

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

Social Session

People, Forests, and Human Well-being

Managing Forests for People in a Period of Rapid Change



National Convention Center (NCC)

Me Tri, Tu Liem

Hanoi, Vietnam

22 April 2008, 8.30am - 12.00pm

Organized by Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)
with support from the Asia Forest Network (AFN)



Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: Forestry in a Changing World

21–25 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

The first-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week¹ is bringing together individuals from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, and the private sector to share perspectives and seek solutions to the most challenging issues facing forests and forestry today. Among other events, there will be morning plenary sessions convened by leading regional and international natural resource organizations focusing on the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic.

The social session will highlight forests and poverty issues such as resource tenure and access, decentralization, livelihoods and community participation. The environmental session will largely discuss forests and climate change, with consideration given to what forestry can do to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Finally, the economic session focuses on topics related to trade, timber certification, forest law enforcement and governance, and forestry investment.

¹ Asia-Pacific Forestry Week is anchored around the 22nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) is one of six regional forestry commissions supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. APFC offers a forum for member countries to share experiences in dealing with forestry challenges, advises FAO on regional forestry priorities, and initiates joint action on key forestry issues. APFC is currently comprised of 33 member countries, making it the region's most inclusive inter-governmental body dealing with forestry. By supporting the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week concept, FAO seeks to expand the engagement of APFC members with a wider range of stakeholders to more effectively address the important challenges of forest management in the region.

People, Forests, and Human Well-being: Managing Forests for People in a Period of Rapid Change

22 April 2008, 8:30am –12:00pm

Background

The FAO State of the World's Forests 2007 reports that the forest sector's contribution to GDP in the Asia-Pacific region has been declining for the past decade as other sectors of the economy develop faster. The region is now the biggest net importer of forest products in the world and the largest exporter of non-wood forest products. Variation in the net rate of change in forest area is much more pronounced in the region. Several countries are losing forests at rates exceeding 1.5 percent per year, among the highest rates of loss in the world. Forest conservation and management have now come back to the centre stage of the global debate on environment and development due to the recognition that forest loss and degradation contribute more greenhouse gas emissions than the global transport sector.

The Asia-Pacific region has emerged as the global epicentre of economic growth and change. With this growth, along with increasing regional integration, come increased social mobility, rise to middle-income status and the challenge of growing inequality. Meanwhile, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reports that "not all developing countries are making adequate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and none are presently on track to meet all the goals by 2015". Little is known about the informal forestry sector, as national statistics on income and employment capture only the formal sector. Micro-level studies indicate that the informal sector is predominant, and this includes the people who are the subject of the MDGs. People in the informal forest sector work in the context of ill-defined rights where there is little incentive and are often too poor to make a holistic move towards sustainable forest management. Under present and foreseeable economic and social trends in the Region, can we achieve sustainable forest management and better realize the potential of forests and forestry to contribute to improved human well-being?

This session will examine the current status of forest loss and degradation in the region and why this should be of concern to key decision makers, especially those in central government, and civil society as a whole. A number of interventions have been made in past decades in recognition of the social importance of forests. Yet, why has progress with sustainable forest management been so slow?

This session will revisit how successful these interventions have really been, and whether the successes may be replicated to bring effective forest conservation, management and development to scale. It will also flag emerging regional and global drivers, both positive and negative, that will either encourage or inhibit progress towards sustainable forest management, equitable forest-based development and enhanced rural livelihoods.

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to:

1. Revisit the core argument that environmental stability, including forests, underpins development.
2. Re-examine some of the principal interventions widely reported as achieving sustainable forest management combined with improving human well-being, notably poverty reduction.
3. Identify what barriers still remain to realizing the twin goals of sustainable forest management and human well-being.
4. Discuss if the aspiration target of increasing forest cover in the APEC region by 20 million hectares by 2020, adopted by APEC leaders in 2007 in a commitment to reversing decades of net forest loss and degradation, is possible while also ensuring that issues of forest quality as well as quantity are addressed, and that the communities who live in and near forest areas benefit from such initiatives and that they are not further marginalized. Can this be done, and if so how?

Session Program

The morning plenary session on social dimensions of forests and forestry consists of four scene-setting presentations culminating in a Managed Debate. While this session will obviously touch on environmental and economic issues, these issues will not be its primary focus. This session will be followed by an APFC session in the afternoon that will take up the same topic. The APFC session will build on the discussions and outcomes of the plenary session to further deliberate and develop recommendations.

