



# Better forests, better lives

The Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy in Asia



Improving watershed function and local livelihoods in the Miyun watershed, outside Beijing, China © IUCN

## A new way of thinking

A Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS) addresses human and environmental needs simultaneously in large areas of land. Each strategy is different, but they all aim to deliver environmentally friendly, financially sustainable and socially equitable outcomes. In achieving multiple aims, planning decisions of different uses in different parts of a landscape often result in trade-offs that are negotiated between various groups that have interests in the landscape.

The LLS initiative represents a new way of thinking – from focussing on threats, to promoting negotiated plans for productive landscapes. To achieve this, an LLS goes beyond forest management and links positively with other sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, health and the private sector. An LLS provides for immediate needs while supporting long term changes that will improve human wellbeing and resilience.

## How does the LLS initiative work?

The initiative uses participatory methods to identify opportunities and constraints in landscapes and reach agreements on actions related to the following themes:

- **Poverty reduction** - Identify and develop policy and practices that benefit the rural poor.
- **Markets and incentives** - Improve competitiveness, access to markets for local goods and services and fair trade.
- **Governance** - Support effective arrangements for decision making on the use and management of natural resources.
- **Transforming landscapes** - Build local capacity to make informed choices about forest landscape restoration and protection.

In Asia, the LLS initiative works in nine landscapes in seven countries. There is great diversity in the landscapes and each strategy is unique. Work in each country is described inside.

# Implementing Livelihoods and Landscape Strategies in Asia

Realizing local visions for the best possible use of resources across landscapes



Improving local access and strengthening governance, Cambodia © IUCN

## Cambodia

Peam Krasob Wildlife Sanctuary in Koh Kong Province is a varied landscape with evergreen forests, mangroves, rivers, wetlands, coastal areas, coastal reefs and islands. It provides rich biodiversity which many local people depend on for their livelihoods. While the Sanctuary has been established, its boundaries are not well recognized and the area's rich resource base is threatened by over-use. To address this, the LLS initiative is working with new protected area zoning laws to identify core, conservation, sustainable use and community zones in the sanctuary. The intention is for communities to use the community and sustainable use zones and help monitor the core and conservation zones. This will help ensure sustainable use of the natural resources in the sanctuary by all stakeholders, especially local communities.

## China

The Miyun Reservoir provides the main source of drinking water for the 17 million residents of Beijing, a city that faces a serious water crisis. The Miyun Reservoir catchment area has significant forest cover, but the forest is unhealthy and does not deliver effective watershed functions or optimize benefits to local people. The LLS initiative aims to restore the watershed landscape through participatory

processes especially to address livelihoods needs and fuel wood collection by local communities. A priority result is the relaxation of the 30 year old logging ban in the watershed area and improving forest management practices that serve watershed functions, improve biodiversity and enhance the livelihoods of local residents, particularly poor households. It is also critical to promote cross-sector, cross-boundary cooperation among a variety of government agencies, as well as exploring financial mechanisms for forest landscape restoration and governance. Success in this watershed is relevant to more than 5,000 other drinking water protected zones in China.

## India

In 1990, the Government of India introduced Joint Forest Management (JFM) as a participatory, bottom-up approach to regenerating and managing the country's forests. Today, local communities manage 31.6% of India's forests and in return, share in forest generated revenue. Still, the full potential of JFM has yet to be realized. One of the main reasons is that the trade in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) is currently carried out at an individual level, with limited capacity to add value in the market chain, thereby limiting income potential. The

LLS initiative is working in two sites in India, the Shiwalik Foothills in Haryana, and the Kaptipada and Baisingha Forest Ranges, Mayurbhanj district in Orissa. The strategies focus on institutional reforms that improve market returns from NTFP's. Components of the programme use landscape restoration to increase water related services to communities.

## Indonesia

The LLS initiative works in two landscapes in Papua - Baliem and Bomberai. The island of New Guinea is recognized globally for its extraordinary biodiversity. Papua, the Indonesian part of the island, still has 70% forest cover, but this is under pressure. Economic development in the highlands has increased timber extraction which threatens unique, slow-growing beech forests, one of the most lucrative sources of cash for local communities. In Indonesia, critical decisions about forest management and oil palm conversions have largely ignored local tenure claims and do not adequately consider the opportunities for local forest dependent residents to benefit significantly from forest development. In response, the LLS initiative is working with stakeholders to secure appropriate recognition of local forest tenure, implement sustainable forest management,

community managed timber certification that is linked to existing markets, and providing a platform for the participation of local stakeholders in planning, regulating and managing provincial land use. Further it is seeking to insert relevant lessons about decentralized forest management into national and global processes for Community-Based Forest Management policy development.

### Lao PDR

To promote regional economic growth, a new road connecting Viet Nam, Lao PDR, and Thailand is being built that runs through Champassak Province, in southern Lao. At local level the development is increasing pressure on forests, wetlands, and peoples livelihoods. The LLS initiative is addressing these issues on a number of levels. To reduce illegal cutting of trees, village groups are being supported to manage and market NTFPs that can claim higher prices and provide for more transparent benefit sharing. Wetland zoning and management is being improved through capacity building of villagers and the local government. The newly established Department of Forestry Inspection is being supported to enhance its cooperation with justice,

customs, police and defence departments, and neighbouring countries to combat illegal logging and wildlife trade through Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).

