

Livelihoods, Landscapes, and Governance: Lessons Learned

USAID's Enduring Legacy in Natural Forests

USAID has taken a leadership role in natural forest management throughout the world. An analysis of this extensive work has produced recommendations for future programming:

- The critical role of forestry with both agriculture and broader landscape management objectives needs to be redefined and reinforced. Forestry programs should be fully integrated into poverty reduction and food security strategies.
- Program and project design should focus on site-specific solutions while working within the dominant landscape to ensure sustainable development. Forestry projects must be economically and financially connected to broader land use issues in order to be viable.
- Designing and implementing meaningful community forestry activities should be done on a project by project, site by site and enterprise by enterprise level based on measured organizational capacity and demonstrated commitment to forest enterprise solutions.
- Value chain analysis of production and processing should be conducted to determine product blends and capital requirements.
- Exit strategies must be identified at project inception and partnerships with local forest products industries in the processing and marketing of community forest products should be considered.
- Whenever possible donor programs should encourage greater community access and outright ownership of forest resources.
- Trans-boundary programs should be developed both at the field and regional office levels, as the flow of resources and people across borders impacts individual countries profoundly.
- Forestry and democracy and governance issues are interconnected. Linking projects in these sectors will enhance the effectiveness of each program individually.
- Forestry programs should be designed and implemented according to more realistic time frames. Programming should be focused on a ten year horizon in order to realize maximum results.

USAID FOREST PROGRAM

*25 Years of Progress Toward
Sustainable Forestry*



*The Forestry Team
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
Room 3.08
Washington, DC 20523-3800*

