REGIONAL REFLECTION AND LEARNING WORKSHOP on COMMUNITY CARBON ACCOUNTING

Workshop Report 2012

Mondol Kiri, Cambodia

17-19 January 2012

Contents

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

The Regional Reflection and Learning Workshop on Community Carbon Accounting (CCA) was organized between January, 16-18 in Mondol Kiri Province, Cambodia. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the network of IGES CCA action research project representatives to share initial results and experiences with the testing of methods to assess forest-carbon stocks through communities. The workshop brought together representatives of CCA projects from five countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PRD, PNG, and Vietnam) and members of the Forestry Administration from Cambodia, and project partners at regional and national level. In addition to discussing the progress, challenges, and plans for CCA across the region, the workshop provided on-site demonstration of CCA methods used in Seima Protection Forest. The workshop concluded with a day of planning for FY 2012. In addition to continued activities at each action research site, the network of sites will work on contributing to a comprehensive report based on a common template; drafting a CCA manual; creating a CCA policy brief; and developing a follow-up workshop with a focus on training for community-engagement.

Workshop Objectives and Participants

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the network of IGES CCA action research project representatives to share initial results and experiences with the testing of methods to assess forest-carbon stocks through communities. Participants were also given opportunities to learn hands-on about carbon accounting technology during field based exercises. Based on each sites' contribution and the lessons learned from in-field workshop activities, participants were able to plan for FY2012.

Workshop participants included representatives from each site and from supporting organizations: IGES, RECOFTC (Cambodia, Thailand, and ForInfo), FA Cambodia, Seima Protection Forest & Department of Wildlife and Forestry Cambodia, National Forestry Council of Indonesia, National University of Lao PDR, ARUPA, the Forestry University of Vietnam, and Kyushu University. Members from JICA also participated as a learning exercise.

Background

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and RECOFTC-the Center for People and Forests conducted a series of national awareness-raising and training workshops on REDD+ for key stakeholders in government and civil society organizations' from Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Papua New Guinea between February and March 2010. In sessions focusing on assessing capacity building needs for REDD+, participants of these workshops identified the enhancement of local-level skills for forest carbon monitoring as a key priority. To address this, IGES developed an action research program on Community Carbon Accounting (CCA) as part of a project proposal to Japan's Ministry of Environment in May 2010. RECOFTC has been a key partner in this project.

Beginning in May 2010, IGES began coordinating Community Carbon Accounting activities in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. In 2011 Lao PDR joined the action learning consortium, and in 2012 Vietnam will join.

The project specifically focuses on:

- Raising awareness on climate change, REDD+, and community carbon accounting
- Designing, testing, and analyzing approaches to CCA in selected Asian countries in partnership with local institutions and organizations
    - Adapting existing carbon accounting tools and methodologies
    - Testing proposed tools and methodologies for carbon accounting
- Sharing of experiences across countries.

Local conditions and stakeholders' interests have shaped the methodology at each site, resulting in a wide range of experiences with the technical, social, and management aspects of Community Carbon Accounting. To bring these perspectives together, IGES and RECOFTC organize successive workshops to reflect and build on project development.

The first Regional Reflection Workshop took place in March 2011 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with support from the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Faculty of Forestry. This report covers the subsequent, Second Regional Reflection and Learning Workshop that was held in Mondol Kiri, Cambodia 16 – 19 January, 2012. Participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam as well as from IGES and RECOFTC, met to share experiences and lessons from their respective project sites and to plan for the next steps.

Workshop Activities

During the first day of the workshop, participants presented updates for each of their respective CCA action learning sites. Presentations highlighted methodologies tested, progress on site mapping, capacity-building activities, key challenges encountered, and reflections on potential next steps. Key messages from the action research sites are presented in the next section of this report.

On the second day of the workshop, participants traveled to the buffer area of the Seima Protection forest for field-work. Participants were joined by community members to practice plot sampling, comparing both the official Cambodia FA protocol and the 6-tree methods. Participants and community members worked together in groups to mark sample plots according to official protocols and complete sample inventories. Throughout the exercise, participants had the opportunity to share and test different methods for tree measurement. Following the exercise, the community members demonstrated the protocol for a 6-tree plot sample. There was also discussion about the challenges in estimating tree volume across different species – dependent on branching, crown size, and in the case of hollow trunks. In addition to standing-tree sampling, the group followed the official protocol to measure carbon stocks from dead-wood along a transect.

