

Forests for community well-being
as an approach to
climate change mitigation and adaptation

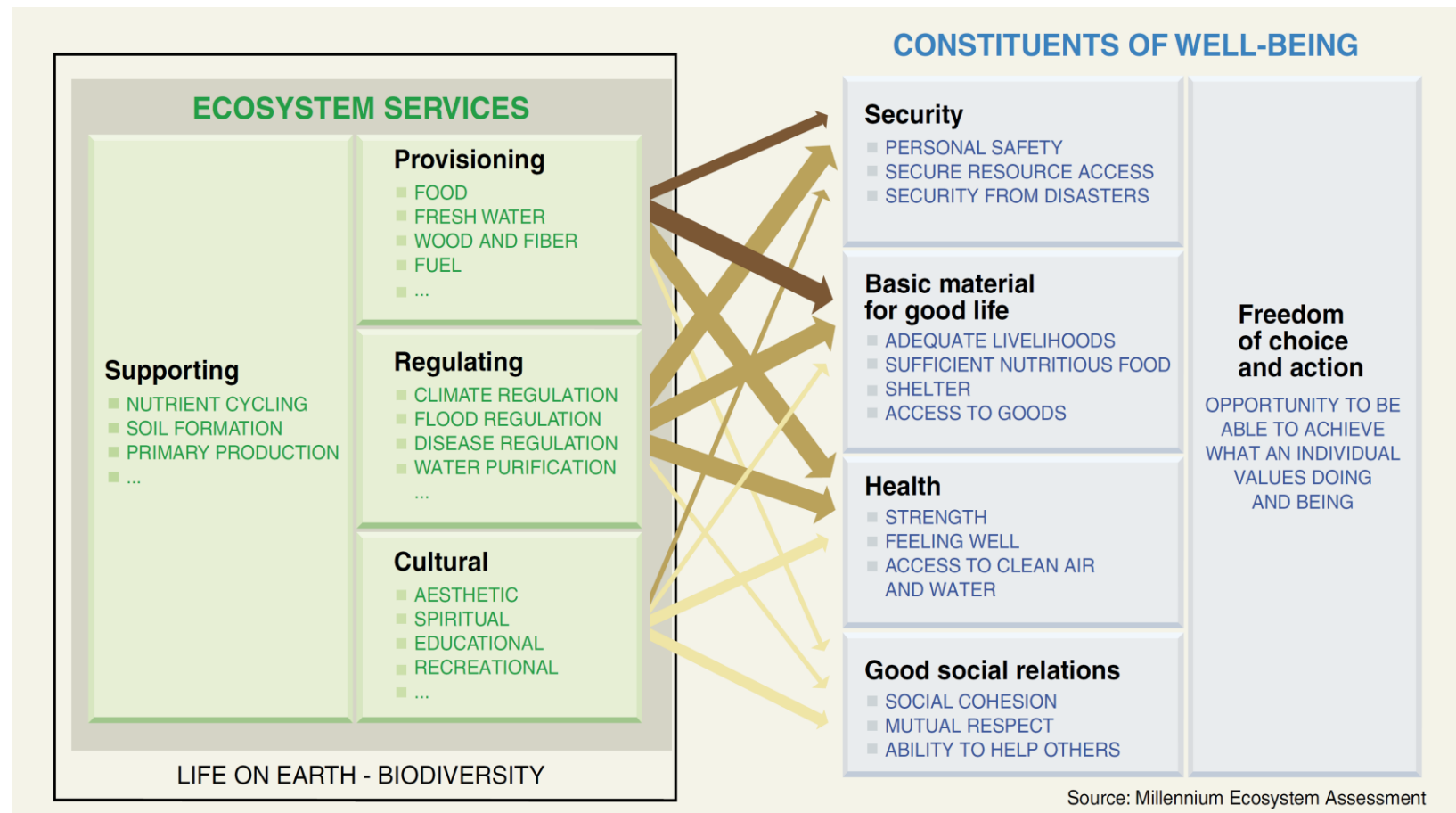
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Biodiversity and Forest Area,

