



Researchable Constraints in Participatory Forest Management

Anna Lawrence and Kate Green, with
Tabitha Mason

Research funded by DFID's FRP

What are researchable constraints?

What is PFM?

What can research contribute to
PFM?



What is research?

- Different perceptions of research
- The value of research
- Methods for research
- Who should be involved in research



Methodology

- Iterative
- Email questionnaire with key informants
- Selection of focus countries and projects (Nepal, India, Bolivia, Brazil, Philippines and Tanzania)
- Semi-structured interviews with local project staff and forest users
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of results



Research priorities

- Communication and extension
- Organisation and decision-making
- Silviculture
- Sustainability
- Policy
- Conflict management
- Ecology
- Markets



Priorities (continued)

- Tenure
- Benefit distribution
- M&E
- Stakeholder collaboration
- Gender
- Certification



Communication and extension

Lack of awareness:

- Of national forest policies and regulations
- Of the processes and partnerships required for PFM; and
- Of locally appropriate silvicultural methods and techniques

Lack of learning opportunities between projects

Lack of communication and extension tools and methods for PFM



Organisational issues

- Weaknesses of government forestry departments
- Abilities of local organisations to manage and protect forest resources
- Processes of developing local PFM organisations
- Appropriateness of different institutional partnerships for effective PFM



Silviculture

Differences of opinions between stakeholders

- Methodological guidelines on local adaptation of silvicultural practice
- Participatory experimentation with cultivation of indigenous species and NTFPs
- In forests and on farms
- Moving beyond South Asia



Other important issues

- Sustainability
- Policy
- Conflict management
- Ecology
- Markets



M & E as a cross-cutting issue

PM&E is needed to:

- Strengthen organisational capacity to manage forests
- Improve policy implementation and transparency of decision-making
- Enhance equity of benefit distribution



Conclusion

- Importance of communication and extension; and organisation and decision-making
- Differences among stakeholders (e.g. for silviculture)
- Differences among countries
- Importance of M&E as a cross-cutting issue
- Different perceptions of research



Contacts

Anna Lawrence

Green College, University of Oxford

anna.lawrence@green.oxford.ac.uk

Kate Green

AERDD, University of Reading

k.m.green@reading.ac.uk



Discussion questions

- What can research contribute to PFM?
- Were the right priorities included in the survey?
- How can these be addressed?
- Who should be involved?
- What methods should be used?



Questions (continued)

- How can local people be involved in technical research?
- How can the need for good technical research be related to other more social issues (policy, organisation)?