

Community Forestry Adaptation Roadmaps in Asia -2020



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Why is Community Forestry important for climate resilience?

1. Supporting Livelihoods & Income



2. Increasing Food Security & Production



700

Photo courtesy Mike Loomis (Field Trip Earth website)

3. Leveraging Social Capital & Knowledge

13,528



4. Reducing Disaster Risks



Photo credit: The Daily Star.net



Photo credit:
The Resilient
Earth

What is a Community Forestry Adaptation Roadmap?

Thailand	Immediately	2015	2020
Policy Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidelines on Community Forest-based adaptation and distribute widely amongst government agencies and Community Forestry groups. Encourage the Royal Forests Department and Department of National Parks to work together with Tambon Administration Organizations (TAOs) and Community Forestry groups to undertake vulnerability assessments and create forest management plans that include climate change adaptation strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2015 the RFD, Department of National Parks and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources have developed clear strategies on Community Forestry and climate change adaptation. Once the Master Plan is finalized strategies for Community Forestry-based adaptation are mainstreamed into the national policy development process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cross-ministry agency is established to coordinate relevant government officials, research institutes and NGOs working on adaptation and the flow of information between the grassroots and national levels. Supporting Community Forestry based adaptation is explicitly within the mandate of this agency.
Legal Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use the Decentralization Act and Constitution to move forward with establishing Community Forests under the Royal Forests Department. Scale up participatory and integrated land-use mapping to clarify boundaries between community forests and protected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewed efforts are made to pass a Community Forestry Bill with attention paid to integrated land use, ensuring it won't hinder community climate change adaptation objectives and allowing provisions for agricultural production amongst forest communities. The status of communities existing within national park boundaries and options for land use are clarified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps in 2020 dependent on status of Community Forestry legislation in 2015.
Project Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) should review learning from Community Forestry adaptation projects with a view to replicating and scaling up these approaches at a national level (in collaboration with other relevant agencies). Increase the focus given to Community Forest-based adaptation projects in northern Thailand to identify project models which work well in upland landscapes. REDD+ projects should integrate adaptation within project design including vulnerability assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2015 a strong learning and coordination network between Community-Forestry adaptation projects is established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate adaptation vulnerability assessment and planning mainstreamed across all Community Forestry project across Thailand. A well balanced portfolio of inland and coastal Community Forestry adaptation projects are in place across the country.



Roadmap countries and opportunities

Nepal

- The NAPA recognizes the role of CFUGs in its implementation
- Local Adaptation Programmes of Action (LAPAs) and Community Adaptation Programmes of Action (CAPAs)
- CFUG tenure rights ensure access of local communities to forests and the right to harvest timber and NTFPs

Thailand

- The Decentralization Act and the Constitution used to move forward with the establishment of community forests, allowing for equal or more adaptation projects with CF than other countries
- The Royal Forests Department provides climate adaptation training for government Ministries

Vietnam

- The Trust Fund for Forests supports pro-poor forest management
- New climate change DRAGON institute

Laos

- As a least developed country, large scale funding opportunities on horizon (e.g. LDCF, GCF, FIP)

Cambodia

- National Forestry Program (2010-29) identifies CF and climate change adaptation as strategic activities

What are the challenges?

Thailand's Policy and Planning Framework



Policy and Planning Challenges

- There is no national adaptation plan yet.
- The Climate Change Master Plan (2011-2050) is currently under revision.
- Draft Plan mentions participatory planning for community forest management but does not directly reference the role of community forestry in climate change.



The Roadmap to Address these Challenges

Immediately

- Identify where Community Forestry can support adaptation in the draft Master Plan.
- Develop guidelines on Community Forest-based adaptation and distribute widely amongst government agencies and Community Forestry groups.
- The Royal Forests Department and Department of National Parks should work together with Tambon Administration Organizations (TAOs) and Community Forestry groups to undertake vulnerability assessments and create forest management plans that include climate change adaptation strategies.



2015

- By 2015 the RFD, Department of National Parks and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources have developed clear strategies on Community Forestry and climate change adaptation.
- Once the Master Plan is finalized strategies for Community Forestry-based adaptation are mainstreamed into the national policy development process.



2020

- A cross-ministry agency is established to coordinate relevant government officials, research institutes and NGOs working on adaptation and the flow of information between the grassroots and national levels.
- Supporting Community Forestry-based adaptation is explicitly within the mandate of this agency.



Conclusions

- Some countries such as Nepal and Vietnam already have a strong policy and legal framework in place for Community Forestry **but.....**
- The challenge is to better implement these policies and laws in support of climate adaptation
- Important to replicate and scale up existing project and capacity building approaches and mainstream them into national adaptation plans.



Full policy brief to download from www.recoftc.org

Country reports launched early 2013

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Thank you!

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