



***Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable
Forest Management and Rehabilitation***

Application Form of Project

Name of applicant:	<i>FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i>
Name of the Partner(s)	<i>National forestry agencies in target countries, RECOFTC, Asia Forest Network.</i>
Title of the project:	<i>Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific</i>
Total cost of the project:	<i>US\$337,236</i>
Duration of the project:	<i>1 year</i>

Summary (max half page)

The project will support development of forestry sector plans to reduce poverty in **Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam**. Findings from studies aimed at unearthing areas in which forestry has significantly reduced poverty in each country will be combined with information from the recent FAO regional forestry outlook to support development of poverty reduction plans. National forestry agencies and NGOs will conduct broadly based studies supported and coordinated by FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific. Executive education on forest policy development will provide support for in-country strategic planning, and a workshop focusing on the regional outlook for forestry will be organised to assess opportunities for future poverty related interventions. The final aim of the project is to develop plans to reduce poverty through forestry based on local, national and regional level information. This activity will be supported by FAO and facilitated by national stakeholder workshops.

1. Background and rationale (max 1 page)

Since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals almost a decade ago, efforts have been made around the world to improve the contribution of different economic sectors to poverty reduction. Forestry is a particularly important sector due to the substantial overlap between highly forested areas and areas with a high incidence of poverty in South and Southeast Asia. The potential of forestry to contribute to the welfare of poor rural people should therefore be considerable. Because forests areas are frequently far from markets and because poorer people have neither the knowledge, the capital nor the networks to benefit from forest resources, poverty alleviation has remained an illusive goal. Additionally, land and resource tenure and access rights are frequently weak in remote areas and authorities have, until recently, been reluctant to allocate rights to the local level. To effectively implement systems to reduce poverty through forestry in rural areas may require investment, review of the regulatory environment, policy support and/or capacity building in different measures. Collection of experience from a decades' worth of implementation will help future practitioners in finding appropriate formulas for reducing poverty and increasing sectoral contributions to national goals.

Commercial aspects of forestry such as collection, processing and marketing of non-wood forest products; use of stumps and branches of trees left after industrial logging; and ecotourism activities can provide income for the rural poor where conditions allow. Frequently, impediments to implementation prevent benefits reaching those most in need – policies, permits and lack of guiding support can isolate the rural poor from markets and leave forests without the stewardship necessary for sustainable management.

Industrial forestry, including plantation production of wood products also supports income generation under the right conditions and employment in the wood processing industry has contributed significantly to household income around the Pacific coasts of Asia, where export markets are within reach. Efficient and sustainable use of forest products and innovative use of forest services can potentially benefit both forest resource management and poor people while bringing forestry agencies to the forefront of development.

2. Goal and objectives (max 0.5 page)

The goal of the project is to assist forestry agencies in strategic planning and developing means to reduce poverty through sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation.

Specific objectives are:

1. To draw together methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced in South and Southeast Asian developing countries;
2. To build capacity within forestry agencies and local NGOs through engagement in assessment of past efforts to reduce poverty through forestry;
3. To distribute findings to an Asia-Pacific audience and increase awareness of effective means to adapt forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies.

3. Expected outputs/outcomes (max 1 page)

The expected outputs of the project are:

1. Report documenting ways in which poverty has been reduced through forestry in target countries;

The report will comprise country papers submitted by participating national agencies and a paper synthesising findings at the regional level and identifying potential future opportunities for poverty reduction through forestry.

2. Twenty two participants from target countries trained in forest policy analysis; The Forest Policy Short Course in 2009 will be held in Bangkok and attended by participants from each of the eleven countries involved in the project. In 2010 the course will be held in China and will focus on forestry and poverty reduction.

3. A regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry; The workshop will draw on recent in-depth analysis of the developing regional forestry situation and will provide a background against which participants can develop strategies for poverty reduction through forestry.

4. National forest planning workshops The national planning workshops will provide an opportunity to take into account regional findings from work undertaken through the project and elsewhere in developing policy briefs to guide forestry sector interventions to reduce poverty.

5. Policy briefs aimed at supporting forest policy adaptation to reduce poverty in target countries

Policy briefs developed at the national forest planning workshops will be printed and distributed by FAO to national and regional level agencies and organisations.

4. Project Design & Implementation Plan (max 2 page)

Report on the contribution of forestry to poverty reduction

In each of the 11 target countries, studies will be commissioned to document ways in which forestry has contributed to poverty reduction and means by which contributions could be made in the future. Surveys undertaken to initiate the studies will seek to determine areas in which forestry has been successful in reducing poverty. The surveys will entail desk based study and expert consultation and will include a broad range of focal areas, e.g.:

- Forest subsistence related activities.
- Participation in community forestry schemes;
- Management of forests allocated to individuals/families;
- Tree growing;
- Forest products processing;
- Non-wood forest product collection and sale;
- Forest based ecotourism related activities;
- Forestry related employment (forest guard, chainsaw operator, tree planter, sawmill employee, etc.)

