

News on the Model Forest Approach



to Sustainable Forest Management

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Regional Inception Workshop

The inception workshop of the FAO/Government of Japan Regional Project on Assistance for the Implementation of the Model Forest Approach for Sustainable Forest Management in the Asia Pacific Region (Regional Model Forest Project or RMFP, GCP/RAS/177/JPN) was held in Lin'an, Zhejiang Province, China from 21-26 May 2000. The workshop was organised and sponsored by the RMFP in collaboration with the Chinese State Forest Administration (SFA), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Lin'an Forestry Bureau (LFB), Zhejiang Forestry College (ZFC), and the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS).

About 60 representatives from the four RMFP countries (China, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand), and various organisations (FAO, Forestry Agency of Japan (FAJ), IMFNS, CIFOR, INBAR, JIFPRO) participated in the workshop.

Welcoming addresses were given by Ms. Shen Suhua, International Cooperation Department, SFA of China, Prof. Zhang Shougong, Vice President, CAF, Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto, FAJ, Mr. Tang Hon Tat, RMFP, Mr. Cheng Weishan, Zhejiang Province Forestry Department and Mr. Zhang Jianghua, Mayor of Municipality of Lin'an, who also opened the Workshop.

17 presentations were made on the RMFP, how MFs are established, Chinese MF Network, various aspects of the Linan MF, status of MFs in the four Project countries, and MF experiences elsewhere.

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Regional workshop participants at "Big Tree" in Tianmu Nature Reserve

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2nd Regional MF Workshop

This will be held from (provisionally) 19 to 22 Feb 2001 in Lampang, Thailand. The 2nd Project Steering Committee meeting will be held on 23 Feb. 2001 in Chiangmai. Persons interested in the workshop should contact the CTA, GCP/RAS/177/JPN (address on back page of this newsletter).

QUOTE

*"A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
(Ancient saying)*

Project News

Work Plans

Letters of Agreement were executed between FAO/ RMFP and,

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines to provide support for the national MF inception workshop from 02-04 July in Cebu City.
- Forest Department, Myanmar to provide support for the national MF inception workshop on 25 July in Yangon.
- Royal Forest Department, Thailand to provide support for the finalisation of project proposal/management plan for Ngao MF in Oct./Nov., the national MF inception workshop from 22-24 Nov. and promotion of MF concept

among stakeholders. Further support will be provided by IMFNS for these activities (see IMFNS collaboration on page 7).

The revised work plans for the Ulot MF, Philippines, Linan MF, China and Pauk-Khaung MF, Myanmar have been under discussion with the respective national counterparts, and are being finalised. Project support for the implementation of these activities will then follow. Collaborative support from the IMFNS is also under discussion.

Training

As recommended by the 1st Project Steering Committee meeting, the RMFP is arranging the following training opportunities,

INBAR/CAF bamboo management and utilisation workshop, 04-18 Oct. Hangzhou, China

The objects of the workshop are to,

- introduce the technology and experience of China in the field of sustainable bamboo forest management;
- improve cooperation on the technology of small size bamboo enterprises and machinery;
- give an opportunity to exchange experience among China and other countries.

The RMFP is sponsoring the following participants to the workshop,

1. Mr. Smit Boonsermsuk, Forestry Officer, Royal Forest Dept., Thailand.
2. Mr. Sumai Maiman, Ft. Technician, Lampang Regional Ft.

Office, Thailand.

3. Ms. Alicia L. Castillo, Sr. Ft. Mngt. Specialist (SFMS), DENR, Philippines.
4. Mr. Ramon N. Calumbay, SFMS, DENR Region 8, Tacloban City, Philippines.
5. U Htay Aung, Staff Officer, Forest Department, Yangon, Myanmar.
6. U Kyi Lin, Range Officer, Forest Department, Yangon, Myanmar.

We would like to thank INBAR, especially Prof. Zhu Zhaohua, for the chance to participate in the workshop.

