



Strengthening Voices for Better Choices

Renforcement des voix pour les choix meilleurs
Kuunganisha sauti kwa uchaguzi bora
Fortalecendo vozes para melhores escolhas
Voces fortalecidas... mejores decisiones
හොඳ හේච්ඡකට ශක්තිමත් හඬක්
Tăng cường những tiếng nói để có sự lựa chọn tốt hơn



Global Forest Governance Project



What is Forest Governance?

Forests can be seen in many ways - as rich ecosystems, assets, recreational hubs, resources and homes. They provide timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), shelter animals, sustain livelihoods and create wealth for individuals, communities and organisations. In order to be sustainable and there for future generations to benefit, forests need to be well managed. But what happens when there are competing interests? Who determines how forests are used? This is the domain of forest governance.

Illegal logging and other predatory forest-related behaviour are serious outcomes of weak forest governance. Illegal logging, or the breaking of laws on cutting, processing and transporting timber or wood products, is often the result of power imbalances and the lure of quick profits. But the removal of forest resources without consent from local people or government has dramatic and far reaching consequences. Illegal logging and the associated trade in illegal timber is responsible for vast environmental damage and impoverishes rural communities that depend on forests for a living. It also costs governments 10 to 15 billion dollars in lost revenue annually.

Initiatives dealing with “Forest Law Enforcement and Governance,” otherwise known as FLEG, examine the way in which decisions about forests are made and implemented. FLEG is a manifestation of efforts to try and curb illegal logging and reduce its negative impacts from loss of livelihoods to degradation of landscapes.

In 1998, the Group of Eight Nations (G8) Summit in France had illegal logging in the spotlight and, in turn, inspired a variety of follow up initiatives, including the formulation of national government procurement policies, the development of private sector voluntary codes of conduct and consumer campaigns. A series of regional Interministerial FLEG conferences in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, in Africa and in Europe and North Asia received a lot of attention.



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How IUCN fits in?

IUCN sees illegal logging and related trade practices as symptomatic of broader governance problems such as insecurity of land tenure, inappropriate logging concession systems, corruption and overcapacity of timber processing. These factors create conditions that foster illegal logging and other predatory forest-related behaviour. While short term law enforcement initiatives are important, responding to these problems should open a gateway for dealing with wider governance and law enforcement issues.

At the heart of IUCN's approach to FLEG is the belief that there is a greater chance of progress if governments, civil society and the private sector move forward in unison. IUCN is convinced that the problems related to illegal logging are too big to be dealt with by any one of these three stakeholder groups on their own and that only through a “tri-partite” approach will sufficient common ownership and support be created for specific actions in favour of improved forest governance. IUCN is well placed to facilitate tri-partite partnerships, because of its unique membership of governments and NGOs and because of its track record of facilitating multi-stakeholder processes, including in relation to forest governance issues.

Strengthening Voices for Better Choices is part of IUCN's ongoing FLEG work.

About *Strengthening Voices for Better Choices*

The Global Forest Governance Project: *Strengthening Voices for Better Choices* aims to enable and actively implement forest governance arrangements that

facilitate and promote sustainable and equitable forest conservation and management in three continents with a focus on the following six countries:

- Brazil, South America
- Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa
- Ghana, West Africa
- Sri Lanka, South Asia
- Tanzania, East Africa
- Viet Nam, Southeast Asia

The project allows IUCN to work across different scales (field and landscape level, national, regional and global levels) with a particular emphasis on:

- Supporting the translation of regional resolutions (e.g. actions adopted during the regional Interministerial FLEG conferences) into concrete actions at the national level and at the field and landscape levels. The project will pilot innovative approaches to improve forest governance through community forestry, forest landscape restoration and improved concession management;
- Promoting national level actions to take into account field level realities and ensuring that the impacts of national policies in the field are being assessed;
- Supporting cross-regional sharing and dissemination of information and lessons.

The project was formulated in response to a call for proposals by the European Commission (EC) to assist the implementation of the EC's own “Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade” (FLEGT) Action Plan.

The project will support the implementation of the Action Plan through capacity building, through awareness raising about FLEG and through piloting innovative governance approaches. The project will also contribute, as appropriate, to the development and testing of specific new mechanisms proposed in the Action Plan, such as the Voluntary Partnership Agreements between timber producing countries and the European Union.

Throughout its activities, the project seeks to engage the active support of government, civil society and the private sector to promote the tri-partite approach for

forest governance reform, as described above. Furthermore, a variety of local, national and regional partners will be involved to support field sites, facilitate capacity building and operationalise FLEG in each country. For example, in Asia, the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) will be a principle partner for the capacity building component of the project. Other partners include Tropenbos International (a tropical forest research organisation based in The Netherlands), Sewalanka Foundation in Sri Lanka and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, amongst others.

The project runs for four years from 1 February 2005 to 31 January 2009. The budget is €4,256,854 (approximately US\$5,235,930; September 2005) of which 77.7 per cent is provided by the European Commission (EC). Funding to cover the remaining 22.3 per cent is provided by other donors.

In country pilot activities: unity in diversity

The summary of country pilot activities presented below provides an insight into the wide range of issues that the project will address. However, these activities are all tied together by a focus on testing new ways to decrease illegal logging and other predatory activities through multi-stakeholder participation in decisions about forest management.