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	MODERATOR / PRESENTER(S) / PANEL MEMBER(S)
8.30–8.35	Introduction to the Session	Dr. Yam Malla – Executive Director, RECOFTC
8.35–8.45	<i>Presentation 1:</i> • Community Perspectives	Mr. Norman Jivan – Research and Development, SawitWatch
8.45–9.05	<i>Presentation 2:</i> • Forests and Forestry: Do They Matter?	Ms. Frances Seymour – Director General, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
9.05–9.25	<i>Presentation 3:</i> • How can Forests Reduce Poverty?	Dr. Mary Hobley – Independent Consultant
9.25–9.45	<i>Presentation 4:</i> • Old Barriers : Emerging Drivers	Dr. Thomas Enters – RECOFTC Associate
9.45–10.00	Break	
10.00–10.10	Introduction to Debate Process Introduction of the Panel Members	Debate Moderator: Mr. David Cassells – Director, The Nature Conservancy’s Forest Program for the Asia Pacific Region
10.10–11.10	Managed Debate	Debate Panel: Mr. Yati Bun – Executive Director, Foundation for People and Community Development Dr. Marcus Colchester – Director, Forest Peoples Programme Mr. Kevin Conrad – Special Envoy and Ambassador for Environment and Climate Change from PNG; Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University Mr. Modesto Ga-ab – Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Besao Local Government Unit (LGU), Philippines Ms. Rowena Soriaga – Regional Operations Manager, Asia Forest Network Mr. Kari Tuomela – Senior Advisor, Stora Enso
11.10–11.45	Questions from the Audience for Panel Members	Mr. David Cassells
11.45–12.00	Session Commentary	Mr. Ken Piddington – Institute of Policy Studies/ Victoria University of Wellington

Presentation Abstracts

1. Community Perspectives

By Norman Jiwon, SawitWatch

Kalimantan (Borneo) is an island containing some of the world's most extensive remaining tropical rainforests, where indigenous peoples from different groups exist under serious threats of anthropogenic impacts of destructive logging, land conversion, fire, and other extractive activities stimulated by development activities. The Kerambai people, with a population of 4,207, and of more than 200 Dayak groups, have been living since time immemorial in harmony with Borneo's tropical forests with their customary norms, laws, and beliefs associated with their ancestors' spirits. However, changes in forest uses and regulations, especially those resulting from exploitation and extraction development activities in the name of national interest, have had incredibly rapid and irreversible impacts on the forests and livelihoods of Borneo native peoples, including the Kerambai people. Indonesians, particularly forest peoples, have experienced these ongoing uncertainties and will continue to live with further marginalization, discrimination, exclusion, and abuses of indigenous peoples' rights that threaten their very survival. The human rights based approaches are expected to provide clear principles, guidelines, and solutions to poverty of the forest peoples during this time of rapid change.

2. Forests and Forestry: Do They Matter?

By Frances Seymour, CIFOR

For decades, foresters, conservationists, and social activists have been making the case that forests and forestry matter—to national economies, rural development and poverty reduction, environmental and cultural sustainability, biodiversity conservation, flood control, human health, conflict prevention, and most recently, climate change. And yet forests continue to be degraded and converted to other uses at a rate that implies that they don't matter very much at all to those with the power to control such processes.

This presentation will summarize what we know about the significance of forests for these various objectives. With reference to specific examples from the Asia-Pacific region and lessons from other regions, the presentation will articulate four propositions for discussion:

- The significance of forests has been overstated with respect to some objectives, and underappreciated with respect to others.
- Forest advocates have erred in focusing their efforts within the forestry profession and on forestry-related institutions.
- Fundamental changes in governance—including both substantive and procedural rights related to forests—will be necessary for people to whom forests matter most to affect what happens to them.
- The international community's new appreciation of the role of forests in mitigating climate change provides an historic opportunity to shift the political economy of forests.

3. Can Forests Reduce Poverty?

By Mary Hobley

What difference do forests and forestry make to poverty reduction? Experience has shown that, despite the large flow of resources and technocratic support to the forest sector, there has been limited change to the things that really make a difference—the institutional and political structures that frame the lives of poor people and determine who claims access to resources and benefits from them, whose voices are heard and whose are silenced. This paper challenges the assumptions underpinning much of the support to “pro-poor” forestry. It uses poverty as the starting point for looking at forest policy rather than looking at forestry and seeing how it can be made to accommodate a more pro-poor approach. It considers the critical factors that shape pro-poor policy and implementation including unpacking what we understand by poverty. This is done to help develop a greater clarity in the debate about who are the poor and to understand the differential effects on them of forest policy and tenure change.