Figure 1: Participants laying out plots

Figure 2: A variety of equipment is being used

The final day of the workshop was dedicated to reviewing remaining technical questions, and planning for FY2012. Mr. Bianchi presented methods used by SPF for data management, using access to organize an inventory database. He also presented photogrammetric techniques for tree volume estimations. Mr. Agus Setyarso delivered a presentation on data processing in Indonesia, highlighting the growing role of computer-supported data management. Capacity building is a focus for action research sites in Indonesia, where data organization and basic analysis will happen at the village level. Mr. Scheyvens shared experiences from PNG on buidling the capacity of local communities (clans) to collect forest data and discussed the possbility of using existing species- specific diameter-height relationships (DHRs) to calculate tree heights.

Bernhard Mohns and Henry Scheyvens facilitated the planning process. Participants identified outstanding issues, challenges for moving forward, and next steps. The outcome of the workshop is described at the end of this report.

Key Progress at Country Level

Cambodia (Presented by Simone Bianchi)

The Forestry Administration (FA), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and RECOFTC have worked together to compare two participatory forestry management and inventory protocols: the official FA Community-Forestry inventory protocol and a K-tree (6-tree) protocol. The CCA Cambodia site is located within the Buffer area of the Seima Protection Forest (SPF). Simone Bianchi, RECOFTC/ForInfo, presented an overview of different sampling and inventory methods used, including: the 6-tree protocol, photogrammetric analysis, and destructive sampling. Inventory methods tested can be applied towards commercial timber or REDD+ inventories.

In addition to more in-depth technical reporting on differences between the 6-tree and the official protocols, reflections on community engagement were shared. The 6-tree method was found to be generally more efficient and less cumbersome than the standard procedures. Community capacity for forest inventory seems to be strong, but processing of the data remains in the hands of experts, which limits community ownership of forestry management.

Figure 3: Deadwood Inventory in Seima Protection Forest

Indonesia (Presented by Agus Setyarso and Dwi Nugroho)

Building on initial findings from the first year of CCA activities, the second year focused on how to scale up the experiences from year 1, taking into consideration the diversity of village contexts. The status of land tenure represents one of the key differences between action research sites in Indonesia: There are sites on Java that are privately managed home forest-gardens, while sites on Jambi-Sumatra are on state owned land.

Across all sites, REDD+ awareness and awareness on the role of carbon stock as well as building knowledge and skills on carbon accounting remains a priority. One of the key challenges and priorities is incorporating climate change awareness and land management plans into the largely subsistence-based, forest-dependent nature of local livelihoods. Villagers are trained in CCA awareness through a training of trainers' model. Additionally, data processing at the local level is a significant component in these sites. Interest in CCA participation is growing in near-by communities.

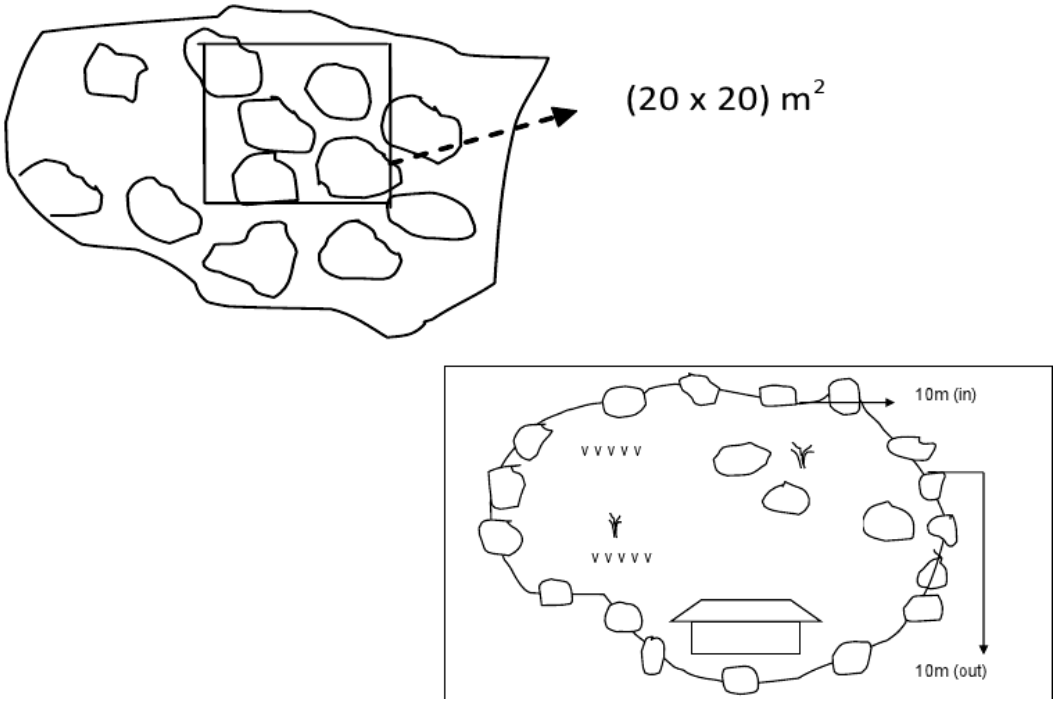

Figure 4: Inventory Methods for clumped (left) and perimeter (right) planting

Lao PDR (Presented by Saykham Boutthavong)