Nature based Tourism Workshop, 30 Oct. to 03 Nov. Sichuan, China

The objects of the workshop are to provide,

- park and reserve managers with a better understanding of nature tourism concepts and opportunities;
- managers with basic tools to evaluate their needs and resources, and decide appropriate tourism activities to undertake; and
- a forum for managers to share experiences and challenges, and foster collaboration.

Four participants from the Linan MF Project will be sponsored by the RMFP and USDA Forest Service to attend the workshop.

We would like to thank the Sichuan Provincial Forestry Department (SPFD) for the opportunity to participate in the workshop, and USDA Ft. service for their support.

JICA Training Course on SFM

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a training course on "*Practical Case Studies on Sustainable Forest Management*" from August to October 2000 at the Forest Training Institute, Forestry Agency, Tokyo, Japan. The course is designed to improve and develop participants' capabilities for forest resource monitoring by using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, and for practical national forest planning by using participatory methods through lectures, seminars, practice, and study tours.

The following persons from the respective national Model Forest Projects were selected by JICA to participate in the training course,

- Ms. Li Yuzhen*, Assist. Researcher, Research Inst. of Forestry, CAF, China.
U Mya Win, Staff Officer, Forest Dept., Ministry of Forest, Myanmar.
Mr. Surapong Chaweepak, Forest Officer, Ft. Research Office, Royal Forest Dept., Thailand.

Philippine MF National Inception Workshop

The Philippine National Inception Workshop on the Model Forest (MF) Approach to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was held in Cebu City, Philippines, from 02-04 July 2000. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) organized the workshop in collaboration with the Regional Model Forest Project (GCP/RAS/177/JPN). Attended by 35 participants, the workshop intended to create a common and deeper understanding of the MF concept and principles, and to initiate the development of mechanisms for effective stakeholders' participation in the planning and implementation of the MF Approach in the Philippines..

The Honorable Antonio H: Cerilles, Secretary of DENR, in opening the workshop, said "*SFM is new in the Philippines. It is the name of the game as far as conserving, protecting and managing the Philippine forests are concerned*". He supports the MF approach for SFM because it seeks participation of all stakeholders in the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the country's watersheds. The participants expressed their support to the initiative and the stakeholders welcomed its implementation in Samar Island. The workshop coined the acronym **WIN, PEOPLES DECIDE** that stand for the definition of a MF and its attributes.

Watershed based	Partnership	Development of capabilities
Integrated land Use	Experiences sharing	Experiential learning
Networking	Organizational strengthening	Complementation of resources.
	Process oriented	Information systems
	Linkage/networking	Documentation of best practices
	Enabling environment	Equity
	Sustainability,	

The MF concept focuses on the establishment of partnerships and promotes the active involvement of all stakeholders in the planning, use and management of the MF area.

The Philippine MF will be piloted in the Ulot Watershed located in Samar Island, covering 86,514 hectares in five municipalities of two provinces in the island, with a population of about 12,600. Samar Island is important for bio-diversity conservation and has potential for ecological tourism. A big portion of the area is inside the Samar Island Bio Diversity Project, which is implemented by the DENR with support from UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Ulot Watershed is a typical working area in the Philippines with a mix of problems (e.g. civil unrest, conflicting policy interests on logging, mining and bio-diversity conservation) and opportunities (e.g. presence of existing projects and stakeholders in the area). Owing to its long history and experience in participatory approaches, we should be able to share our knowledge and experience with other Project countries. The Philippine MF shall build on the Community-Based Forest Management Strategy in the country and existing community forestry and people-oriented forestry projects in the watersheds.

*From Adriano Nava Jr
Philippine National Project Counterpart*



National inception workshop participants

Continued from page 6

The workshop discussions indicated strong feelings from some stakeholders that they have been excluded from local level development activities, and they welcome the MF processes if it will effect their participation in the use and management of the forest and land resources. The BFMP response was very positive and accommodating perhaps one of the beneficial effects of the MF process?

