



Community forest enterprises: New models for adaptation and mitigation

Official COP25 side event

Thursday 5 December 2019 | 16:30-18:00
Helsinki Room | EU Pavilion

As the world has industrialized, forests have paid the price. In want of quick economic growth and room for their growing populations, countries have turned over their forests to mega-projects for resource extraction and failed to regulate harmful farming practices such as slash-and-burn. The consequence?

Forests have been decimated world over, causing communities living at their edges and beyond to suffer from a loss in ecosystem services. People around the world have suffered from climate change as greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise while trees that would otherwise absorb them disappear. This has led many to observe that forest conservation is nearly impossible without people gaining economic benefits from forests.

The World Bank has reported that 90 percent of the world's poorest people rely on forests for their livelihoods. It is also estimated that 1.3 billion people live in and have rights to forest resources globally and depend directly or indirectly on benefits derived from the forests. Findings from a global study led by the Center for International Forestry Research show that in 24 developing countries, income generated from natural areas accounted for 28 percent of the household income, nearly matching the income from the sale of traditional agricultural crops. Community forest enterprises (CFEs) can add the

financial benefits that are needed to conserve forests, while also reducing poverty and helping mitigate and adapt to climate change. If given the right technological, financial, and policy support, CFEs can be successful and scalable. They can grow national economies sustainably, reduce poverty, and help nations meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. CFEs can also be a tool for adaptation and mitigation helping communities access REDD+ and other climate funds while promoting land restoration and preservation that supports both economic development and improved ecosystem services.

However, for CFEs to be successful, the right policy environment, market access, finance mechanisms, and public demand for CFE products must all be in place.

At this panel hosted by RECOFTC, we will discuss successful case studies of CFEs that have helped communities adapt to climate change, new businesses and business models that can source from CFEs and support their growth, and new ways of tracing and certifying the products derived from CFEs for consumers to be confident that their money is well spent.



Speakers

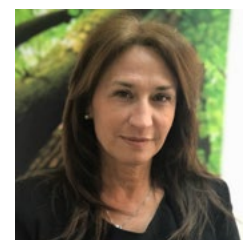
Pham Thu Thuy holds a BSc in Tropical Forestry and a PhD focused on pro-poor payments for environmental services. Thuy is currently a senior scientist at CIFOR in Viet Nam where her research focuses on forest governance and climate change. Thuy has also worked on LEDS, payment for environmental services, REDD+, social safeguards, community-forestry and gender mainstreaming. Before joining CIFOR she was as a consultant for ABD, World Agroforestry Center, SEI, and more.



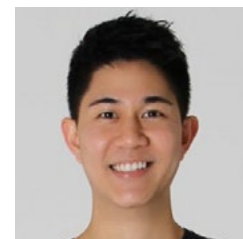
Aliya Das Gupta is the Head of Research at iov42, a blockchain technology and software company based in London, Zurich and Vienna. She has worked in blockchain and public policy for over seven years, particularly focused on the role blockchain can play in sustainability and sustainable business development. With insights into the intersection of technology and climate, Aliya is working with the team at iov42 to develop solutions targeting the climate crisis, with a strong focus on the forestry sector.



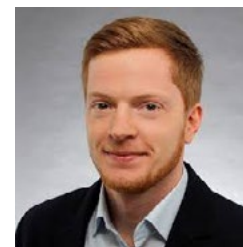
Ana Belén Noriega is the Secretary General of PEFC Spain, an organization that promotes sustainable forest development through certification. Within PEFC she has been involved in promoting and developing new certifications for non-timber forest products, sustainable fashion, small forest owners, and group certification. She is also an advisor for the Ministry of Environment of Spain with the European Council, FAO, the European Commission, UNEP, UNFF, and many others, and is a member of the UNECE Forest Communicators Network.



Alvin Li is a social entrepreneur, co-founder and CEO of The Kommon Goods, a sustainability company producing eco-friendly products for corporates, hotels, and events. He is also a consultant at a plastics recycling coalition in the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation that aims to close the plastics loop. He has been named Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, and has been a keynote speaker and panelist at numerous events, TV and radio shows. He holds an MSc in Management and in Social Innovation, both from the University of Cambridge.



Marcel Starfinger is a forest and development enthusiast with work and research experience in Latin America and Southeast Asia. A forester by training, he has mainly worked in the context of forest-based development cooperation for public and non-governmental institutions. He recently joined the Technical University Dresden as a doctoral candidate where he explores innovative financing tools as incentives for smallholder driven forest landscape restoration in Thailand.



Moderator

Jenna Jadin is the Director of Technical Services at RECOFTC that houses some of the world's foremost thought leaders in the field of people-centered forestry. For the last decade, she has been a natural resource science policy advisor and program manager, working also on strategic and behavior change communications. Her past clients and employers include science-focused non-governmental organizations, the US Department of Agriculture, USAID, the Food and Agriculture Organization, foreign governments, TV networks, international academic institutions, and ecologically-minded startups and companies.



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