

Strengthening Community Capacity in Forest Management of Nam Reab Watershed at Nan Province of Thailand

Project Duration January to December 2013

Project Budget USD 100,000

► Overview

The project “Strengthening Community Capacity in Forest Management of Nam Reab Watershed at Nan Province of Thailand” was a one-year project developed by the Royal Forest Department, Thailand with financial support from Korea Forest Service, the Republic of Korea. The project site is located in Nam Reab Watershed in Thung Chang District of Nan Province. The Implementation Agreement was signed on 31 December 2012.

This project is based on capacity building strategies of communities in order to achieve sustainable forest management. The project would bring together a partnership of 4 communities into a community forestry network with the Royal Forest Department, National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, other government agencies, local organization administrations, and civil groups to establish a bottom-up policy formulation process for community-based capacity building establishment scheme. In addition, the project has strategic partnership with Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office (BEDO-Public Organization) to promote value-added products of NTFPs that help improve the economic status of local households and livelihoods in the long term.

► Objectives

- To build capacity of the four local communities within Nam Leab Watershed
- To design and implement climate change adaptation activities in order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation under REDD+ concept
- To demonstrate how local communities and administration organizations in coordination with related government agencies can implement REDD+ initiatives

► What have been done!

- Formulation of a community forestry management plan for sustainable management of Nam Leab Watershed.
- Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) improvement through the introduction of value-added products
- Forest fire and illegal logging control
- Establishment of community network
- Strengthening community forest user and property right
- Pilot testing on periodic carbon stock measurement and monitoring mechanism





► The Result

The community forest management plan was developed and established to ensure sustainable management of the Nam Leab Watershed. The plan includes land use planning and reforestation activities. Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP), which is the main incomes for the local community, were improved in utilization. In addition, the project also enhanced community-level awareness on the proper forest fire control practices such as fire break, fuel load reduction and local fire brigade which is part of the community forest management plan. Law enforcement practices for illegal logging control were introduced through voluntary forest patrol, illegal logging prevention actions, among others.

Local community groups, from both downstream and upstream communities as well as relevant government agencies and civil groups, were organized into a community forest network and watershed management organization. The concept of people's participation could be seen from the community forum that was initiated and developed by related groups and multi-stakeholders.

The project area was clearly mapped and demarcated for communal land tenure under the community forestry registration in order to enhance community

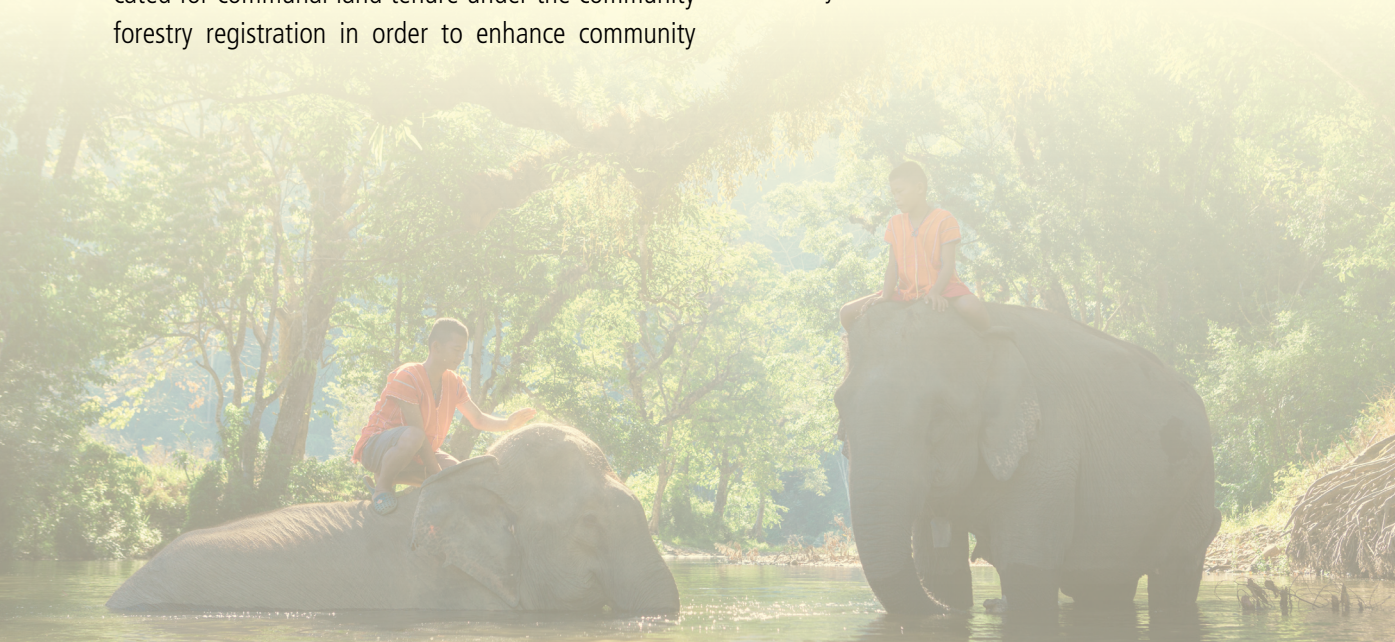
forest user and property right with a strong collaborative mechanism involving the village committee and supporting groups in operating the community-based forest management plan. And also, the report of forest carbon sequestration was conducted through activities of measurement and reporting in every six month.

The project contributed to enhancing the capacity of local people to develop community forest management plans while considering sustainable forest management principles. A stronger collaboration mechanism was developed involving the village committee and supporting groups in operating the community-based forest management plan.

► The Future

As community forestry in this area has been well established, it can be an example of best practices for other villages. It will be ideal if similar projects could be implemented to include the involvement of upstream villagers.

There is a need to enhance the sharing of knowledge and information regarding REDD+ activities and its benefits to people as REDD+ is still perceived differently.



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.