

News on the Model Forest Approach



to Sustainable Forest Management

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Lin'an MF Local Partners' Meeting

The Lin'an MF local partners' meeting was held from 5-6 November 2000 in Lin'an City, Zhejiang Province, to discuss the establishment of the Lin'an Model Forest Partnership Committee. This meeting was co-sponsored by the Canadian Civil Society Program and Regional Model Forest Project (RMFP), and organised jointly by the Lin'an Forestry Bureau and China Model Forest Network Secretariat.

A total of 42 national and international participants, including representatives from INBAR, RMFP, USDA Forest Service, Chinese Academy of Forestry, College of Rural Development, Chinese Agriculture University, Sichuan Province, Zhejiang Province and local stakeholders.

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The issues discussed included the following; Participatory approaches and practices; Function of partnership committee; Identification of stakeholders. Rights and responsibility of partners; Problems and opportunities in forest management in Lin'an; How to encourage local people to participate in decision-making in forest management; How to form the partnership committee and the constitution of the partnership committee.

Dr. Jiang Chunqian, from Chinese Academy of Forestry, made a presentation on the progress of the Chinese Model Forest Project. Mr. Tang Hon Tat, RMFP CTA, gave a presentation on the status of the RMFP. Mr. Gary Man of the USDA Forest Service gave a presentation on some perspectives of forestry in the USA and linkages to forestry in China.

Mr. Qiu Guojun, from College of Rural Development, Chinese Agriculture University, gave a presentation on "the theory and practice of participatory forestry". He focused on the principles, approaches, application of field and case studies of participatory methods. An example of the application of

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QUOTE

"I have noticed that folks are generally about as happy as they make up their minds to be."
(Abraham Lincoln)



Participants at Lin'an local partners meeting

4th International Model Forests Workshop

The 4th International Workshop on Model Forests for Field-level Application of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) (Yamanashi Workshop) was held from 23-27 October 2000, in Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan. The five-day event was co-hosted by the Forestry Agency of Japan and the Yamanashi Prefectural Government, with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS). The Yamanashi Workshop was the fourth and the final in a series of four workshops. Over 100 representatives from 18 countries, 9 international and overseas organizations and NGOs, and a large number of Japanese organizations participated in the Yamanashi Workshop with the specific theme—*Feedback from field-level activities to policy levels*.

The Workshop aimed to develop and propose ways to feedback the results of model forests and other field-based SFM activities to the national land-use policy planning process.

To brainstorm and stimulate discussion, keynote addresses and case studies from various countries/organizations including Canada, Japan, Myanmar, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Kalahan Educational Foundation, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Indonesia and were presented. A one-day field trip to Sutama-cho and Shirane-cho offered workshop participants an opportunity to observe the Yamanashi Prefecture's own SFM initiatives as real examples.

With the inputs obtained from the presentations and field trip, and the experiences in their own countries, workshop participants were divided into three groups to discuss how to feedback the results of model forest or field-level activities to policy levels. This theme had been selected based on the achievements made at the previous three workshops. After intensive group discussions, they summarized their findings on feedback mechanisms, constraints to feedback, solutions to overcome the constraints, and roles that model forests are expected to play in feeding back the results of field-level activities to policy levels. Some of the findings of the working group discussions included:

- a) Possible feedback mechanisms from the field-level to the policy level include participation in existing policy development processes, consultation and reporting, consensus building, pilot and demonstration projects, proposals based on scientifically sound information, targeted communication, the use of intermediaries and outside pressures.
- b) To feed back the results of model forest projects to the policy level, the projects need to demonstrate their SFM activities, produce credible outputs, be relevant to policy makers and stakeholders, take calculated risks, develop a long-term consistent vision, build local capacity, and effectively communicate with policy makers.

Their conclusions are described in more detail in the *Synthesis of Conclusions and Suggestions Arising from the Yamanashi Workshop* in the proceedings of the workshop.

Participants also acknowledged the Yamanashi Prefecture's initiatives, the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Project that monitors conditions of forests applying criteria and indicators for SFM and the Central Base for Timber Supply, as instructive case studies of implementing field-level SFM activities. They congratulated the Yamanashi Prefectural Government for its proactive role in developing these two projects.

During the workshop, participants also summarized essential findings throughout the entire workshop series in applying the model forest approach for promoting SFM. They included:

- a) A successful model forest partnership recognizes that all stakeholders should have a right to participate in or be represented in the partnership. The model forest partnership functions effectively on the basis of transparency and mutual trust, and through efforts aimed at consensus on the goal of SFM.
- b) The role of model forest is to demonstrate, investigate, develop, and apply innovative approaches to sustainable forest management at an operational level and to share the experiences gained through demonstration and networking.

These findings were compiled with other essential findings on the theme of Yamanashi Workshop as the *Workshop Series Findings* or so-called *Yamanashi Message*, which is also included in the proceedings.

With this *Yamanashi Message*, the series of International Workshops on Model Forests for Field-Level Application of Sustainable Forest Management, which started in 1998, was concluded. The organizers of this workshop series sincerely hope that experiences obtained through this series will contribute to further promoting SFM at the field-level in the participants' respective countries and regions.