Lao PDR is in the planning stages of CCA activities. A training on carbon accounting for team members was conducted at the Forestry Faculty, National University of Laos (NUOL). Consultation meetings were held with district authorities and village committees to discuss the scope of CCA activities, land use/management needs, and livelihood activities. In 2012, training workshops will be held for all stakeholders (district staff – community members) and a project baseline survey will be conducted. From an initial needs assessment, capacity for technical skills like mapping and data analysis were highlighted.

Paupa New Guinea (Presented by Henry Scheyvens)

The action research site in PNG worked with clans who own and are highly reliant on their forests for timber and NTFPs for both subsistence and ceremonial purposes; income from timber harvesting; and clearing for crop production and shifting agriculture. Each of the 5 clans involved in CCA activities manages a combination of forest uses.

Trainings for CCA activities have begun both at the facilitator level and at the clan-level. Training and activities at the facilitator level include data processing and GIS trainings. Clan-level activities include climate change awareness and training on measurement techniques, plot establishment and measurement, and data recording. Protocols for measuring above ground living biomass and deadwood carbon pools have been developed and tested.

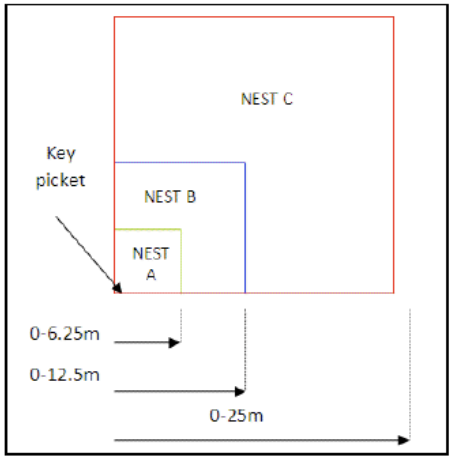

Figure 5: Plot design in PNG

Vietnam (Presented by Makino Yamanoshita)

The action research in Vietnam is in its beginning stages. An A/R CDM feasibility study was conducted in Hoa Binh, and a limited number CCA activities have been conducted, including tree planning in 2009 and 2010 (supported by JICA). However, the outcomes of the initial project activities were not well aligned with the needs of the local community, leading to a general sense of failure. Participatory Rural Appraisal was conducted, and included local-level workshops, and household surveys. However, the activities proved to be socially unsustainable. While there was a decrease in slash and burn practices

through land restrictions, the project proved to increase the burden for the community: increased difficulty gathering fuel wood and reduced animal grazing. All of this in effect negatively impacted villagers' incomes.

Moving forward, CCA activities will be oriented towards building community investment and ownership in the A/R project. The potential for CCA to deliver on Carbon Credits remains compelling, but the site will be tested to identify realistic expectations. The CCA will act as a platform for community empowerment. This will be a challenge, given the traditional acceptance of decisions delivered by experts and authorities. A training of trainers approach will be followed, in association with the Vietnam Forestry University. Trainings and field work at the local level is scheduled to begin in 2012. In 2013, an expansion of project area will be considered.

Achievements

Discussions during the Regional Reflection and Learning Workshop contributed to productive sharing across CCA action-research sites. Workshop participants assessed the role of CCA in REDD+ implementation and the strengths and weaknesses of various carbon accounting techniques and protocols. The lessons shared during this workshop will be brought back to each site, and contribute towards strengthening CCA approaches moving forward. Some of the major achievements noted across sites include:

- At all of the original project activity sites (Cambodia, Indonesia, and PNG) initial community-level inventories and carbon stock assessment has been conducted.
- Many sites are already planning activities that build on initial experience. In part from fora like this workshop, action research members are continually improving the precision and efficiency of inventories.
- At sites where local-level activities have begun, villagers have participated in the inventory process, have been introduced to the purpose of forest inventorying, and are capable of replicating inventory processes.
- Land use mapping with community involvement is happening and on-going.
- Project sites have received support from district level forestry officials and village committees/organizations.
- There is a growing coordination and information sharing across all sites, and cross-learning greatly benefits the project and the team.
- Increasingly, the rationale for developing CCA approaches to REDD+ is growing, which will strengthen the case for REDD+, participation and Sustainable Forest Management in general.

