



First Announcement

# Yogyakarta Workshop



## Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralisation in Asia and the Pacific

Yogyakarta, Indonesia | 4 - 6 September 2006



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES



inter  
cooperation  
Natural Resource Management  
Rural Economy  
& Local Governance and Civil Society



Swiss Confederation  
Federal Office  
for the Environment FOEN





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## Background

Decentralisation reforms are reshaping the distribution of authority and responsibility between government, the private sector and civil society across the Asia-Pacific region. This political trend has affected all economic sectors including forestry and forest management, which is especially well suited to local democratic control, relative to other sectors.

Throughout the last twenty years, many countries have been actively engaged in exploring innovative approaches that transfer power from the center to the periphery. Most initiatives that redefine the roles of key stakeholders in forestry and related natural resource sectors have generated high expectations. As identified challenges are tackled, new issues emerge and need to be addressed so that decentralisation can effectively lead to positive social and environmental outcomes. Great enthusiasm for change and a rush to execute decentralisation processes are accompanied by hesitancy for supporting reforms and resistance to transfer appropriate and sufficient powers to local organizations.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the struggle to find the appropriate forms to decentralise forest management and the right level for forest governance is ongoing. Experiences of the early to mid 1990s were exchanged during the International Seminar on Decentralization and Devolution of Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific in Davao, the Philippines, in 1998. The Davao seminar clarified definitions of decentralisation and devolution and explored issues surrounding their implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. It was noted that genuine devolution of *power* over forest resources had occurred only to a limited extent. Up to that time (1998), local communities had generally been devolved responsibility for protection, without authority (rights) to manage.

In 2004, the Interlaken Workshop on Forest Governance in Federal Systems provided high-level decision makers and other key stakeholders the opportunity to share global experiences

with decentralisation. The participants of the Interlaken meeting recognized the importance of appropriate sharing of decision-making authority and responsibility for forest management between different levels of government. Other crucial requirements for successfully implementing decentralization include more effective enforcement of accountability at all levels of government and appropriate and strong linkages with other sectors and non-forestry agencies.

The time has come to revisit the outcomes of the Davao meeting and to incorporate the lessons learned in Interlaken to help decision makers in the Asia-Pacific region to identify promising forms of decentralized forest governance systems and necessary operational mechanisms to support the transition.

The **Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralisation in Asia and the Pacific** will bring together diverse stakeholders and international experts to share experiences. It will especially provide a forum for listening to voices from the field and for sharing the experiences as they are felt by local people in their struggle to manage locally important resources that are, at the same time, of global interest. As local perspectives are enriching international discussions, the workshop aims to strengthen local involvement in the regional and global dialogue on forests.

## Objectives

- Share recent experiences and lessons learned from countries implementing decentralization and broader governance reform in their forestry sector at different levels of administration;
- Identify the implications of trends and lessons learned for national and sub-national forest policy formulation and implementation processes, and poverty reduction strategies; and
- Recommend approaches for strengthening policies, institutions, and practices of decentralized forest governance systems to reduce the gap between theory and practice.



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## Expected Outcomes

- Better understanding of the concept and implementation of decentralization in the general context of forest governance in Asia and the Pacific.
- Identified opportunities for complementary national policy responses, capacity building and best practices for information flow.
- Identified strategies and instruments for overcoming constraints to effective decentralization and sustainable forest management at regional, national, sub-national and local levels.
- Determined mechanisms and activities to ensure the follow-up of the recommendations of the workshop.

## Venue and Timing

The workshop will be held 4-6 September 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The program will include a 1 day field visit around Yogyakarta.

## Workshop Organizers

The workshop will be hosted by the Ministry of Forestry (MoF), Government of Indonesia (GoI) under the auspices of AFP. It will be organized by a consortium of partners: MoF/GoI, Government of the Philippines, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Intercooperation, a Swiss Foundation for Development and International Cooperation.

## Workshop Participants

An estimated 80-100 people will participate in the workshop. This will include representatives of local, provincial, state and national governments, community and civil society organizations and international agencies, as well as those presenting papers.

## Workshop Program

The workshop will consist of presentations, panel discussions, working groups and field visits.