*By: Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto
Deputy Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office
Forestry Agency of Japan*



Briefing on C&I at forest ecosystem monitoring project, Shiokawa watershed, Yamanashi.

Thailand MF National Inception Workshop

Thailand's National Inception Workshop on Model Forests (MF) was held in Lampang Province, from 22-24 November 2000. The Royal Forest Department (RFD) organized the workshop in collaboration with RMFP (GCP/RAS/177/JPN) and IMFNS. About 50 persons from RFD and other local government agencies, local stakeholders, resource persons, NGOs and RMFP participated in the workshop.

The workshop aimed to provide a better understanding of MF concepts and approaches to the participants, and to brainstorm the identification of stakeholders and partnership development for Ngao Model Forest. The first day was devoted to a number of presentations by RMFP CTA (Mr. Tang Hon Tat) and other resource persons, and two panel discussions. The second day was for field visits to some prospective MF partners (Lampang Medicinal Plants Conservation Assembly, Tam Phathai National Park, Ngao Demonstration Forest and Bamboo Factory). The third and the last day was for group discussion. Among the observations and recommendations made were:

- The MF concept is a flexible approach applicable not only to forest management, but also to the management of other natural resources in Thailand.
- Ngao demonstration forest is a very suitable site for the first model forest of Thailand.
- Stakeholders in Ngao MF may be identified as direct stakeholders or indirect stakeholders (government agencies) that will work together as partners.
- Some constraints may be encountered due to the delay of the Community Forestry Act enactment and the Kingdom slowly recovering from the economic crisis.
- Some forest laws and regulations should be reviewed and revised to be more appropriate or up-to-date.
- Public awareness and capacity building are seen to be very

necessary activities to be supported by RMFP and other international agencies.

- Bamboo and medicinal plants have great potential for economic diversification in Ngao, and more research and development need to be undertaken.
- Development of ecotourism in Tam Phathai National Park and some other potentially attractive areas, such as hill tribe communities, are among the priorities to be undertaken.
- The Partnership committee for Ngao Model Forest should be formed as soon as possible.

*By Jira Jintanugool
RFD, Thailand.*



Briefing at Tham Phatai National Park

Socio-Economic Assessment of Ngao Demonstration (Model) Forest

The purpose of this study was to investigate the socio-economic conditions, exploitation of forest resources, and attitudes towards forest officers and forest management activities of the local people situated in the Ngao Demonstration Forest, Ngao District, Lampang Province. The investigations were made using a questionnaire as a tool to sample and collect data from 1033 households in 31 villages situated in and around the Demonstration Forest. The findings were to be used to formulate the work plan for establishment of a Model Forest for Sustainable Forest Management at Ngao Demonstration Forest.

The results showed that the main occupations of the local people in the demonstration forest area are in agriculture and casual labor. Their income is usually quite low due to low agricultural product prices, unemployment and lack of agricultural land. They are aware of the importance of the forest, and understand forestry law and regulations. However, activities such as forest encroachment, wildlife hunting and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collection still go on illegally, creating problems at the Ngao Demonstration Forest. This is because the local people's lifestyle relies on natural forest resources, including land, wood, wildlife and other products.

The estimated consumption of forest resources of the local people in the Ngao demonstration forest are 24,645 cu.m/year of logs and sawn wood for construction; 8,457 cu.m/year of fuel wood; 33,827 kg/year of charcoal; 9,665 wild animals/year; 362,430 cu.m/year of bamboo; 805,803 kg/year of bamboo shoots; 1,208 meters/year of rattan; 68,802 kg/year of wild mushroom; 44,700 kg/year of wild vegetables; 6,041 kg/year of wild fruits; 2,416 kg/year of medicinal plants; 6,041 kg/year of edible insects; 10,873 kg/year of fishes; 1,208 hives/year of honey; 1,208 kg/year of lac; and 121 kg/year of resin.

However, over-exploitation of the forest resources, due to population increase and inappropriate use, with little or no concept of conservation, will result in deterioration of the forest as well as drastic decreases in both quality and quantity of wildlife and NTFPs. Therefore, if there is no adjustment or improvement to the use and management of the forest resources, by applying sustainable yield concepts, the quantity and quality of the forest resources will continue to decline, and the local communities will soon face shortages of wood and other forest products.

*By: Ms. Phusin Ketanond
Forest Officer, Royal Forest Department,
Thailand*

Ngao Model Forest Plan

The Royal Forest Department of Thailand recently completed the preparation of the initial proposal and work plan for the Ngao Model Forest. Mr. Jira Jintanugool and Ms. Phusin Ketanond from the Royal Thai Forest Department led the team, which included Dr. Sompetch Mungkorndin a national consultant and Mr. Richard Baerg an international consultant.

The global objective of the Ngao MF is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in Thailand while deriving from these resources their full economic potential so as to improve the living conditions for rural families and communities. At the local level the objective is to support the development of new approaches to sustainable forest management by addressing important issues that are facing the Kingdom of Thailand. These issues include encroachment of forest lands, illegal logging, over exploitation of non-timber forest products and resolving conflicts in resource use and allocation between forest managers and local villages.



