

Concept note

Explore community of practice (CoP) workshop

RECOFTC Main Office, Bangkok, Thailand | 20–22 November 2024

Background

As a regional research network, the Explore programme is committed to delivering multidisciplinary, transboundary research that equips policymakers and decision-makers with the knowledge to advance forest landscape governance in Southeast Asia. A key part of this effort is fostering a Community of Practice (CoP) that promotes knowledge sharing and cross-learning among practitioners with a shared interest in forest landscape governance research and policy.

The Explore secretariat currently manages a virtual CoP hosted by the Global Landscapes Forum. This Explore CoP workshop will revisit the CoP structure and formally establish and strengthen its objectives, activities and functionality to enhance group learning and collaboration.

Moving forward, the Explore CoP core group will primarily comprise Principal Investigators (PIs) and co-PIs from the seven Explore-supported research teams receiving Research Implementation Grants (2023–2025) and successive implementation grants.

The Explore secretariat will support core group members in sharing knowledge and research findings, extending their regional networks, developing joint activities and learning from each other. Explore CoP activities may include reflective workshops and meetings with PIs and Co-PIs, joint publications and online events to share and discuss research findings and other activities as agreed upon by the core CoP members.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aims to officially launch the Explore CoP and initiate the necessary processes to organize the CoP's activities.

The specific objectives include:

- to define the structure, scope and mechanisms of the CoP as agreed upon by its core members.
- to facilitate discussion and planning of subsequent member-led knowledge-sharing activities.

These will form the foundation of a self-managed and sustained group dedicated to forest landscape governance research and policy in Southeast Asia for the long term.

Target participants

The workshop's target participants include PIs, Co-PIs and nominated researchers from the seven research teams and members of the Explore secretariat from RECOFTC and CIFOR-ICRAF. Participants should demonstrate their willingness to learn, share their experiences and actively contribute their knowledge and skills.

Expected outcomes

By the end of this CoP workshop, participants are expected to:

- understand the concept, general principles and approaches of a CoP
- learn from experiences and organizational structures of similar networks in the region
- develop a shared understanding of the Explore CoP, its members and their respective roles
- collectively set goals and establish a vision for the Explore CoP
- discuss and create preliminary activity plans for the CoP
- exchange knowledge about progress in their research projects and identify opportunities for future collaboration

In the upcoming period, the Explore programme will focus on developing a shared understanding of the CoP among members, fostering motivation and ownership while facilitating group discussions to organize learning activities that promote active engagement and practical applications.

Tentative agenda

Duration: 20–22 November 2024, 09:00–16:30 (Indochina Time)

Approach: Mixed approach with presentations, participatory activities, breakout group discussion, deliberation and consensus-building exercise

Day 1 – Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Time	Topic
08:30	Registration
09:00–10:00	Opening session Facilitator: Santosh Raj Pathak, RECOFTC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of participants and ice-breaker exercise• Welcome remarks, Chandra Silori, RECOFTC• Remarks, David Lymer, Sida• Remarks, Hope Zhuang, Explore secretariat• Presentation of workshop agenda• Presentation of workshop rules and setting expectations
10:00–10:45	Session 1: Research updates, progress, challenges and avenues for collaboration Research team representatives will present their projects using a maximum of five slides. Each presentation will cover project introduction, research and policy highlights, new insights, implementation challenges, areas for collaboration/synergies and broader value and impact of their research work Presentations (7 minutes each followed by 3 minutes Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CN010/021/025: Centering gender and ecological justice in Southeast Asian forest landscape governance: Lessons from Indonesia and Lao PDR• CN022: Fair for whom? Comparing politics, power and precarity in transformations of tropical forest-agriculture frontiers in Southeast Asia (Indonesia chapter) CN030: Enhancing community resilience of socioecological production landscapes with agroforestry in Southeast Asia (RISE-SEA)
10:45–11:00	Tea break and group photo
11:00–12:00	Session 1: Research updates, progress, challenges and avenues for collaboration (continued) Presentations (7 minutes each followed by 3 minutes Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CN033/035: Gender, climate change and forest landscape governance: Insights from Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam• CN036: Understanding forest dependence in the time of COVID-19: A transboundary analysis using a multi-disciplinary approach in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam• CN040: Mainstreaming forest landscape governance based on forest-water-energy-food nexus toward sustainable forest landscape management in Indonesia's border areas• CN050: Collaborative forest landscape governance towards a resilient and sustainable future (COLLABORATE for FORESCAPE)
12:00–12:45	Session 2: Definition of a CoP and level of understanding (Why)
12:40–13:30	Lunch
13:30–16:30	Session 3: Deepening understanding and engagement
18:00 onwards	Reception dinner hosted by Explore secretariat

Day 2, Thursday, 21 November 2024

Time	Topic
09:00–09:15	Reflection session
09:15–10:15	Session 4: Facilitated panel dialogue on research priorities – agroforestry The moderator will introduce the panellists comprising research team members and outline the session's objectives. Panellists will respond to the moderator's cues regarding the research priority. The moderator will facilitate questions from the audience and summarize key insights at the end of the session.
10:15–11:00	Session 5: Small workshop on communication guidelines
11:00–12:45	Session 6: Marketplace session (working tea break) The marketplace session allows research teams to showcase their work, explore key areas, ask questions, share insights and network. Participants can engage with the teams, provide feedback and discuss potential collaborations in forestry and community engagement. This interactive session aims to promote knowledge exchange and is open to all RECOFTC colleagues.
12:45–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:30	Session 7: Facilitated panel dialogue on research priorities – gender integration and environmental justice
14:30–15:15	Session 8: Small workshop on gender integration
15:15–15:30	Tea break
15:30–16:30	Session 9: Facilitated panel dialogue on research priorities – landscape governance/resource dependence

Day 3 – Friday, 22 November 2024

Time	Topic
09:00–09:15	Reflection session
09:15–10:00	Session 10: Small workshop on policy outreach
10:00–10:30	Session 11: Review of current virtual CoP platform, pain points and future improvements
10:30–10:45	Tea break
10:45–11:00	Session 12: Resource mapping
11:00–12:00	Session 13: Building consensus on the CoP
12:00–13:15	Lunch
13:15–15:00	Session 13: Building consensus on the CoP (continued) Closing session: Wrap up and close Remarks, David Ganz, RECOFTC

Additional information

- **Marketplace setup:** On day 2, from 08:30 to 09:00, before the workshop starts. The secretariat will provide flip boards and printed maps. Research teams may bring promotional materials to showcase.
- **Grant compliance helpdesk:** During tea breaks, participants can inquire about finance and administrative requirements for grant compliance.

Principles of the Explore CoP

The Explore CoP is:

- member-based and member-driven
- members collectively discuss and decide the structure, scope and suitability of the CoP

Members take ownership:

- to be formally recognized by academia/other members of the CoP
- to access funding opportunity
- to publish research publications
- to participate in online conferences
- to receive references from the CoP
- to expand their networks and explore new collaboration opportunities.
- to use the platform to meet, discuss and collaborate on a common interest/theme.