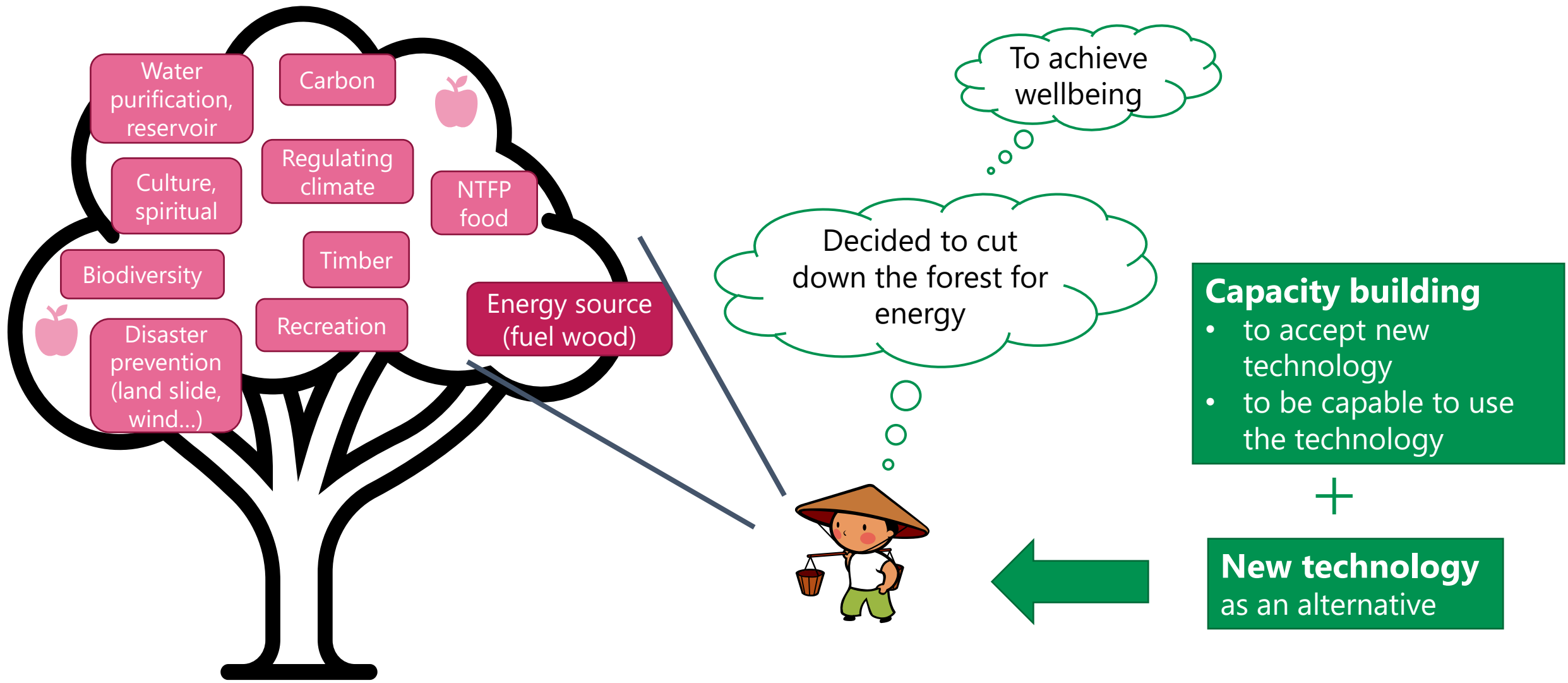
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Our ultimate goal is human well-being