Factory producing bamboo chopsticks, skewers and charcoal in Ngao District, Lampang Province

The project strategy is to encourage the concerted involvement of various interested groups, locally and nationally, in the conservation and management of natural resources, with a view to using these resources for productive purposes, while ensuring protection of the environment and the conservation of bio-diversity, and meeting the needs of the local communities.

Partnership is a key of the Model Forest concept. The Ngao Model Forest partnership comprises of 25 organizations and

institutions, which collectively represent all of the main land uses and land users in the project area.

The Model Forest consists of seven programs and a series of related activities. The seven programs are:

- 1) Development of a Comprehensive Data Base,
- 2) Sustainable Forest Management,
- 3) Diversification of Economic Activity,
- 4) Applied Research,
- 5) Training, Extension, Public Awareness,
- 6) Networking and Technology Transfer, and
- 7) Management and Administration.

A National Model Forest workshop was convened from 22-24 November 2000. This workshop was attended by over 50 people representing the various partner organizations and institutions. The initial work plan was presented and a process to engage the partnership in its refinement and implementation was launched.

The Ngao MF proposal will now be submitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization for their review and approval. It is hoped that funding will be secured when the ITTO Council next meets in May 2001. In the meantime the partners will continue to work on the implementation of the wide range of activities identified in the proposal.

The Royal Forest Department would like to thank all of those organizations that have been involved and provided support to the Ngao MF. These include the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the Government of Japan and the International Model Forest Network Secretariat.

The Ngao Model Forest looks forward to participating with other model forests as an active member in the International and Asia Regional Model Forest Networks. For more information on the Ngao Model Forest you may contact Ms. Phusin Ketanond, Forest Officer, Forest Research Office, Royal Forest Department, 61 Phaholyothin Rd., Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

By:

Mr. Jira Jintanugool, RFD, Thailand

Ms. Phusin Ketanond, RFD, Thailand

Mr. Richard Baerg, Consultant, Canada

2nd RMFP Steering Committee Meeting & Regional Model Forest Workshop

The 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Model Forest Project (RMFP, GCP/RAS/177/JPN) will be held on 23 February 2001 in Chiangmai, Thailand. The meeting will be preceded by a regional model forest workshop from 19-22 February 2001 in Lampang (about one hour's drive from Chiangmai). The theme of the workshop will be "*Participatory Processes – Developing Partnerships That Work*". The workshop will be organised and sponsored by the RMFP, Royal Forest Department, Thailand and International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS). About 50-60 participants from the four Project countries (China, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand) and various international and regional agencies are expected to attend the workshop. *For more information, please contact the Chief Technical Adviser, RMFP (address at back page of this newsletter).*

Philippine MF Stakeholders' Workshop

Following its official launching at a National Inception Model Forest Workshop in Cebu from July 2-4, 2000, the Philippine Ulot Watershed Model Forest Project conducted its "Stakeholders' Consultative Planning and Commitment Building Workshop" from 13-15 November 2000 in Tacloban City, Philippines. The workshop aimed to come up with an action plan for the MF project with the active involvement of the stakeholders, and gain their commitment to pursue this plan. About 70 stakeholders of the Ulot Watershed participated in the workshop, which was sponsored by the Regional Model Forest Project (RMFP), represented by Tang Hon Tat, CTA and Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Regional Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific.



Group discussion at stakeholders' workshop, Tacloban

Highlights of the National Inception Workshop in Cebu and an update on the Regional Model Forest Project were presented to keep the participants abreast of the development in the project.

Five (5) People's Organizations (POs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) presented their project profiles, activities, problems/issues and expectations, and other concerns. The major problems/issues and expectations raised during the presentations were socio-economic, technical, organizational and political. The participants translated them into an action plan that they hope to pursue until December 2001. In order of priority, the activities identified were,

- strengthening of IEC (information, education and communications),
- capability building,
- upliftment of socio-economic conditions,
- setting-up of management mechanism,
- preparation of comprehensive land use plan, and
- enhancement of policy environment and infrastructure support.

The stakeholders also envisioned that the Ulot Watershed MF will have improved quality of water in Ulot river, increased stock of fish and wildlife species in the area, sustainable livelihood activities, improved socio-economic condition of the people, developed partnership among stakeholders and

improved infrastructure support in the area.

A field visit was conducted to some of the existing community-based forest management (CBFM) projects in the MF area. The participants visited a rattan furniture shop owned by a federation where 58 of its members had been trained in rattan furniture-making. The federation is now seeking assistance for the marketing of their products aside from the marketing assistance already provided by DTI (Department of Trade and Industry). The raw materials are being gathered from their CBFM area. Another project visited is engaged in rattan plantation establishment, reforestation, timber stand improvement and horticulture with ginger production as its source of livelihood.

The workshop culminated with a commitment building exercise where the participants were encouraged to join in a symbolic lighting of candles accompanied by their expression of commitment to the project. They also executed a Resolution signifying their commitment to fully support and actively participate in the implementation of the MF project.

Induction of PO Federation Officers

Following the workshop proper, officers of the six (6) Provincial Federations of People's Organizations (POs) in Eastern Visayas Region were inducted into office by Assistant Secretary Adriano B. Nava, Jr., National Counterpart of the Regional Model Forest Project. Induction of Officers of the Regional Federation will soon follow. It is hoped that the Federation will further strengthen the partnership among the stakeholders in the region that is indispensable in the implementation of the Model Forest Project.

