

# Forest Conservation Project

## Mission and Background

### *“From Destructive Forestry Practices to Sustainable Forest Management”*

Despite widespread reform in forest legislation and management systems in Asia-Pacific countries, forests in the region remain under severe threat. The uncontrolled or ill-considered loss of natural forest cover and quality not only undermines the ability of forests to serve ecological functions, it also destroys local livelihoods, can have a detrimental impact on national development and impairs the broader social and environmental functions of forests.

The third phase research FY2004-FY2006 has proposed two research topics and a scoping study to provide realistic policy based on the recognition that the loss of natural forests remains the greatest challenge to forestry in many Asia-Pacific countries.



Village meeting to decide future forest management, Laos

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## Research Outline

Under the theme “From Destructive Forestry Practices to Sustainable Forest Management”, the Forest Conservation Project focusses on two topics:

- **Making Certification Accessible to Communities and Smallholders**, and,
  - **Involvement of Local People in Plantation Forestry**; and,
- one scoping study entitled **Curbing Illegal Timber Imports into Japan**.

These studies intend to provide realistic policy options for sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.



Local livelihoods based on rice cultivation and secondary forests, Indonesia

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## Research Activities

### Making Certification Accessible to Communities and Smallholders

#### Outline

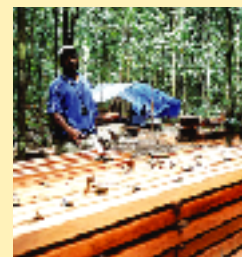
This study examines recent innovations in forest certification focussing on small forest enterprises in the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Successful examples of certification of community and smallholder forestry have brought a variety of ecological, social and economic benefits. However, small forest enterprises often find that certification is difficult to achieve because of management, financial and administrative hurdles. Through an assessment of recent innovations, the study will examine possible breakthroughs to such constraints.

#### Selected Activities

Research activities include: a literature review; an analytical framework for assessing forest certification; field studies of selected programmes, and; a comparative analysis.

The programmes under study are:

- A national certification scheme for community-based forest management developed by the Indonesia Ecolabeling Institute and applied in 2004 to two villages in Java.
- The application of an ecolabeling scheme to primary forests in PNG by the Foundation for People and Community Development.
- Forest Management and Production Certification Service Ltd., established in PNG as an intermediary organisation to assist local small-scale timber producers.
- A programme to apply Forest Stewardship Council Group Certification to two provinces in Laos.



Certified timber, natural forest, Papua New Guinea

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## Involvement of Local People in Plantation Forestry

### Outline

This study aims to identify how local people might be best engaged in plantation forestry in accordance with local conditions. It focusses on state planned and designed planting programmes, which have become a distinct feature of plantation forestry in the region. The wide variety of arrangements through which the state engages local people in plantation programmes is the subject of the study. A review of current trends and challenges to plantation forestry will be used to inform field research on contrasting plantation programmes.

### Selected Activities

A literature review and secondary information are used to identify major trends and challenges to plantation forestry in Asia-Pacific countries. This review is also used to inform and position research on:

- The FC pilot project in Gusheng-Cun village of Guiju province (China) that intends to build community self-reliance and improve the sustainability of plantations.
- An ADB funded Plantation Project (Laos). The research is seeking to define an optimal arrangement in which rural households, small private enterprises and larger corporations are involved in the planting programme.

### Scoping study: Curbing Illegal Timber Imports into Japan

The scoping study is designed to provide a bird's-eye view of the problem of illegal timber imports to Japan with the intention of identifying more specific subjects for focussed research. The scoping study addresses the driving forces for policy reform in Japan, obstacles to reform, the means by which illegal timber and wood products enter Japan, policy responses in other importing countries and the potential for Japan to play a leadership role in combatting illegal logging.



Plantation with intercropping  
China



Illegal logging, the Philippines

## Publications

### Books

- People and Forest-Policy and Local Reality in Southeast Asia, the Russian Far East, and Japan (Kluwers Academic Publisher)

### Policy Guidelines and Recommendations

- Guidelines and Recommendations for Participatory, Sustainable Forest Use and Management
- KABUPATEN KUTAI BARAT -Panduan Pengembangan Peran dan Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam Pengelolaan Hutan (The guidelines and recommendations for promoting local participation in forest management in Indonesia. Written in Indonesian.)

### Country Report

- Indonesia Country Report 2004  
-Local People in Forest Management and the Politics of Participation
- Laos Country Report 2003  
-Towards Participatory Forest Management in Laos
- Russia Country Report 2002/2003
- Russia Country Report 2001

### Policy Trend Report

- Policy Trend Report 2004
- Policy Trend Report 2002
- Policy Trend Report 2001



## For Further Information & Contact

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