Title: International Forestry Knowledge (KNOWFOR)

Background
KNOWFOR provides policy makers and practitioners in developing countries and the international community with strategic knowledge, comparable evidence, reliable tools and systematic analysis on forests, trees and climate change.

This programme addresses an important gap in knowledge and evidence, as donors, including the UK, scale up funding to tackle deforestation and restore degraded land within the framework of ambitious commitments to tackle climate change (UNFCCC) and support the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs).

To deliver the objectives of the programme DFID works through three main partners: **Program on Forests (PROFOR)** a quasi-independent think tank located within the World Bank; **Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)** an internationally renowned research centre and member of the CGIAR; **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** hosts the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

Theme

Forestry, knowledge uptake – The KNOW-FOR programme aims to increase the value and impact of forest knowledge.

Current themes of particular importance include: building the evidence and tools for achieving international forest landscape restoration targets; furthering understanding of the importance of forests, livelihoods and poverty interactions; gender and forestry; implementation challenges of REDD+, particularly benefit sharing mechanisms; corporate sustainability declarations (Zero-deforestation supply chains) and how these will be assessed; and the role of forests in food security and nutrition.

Apart from providing high quality original and synthesised knowledge products for a wide range of audiences in the forests and land use sectors, the unique selling point of the programme is how it addresses the disjuncture between the supply and uptake of knowledge. KNOWFOR places strong emphasis on the enabling conditions and systems required to ensure that knowledge is useful, relevant, timely, and understood by its intended audience, and that we are able to assess the extent to which the knowledge is used, has influence over decisions, and ultimately results in change.

Local Context
KNOWFOR is a global programme which produces high quality global public goods in the forestry sector.

What is being done?
The UK will contribute £38,000,000 from 2012 to 2017.
DFID is working with delivery partners to ensure that systems are in place to design, monitor, evaluate and learn from the various forestry knowledge products generated. These efforts have started to pay dividends with partners now systematically thinking about their audience and planning appropriately to ensure

knowledge uptake which will achieve greater impact for the UK's investment. Partners are also ensuring that gender relevance is considered in all activities. The success of this programme and its approach to knowledge generation and uptake is currently being evaluated through a partner led evaluation. The key findings and lessons from this evaluation will be shared with others in 2017. Knowledge produced by KNOWFOR partners has also been, and will continue to be, of practical use to a number of ICF programmes. For example an analysis on wood energy, fuelwood and forest management in southern Africa was used to inform a potential new ICF business case on Miombo Forests, and private sector forest restoration approaches in the newly approved Investment in Sustainable Forests and Land Use Programme.

KNOWFOR is:
a) influencing the international agenda through countries using the knowledge tools to commit to restoring more than 100 million hectares of degraded land which will have a positive impact on more than 50 million people. This is a significant contribution to international targets set out in the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million ha of degraded land by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030.

b) undertaking ground-breaking research on the gender differentiated roles of forests in the livelihoods of women and men which has been influential on a wide range of policy processes as well as tools.

c) building on years of research into peat fires in Indonesia, undertaking political economy analysis and multi stakeholder engagement processes to better understand the drivers of peat fires and inform decision makers

d) focussing on REDD+ implementation by producing an on-line book which synthesises much of the research carried out on REDD+ over many years and draws important lessons for the REDD+ community.

d) developing accountability and law enforcement tools developed to "follow the money" in illegal forest product and wildlife trade, in collaboration with the international consortium for combatting wildlife crime, which are now being operationally deployed in Africa and South Asia.

e) being innovative in the use of technology to reach people through social media, virtual learning and conferencing on a large scale.

f) drawing on years of research in Central Africa on bush-meat, and contributed to the debate about the possible spread of the Ebola virus in connection with forest fragmentation and human-wildlife interactions.

Expected Results

There are a number of expected results from this programme including:
- **Public and private action is mobilised** around the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests,
- **Landscape approaches**, focused on people and development impacts, take a central place in approaches to tackling climate change and supporting sustainable development. The impact of landscape approaches

will be amplified by the learning and evidence generated and shared through the UNFCCC landscape day and other channels.

- Partner institutions **mainstream improved knowledge uptake** design, monitoring evaluation and learning systems; and these systems have **fully integrated gender** into all their knowledge related work (KNOWFOR's influence was noted through PROFOR's contribution to developing the World Bank Forest Action Plan (2016-2020)).

- **Livelihoods, food security and nutrition** – improved socio-economic data collection in the forest sector; forests and trees brought into the food security discourse and start being reflected in future initiatives (e.g. discussions of the High Level Panel of Experts on **Food Security and Nutrition);** evidence built on the **contribution of forest landscape restoration to food security and nutrition** and taken out to key audiences;

- Evidence of what works, where and how, influences the evolving international discussions around **REDD+ safeguards** and benefit sharing mechanisms.

- KNOWFOR partner research and analysis contributes to shaping policies and regulations to direct private-sector ambitions and further incentivize sustainable, **zero-deforestation commodity supply chains**.

- Greater rigour in forest-related research, analysis and synthesis

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Links to Further Info

IUCN – Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration

PROFOR website

CIFOR website