January – June 2011

Experts' workshop on REDD+, Governance and Community Forestry

On the 13-14 June RECOFTC hosted an experts' workshop on REDD+, Governance and Community Forestry. The 12 experts came from invited India, Indonesia (including the country convener FGLG Indonesia), Nepal, Philippines, and Vietnam (including the country convener FGLG Vietnam) and one representative of the UN-REDD Programme meeting in Bangkok to reflect on emerging issues related to the topic. The audience for the workshop included staff from RECOFTC.

The experts addressed various specific questions relating to areas of REDD+, community forestry and governance, seeking to respond to various concerns and queries regarding, for example, the impact of REDD+ on community forestry, and the role that community forestry can play in the design and implementation of REDD+. The workshop concluded with eight recommendations for policy makers for ensuring that REDD+ benefits local communities and supports community forestry. The findings of the workshop will be published in a booklet which is due to be published at the beginning of August (2000 copies). The booklet will be distributed through various methods, including at RECOFTC's Second Regional Forum for People and Forests (8-9 August). The workshop and booklet fit with output 3 - Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry, as well as output 4 (Trans-national learning and preparedness).

RECOFTC's work centered on planning and organizing the workshop, as well as arranging drafting the synthesis report (booklet) of the findings of the workshop and arranging its publication.

FGLG Vietnam Annual Workplan (AWP)

David Gritten (RECOFTC Bangkok) attended FGLG Vietnam's AWP in Hue, Vietnam 30 June – 1 July. David has just taken up his posting as Program Officer, Forest Policy and Governance at RECOFTC, and is taking over from Dr. Yurdi Yasmi as being responsible for FGLG at RECOFTC Bangkok. David took the opportunity of his attendance at the AWP to further familiarize himself with FGLG Vietnam's work, as well as introducing himself to the participants. Additionally he contributed to the planning of the work for FGLG Vietnam for the coming work period, as well as proposing further collaboration for the future.

Work area: Output 1 – Forests rights and small forest enterprise, also contributing to outputs 2 (legitimate forest products) and 4

One area of collaboration comes under output 1, also contributing to outputs 2 and 4, specifically related to work on identifying the regulatory barriers to communities earning their living from timber, which includes hindering poverty reduction efforts. The overall aim is to identify the barriers and formulate appropriate responses for policy makers leading to policy and legal reform for land tenure and resource access rights of forest dependent communities, as well as strengthening information and capacity for local forest control and small forest enterprise associations. The work for this is on a regional level (including Nepal and the Philippines) and therefore will see the identification of best practice which maybe applicable in Vietnam, for example.

FGLG Narrative report RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests for period July – December 2011

ACTIVITIES

Publication of the “REDD+, Governance, and Community Forestry” in August (2011). The publication was an outcome of the “FGLG Asia Workshop: Governance Issues in REDD+ and Community Forestry in Asia” hosted by RECOFTC (Bangkok) in June of this year. The recommendations of the publication include acknowledging the importance of clear and strong tenure, as well as emphasizing the inclusion and active participation of local communities for the successful development and implementation of REDD+.

The publication is hosted on RECOFTC’s website¹, and is referenced and / or linked on numerous sites including REDD-Net, FAO and Rights and Resources Initiative (a total of 83 sites), it has been downloaded a total of 432 times (of which 387 were unique users). Additionally, of the 2200 hard copies of the publication, over 400 were sent out to government departments, NGOs and academics in Europe (UK and Finland) and Asia (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam).

Dr. Yurdi Yasmi and Dr. David Gritten held meetings with FGLG Indonesia (Budhita Kismadi and Dani Wahyu Moenggoro) on the 27th and 28th October in Jakarta and Bogor, Indonesia. The meeting discussed the activities of FGLG Indonesia, future plans (including organizing the FGLG Indonesia alumni meeting which was subsequently held in mid-December) as well as developing ideas of disseminating the methods and outcomes of FGLG Indonesia. During our meetings with FGLG Indonesia we also had discussions with a couple of the alumni including Dr. Agus Justianto (Director of Directorate of Forest Utilization) of the Ministry of Forestry, as well as with Dr. Bambang Sukmananto (Director of Forest Production and Management) also with the Ministry of Forestry. This was also a good opportunity for David Gritten to meet the FGLG Indonesia team, this is in the context of him increasingly taking a lead role in RECOFTC’s (Bangkok) work with FGLG.

Budhita Kismadi and David Gritten, with input from Yurdi Yasmi, wrote an abstract for consideration for publication in a special issue of European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) news. The special issue focuses on methods for improving forest governance “Enhancing forest related governance for development”. The abstract covered FGLG Indonesia’s use of innovative methods to strengthen governance, with the foundations being the key individuals (alumni) that comprise the group. The aim of the paper was to present and analyze the unique operating environment of the group, and its impact on forest governance in Indonesia. Unfortunately we were not requested to develop the paper for publication, but following this FGLG Indonesia and RECOFTC (Bangkok) decided to further develop the abstract and submit it as a paper to an appropriate academic journal or another suitable magazine in order to disseminate the unique methods of FGLG Indonesia (and FGLG as a whole), and how they can be replicated. This will be part of the work for 2012.