By:

Mr. Adriano B. Nava Jr.
DENR, Philippines



A trainer (on the left) from local cooperating organization shows a member of Tenani Community Organization how to make rattan furniture at Ulot MF

2nd Paukhaung MF Partnership Group Meeting

The 2nd Paukhaung Model Forest Partnership Group Meeting was held at the Forest Department, Paukhaung Township, Myanmar on 29 January 2001. The meeting was organized by the Model Forest Project and Forest Department, Paukhaung Township, with the support of the RMFP (GCP/RAS/177/JPN). Among the 30 participants present were the Chairman of the Paukhaung Peace and Development Council and Chairman of the Partnership Group, the National Project Counterpart (NPC, Prof. Kyaw Htun), the members of the Partnership Group and officials from various Government Departments.



Participants at 2nd local partners meeting

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the Partnership Group highlighted three priorities of the MF Partnership Group, i.e. to strengthen and enhance the capacity of the Partnership Group, to fully support the implementation of model forest activities and successfully implement the Paukhaung model forest project and to successfully implement sustainable forest management (SFM) through the conservation and effective utilization of the forest resources in Paukhaung Township.

The NPC briefed the members on the status of implementation of the activities in the model forest area and explained the important role of the model forest project for the development of the local people. Two officials from the Forest Department of Paukhaung Township, U Htay Aung and U Kyi Lin, who were sponsored by the RMFP to attend an *International Training Workshop on Sustainable Bamboo Management and Processing Techniques for Small-size Bamboo Enterprises* from 04-16 October 2000, in Hangzhou, China, and U Mya Win, Staff Officer, who attended a training course on “*Practical Case Studies on Sustainable Forest Management*” from August 14 to November 4, 2000, in Japan provided briefings on their training experiences. Afterwards, the meeting discussed matters relating to the enhancement of the socio-economic status of the local communities in Paukhaung Township.

The meeting adopted the following recommendations:

1. To strengthen the Partnership Group and actively promote the participation of all stakeholders including the private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations.
2. To persuade potential stakeholders living in the downstream areas of the model forest project to participate in MF activities.
3. To coordinate the support from JIFPRO and RMFP (GCP/RAS/177/JPN).
4. To prioritize integrated land use in the area.
5. To promote effective utilization of forest products and forest conservation.
6. To increase efforts to improve the understanding and practice by local people living in the watershed areas of community forestry and agroforestry; and
7. To promote the understanding of the Forest Policy, Forest Law and Rule among the local populace.

*By Prof. Kyaw Htun
National MF Project Counterpart,
Myanmar*

JIFPRO Model Forest Activities in Myanmar

The *Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center (JIFPRO)* is a non-profit, non-governmental foundation (NGO) in Japan that conducts international cooperation aimed at contributing to environmental improvement, which would include physical as well as social aspects, by promoting forestry activities.

Since February 1999, JIFPRO has been cooperating with the Forest Department of Myanmar on a project entitled *A Model Forest Activity Promotion Project* in Pauk Khaung Township, Pyay District, Bogo Division, to enhance model forest activities in the area. The Pauk Khaung model forest project site was also selected for assistance from the FAO/Government of Japan Regional Model Forest Project (GCP/RAS/177/JPN). (JIFPRO also has been cooperating with the Vietnam Forestry University through a project entitled *Promoting A Model Forest Activity In Luong Son and Kim Boi Districts of Hoa Binh Province*. This project covers an area of 105,535ha and started at the same time as the one in Myanmar.)

The Pauk Khaung model forest project area is 196,760 ha, but the project is focusing its activities on an area of 129,965 ha, which includes the watersheds of two dams (North Nawin and South Nawin dams). The longer term objective of the project is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management in the country through promoting and implementing model forest activities. The immediate objectives are to develop an appropriate system of participation in forest management by local people and community, and all the partners; and to nurture competent personnel to plan and carry out the model forest activities. The duration of the project is from February 1999 to March 2003.

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International Eco-Tourism Workshop

A workshop on Ecotourism Planning and Management was held in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, China from Oct.30 - Nov.2, 2000. More than 80 participants, including representatives of IUCN, USDA Forest Service, Japanese Eco-tourism Society and many internal participants attended the workshop. Four participants from Lin'an Model Forest Project were supported by RMFP and USDA Forest Service to attend the workshop.

Mr.Cao Zhenqi, Director General, Forestry Department of Sichuan Province and Mr.Cui Zhiwei, Deputy Director of Sichuan Tourism Bureau, introduced the basic situation of ecotourism resources, exploitation and management in Sichuan Province. The consul general of the USA Consulate General in Sichuan Province considered that the Chinese people have recognized the importance of environmental protection in ecotourism, and are faced with the challenge of environmental protection. The government of USA can help the environmental protection action and nature tourism development in China through provision of technology and funds.

