

Concept Note



People and Forests Forum 2018

A new landscape of people and forests

Concept Note

People and Forests Forum 2018

A new landscape of people and forests

Background

Forests are essential for us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Community forestry (CF) particularly plays a prominent role through facilitating sustainable forest management, livelihood development, strengthening forest governance, reducing inequalities, and addressing the drivers of both deforestation and forest degradation. In so doing, CF is able to contribute towards many of the SDGs including: ending poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2); life on land (SDG 15); and securing peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16). This tangible connection between CF and the SDGs has been repeatedly demonstrated in the Asia-Pacific region. CF in the region has thus shown that the devolution of forest management rights to local peoples is an effective strategy for maintaining a region's forests and promoting development.

Often overlooked, however, is the crucial role that the public plays in community forestry practices and the realization of the SDGs: particularly through informed and responsible decisions as consumers, the public can be a major catalyst towards more sustainable resource use. Therefore, this forum seeks to explore the connection between community forestry, the SDGs, and the urban population in our mission to conserve healthy forests and increase livelihoods.

This forum on CF, the SDGs, and the role of the urban community cannot be more timely for RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests as we embark on our next strategic plan. The focus of this event reinforces the key direction in our new strategic plan: we believe that forestry should not be seen as a separate extractive renewable sector. Instead, forestry needs a broader approach that encompasses a holistic and responsible philosophy towards landscape integration and sustainable development. **In essence, we are talking about the intersection between PEOPLE, FORESTS and the SDGs!**

1) Overall objective

This two-day forum aims to provide a space for key actors to increase their awareness, to network, and to explore potential collaborations on community forestry and its importance to our daily life.

2) Specific objectives

To achieve this, the forum will:

1. Showcase evidence of how community forestry has contributed towards achieving the SDGs
2. Develop innovative ways to further strengthen the connection between community forestry and the SDGs
3. Provide an inclusive platform for cooperation and co-creation that promotes responsible and accountable value chain and investments through community forestry and other initiatives
4. Show targeted urban communities (consumers, youths, social entrepreneurs, financial and business sectors, and more.) why forests matter and the value of responsible decisions and practices

3) Key messages

The key messages of this forum are:

1. That the core principles of CF—participation, good governance, tenure clarity, adaptive capacity—can contribute towards achieving the SDGs
2. Our lives are interconnected with the forests: because our daily decisions impact the forests, and we rely on the forest for a higher quality of life, what happens to the forest directly impacts our lives
3. If we are to achieve the SDGs and ensure our quality of life on land, we need to collaborate and partner to create inclusive, holistic and innovative solutions.

4) Who

Representatives of:

- National governments
- Local communities
- Entrepreneurs (e.g. companies, social entrepreneurs, community enterprises, consumer groups)
- Financial sector
- Civil Society Organizations
- Researchers and Academia
- International organizations

5) Where

Bangkok, Thailand

6) What

Day 1: Dynamic, innovative and organic ideation activities

Includes: Forest and forest-related product demonstrations, workshops and sales; public forum, dialogue and talks; forest folk song contest; forest food fair; forest community “TED Talks”; posters and presentations; live feeds via social media; “forest” speed dating on specific topics.

Day 2: A series of structured, interactive and focused sessions

Includes: Keynote address; presentations from government representatives, community members, entrepreneurs and urban youth participants; thematic breakout discussions and presentations; community “TED Talks”; posters and presentations.

7) How

By engaging with the following three thematic areas, participants will explore **WHY FORESTS MATTER** for:

- Forest communities
- Women
- You and me



RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 30 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity development – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests

P.O. Box 1111

Kasetsart Post Office

Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Tel (66-2) 940-5700

Fax (66-2) 561-4880

info@recoftc.org

www.recoftc.org



Printed on recycled paper