Many participants at the workshop were cautiously supportive of the MF concept, conceding that this may be the only way to address the conflicts that forest and land use seem to always engender.

Thailand MF News

Model Forest Briefing

About 30 persons from the Royal Forest Department, Forestry Faculty of Kasetsart University, Regional Community Forestry Training Centre and various forestry projects attended a briefing on model forests on 06 July at the RFD. Peter Besseau of the IMFNS gave a presentation on model forests at the global level and IMFNS activities. Tang H.T. briefed the group

on the RMFP, and Jira Jintanugool gave a briefing on the Thai MF initiative.

After the meeting, Peter and Tang were accompanied by Jira and other RFD staff on a visit to the Ngao model forest in northern Thailand.

National C&I Seminar

A one day seminar on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management at the national level was organized by the Royal Forest Department (RFD) in Bangkok on 28 August. 131 participants from government and non government sectors participated. The morning was devoted to panel discussions on sustainable forest management. In the

afternoon the draft C&I for SFM in Thailand was presented and discussed. The proposed C&I, developed in line with ITTO and ASEAN guidelines, contained seven criteria and 65 indicators. Suggestions and recommendations from the participants are being considered for further action by the RFD. It is hoped that the process will be finalised by end-2000.

National MF Inception Workshop

Thailand is establishing its first model forest at the Ngao Demonstration Forest, Lampang Province. An inception national workshop will be organised by the RFD in collaboration with RMFP and IMFNS, in Lampang from 22-24 Nov. 2000. The main objectives are to provide better understanding of the MF approach, and to identify stakeholders and users of the forest resources in the MF area.

field trip and group discussion will be conducted to identify stakeholders and discuss their interests, partnerships and conflict management. About 60 persons, including representatives from government, non government and other stakeholders, are expected to participate.

From Jira Jintunugool, NPC Thailand

In addition to presentations from resource persons, a one day

Collaboration

The International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS) has been involved in the RMFP since its inception and continues to work with the Project and participating countries to assist in establishment of the new MF sites. In fiscal 2000/2001 it will provide \$CDN70,000 (about \$US50,000) as well as technical support.

Among commitments made are,

- China: \$7,000 to support the RMFP Inception Workshop. Additional support will be provided to develop a web site and participatory processes.
- Thailand: Two contracts have been signed with the Royal Forest Department to provide \$CDN16,000 to translate MF documents into Thai; support the National Inception Workshop (in Nov.), and the preparation of a project proposal for additional funding for the Ngao MF.

IMFNS has also provided a resource person, Peter Besseau, to the RMFP Inception workshop in Linan, China, in May, the Philippine National Inception Workshop in Cebu, in July, and for a briefing and consultation with the Royal Forest Department in Thailand in July.

The USDA Forest Service has agreed to provide USD10,000 for collaborative model forest activities in 2000/2001. The activities to be supported will be identified by the RMFP and the USDA Forest Service.

- networking should be developed not only among the stakeholders within each MF, but also with other national, regional and international initiatives and networks.

The Can Avid (since redesignated Ulot) Watershed Model Forest, on Samar Island in eastern Philippines, will build on the national Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) strategy and on existing community forestry and people oriented forestry projects in the watershed. The MF approach has received strong political support and fits in well with the CBFM strategy. It is part of the project site of the recently started Samar Island Biodiversity Project executed by the DENR and supported by the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Pauk-Khaung Model Forest is located in the country's natural teak forest (about 300 km north of Yangon). The main issues to be addressed include encroachment by shifting cultivation, migration and resettlement, excessive logging, firewood cutting and law enforcement. Cooperation has been established with JIFPRO. The MF approach will provide a good opportunity to test the application of the Community Forestry Instructions (including long-term leases to individuals and communities) and participatory forestry management approaches.