Mr. Gary Man of USDA Forest Service provided a presentation on the development of ecotourism in the Asia-Pacific region between 1994 and 1997. It is estimated that 7% of the total international tourism revenues are for Nature-based tourism (NBT). China accounts for 20.9% of the tourism receipts in Asia-Pacific region. Tourism is expected to continue growing as the people's incomes and inter-regional travel increase. There are many challenges for NBT in China, such as balancing forest use (utilization and preservation), need for increased research, funding, growth in international and domestic visitations, change in visitor markets, continued or increased competition, pressure to use natural areas for other activities.

Mr. Steve Edwards of IUCN considered that ecotourism specifically is responsible for travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of local people, i.e. it depends on natural resources as the primary attraction. The elements of NBT include natural settings/ attractions, activities, facilities, operations and management, philosophy and ethics, benefits, and so on in its action, which should be researched. He suggested that NBT should provide or support nature conservation, economic benefits, education and awareness, social and cultural conservation, and community development.

Other participants expressed their opinions about NBT planning and management. Darwin F. Flores of Conservation International suggested that nature tourism is a business, that the manager of nature tourism should know the target market, adapt/develop the tourism product, develop the organization, and know where and how to get financing. Mr. Dale Hom of the USDA Forest Service said that the manager should give good tourism conditions and services for tourists, that the way by which tourists enter nature tourism regions should be considered in nature tourism planning. The workshop also discussed the benefits, natural resources and environmental

protection, economic evaluation, etc, in nature tourism planning and management.

Some participants felt that the Wolong Nature Reserve, home of the Giant Panda, is a special natural resource and environment, endowed with a nice climate, fresh air, and little noise or pollution, and should be exploited immediately for ecotourism. Other participants disagreed with exploiting the Wolong Nature Reserve for nature tourism. They feel that the Giant Panda, including the special natural resource and environment, is one of the most important nature reserves around the world, and should not be exploited for nature tourism.

A wonderful natural resource and environment is a fundamental condition for nature tourism planning, management and development. The development of NBT is beneficial to the health of human beings and local economy. Through good planning and management, nature-based tourism can provide meaningful and enjoyable experiences, while at the same time help to maintain and conserve our limited natural resources.

*By: Mr. Lou Tao, Xia Yuyun,
Zhou Zhonghui, Wei Xinliang
Lin'an Model Forest Partners*



Ecotourism Park at Jai Kain Village, Lin'an County

Bamboo Management and Processing Workshop

The *International Training Workshop on Sustainable Bamboo Management and Processing Techniques for Small-size Bamboo Enterprises* was conducted from 04-16 October 2000, in Hangzhou, China, by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), China and International Farm Forestry Training Center (INFORTRACE), and with the support of the Forestry Bureaus of Lin'an, Anji, Deqing, Fenghua and Xinchang of Zhejiang Province.

The objectives of the workshop were to introduce the technology and experience of China in the field of sustainable bamboo forest management; improve cooperation on technology for small-size bamboo enterprises and bamboo machinery; and provide an opportunity for China and the other countries to communicate and exchange experiences. About fifty (50) representatives from government, academic and private sectors from 21 countries participated in the workshop. Two (2) participants each from the model forest projects in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Thailand were sponsored by the Regional Model Forest Project (GCP/RAS/177/JPN) to the workshop.

The workshop consisted of a combination of classroom presentations and intensive field visits. 14 participants from 10 nations made presentations on their bamboo sector during the workshop. Other presentations were made on China's development strategy for the bamboo resource (extent, biodiversity, silviculture and sustainable management) and industry (including bamboo-based boards, bamboo shoots; bamboo-based food containers, handicrafts, etc; processing equipment and related machinery), existing problems and countermeasures; field-level application of sustainable forest development; and agricultural and rural development.

In order to cover all aspects of bamboo utilization, processing and sustainable cultivation, visits were made over 7 days to 18 different types of enterprises, including household, village, county, as well as large scale state-operated enterprises. The products of these enterprises ranged from food (fresh and dried bamboo shoots), toothpicks, game sticks, fans, chopsticks to bamboo veneer and flooring. Some utilized all the parts of the bamboo, as well as the waste materials from processing. The participants also visited 3 high-yielding, high-efficiency and sustainably-managed bamboo plantations, and the Anji Bamboo Garden, Bamboo Museum and bamboo handicraft market. The participants had been requested to bring some "typical" bamboo products from their own country to donate to the new China Bamboo Museum in Anji County. More than 200 sets of bamboo products were donated by the participants. Each contributor received a letter of gratitude from the Head of the People's Government of Anji County and a certificate from the Preparation Committee of the Museum.

The Workshop provided participants with an overview of China's bamboo development, including the social-environmental-economic impacts. Of particular interest were the importance of government policies to bamboo industry development, the role of government/rural enterprises/farmers

linkages in the development of the bamboo industries and in increasing the income of farmers, the rapid growth, relatively short maturity period, and many and varied uses of bamboo, the technologies used in bamboo-processing, and the necessity for co-operation in exchange of experiences, technical knowledge, training, germplasm, research and expertise.



Intensive bamboo farming

The concepts, theories, experiences and techniques learned in the workshop have strong relevance and application to many developing countries, particularly to community-based and watershed programs and projects. The development of bamboo resources can also help efforts to conserve the greatly depleting forest resources in many countries.

