

Call for applications

## Workshop on working with local communities in forest landscapes: Using a participatory development communication approach

RECOFTC and FAO under the umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)<sup>1</sup> are accepting applications for a regional learning workshop focused on applying a participatory development communication approach in the context of working with local communities in forest landscapes in the Asia and Pacific region. The workshop is a learning event of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Communication Network.

### What is a forest communication strategy and how can it include local communities?

At the workshop, participants will share experiences in working with local communities and using communication and participatory approaches in that context. They will learn different communication approaches in development with an emphasis on participatory development communication. Participants will develop their own forest communication strategies and plans of action that include involving and learning from the local community in the identification of a problem, its potential solutions, and the decision to carry out a concrete initiative. Communication tools and participatory techniques will be explored. They will then identify follow-up modalities to finalize the strategies and implementation plan and discuss support needed for implementation.

### Course objectives

The workshop objectives are:

- To share learning on using communication<sup>2</sup> to address development challenges in the context of forestry work
- To learn how to apply a participatory development communication approach
- To develop a participatory development communication strategy and an implementation plan
- To identify relevant modalities for implementation, follow-up and knowledge-sharing after the workshop

### Registration information

**Application deadline:** 31 March 2015

**Course dates:** 12-15 May 2015

**Course location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Course fee:** There are no registration fees.

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) may provide funding for a limited number of selected applicants to cover their participation as needed.

**Application form:** <http://svy.mk/1FvYpox>

### The Asia-Pacific Forestry Communication Network

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Communication Network (APFCN) serves as a platform for communication and forestry officers from both private and public sector organizations to share information and knowledge, work together on forestry themes and goals, and hold joint capacity development opportunities.

The APFCN was formed during a meeting of communication and forestry officers from region. The meeting was organized by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) in September 2013 as a result of the recommendation of the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) in 2011 to establish a Forestry Communications Working Group under the auspices of the Commission.

Anyone who conducts communication activities and works in the forestry sector to promote social and environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific can be a member, and both individual and organizational members are welcome. For more information and to join, contact: Caroline Liou, [caroline.liou@recoftc.org](mailto:caroline.liou@recoftc.org) or Wirya Khim, [wirya.khim@fao.org](mailto:wirya.khim@fao.org).

<sup>1</sup> APFC is one of the six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions that cover the world's major geographic regions. APFC, a forum for advising and taking action on key forestry issues, focuses on aspects pertinent to the Asia-Pacific. The Commission provides advice to member countries and FAO on forest policy, facilitates information exchange, and develops recommendations to member governments and FAO on forestry-related issues.

<sup>2</sup> Communication refers to the process of communication and its related methods, techniques, and media, as well as participatory techniques; it includes but is not limited to mass communications and products such as audiovisual programs, posters, technologies, folk and community media, social networks, Web sites, and so forth, as well as participatory methods and techniques for working with local communities.

## What is participatory development communication (PDC)?

Participatory Development Communication (PDC) is a systematic methodology in using participatory techniques and the media, to involve communities in the development process, enable them to take the lead of its activities and use the learning generated to improve their livelihoods.

## Who should join?

This four-day workshop is targeted at 20-25 national forestry agency communication officers, forest extension officers and/or people working on existing projects that have a substantial forest communication focus in the Asia and Pacific region. Applicants from national government forest departments, NGOs and CSOs are encouraged to apply. Applicants are not required to be working directly with local communities, however their forest communication work should be related to local communities (for example, a national forestry agency communication officer who is responsible for communicating national policy that relates to local communities).

Workshop participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Involved in designing or implementing a forestry project with a strong communication component
- Working on a project(s) that has a connection with local communities
- Committed to using the knowledge acquired
- Willingness to engage in knowledge-sharing after the workshop
- In a decision-making role regarding relevant project activities and have endorsement/approval from their supervisor or head of department/office
- Have English competency - the working language of the workshop will be English

## How the course works

Together with RECOFTC and FAO facilitators, the workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Guy Bessette, a specialist in the fields of social learning and participatory development communication (PDC). As a senior program specialist for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (1994 - 2010), Dr. Bessette managed action-research projects integrating PDC in agriculture, natural resource management and community development projects, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Bessette holds a doctorate in education and has authored four books on development communication, including *People, Land and Water: Participatory Development Communication for Natural Resource Management* (IDRC & Earthscan, 2006).

The workshop will be conducted at RECOFTC headquarters, Bangkok, Thailand.



To apply for this workshop, see <http://svy.mk/1FvYpox>, or for more information, contact:

Caroline Liou  
RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests  
Bangkok, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0)2 940 5700  
Email: [caroline.liou@recoftc.org](mailto:caroline.liou@recoftc.org).

Wirya Khim  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Bangkok, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0)2 679 4141  
Email: [wirya.khim@fao.org](mailto:wirya.khim@fao.org)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