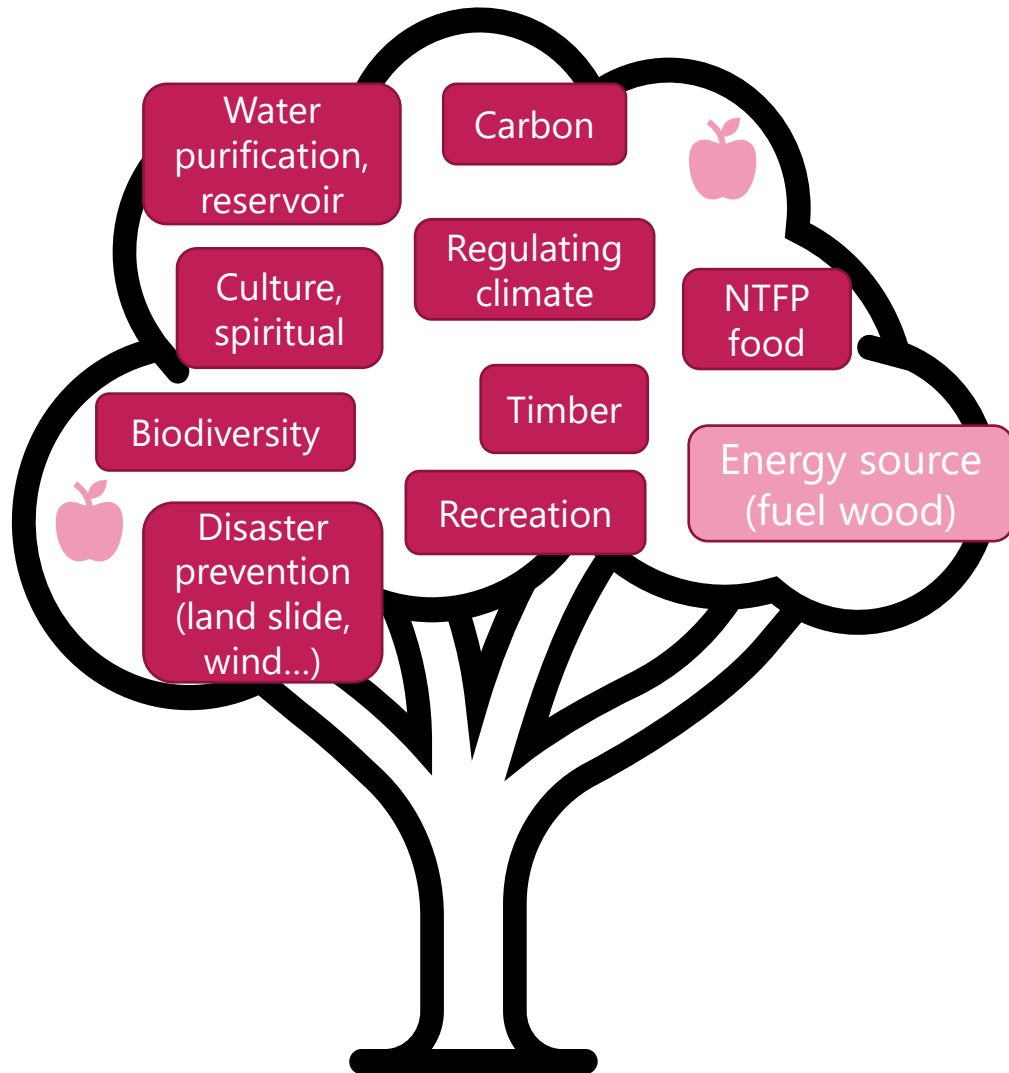
- Values of forests (ecosystem services) contributes to the human wellbeing.
- Forest conservation in the sense of climate change mitigation and adaptation, we must focus on the local people's wellbeing as billions of people depends on forests.



When local people in a situation under energy scarcity



After stopping the deforestation, we expect the local community to manage the forest sustainably



To achieve wellbeing

What and how to utilize the values of forests??



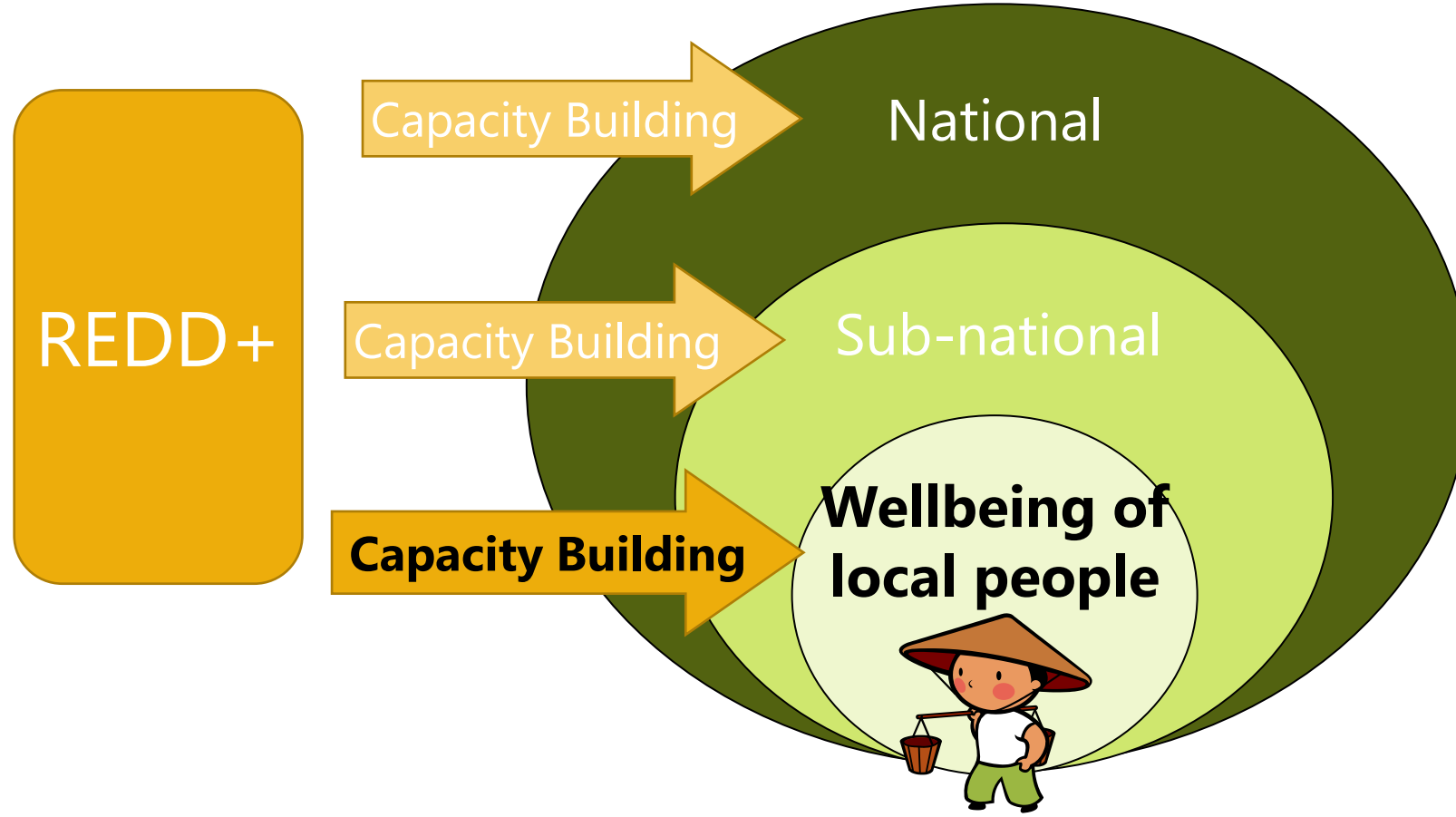
Freedom of choice for actions to achieve what they value doing and being