The Ngao Model Forest, at the headwaters of the Ngao River in Northern Thailand will address issues of encroachment and pressure for land by rural population; illegal logging; over extraction of NTFPs, a mainstay of local livelihoods, and conflicts between government officers and local villagers over the proper use of forest land. It will provide an opportunity to test the application of the proposed Community Forestry Act (currently before the National Parliament) to address the critical issue of land use for the local communities, and to facilitate the proper participation of local communities in the development and implementation of the MF.

It was recognised that differences exist among the countries, but some issues are common (e.g. tenure and encroachment). Progress has been made by Project countries in gaining a common understanding of the MF concept, and developing criteria for selecting appropriate sites for model forest development. The challenge is to collect and distil the relevant information and experiences in the four countries and elsewhere, and apply them in the field in an integrated and participatory manner.

Among the observations made were that,

- The MF concept is a flexible approach applicable to all forest types and socio economic conditions, and is a process rather than a project.
- There is no single model and no fixed activities. But, the framework is common, in which **partnership building** and **networking** are two core elements.
- Partnerships must be inclusive and trust must be built through collaborative activities. Although the main aim is SFM, other land uses are commonly included, calling for the inclusion of a variety of stakeholders with different values and expertise.
- Networking should be developed to facilitate exchange of

information and experience among different MF sites at national, regional and international level to enable individual sites to build on existing knowledge, and facilitate dissemination of information on new approaches and techniques. This should include not only the stakeholders within each MF and the four Project countries and collaborating agencies, but also other initiatives such as IMFNS, CIFOR, INBAR, ITTO, CATIE, and existing networks.

- Benefits must accrue to local communities, and should include economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Examples of success stories from the IMFNS were the economic diversification within the natural resource sector, developing local level indicators, forest certification, demonstration sites, conflict resolution, and long-range scenario planning.

Among the recommendations of the workshop were,

- The positive experiences in,
 - successfully diversifying from a declining timber-dependent economy to a growing NTFP-dependent economy, and in the development of model forest partnerships, in Linan, China, and
 - community-based forest management and the development and application of participatory processes in the Philippines,
 should be shared with other Project countries.
- The RMFP should assist on going efforts in the four project countries to achieve the objectives, attributes and main functions of the MF concept. More specifically the RMFP should assist Project countries in:
 - providing a common framework for MF establishment, and an enabling policy framework;
 - capacity building through regional and local level training opportunities.
 - developing an effective network to improve access to information, experience, expertise and other resources. identification of R&D needs and facilitate access to information; and
 - promoting socio-economic development through the introduction of income-generating activities.



Long Xu Valley Eco-Tourism Park, Lin'an, China

Project Profile Ulot Watershed Model Forest, Philippines

Country : Republic of the Philippines

Location : Samar Island, eastern Philippines. Area: 86,514 ha

Topography : Moderately to steeply sloping, with elevation of 100-400m asl.

Climate: Wet season Aug-Feb, "dry" season Mar-Apr. Temp. 24°-32°C. Humid.

Geology/Soils : Diorite and granitic intrusives, etc. to S. Siltstones, sandstones, etc to E. Clay to clay loam soils.

Vegetation: Closed lowland dipterocarp ft. (18%), open and semi closed secondary ft. (46%), brushland and cultivated areas (22%), private land (14%).

Population : 12,632 persons in 2,223 households and 23 forest edge communities. Population growth under 2%.

Land tenure : 86% state owned and 14% privately owned. S.I.F.R. proclaimed under PP No.744 in '96.

Infrastructure : Accessible by road through Paranas Taft Highway and new south coastal road. Interior reached by Ulot & Can-avid rivers, or hiking along foot trails. MF Project area under 5 municipalities and 2 provinces.

Per capita income : Av. monthly household income USD 65 to 99, mainly from farming/shifting cultivation.

Stakeholders : DENR & other Govt. Depts, NGOs, forest edge and other communities, UNDP/GEF SIBP staff.