There are many dimensions of policy implementation we need to understand: not only are the effects of policy socially differentiated, but they are politically determined by the nature of the political regime. Policy is also spatially differentiated—depending on the levels of remoteness (i.e. interconnectedness to markets, other employment opportunities); it is resource-dependent, affected by the nature and quality of the resource. For many poor households, forests and tree products are important at different times of the year, during periods of food insecurity, and at different times in people’s life-cycles. The role of forests in livelihoods is different for people living in forests, compared to those in forest-agriculture mosaic landscapes, to those who live in areas where trees are found predominantly within an agricultural landscape. All these determinants affect individuals’ livelihood opportunities and the role trees and forests have in their livelihoods. This takes us to a policy foundation that needs to be based on an understanding of spatial, temporal, and structural poverty. The policy response needs to be complex and diverse; it is not amenable to single agency solutions and requires levels of inter-agency operation and implementation that are often difficult to achieve.

The key conditions affecting the poverty-forests relationships mean that the nature of support to forest related activities has to be highly contextualized and set within a broader livelihoods understanding. Since forests and the access to their products and land are inherently political, the relationship between forests and poor people is based on power and their political and social relationships. Achieving transformation in these relationships is a political and not technocratic process. The challenge facing forestry is not just the restoration of trees or forest-dwelling biodiversity, but also the growth of a political and social landscape that facilitates people’s abilities to make choices to secure their livelihoods; to move beyond forests as a resource that maintains them in poverty to forests as part of a wider livelihoods approach as a means to step out of poverty.

4. Old Barriers and Emerging Drivers Shaping the Future of the Region's Forests

By Thomas Enters, RECOFTC

In the debate on the future of forests in Asia and the Pacific, the forestry community tends to focus on recurring themes and major barriers to bringing about sustainable forest management. We are all familiar with them, perhaps even comfortable. They include such impediments as:

- Lack of forest policy implementation and persistence of laws that are unenforceable.
- Forestry agencies that continue to focus on technical aspects with little recognition of the increasing complexity of forestry and the need to think across sectors.
- Low interest in and constraints to financing sustainable forest management.
- Persistence of massive and diffuse corruption in the forestry sector.
- Elite capture in many community-based forest management schemes.

In the meantime, emerging drivers of change and new realities have made the headlines, sometimes hardly noticed by those deliberating the removal of old barriers. These new drivers already have, and some of them will have even more so, a significant impact on the fate of forests. There is great urgency to take their potential implications seriously. Examples of new drivers include:

- Steeply rising demand for and prices of commodities (not just forest products), increased consumption, and population growth are increasing pressure on all types of forests.
- Surging energy prices have increased interest in bio-energy plantations.
- Declining relative importance of agriculture in national economies, rural transformation and urbanization are changing the dynamics of rural and urban political power relations.
- Remittances from more than 50 million migrants (around US\$114 billion in 2006 to countries in the Asia-Pacific region) play a greater role in poverty reduction than forests and forestry. More options are available for young people to turn their backs on forests.
- Recognition of the role of forests and forest management in climate change mitigation.
- Shifts in markets and trading patterns are reshaping political influence and business practices. New investors, new values and new rules of the game have repercussions for markets, investment, financial systems and natural resources.
- Decentralized bureaucracies are often weak and politicized, and unable to address real needs of local communities. Their decision making may also be less far-sighted and increase the speed of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Populations and areas under absolute and economic water scarcity will increase considerably. This will stoke the debate on the role of forests on water supply.

Foresters cannot change the direction of the emerging drivers or developments, but as long as we neglect taking them seriously and focus on conventional barriers only, deliberations on how to bring about sustainable forest management will remain stuck in a blind alley.

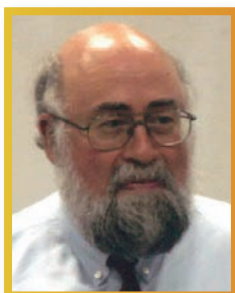
Biographies

Of Moderator, Commentator, Presenters, and Panel Members



Yati A. Bun is the Executive Director of the Foundation for People and Community Development Inc. (FPCD), a local NGO with a mission to build capacity of local forest owners in managing their own forest resources leading towards poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Mr. Bun received his first degree in Forestry at the PNG University of Technology, Lae in 1980. He worked 10 years with the PNG Forest Service before acquiring his Masters degree in Forest Resources Management at the University of Edinburgh, UK in 1990. He left the government to work in civil society in 1992, and has served as a founding member for the Association of Foresters PNG, a Founding Board member of the PNG Ecoforestry Forum (EFF), and National Coordinator of the PNG FSC working group that developed national standards for forest management, among other positions.