RECOFTC Bangkok has also been working with FGLG Indonesia and FGLG Vietnam in developing the best methods for capturing and disseminating the “stories of change”. FGLG has made significant impacts in Asia as a result of its work in the past 4 or 5 years. The idea is to capture so called stories of change from each country and produce a publication “FGLG

¹ <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Forest-Governance-Learning-Group/>

Impacts in Asia". With input from RECOFTC's communication team we have been developing a concept note for how best to achieve this, and been discussing the ideas with both FGLG offices. In the FGLG Global learning event in March next year we plan to present the framework and methods, and get feedback and then go about capturing the stories of change.

RECOFTC Bangkok has also been in discussion with FGLG Vietnam (Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan) on delivering 'natural resource governance' training for FGLG members (Vietnam, India and Indonesia). The training is very practical oriented and focus on emerging governance challenges and how to address them. RECOFTC has developed a training manual for this type of course: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Natural-Resource-Governance-Trainers-Manual.php>. Ultimately, however, it was felt that it was better to pilot the course first with participants from FGLG Vietnam, and then hopefully in the future organize a course for other Asian FGLG members. This course is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2012, David Gritten will be attending the course as a resource person.

IMPACTS

One spin off from the FGLG Asia workshop (and the publication of the booklet) was reported to us by Dr. Suryakumari (Director Centre for People's Forestry, FGLG India), one of the participants in the workshop. She informed us that the framework for the workshop, specifically the issues/questions addressed regarding REDD+, governance and community forestry, were also used in various meetings and workshops including: State (Andhra Pradesh) level workshop entitled "Dialogue with community forestry stakeholders on Forests and Climate change - REDD+", six forest division level dialogues (same title as above), Forest range level dialogues (same as above) and one "National Consultation on REDD+ with Community Forestry Stakeholders" held on 28th December at Hyderabad. FGLG India also plan to develop a policy brief using the outcome from all workshops/meetings. It is expected that the Policy brief will provide inputs to two important things - one the National REDD strategy to be developed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and to the proposed REDD pilots to be implemented under a USAID supported "Forest Plus" project which will be implemented by MOEF.

It was, however, recently noted that the impact of the publication would have been greater if it had been translated into Vietnamese and Bahasa Indonesian. This is something that is being taken into account as we develop the "FGLG Impacts in Asia".

FOREST GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

On a regional level forest management and governance has been in the news media, as well as discussed in numerous forums with bad news being the main driver. In Thailand the devastating floods (worst floods in a generation) had one positive effect of encouraging further discussion on link between climate change, and the role that forests can play in mitigation and adaptation, these discussions are also seen in Vietnam and Cambodia where 2011 was also a very bad year in terms of floods. Additionally the Philippines also suffered from devastating floods at the end of 2011, and again forest governance coming under the spotlight, focusing on illegal logging. In the Philippines questions that are arising include why attempts to deal with illegal logging are apparently failing. The flooding in many South East Asian countries shows the important role that governance plays as the impacts of climate

change become more pronounced. The importance of FGLG is related to the fact that in the region the issue of forest governance is flagged numerous times, but ultimately progress is limited. One example, recently highlighted in the newspaper the Jakarta Globe², is the numerous challenges facing REDD+, with some fundamental problems requiring significant efforts to address. FGLG, with its innovative approaches, offers further impetus to move forward on the issue.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORK AHEAD

As mentioned above FGLG in Asia has achieved a great deal, this must be acknowledged and built upon. Part of this process is based on sharing the methods used in FGLG's work to a broader audience and getting feedback so that it can be improved and replicated elsewhere. This will be one area of focus of our work in the coming year.

SOME PHOTOS



Day 1 of “FGLG Asia Workshop: Governance Issues in REDD+ and Community Forestry in Asia” workshop held at RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests (Bangkok), in June 2011 (Photo by Yurdi Yasmi)

² <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/the-abcs-of-redd-on-building-a-new-forestry-model-that-works-for-indonesia/488828>



Day 2 of FGLG Asia Workshop: Governance Issues in REDD+ and Community Forestry in Asia” workshop held at RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests (Bangkok), in June 2011. Center of photo (pointing) Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay (FGLG India country convener) (Photo by Yurdi Yasmi)



David Gritten and Yurdi Yasmi meeting FGLG Indonesia (including Budhita Kismadi and Dani Wahyu Moenggoro) on the 28th October in Bogor, Indonesia (Photo by Yurdi Yasmi).