The workshop will explore the following issues:

- the social, economic and environmental implications of different forms of decentralization;
- potential roles, authority and responsibility of all actors at different levels and their relationships;
- legal, policy and regulatory aspects and incentive systems;
- capacity requirements (infrastructure, human resources, budget);
- monitoring and evaluation systems; and
- types of institutions (organization): formal and informal, at local and national levels.



## About the Conference Organizers

### **The Indonesian Ministry of Home affairs**

The Indonesian Ministry of Home affairs was established by Presidential Decree No. 183/1968. In the context of the National Development Program of the Cabinet of Indonesia (Bersatu), the Ministry's function is to implement government internal affairs and regional autonomy, to provide guidance, coordinate the implementation of tasks related to public services, and conduct applied research and development and education in the framework of supporting policies on home affairs and regional autonomy.

### **Ministry of Forestry (Indonesia)**

The Ministry of Forestry (MoF) of Indonesia was established in 1983, elevated from a directorate general in the Ministry of Agriculture. The MoF is responsible for the management of all state forest lands. With decentralization, this responsibility is implemented by the provincial and district governments and the Ministry's technical implementing units all over the country. The state forest area covers 120.35 million ha, including 23.23 million ha of conservation forest, 29.10 million ha of protection forest, 16.21 million ha of limited production forest, 27.74 million ha of general production forest, and 13.67 million ha of conversion forests. The Ministry has the following five priorities for the period 2005-2009: (i) combating illegal logging inside the state forests and the trade in its associated products; (ii) revitalisation of the forestry sector, (iii) especially the forest industries; (iv) rehabilitation and conservation of forest resources; (v) economic empowerment of people living within and around the forests; and (vi) strengthening sustainable forest management through the establishment of forest management units.

### **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines is the primary government agency responsible for the sustainable management of the country's environment and natural resources. The DENR in partnership with local government units is mandated to adopt Community-Based Forest Management as a strategy in the sustainable development and management of the country's lands to ensure that communities are empowered in their participation to protect, develop and manage forest lands resources.

### **Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)**

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), headquartered in Bogor, Indonesia, is a leading international forestry research organization established in 1993 in response to global concerns about the social, environmental, and economic consequences of forest loss and degradation. One of the 15 Future Harvest centres of the CGIAR, CIFOR is dedicated to developing policies and technologies for sustainable use and management of forests, and for enhancing the well-being of people in developing countries who rely on tropical forests for their livelihoods.

## Contact people

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### **Intercooperation**

Intercooperation is a leading Swiss NGO engaged in development and international cooperation. Intercooperation is a resource and knowledge organisation, combining a professional approach with social commitments. Intercooperation's expertise, process competence and services are grouped around three principal working domains: natural resource management, rural economy, and local governance and civil society. Intercooperation supports partner organisations in more than twenty development and transition countries.

### **Federal Office for the Environment, FOEN**

The Federal Office for the Environment is the Swiss government's centre of environmental expertise. It is responsible for forest issues and has been co-organizing the UNFF Interlaken Workshop on Decentralization in Forestry, 2004

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

FAO is the lead technical agency within the United Nations system for all agriculture, fisheries and forestry matters. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) supports development activities in the region by providing a neutral forum for policy dialogue and by facilitating the exchange and adoption of appropriate technologies. Its forestry activities are guided by the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). The FAO/RAP Forestry Group, in turn, supports the efforts of the APFC in advancing sustainable forestry management.

### **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)**

ITTO is an intergovernmental organization promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. Its 59 members represent about 80 percent of the world's tropical forests and 90 percent of the global tropical timber trade. ITTO develops internationally agreed policy documents to promote sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists tropical member countries to adapt such policies to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects.

### **Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC)**

RECOFTC is an international, non-profit organization that supports community forestry and community-based natural resource management. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental institutions, programs, projects and networks, RECOFTC aims to enhance capacity at all levels and to promote constructive multi-stakeholder dialogues and interactions to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forest resources. RECOFTC's main geographical focus is the Asia-Pacific region, but it welcomes collaboration with organizations from other regions.

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