On the basis of the survey, further investigation will be undertaken to document the background situation and record factors that contributed to the reduction of poverty, e.g. resource availability, knowledge and skills, access to markets and information, investment/subsidy, tenure, social networks. Reports based on these investigations will outline areas for future interest by considering findings in the light of probable future forestry sector developments.

Forest policy executive education

The project will support the participation of national project partners in a forest policy short course to be held in Thailand in late 2009 and a second course to be held in China in 2010. The course is an integral part of the work of the forestry group of the FAO regional office and is designed for forest policy analysts and others involved in the policy process. Speakers and trainers for the course are drawn from around the region and great emphasis is placed on interactive modes of education in which participants engage in exercises based on real-life situations. Participants attending the first course will be involved in implementation of the forestry-poverty studies and those in the second will be those expected to be engaged in interpreting the results of the studies into plans and programmes.

Regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry

A regional workshop will be held to inform national strategic planning in forestry and to support efforts to develop poverty reduction measures. The workshop will draw on the

latest regional forestry sector analysis and forecasts developed under the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study. To help guide the forestry-poverty studies, attention will be focused on how developments within and outside the forestry sector are likely to influence future poverty reduction efforts.

National forestry planning workshops/policy brief development

Workshops will be held to develop policy briefs for reducing poverty through forestry sector activities. The workshops will draw on results from the forestry-poverty studies, information from the sub-regional workshops and expertise developed through the forest policy short course as well as inputs from national forestry sector stakeholders.

5. Operational Arrangements (max 1 pages)

The Project will be executed by and under the technical and administrative supervision of FAO, following FAO's rules and procedures regarding the acquisition of project services, supplies and works. Funds received by FAO, RECOFTC and the Asia Forest Network (AFN) will be managed by the FAO budget holder. Funds would be accounted for and monitored in accordance with the FAO Financial Regulations, including those concerning external and internal audits. Funds will be disbursed by FAO in accordance with plans and budgets. Funds for activities carried out by FAO's implementing partners would be disbursed through Letters of Agreement between FAO and the concerned implementing partners.

FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific will act as the coordinating body for the project and will provide administrative and technical support with the assistance of an intern provided by the funding agency. Two regional NGOs, RECOFTC and the Asia Forest Network (AFN), will assist national partners in developing the forestry-poverty studies and will provide inputs from their own work in the area of interest.

National FAO offices in participating countries will act to facilitate project operation within individual countries. Letters of agreement will be signed with forestry agencies in participating countries to undertake the forestry-poverty studies with backstopping support will be provided by FAO. Detailed ToRs for the studies will be developed during the early stages of the project in collaboration with partner NGOs.

The FAO forest policy course will be held in Bangkok in late 2009 and provisionally, again in late 2010 in China with the project providing funding for attendance of around ten participants. The regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry will be organised by the FAO regional office during the first half of project implementation.

Annex A Logframe

	Intervention	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Capacity of forestry agencies to plan strategically and develop means to reduce poverty is improved			
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced through forestry are documented; 2. Awareness of means by which forest policies and plans may be adapted to reduce poverty is increased; 3. Monitoring and evaluation capacity within forestry agencies and local NGOs is increased; 4. Forest sector capacity to develop policy and plan strategically is increased; 5. Forestry related poverty reduction plans are 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National reports, final project report; 2. Attendance at national workshops; 3. Successful completion of national reports; 4. Attendance at Forest Policy Short Course and regional workshop; 5. Policy briefs/plans for poverty reduction. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National reports, final project report; 2. Workshop attendance lists; 3. National reports 4. Forest Policy Short Course and workshop attendance lists; 5. Policy briefs/plans for poverty 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poverty has been reduced through forestry sector activities; 2. Workshop is effective in transferring information to participants; 3. experience in preparing national survey and report remains part of institutional memory; 4. Forest Policy Short Course and workshop succeeds in transferring skills and knowledge to participants; 5. None.

	developed.		reduction.	
Expected Outputs/outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report documenting ways in which poverty has been reduced through forestry in target countries; 2. Ten participants from target countries trained in forest policy analysis; 3. A regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry; 4. National forest planning workshops; 5. Policy briefs/plans aimed at adapting forest policies to reduce poverty in target countries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National reports, final project report; 2. Attendance at Forest Policy Short Course; 3. Attendance at regional workshop; 4. Attendance at national workshops; 5. Policy briefs/plans for poverty reduction. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National reports, final project report; 2. Forest Policy Short Course attendance list; 3. Regional workshop attendance lists; 4. National workshop attendance lists; 5. Policy briefs/plans for poverty reduction. 	

Activities				
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