David Cassells is the Director of The Nature Conservancy's Asia Pacific Region Forest Program and Chief of Party for the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) Program. He is an Australian forester with more than 30 years management and research experience in tropical forest management and planning. He started his career with more than a decade of forest management and research experience in the wet tropical rain forest region of north-eastern Australia.

Mr. Cassells has subsequently had wide international experience and has held leadership positions with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, and the World Bank. He was the Chairperson of the IUCN Forest Conservation Programme Advisory Group from October 1996–July 2005. From 2001–2005, he was a Co-Chair of the World Bank-WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use. He currently serves on the Boards of Forest Trends, the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, the Tropical Forest Foundation and is the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Thailand-based Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC). In January 2000, Mr. Cassells was featured by the UK-based People and the Planet Magazine as one of five “Millennium Trailblazers” in global environmental management in its special Millennium Issue on “The Ecology of Hope”.



Marcus Colchester is the Director of the Forest Peoples Programme, an NGO he set up in 1990 that works in the field of indigenous rights and forests. Dr. Colchester received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of Oxford on the “Economy, Ecology and Ethnobiology of the Sanema Indians of South Venezuela” in 1982. He then worked as a consultant in Venezuela studying the impact of development projects on Indians and as a regional coordinator of the National Indigenous Census. Dr. Colchester also served as Project Director of Survival International, and as a member of the International Labour Organization’s expert committee on the revision of Convention 107. He is a founder member of the World Rainforest Movement, an international network of activists concerned about rainforest destruction and social justice.

His advocacy work has focused on standard setting and compliance on indigenous rights by United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral aid agencies and the private sector. He has also strongly advocated reforms in conservation policies to respect indigenous peoples’ rights. In 1994, he was awarded a Pew Conservation Fellowship in recognition of his work in this field.

Dr. Colchester has acted as a consultant for many groups and organizations, such as the International Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development, the World Bank, and the InterAmerican Development Bank. Additionally, he is a Director of Down to Earth—the Campaign for Ecological Justice in Indonesia, as well as a member or chair of a number of other groups. He has published extensively in academic and NGO journals, and is the author and editor of numerous books including *‘The Struggle for Land and the Fate of the Forests’* (1993) with Larry Lohmann and *‘Guyana: Fragile Frontier—Loggers, Miners and Forest Peoples’* (1997), *Salvaging Nature: Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation* (1994 and 2003 second ed.). In 2001, he was awarded the Royal Anthropological Institute’s Lucy Mair Medal for Applied Anthropology. He is married with two children and lives in the Cotswolds in England.



Kevin M. Conrad is Special Envoy and Ambassador for Environment and Climate Change for Papua New Guinea, founding Director of the *Coalition for Rainforest Nations*, and Adj. Assoc. Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Mr. Conrad is focused on the development of proactive strategies toward climate stability, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Much of his time is now dedicated to the *Coalition for Rainforest Nations*, an intergovernmental initiative involving over 30 developing nations that seeks to catalyze new ecosystem service markets that better align market incentives and with sustainable outcomes related to tropical forests. In this role, Mr. Conrad is a lead negotiator for the G77 & China within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) addressing the development of a new asset class of tradable carbon emissions credits designed to value standing forests and reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries.

Mr. Conrad has corporate experience in multiple areas, and has worked for and advised both domestic and international companies related to global strategy, international investment, and strategic alliances. Mr. Conrad was raised in Papua New Guinea and has earned MBAs from both Columbia Business School and the London Business School, where he received the “Distinguished Service” award.



Thomas Enters is currently working as a RECOFTC associate. After receiving a Masters in Environmental Design from the University of Calgary (Canada), he started his professional career as a research fellow at the Forest Policy Institute of the University of Freiburg (Germany). He then earned a PhD from the Australian National University (Canberra) before joining the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in early 1994. After consulting for a variety of international organizations, he started a six-year assignment with the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) coordinating the EC-FAO Partnership Programme on Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management between 2000 and 2003 and facilitating activities under the National Forest Programme Facility (2003 to 2006).