### Thailand

The LLS initiative works in two Thai landscapes, the coastal ecosystems of the Andaman Coast and the Doi Mae Salong watershed in the north of the country. The coastal component focuses on the area from Northern Phang Nga Province to Ranong Province and is executed in parallel to the Thailand component of Ecologically and Socio-economically Sound Coastal Rehabilitation and Management funded by BMZ that is part of the Mangroves for the Future initiative. In the coastal zones, the LLS initiative is supporting the integration of existing government and community-based natural resource management initiatives through networking of organizations and supporting emerging community based tourism initiatives at the village level. In Doi Mae Salong, IUCN in partnership with the Supreme Commander's Office of the Royal Thai Armed Forces is working on a reforestation approach that takes into account local communities

and their livelihoods. The initiative uses a participatory decision making process focused on poverty alleviation and improving natural resources.

### Viet Nam

Viet Nam is a major exporter of wood furniture to Europe and North America. While the industry is fast-growing, there is currently limited domestic timber production and the furniture industry depends heavily on timber imports, much of it from high-risk countries such as Lao PDR and Cambodia. Ensuring the legality and sustainability of its timber supply is a major issue for Viet Nam if it is to continue to sell wooden products to discerning markets. To help Viet Nam meet this challenge, the LLS initiative provides information and convenes diverse stakeholders to identify and discuss Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) measures to expand the national and international supply of legal timber. LLS also conducts research on pro-poor sustainable forest management, and has established networks linking experts, researchers, government officials, and forest dependent communities to share and generate practical information for policy action.



Forest management planning, China © IUCN



Rattan seedlings, Lao PDR © IUCN



Mapping local use, Indonesia © IUCN



Marketing Non Timber Forest products, Lao PDR © IUCN



Strengthening Joint Forest Management, India © IUCN



Helping to ensure legal timber trade, Viet Nam © IUCN

### About the the Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy

The Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy is a global IUCN project working in 23 countries and funded by the Directorate General for International Co-operation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Asia, LLS works with a wide range of partners from local communities, non-government organizations, university and research institutions, local, regional and national governments and the private sector. Below are formal LLS partners in Asia:

- Andaman Discoveries, Thailand
- Beijing Forestry Society (BFS), China
- Ecologically and Socio-economically Sound Coastal Rehabilitation and Management funded by BMZ as part of the Mangroves for the Future initiative, Thailand
- FORRU, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- Plant a tree today.org, Thailand
- Samdhana Institute, Indonesia
- Supreme Commander's Office of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Thailand
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India
- Winrock International India (WII), India

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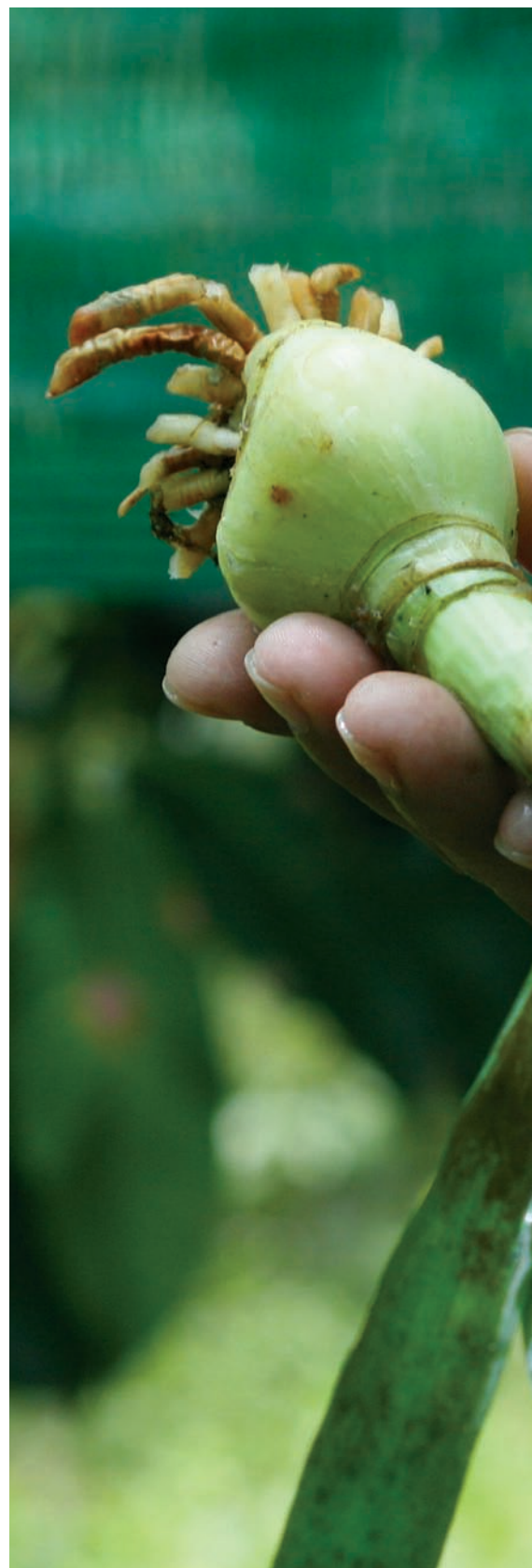
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International Union for Conservation of Nature



Water Lily, southern Thailand © IUCN