The participants from Philippines have recommended, among other things, that consideration be given in the Ulot Watershed model forest, and other areas to (1) Establishment of bamboo eco-destination sites; (2) Setting-up of demonstration sites for high-yield and high quality bamboo-based plantations, including model sites for bamboo processing; (3) Close coordination among forestry, research and academic sectors in the provision of technical services and harnessing science and technology for small-size bamboo enterprises; and (4) Collaboration with INBAR and other international counterparts in slope stabilization activities and provision of technical and livelihood training courses to farmers, cooperatives and other stakeholders in the uplands.

The participants from Myanmar have recommended that: Myanmar should realize the potential of its abundant bamboo resources through adopting an appropriate policy framework in respect of the utilization of the bamboo resource and promotion of the bamboo industry; the State should support

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JICA Training Course on Practical Case Studies on Sustainable Forest Management

Fourteen (14) participants from 12 countries, including one each from the model forest projects in China (Ms. Li Yuzhen), Myanmar (U Mya Win) and Thailand (Mr. Suraphong Chaweepak), took part in a training course on “*Practical case studies on Sustainable Forest Management*” from August 14 to November 4, 2000, organised and sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The course consisted of lectures, practical work, study tours and an international workshop, and covered forestry in Japan and in the participating countries (through country report presentations), concept of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Criteria and Indicators (C&I) to assess the trend or status of forest management at national and forest management unit levels, establishment of model forests, application of Remote Sensing (RS)/Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies for forest resource assessment and planning, extension activities to achieve stakeholders’ participation in forest management, and linking local lessons to policy development. Field visits included a visit to the Hayami Forest, the sole certified (under the FSC scheme) forest in Japan. All participants also attended the 4th International Workshop on Model Forests for Field-level Application of SFM from 23-27 October at Yamanashi Prefecture.

Among the observations made from the course were;

- There is greater awareness all over the world of the importance of sustainable forest management. But, how to specify “*sustainability*” or “*sustainable forest management*” and how to measure the degree of achievement towards these goals, are very difficult questions to answer. Japan has developed some C&I for SFM and procedures to monitor them. We can learn some of these methods from them.
- Public participation is very important to the attainment of SFM, and extension activities are necessary to create or increase public awareness and promote greater public participation. Japanese people have high environmental awareness and actively participate in environmental protection activities. Government and enterprise provide

information, services and financial support to them. In our Model Forest Projects, we should provide more detailed information and proper guidance to partnership committees, and encourage and provide opportunities to farmers around the model forest area to participate in the planning and use of the forests.

- Japan has a very good forest training system for local forest officers and workers. The Forest Training Institute, which was established in 1958, provides training courses in fields ranging from policy to techniques, which run from 1 week to 1 year. Every year, about 2,000 persons receive training there, although there are only 8,000 forest workers all over the country. They are kept very informed and up-to-date of the trends in forest research and trained to use new techniques or technology. We should pay more attention to training and capability building for our project staff.

The course provided an excellent opportunity for participants to exchange views and ideas with their counterparts from other countries concerning the management of forest resources on a sustainable basis. We studied the forest policies exercised in other countries and also learned of the constraints and opportunities in the application of S.F.M practices. The trainees attending the course have been provided with considerable knowledge and experiences of forest management practices, including establishment of Model Forests, and should try to apply the relevant parts after their return home. They were provided with useful course materials and literature that may otherwise have been unavailable or inaccessible to many countries.

The participants would like to thank the Forestry Agency of Japan and JICA for organizing this training course very successfully and for their financial support.

Compiled from reports by Ms. Li Yuzhen, China Model Forest Secretariat, U Mya Win, Forest Department, Myanmar and Mr. Suraphong Chaweepak, Royal Forest Department, Thailand.

National Parks/Forest Service as Carbon Sinks for Industry?

To all,

Despite obvious criticisms/concerns by the Greens on both sides of the Tasman, the email below (Ed. – not included here) contains seeds of an idea which could be looked into in New Zealand ie. using carbon credits to provide a funding mechanism for the restoration of indigenous forest ecosystems and possibly, the establishment of indigenous timber plantations, within our productive/modified landscape. The *crucial element* which would be necessary in developing this idea and, it seems, the one which was fundamentally absent from the process in Australia, *is a concerted effort to seek and facilitate the involvement and participation of all stakeholders/interested individuals/affected parties from the very outset.*

As with all these sorts of things, *a good idea can be effectively scotched if certain parties restrict participation and/or seek to maintain control of the process of developing the concept. A more inclusive approach takes more time and effort but results in a greater breadth of support and acceptance and a (much needed) sense of having achieved something meaningful.* What it takes is *an individual or group with the nous and capacity to take the initiative to facilitate the process in this way.*

Who is out there? Regards, Roger May

Editor’s note:

The above email message, sent to interested/concerned persons, is reproduced here because it describes the requirements for the Model Forest processes (shown in italics above) so well.

Sharing Experience with Other Model and Demonstration Forest Initiatives and Networks

This article is largely based on a presentation made at the RMFP Inception Workshop held in Linan in May 2000.