Continuous capacity building

- as an opportunity to think
- by facilitating discussions on their wellbeing and linkage with values of forests
- by providing necessary skills and knowledge

Recommendation to REDD+ and other NbS:

- REDD+ recognized the importance of capacity building through all phases from readiness to implementation.
- Capacity building to help local people achieving wellbeing and link to values of forest
- Climate mitigation and adaptation measures in the same direction with the people's wellbeing become more effective and sustainable



Forests for community well-being as an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation

Script

Today in our presentation, we propose an approach to consider wellbeing of local communities who live closely to forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We refer to the case of deforestation caused by local communities due to energy scarcity to find out a better approach which is applicable to the REDD+.

Slide 1

In the debate on climate change mitigation and adaptation, there might be no room for doubt that the ultimate goal is to achieve human wellbeing.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment clearly shows that various ecosystem services are linked to the components of human wellbeing.

Local communities living near forests cannot be ignored when considering forest conservation in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Given the fact that billions of people depend on forests for their livelihoods, we should put local community at the center of our discussions.

Slide 2

When people are in a state of energy scarcity, they look to the value of "energy source" among the various values that forests provide to achieve their wellbeing. They then make the decision to cut down and utilize the forest.

And we, so-called experts, see firewood collection as a driver of deforestation. A typical way to deal with this deforestation driver is to offer new technologies to local people as an alternative. Providing improved cook stoves, LPG, electricity as alternatives is very common.

Unfortunately, and interestingly, a number of case studies have reported difficulties, even failures, in promoting the new technologies to local people. It is reported that the cook stove provided is not suitable for their traditional cooking style, or they are not aware of other benefits that the new technology brings to them such as time savings, sometimes, they see some values in fuel wood collection such as socialization.

We can learn from the studies that not only we need to provide new technologies, but we also need to provide the support to the local community. The support does not only mean financial support or the analysis on economic feasibility of the technology. We need to provide various types of capacity building, that will enable people to take advantage of those technologies to utilize them. By the capacity building, we can promote social acceptance of the new technology and finally the deforestation driver is addressed.

Slide 3.

After stopping the deforestation, we expect the local people to continuously manage and conserve the forest. This means that the local community needs to identify what forest values may contribute to their wellbeing and leverage them, however, it is not easy.

So again here, capacity building needs to be provided continuously to the local community. We need to support them creating opportunities for themselves by facilitating community's discussion and help them thinking on how they want to be like in the future and what forest values will help them achieving it. Of course, we may need to provide trainings for skills and knowledge they identify during the discussion.

When the local community clearly captures a new value of forest which is meaningful to their lives, they will have a strong sense of ownership on forests and that will lead to effective climate mitigation and adaptation actions. We conceptualize such capacity buildings as the expansion of "freedom of choice" of the local people for actions to achieve what they value doing and being.

Slide 4.

REDD+ recognized the importance of capacity building through all phases from readiness to implementation. Until now, much effort has been focused on building capacity for forest monitoring and governance at the national and sub-national level. Strengthening national level capacities through policy approach of the REDD+ can be seen as laying the foundation for communities to play an active role. We believe that it is time to think seriously about how we can help local people to unleash their potential in the forest related climate change and adaptation intervention. By putting communities well-being at the center, climate actions will become more effective and sustainable.