Forest Resources : 15,300 ha protected closed lowland dipterocarp ft.; 39,500 ha open & semi-closed secondary ft.; 18,700 ha brushland & cultivated areas (buffer zone); 13,014 ha private land. S.I. is one of 18 Centres of Plant Diversity

and Endemism in country, with 885 flowering plant spp., (406 endemic), 197 bird spp., 39 mammal spp., 25 reptile spp., 12 amphibian spp. recorded.

Water resources : Third largest of 11 major watershed areas on Samar island. One major river (Ulot/Can-avid) system with outlet in eastern S.I.

Tourism resources : Nature based attractions. Two natural spring baths are being developed ecotourism.

Other projects : 360,000 ha SIFR is site of 8 year DENR/UNDP/GEF S.I. Biodiversity Project (SIBP). 2 DENR, 1 NGO community forestry projects; 5 integrated social forestry projects; 1 DENR-SIBP-NGO forest use/food security study; Philippine eagle sanctuary.

Main problems : Civil unrest; conflicting policy interests in logging, mining, biodiversity conservation; fragmented implementation of existing projects; lack of funds to address these issues, institutionalise best practices, and improve SFM guidelines & policies.

MF priority activities

- Dissemination of MF concept and approach to all stakeholders.
- Preparation and implementation of integrated land use plan. "Integration" of POF and other projects.
- Development/strengthening of partnerships and participatory processes.
- SFM best practices demo/documentation.
- Capacity building & institutional strengthening.

Project Profile - Ngao Model Forest, Thailand

Country : Thailand

Location : At watershed of Ngao River, Lampang Province, about 600 km north of Bangkok..

Area : 175,159 ha

Topography : Mountainous with intercepting plains and valleys. Elevation 200-1,300 m asl.

Climate: SW and NE monsoons. Av.temp. 25.6°C; monthly av. 19.3°C in Dec. and 30.2°C in Apr. Annual aver. rainfall 1,117.3mm.

Geology/Soils : Recent alluvial and old alluvial terraces, from original limestone and sandstone.

Vegetation : Evergreen (Anisoptera, dipterocarp spp, 2.4% of area), mixed deciduous (*Tectona grandis*, *Xylia kerrii*, *Dalbergia ovata*, 44.5%), dry dipterocarp ft. (dipterocarp spp., 13.8%), teak ptns (4.0%), non forest (34%, with 28% shifting cultivation).

Population : About 48,000 persons in 5,170 households and 62 villages. Local people mostly in lowland area along main rivers; hill tribal groups scattered around mountainous area.

Land tenure : About 80% of area State-owned, 20% privately owned. 40% of area under 2 national parks.

Infrastructure : Traversed by national highway no. 1. and provincial highway no. 103.

Per capita income for farmers : Mainly from agric. NTFP-gathering is an important subsistence activity. Recent survey showed 28% with savings; 59% in debt.

Stakeholders : Includes Govt. (forestry and non-forestry sectors), NGOs, land owners, local villagers, forest dependents

and other resource users.

Forest resource : Mixed deciduous ft (77,894ha) dry dipterocarp ft (24,191ha) and teak ptns (7,052ha). 1987 survey estimated over 61 bird spp. of 31 families. Serow, bears, wild pigs, wild cats, barking deer, civets, monkeys, squirrels reported by villagers.

Water resource: Includes three main rivers all draining into Mae Yom, the main river in N.Thailand.

Tourism resource : Limestone caves, ancient paintings on limestone walls, old teak trees and plantations.

Other projects : ITTO MF/SFM & SFM monitoring projects. RFD watershed rehabilitation, teak improvement & ptns., national park, arboretum, elephant care center, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, community forestry center, etc.

Main problems : Encroachment, illegal logging, over extraction of NTFPs, conflicts between forest managers and local villagers.

MF priority activities

- Dissemination of MF concept and approach, and SFM to all stakeholders.
- Preparation and implementation of MF management plan and 5-year working plan.
- Development and strengthening of partnerships and participatory processes.
- Demonstration and documentation of sustainable livelihoods and income generating activities, and SFM "best practices".
- Capacity building & institutional strengthening.