Model and demonstration forests world wide

At present, 22 model forests, covering a total of more than 12 million ha, exist in seven countries (Canada, USA, Mexico, Chile, Russia, China and Japan). Model forests are being established in six other countries (Argentina, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Indonesia). Further, Panama, Paraguay, Brazil, Senegal, Malawi, India, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea and Australia have expressed interest in developing model forests.

Two demonstration forest initiatives with aims similar to those of model forests are the Demonstration Forest Management Areas in Central America supported by the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE); and the Network of Demonstration Watersheds in Mountain Areas of Latin America established in 2000 by the FAO-supported Latin American Network of Technical Cooperation in Watershed Management.

ITTO is encouraging its member countries to set up model and demonstration forest areas to demonstrate the application of sustainable forest management and reduced impact logging in practice. At present 11 forests of various sizes have been identified evenly distributed in the three regions including the ITTO Model Forest Management Area in Sarawak and the ITTO/CIFOR/Indonesia model forest in Bulungan, Indonesia.

ITTO Model Forest Management Area in Sarawak

The ITTO Model Forest Management Area in Sarawak, Malaysia, covers 162,000 ha of permanent forest estate with 3 concessions and was established in 1993. It is described as:

“A learning and experimental forest where we try out new technologies in an attempt to demonstrate that it is possible to practice selective timber extraction with minimum environmental damage but which is economically viable for the companies.”

A number of new technologies, including airborne video recording and mapping, computer-aided road building design, helicopter logging and growth modelling are being tested and a sizeable area is set aside for rehabilitation and conservation purposes.

Whereas the activities and the concept of the ITTO Model Forest Area may be of a more limited scope than those of model forests supported by the IMFN, the benefit of sharing regional experience on selected technical areas, such as reduced impact logging, is evident. *For further information on this project contact: Stephan Andel, Sarawak Forest Department, Kuching, Malaysia. Email: itto@po.jaring.my or fax: + 60 82 445 639.*

SICUDEM: The Network of Demonstration Watersheds in Mountain Areas of Latin America

The objectives of the Latin American Network of Technical Cooperation in Watershed Management are to promote participation in integrated natural resource management of mountain watersheds through demonstration and dissemination of information, and to strengthen institutions involved in such work. To facilitate this, a network of demonstration watersheds (SICUDEM) is being created with the objectives of Systematization and dissemination of methods, strategies and techniques to promote participation in the integrated management of the natural resources of watersheds; Dissemination of technologies for the use and management of natural resources of watersheds in mountain areas; Processing of reliable information to facilitate decision making; and Strengthening of the institutions concerned with the subject of watershed management in mountain areas.

The criteria for joining the network include: An integrated and participatory management approach must be followed; The watershed must be ecologically representative, accessible and of strategic importance; Baseline information must be available; Results of activities undertaken in the watershed must be relevant to the national or regional level; A monitoring and evaluation system must be in place; and The responsible institution must possess adequate human, material and financial resources to fulfil the SICUDEM objectives

There are a number of similarities between this initiative and model forests and a large potential for mutual benefits from sharing experiences. *For further information on this initiative contact : Kyran Thelen, Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile. Email: Kyran.Thelen@fao.org*

Networks in Asia

There are a number of existing networks in Asia which cover specific aspects of sustainable forest management and which it may be of mutual benefit to share experiences. These include, but are not limited to, the following networks supported by FAO: Forests, Trees and People Programme; Asian Watershed Management Network; Reduced Impact Logging Network; Asian Network on Forest Rehabilitation; Asia-Pacific Agroforestry Network (APAN); Teaknet; and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions.

In addition, the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management is drawing up a list of forests under sustainable forest management in the region which could potentially serve as demonstration sites. *For further information on Asian networks contact Patrick Durst Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand. Email: Patrick.Durst@fao.org*

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Continued from page 8 - Bamboo Workshop

requisite capital, technology and infrastructure to be able to penetrate into the markets; more research and development activities in relation to sustainable management and utilization of bamboo resources should be conducted; sustainability of bamboo resources, and activities to promote bamboo silvicultural and management techniques should be given high priority; and current pressures on timber production from forests could be reduced with the promotion of the bamboo processing industry.

The participants from Thailand have recommended that: small-scale bamboo manufacture (for daily use, souvenirs, handicrafts (for tourism) and limited export) be encouraged for rural development in Thailand; and that efforts be made to collect and grow various bamboo species and varieties (like at the Anji City bamboo museum and garden) in an arboretum and for research.

It was generally concluded that the training workshop was very useful, and all participants will try to disseminate what they have learnt to help improve the living standards of the people in the rural areas in their countries. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the participants to meet their counterparts



Bamboo panel-board factory yard

from many countries and learn a little about their countries and their peoples.

Compiled from reports submitted by Dr. Jiang Chunqian (China), U Htay Aung and U Kyi Lin (Myanmar, Ms. Alicia Castillo and Mr. Ramon Calumbay, Mr. Smit Boonsermsuk and Mr. Sumai Maiman (Thailand).