Brazil

Brazil's project work will be based out of the State of Acre and promote forest governance arrangements that support forest certification. It will look at the trade arrangements that could work in favour of certified timber. The project will work in partnership with a number of other organisations including World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In the DRC, the project will support the implementation of the forest industry's voluntary code of conduct. Working in collaboration with the Inter-African Forest Industry Association (IFIA), the project will

organise a series of capacity building sessions for government, civil society, the private sector, and other forest concession stakeholders. It will also test the application of the code of conduct in and around a selected number of concessions.

Ghana

In Ghana, enhancing the effectiveness of Community Forest Committees (CFCs) in preventing illegal activities and promoting community involvement in forest management will be the priority. The project will focus on two regions where forests are currently under extreme pressure.



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Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, the project will work to facilitate the development of Joint Forest Management (JFM) approaches through facilitating tri-partite dialogue and negotiations between communities, forest managers and private entrepreneurs in and around the Knuckles Forest Range, a biodiversity rich area.

Tanzania

The project will work in the Rufiji delta in South Tanzania with both government and local communities to promote the adoption of a participatory approach to forest management. Capacity building activities will focus on enhancing abilities for landscape management, the recognition and negotiation of trade-offs, and the design of sustainable forest management systems.

Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, the project will test participatory forest and land-use planning approaches at the landscape level. It will look at the authority and roles of different actors, and at the distribution of benefits and costs of

forest and land use. The project will work near Hue in central Viet Nam.

The project team

Brazil - Marcelo Arguelles

A forester by training, Marcelo Arguelles has first hand experience in working for government and for the NGO sector. His most recent position before joining this project was as Director of Forest Management at the Forest Department of the State of Acre, Brazil, where he was heavily involved making policies and economic incentives more conducive to sustainable forest management. Previously, he represented the NGO network of the Brazilian Amazon (GTA) and has been working for the Amazon Workers Centre in the State of Acre.

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Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Benjamin Toirambe

A tropical forest biologist by training, Benjamin Toirambe has a long government career behind him. As the Chief of Service in the Ministry of the Environment and Nature Conservation (DRC), in charge of biodiversity, he was closely involved in the formulation of the the National Forest and Nature Conservation Plan and the forest policy of DRC. Benjamin Toirambe gained a regional perspective through his involvement in CEFDHAC (la Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale) and other initiatives. Throughout his career, he has been able to combine these responsibilities with hands on activities in the forest, such as forest inventories and botanical studies.

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Ghana - Wale Adeleke

A forester by training and a natural resource management and strategic planning specialist, Wale Adeleke, a Nigerian national, has experience of working for government and for NGOs. He spent the first ten years of his professional life with the Government of Nigeria at the Department of Forestry. He then took up



Photography by Sarath Ekanayake

employment with WWF in Switzerland, as a Forest Policy Officer, and later in Cameroon, as WWF's Regional Forest Coordinator for Africa. This background has provided Wale Adeleke with extensive knowledge about forest policy and governance issues, in Africa especially, with practical facilitation and negotiation skills.

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Sri Lanka - Prof Shantha K. Hennayake

Hailing from a village in the vicinity of the Knuckles Forest Range, the pilot site in Sri Lanka, Prof. Shantha K. Hennayake received professional training in environmental management, environmental and social impact assessment and in resettlement issues. In addition to his post as University Professor, he served as the Director of Center for Environmental Studies at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. He also was the Deputy Team Leader for the group which produced the 'State of Environment Sri Lanka' report in 2001. Shantha Hennayake has extensive first hand experience with facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and he is frequently called upon to facilitate discussions on sensitive environmental issues in Sri Lanka.

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Tanzania - Yassin Mkwizu

Yassin Mkwizu is a trained environmental scientist. Before joining the project, Yassin Mkwizu has been working as environmental officer with the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT), the first public interest environmental law organisation in Tanzania. He has extensive knowledge of legal and institutional arrangements for natural

resource management in Tanzania and East and Southern Africa, having coordinated projects dealing with these issues. He is particularly interested in promoting the involvement of communities in natural resources management.

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Viet Nam - Pham Quang Hoa

Trained in social development, Pham Quang Hoa had worked as an advisor for a number of internationally funded rural development and forest management projects, mainly in areas of training, education and extension, before joining this project. During these assignments, Pham Quang Hoa harnessed excellent experience in many aspects of rural development and natural resources management, in particular grassroots training and capacity building. It also gave him a thorough understanding about the role of forests in supporting the livelihoods of the rural poor.

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Photography by the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP)

Team Leader - Guido Broekhoven (Thailand)

Guido Broekhoven, a Dutch national, graduated in tropical ecology. He has worked for IUCN's regional forest programmes in Africa and Asia, and on projects on NTFPs in South America and Viet Nam. He has extensive experience in participatory processes, forest policies and strategies, action research and in project management.

In addition, the project works with a series of senior experts on forest policy,

law, environmental economics and capacity building.

An inclusive approach, a multifaceted programme

Strengthening Voices for Better Choices will work with IUCN's combination of members including states, government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs), to draw attention to the often buried linkages between realities on the ground and those in political arenas. It will create space for the civil society, government and private sector to cooperate in identifying joint solutions to the reform process.

New partnerships and arrangements involving state agencies, local environmental NGOs and the private sector will undertake activities aimed at identifying and implementing practical solutions for better forest conservation and management.

For more information about *Strengthening Voices for Better Choices* contact:

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For more information about IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme visit www.iucn.org/forest

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