Although most of his work has been at the environment-rural livelihood nexus, Dr. Enters has also worked on technical forest management issues such as reduced impact logging. Most recently he coordinated the first two “Executive Education – Forest Policy Short Course” held in Asia and the Pacific, in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Dr. Enters has been an avid writer although he never managed to write a book (but there is a vague plan). A recent assignment for RECOFTC enabled him to explore the contributions of forestry and forest to poverty alleviation, which required him to look closely at forces that drive developments in rural areas.



Modesto Ga-ab has served as the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator of the Besao Local Government Unit, Philippines, for the last 17 years. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Bank of Mountain Province and presently the National Information Officer for the League of Local Planning & Development Coordinators of the Philippines, Inc. He has also served as facilitator and coordinator of a number of programs and projects involving forestry and community-based development. He is currently acquiring a Masters in Public Administration.



Mary Hobley works as an independent consultant, providing support to government and non-government organizations in rural development approaches that link local-level change with macro-level enabling environments. She started her professional career in forestry, over 25 years ago, as a graduate of the University of Wales, Bangor and then subsequently studied for a doctorate at the Australian National University, Canberra working with the Nepal Australia Forestry Project. Subsequently, she continued her career at the Overseas Development Institute in London. Here, working with like-minded colleagues, she developed a broad-based approach to forestry in the rural and political landscape and shifted her focus from working to empower communities to supporting the development of appropriate governance arrangements for locally-based forest management. This entailed significant amounts of work with government forestry organizations in South and Southeast Asia, Africa and also in the UK and Ireland. She has worked in 17 countries and is currently working on approaches to reducing extreme poverty in South Asia. She is the author of several books, handbooks and papers on participatory approaches to rural development, institutional change in the forest sector and the linkages between poverty and forestry.



Norman Jiwan works in the research and development division of Sawit Watch, an Indonesian organization that fights adverse negative social and environmental impacts of oil palm plantation development. Mr. Jiwan also represents Sawit Watch at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Criteria Working Group (CWG), Verification Working Group (VWG), and Task Force on Smallholders (STF) International, and Smallholders Task Force Indonesia (STF Indonesia).

Hailing from the Mabah village of Dayak Kerambai tribe of West Kalimantan, Borneo Island, Mr. Jiwan was trained in pedagogy at the Tanjungpura University, Pontianak, West Kalimantan, and holds training certificates on topics including human rights and indigenous peoples in the international system, sustainable forest management certification, and sustainable palm oil certification. He has also worked with the Friends of the Earth Indonesia West Kalimantan chapter (WALHI Kalbar). Mr. Jiwan has been involved in collaborative research on land acquisition for oil palm plantation development in Indonesia, has co-written the book *Promised Land* and the booklet *Ghosts on Our Own Land*, among other publications, and has presented at a number of regional and international fora on environmental and social issues.



Yam Malla is the Executive Director of the Bangkok-based Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC). He has over 25 years of work experience in the fields of natural resources, environment, and rural development in Asia and Africa. Prior to joining RECOFTC in November 2002, he worked for the University of Reading (UK) as a Lecturer and Director of Masters Program for Participatory Forest Management and Extension, and before that, as a Rural Development Advisor to an Australian government supported community forestry project and Extension Specialist to a USAID funded resource conservation and utilization project in Nepal.

Dr. Malla is a Board member of the Rights and Resources Group, a Washington-based NGO and a member of the World Bank's External Advisory Group on Forests. He led RECOFTC to build a global coalition partnership of Rights and Resources Initiative with nine other organizations operating at global, regional, and national levels, and in forming a Civil Society Advisory Group of the International Tropical Timber Organization.

Dr. Malla holds a degree in Science (India), a Diploma in Forestry (UK), Masters in Agriculture Extension (UK) and PhD in Social Forestry (Australia).



Ken Piddington is currently attached to the Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand where he edited the first two issues of *Policy Quarterly* – a new periodical dedicated to the analysis of current issues in public policy. He is also a Board Member of the NZ Photovoltaic Association and works offshore as an adviser on environmental policy.

Now semi-retired, Mr. Piddington comes from a lengthy career in public policy at the national and international level. Trained as a linguist, he was recruited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1959 and worked on trade policy during the period leading up to Britain's membership of the (then) European Economic Community. After 1971, when the terms of Britain's entry were finally settled, he spent a period serving in the Pacific, during which he helped to establish the Forum Secretariat, the Forum Line and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program. Returning to Wellington, he switched his focus in the mid-1970s to the national policy agenda, particularly the links between the overall debate on economic development and emerging issues of environmental management.

