

# Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change

**Project Duration** 2 years (2013-2015)

**Project Budget** USD 2,000,000

## ► Overview

The project “Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resource Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change” was a two-year regional project implemented by the Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam with financial support from the Republic of Korea (ROK). It was launched on 18 November 2013, and the Forestry Research, Development and Innovation Agency of Indonesia became a lead co-ordinating agency.

The Capacity Building project aimed to enhance the capacity of Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) for ASEAN Member States as one of enabling condition to achieve Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and to address forest management issues in the context of climate change and mitigate adverse impact of climate change through enhanced involvement of local community to sustainable management of the forest and development of alternative livelihoods to cope with.

## ► Objectives

- Capacity building of the Implementing Countries on forest resources inventory/assessment through supporting satellite imagery and facilities to use GIS/RS technology and developing training modules
- Enhancing the involvement of the local communities in forest related activities to address climate change
- Strengthening community resilience through alternative livelihood
- Exchange of expertise and experiences among the Implementing Countries and the Republic of Korea

## ► Components/Activities

- ❶ Review of current state of capacity and ability of Forest Resource Assessment
- ❷ Capacity Building Programs for use of satellite imagery for Forest Resource Assessment
- ❸ Supporting high resolution satellite images and inventory equipment in Implementing Countries
- ❹ Awareness raising programs and engagement of local communities



Lecture and practice on handling GIS/RS software during “Training of Trainers on Remote Sensing Application for Forest Resource Assessment” (22-27 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR)



## ► The Result

The project activities were designed at two different level – a national level and regional level, which were closely coordinated to build capacity of utilizing GIS/Remote Sensing (RS) technologies and narrow the gap in National Forest Resource Assessment (FRA).

- Country and regional workshops on FRA identified the gap among Implementing Countries.
- Comparative study of satellite imagery in FRA of AMS to the Republic of Korea (25-29 August 2014) enabled each Implementing Countries to know various range of use of GIS/RS technologies in the field of forest disaster management as well as sustainable forest management.
- Meanwhile, each Implementing Country has procured high resolution satellite imagery and equipment to support the use of GIS/RS technology for FRA.
- Also a syllabus and modules on “Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment” were developed and “Training for Trainers” was organized in Vientiane, Lao PDR (22-27 September 2014) at a regional level.
- These modules were transferred to each Implementing Countries to improve the knowledge and skills of RS/GIS technology for each of their national agencies and officials in charge.

In addition, each Implementing Countries have also been conducting the activities to involve local communities around the forests more to the execution of climate change mitigation actions supporting the mechanism of REDD+.

- Each Implementing Country has been conducting a study on alternative livelihoods for the selected local communities and is expected to organize national training for raising awareness among the local communities.
- Study tour on REDD+ Demonstration Activities Involving Local Communities were arranged twice to Meru Betiri National Park (East Java, Indonesia) and Rinjani Barat Protection Forest (Lombok, Indonesia) respectively in March and September of 2015 to learn best practices and exchange experiences among the ASEAN Member States.



Field practice on ground checking of landcover during “Training of Trainers on Remote Sensing Application for Forest Resource Assessment” (22-27 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR)



Interviewing a leader of local community on development of alternative livelihoods during the 1st Study Tour organized on 23-26 February 2015 in Meru Betiri National Park in Indonesia

## ► The Future

ASEAN Member States (AMS), especially forestry institutions, would have sufficient comparative skill and knowledge to work on the field of Remote Sensing and GIS for improving forest monitoring system by using advance technology that is one of the key factors subjected to capacity building on forest management. The countries will be able to produce map of forest resource assessment with high accuracy result. In this regard, they are also able to address the adverse impact of climate change.

On top of that, the project would bring the local communities opportunities to find various options for their livelihood activities supporting and availing them to act as key stakeholders in mitigation and adaptation action to climate change.

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forest sector between ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea. It was formalized by the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation”, which was entered into force in August 2012. The AFoCo aims to tackle the issue of deforestation and forest conservation in the context of sustainable development, and broaden the scope to other Asian countries.