Concerns and Challenges

The workshop provided participants the chance to voice concerns and challenges that have been encountered thus far. Identifying challenges will shape strategies for trouble shooting in future planning.

Some common technical concerns included:

- Errors in measurements related to underdeveloped technical capacity, and challenges in accuracy.
- Differences and discrepancies in accounting methods.
- Community members remain largely excluded from data processing and data management – this challenges communities' sense of ownership over land management planning.
- Of data that is processed by experts, there remains a gap in returning the data to the local level.

Some common conceptual challenges included:

- At large, awareness of climate change and REDD+ at the local level remains a challenge.
- Although capacity building for data generation and recording has had success at many sites, data analysis remains external to village-level understanding.
- Inconsistent integration and synthesis of CCA with traditional livelihood strategies.

Next Steps

The work will continue in different countries and sites, and plans are being developed.

The Regional Reflection and Learning Workshop concluded with the identification of next steps. In addition to continued progress at the site-level, participants identified opportunities for collaborative work. Follow-up activities for the coordination and regional work include:

- Compilation and publication of reports from partners that document approaches, observations, and lessons learned in a standard and comprehensive way.
- Development and drafting of a CCA Manual. An initial draft will be tested, in combination with the third regional reflection and learning workshop in 2013.
- Publishing a CCA policy brief, reflecting the progress of CCA to date.
- Planning for a Third Regional Reflection and Learning Workshop (2013).

Annex A: Agenda

Date		Event
Day 0 **Jan 15, 2012**		Arrival in Phnom Penh
Day 1 **Jan 16, 2012**		
	AM	Breakfast
		Depart to Sen Monorom, Mondolkiri (7 AM)
	PM	Lunch en route to Sen Monorom
		Arrival at Sen Monorom
		Session: Introduction Agenda, Objectives, and Workshop Expectations
		Session: CCA Project Updates 30 minute Presentations from CCA Project Sites
		Break
		Session: CCA Project Updates Cont.
		Session: Wrap-up
		Dinner
Day 2 **Jan 17, 2012**		
	AM	Breakfast
		Depart for Seima Protection Forest
		On-site Sessions: Technical Elements of CCA Using SPF to illustrate examples, including 1. CCA sample design 2. Selection & measurement methods of carbon pools 3. Data collection: types tools, methods, & implementation practicalities
	PM	Lunch
		On-site Sessions: Technical Elements of CCA Cont.
		Return to Sen Monorom
		Dinner
Day 3 **Jan 18, 2012**		
	AM	Breakfast
		Session: **CCA Data Processing** 1. Requirements of data processing templates 2. Accuracy and control of CCA processing 3. Capacities, needed and roles of communities and expert input
	PM	Lunch
		Session: Capacity building and communication issues for communities involved
		Session: Communication Planning Identifying key messages next steps for success
		Dinner
Day 4 **Jan 19, 2012**		Return to Phnom Penh & Depart

Annex B: Participants

1. Agus Setyarso, DKN – National Forestry Council, Indonesia
2. Bernhard Mohns, RECOFTC, The Center for People and Forests/ForInfo
3. Chanthet Thannarak, World Conservation Society (WCS)/Forest Administration Cambodia CCA
4. Claire Fram, RECOFTC, The Center for People and Forests
5. Douangtha Buphavong, National University of Lao PDR
6. Dwi Nugroho, ARUPA
7. Heng Da, RECOFTC, The Center for People and Forests – Cambodia
8. Henry Scheyvens, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Natural Resources Management Group
9. Kimihiko Hyakumura, IGES/Associate Professor, Kyushu University
10. Kimsrim Seab, Technical Assistant to Technical Advisor to Director-General, FA/JICA
11. Makino Yamanoshita, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
12. Mesa Hing, Forest Administration Cambodia – CCA
13. Phung Van Khoa, Deputy Dean of the Postgraduate Studies Faculty, Forestry University of Vietnam
14. Pet Phaktra, Deputy Director of Seima Protection Forest
15. Saro Rattana, Deputy Chief of Mondolkiri Forestry Administration Cantonment
16. Saykham Boutthavong, National University of Lao PDR
17. Simone Bianchi, RECOFT, The Center for People and Forests/ForInfo
18. Taiji Fujisaki, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
19. Takeshi Yamase, Senior Forest Engineer, Asia Air Survey Co.,Ltd
20. Toon De Bruyn, RECOFT, The Center for People and Forests