Mr. Piddington became the first Director of the NZ Planning Council in 1977, served as Commissioner for the Environment from 1980-86 and went on to become the first Chief Executive of the Department of Conservation. A call from the World Bank in 1988 triggered a shift back to international work and a series of different challenges, such as the Directorship of the Bank's new Environment Department and the establishment of the Global Environment Facility in 1990.



Rowena Soriaga is currently the Regional Operations Manager for the Asia Forest Network, which supports the role of communities in the protection and sustainable use of Asia's forests. Previously, she worked as a coordinator at Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) and the Environmental Research Division of Manila Observatory. She was involved in a number of research projects and publications on community-based forest management, among other topics. Ms. Soriaga holds a Masters in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management and units in Masters in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines.



Frances Seymour is the Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) with headquarters in Bogor, Indonesia. Prior to CIFOR, Ms. Seymour founded and directed the Institutions and Governance Program at the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington, DC. At WRI, she guided the launch of The Access Initiative, a global civil society coalition promoting citizen involvement in environment-related decisions. She also authored and contributed to WRI publications critically examining the role of public and private international financial institutions in promoting sustainable development. She previously served as Director of Development Assistance Policy at World Wildlife Fund, and spent five years in Indonesia with the Ford Foundation, where her grant-making focused on community forestry and human rights.

Ms. Seymour has served on numerous boards and advisory committees, including those of World Neighbors, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development, and the African Centre for Technology Studies. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a masters degree from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, and a B.S. in Zoology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Kari Tuomela is working as Senior Advisor at Stora Enso, an integrated paper, packaging, and forest products company. In 2002-2008, Dr. Tuomela was responsible for Stora Enso's industrial plantation in Guangxi, China. In 2000-2002, he was working in Stora Enso Forest Consulting responsible for forest management. Dr. Tuomela has gained overseas working experience in Indonesia, Kenya, Turkey and Australia, and has been working in tropical forestry for 15 years. He received his PhD in Forestry from the University of Helsinki, Finland.

The Organizers

Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) is an international not-for-profit organization based in Bangkok, Thailand, that supports community forestry and community-based natural resource management. RECOFTC receives core funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental institutions, programs, projects, and networks, RECOFTC aims to enhance capacity at all levels and promote constructive multi-stakeholder dialogues and interactions to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forest resources.

Website: <http://www.recoftc.org>

Asia Forest Network (AFN) is dedicated to supporting the role of communities in protection and sustainable use of Asia's forests. AFN is comprised of a coalition of planners, policy makers, government foresters, scientists, researchers, and NGOs. Five strategies serve as guidepost in its development approach: Regional Exchanges, Country Working Groups, Development of Field Methods, Cross-Visits, and the Documentation of Case Studies. AFN shares community practices and developments in forest management, facilitates exchanges on creative relationships and strategies for enhancing the quality of local governance and collaborative agreements, and creates national and regional awareness of what communities, support organizations, local governments, and working groups are achieving in natural resource management.

Website: <http://www.asiaforestnetwork.org>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. Since its founding in 1945, it has focused special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people. FAO's activities comprise four main areas: putting information within reach; sharing policy expertise; providing a meeting place for nations; and bringing knowledge to the field.

Website: <http://www.fao.org>

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

The Department of Forestry (formerly Department for Forestry Development) was established in 1996. It is charged with the management and development of Vietnam's forest resources. The Department is coordinating the nation-wide implementation of the 5-million Hectares Reforestation Program (5MHRP). The Department is the national focal agency for several international agreements and organizations related to forests (e.g. UNFF, UNCCD, APFC, AFP, INBAR) and has managed numerous projects funded by different donors.

Website: <http://www.mard.gov.vn>

The Team

John Guernier (RECOFTC) is the focal point for this session as the main coordinator. Mark Sandiford and Yurdi Yasmi (RECOFTC) assisted with the conceptualization of this event with the support of Pedro Walpole and Rowena Soriaga (AFN), and Patrick Durst and Kenichi Shono (FAO). Additional logistical and financial support, as well as the design and distribution of relevant publications, were handled by Wallaya Pinprayoon, Erica Lee, Hannah Perkins, and Thippawan Maidee (RECOFTC).