Continued from page 6 - JIFPRO MF Activities

Achievements to date include the production of land use and forest cover maps; formation of forest users' groups; formation of partnership group for model forest management; extension services and awareness raising on community participatory forestry in the catchments of the North Nawin and South Nawin dams; protection of natural teak-bearing forests and teak plantations; improvement of teak natural regeneration and pruning and climber cutting in teak plantations; meetings and discussions on the management of Pauk Khaung MF; in-service training for project staff; training in community forestry and forest protection; establishment of seed production areas for teak. JIFPRO also co-sponsored, and its representatives participated in, the national model forest inception workshop on 25 July 2000 in Yangon, in collaboration with the Regional Model Forest Project and the Government of Myanmar. A report on the workshop was published in the last issue of this newsletter.

Among the major issues to be addressed in the MF area are agriculture land expansion and encroachment by shifting cultivation; Migration of farmers from land submerged by dams and their resettlement in the upper catchments; Illegal logging and intensive logging; widening gaps of supply and demand; intensive cutting for firewood collection; low income and low productivity of local populace; implementation and enforcement of forest laws; promotion of community forestry/participatory forestry; and awareness raising on the roles of the forestry sector.

Further progress of the project will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

By Ms. Fusako Matsui, Mr. Yasuhiko Nisawa, JIFPRO and Prof. Kyaw Htun, Forest Department, Myanmar.

Continued from page 10 - Sharing Experience

Conclusion

One of the main features of model forests is the testing, implementation and demonstration of innovative approaches to sustainable forest management. The International Model Forest Network provides a unique opportunity to share experiences between different model forests world wide. However, to extend the demonstration effect and to obtain more ideas and potential collaborative partners it is recommended that concerted efforts be made to also establish contact with other similar initiatives and networks in Asia and elsewhere.

By Mette Wilkie, FAO Rome and Patrick Durst, FAO Bangkok.

Continued from page 1 - Lin'an MF local Partners Meeting

participatory methods was the cooperation plantation project between China and Germany.

Ms. Li Lanying, from Zhejiang Forestry College, gave a presentation on “*Participatory approach and its application in Lin'an*”, and described the characteristics of participatory methods. Based on the experience from Lin'an, she analyzed the procedure of participatory diagnosis, participatory design and extension methods.

Mr. Tang Caifu, from Forestry Bureau in Qu County, Sichuan Province, gave a presentation on successful case studies, including “*Activities and consciousness for participatory forest management*”, “*A case study on participatory forest management in collective forest of Group 6, Lishu Village, Qu County*”, and “*A new training and extension method for fruit tree management—Farmer Field School in Qu County*”.

Mr. Tang Mingrong, from Lin'an Forestry Bureau, gave a detailed introduction on how to encourage local farmers to participate in decision-making in forest management and planning in Lin'an county. Their experience is very useful for further implementation and extension of participatory forestry in Lin'an county.

Through the presentations and discussions, the participants, especially from the local government, NGOs and farmers from Lin'an county, had a better understanding of participatory forestry, including its origin, development and practice. The meeting was a good opportunity to promote the establishment of the Lin'an Model Forest partnership committee and to attract more partners to join the committee.

Mr. Wang Anguo, from Lin'an Model Forest Project Secretariat, made a report on “*Enhancing partnership building to promote sustainable forest management*”, in which

he described the model forest partnership, necessity to establish a partnership committee, functions of the committee, and rights and responsibilities of partners. This provided a good background for the subsequent discuss of the constitution and organization of the partnership committee.

Mr. Liuwei, from Lin'an Model Forest Project Secretariat, gave a presentation on “*the problems and opportunities in forest management in Lin'an*”. Main problems are the low quality of the forest resource, immature market for non-timber forest products, lack of forest technician training, inadequate policy and regulations, etc. Opportunities include the on-going modernisation of agriculture, comprehensive development in mountainous area, special forest products processing, forest classification etc.

Constitution of Lin'an MF Partnership Committee

A draft constitution had been distributed earlier to all participants. After some discussion over some of the contents of the draft constitution, it was agreed to call the partnerships committee the “*Linan Model Forest Partnership Cooperation Committee*” (LMFPCC), because this translates better into Chinese then just the “*Linan MF Partnership Committee*”. Among the points agreed were that membership and membership fees should be voluntary; there should be an elected “*Board*” (although some Board members may be appointed by the Government/China Model Forest Secretariat); Board members should be elected for a three year term, with no maximum to the number of terms a person can serve; Board decisions should be by two-thirds majority; and the Board may accept donations from outside agencies for MF activities. The final version of the constitution will be tabled for adoption at the next LMFPCC meeting in February 2001, when the office bearers will be elected.

By Jiang Chunqian, Deputy National Project Counterpart

Effectiveness of Parks in Protecting Tropical Biodiversity

This study used information on anthropogenic threats and impacts from 93 protected areas in 22 countries to test the hypothesis that parks are an effective means to protect tropical biodiversity. The central findings of the study were that parks were largely successful at stopping land clearing, and to a lesser degree effective at mitigating logging, hunting, fire and grazing. Park effectiveness correlated with basic management activities such as enforcement, boundary demarcation, and direct compensation to communities. These findings suggest that creating new parks and increasing support for existing parks will both make a significant contribution to long-term biodiversity conservation in the tropics.

Abstract of article by Bruner, A.G., R.E. Gullison, R.E. Rice, and G.A.B. Fonseca from Science. v291: 125-128. (2001)

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