



Engaging community forestry in climate change adaptation in Asia and ways forward

Adaptation Forum 2013

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Presentation Outline

1. WHY DOES FOREST-BASED ADAPTATION MATTER?
2. IN PRACTICE: SYNERGIES AND TRADE-OFFS
3. SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

Does Adaptation in Forests Matter?



Adaptation mostly focuses on water, agriculture and disaster management. Adaptation Fund projects - none explicitly address forests.

BUT, recent research shows significance of forests in rural livelihoods – contributing globally 1/5 to 1/4 of rural household income.

Countries are developing their national adaptation strategies - forests need to be included.

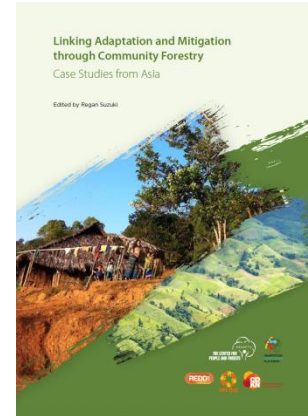
Conversely, mitigation activities such as REDD+ rarely include adaptation and the development of adaptive capacity.

CF is recognized approach in ASEAN and important entry point for addressing adaptation and mitigation jointly



How do forests support adaptation?

- **REDUCING VULNERABILITY!!**
- Forest products more resilient to climate variability than crops
- Income from sale of forest products – timber, fuelwood and non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- Consumption of edible forest products (mushrooms, sago, fruits, bushmeat)
- Trees protect soil and regulate water and microclimate, protecting crops and livestock
- Agroforestry systems more resilient to drought, excess precipitation, and temperature fluctuations
- Coastal forests (mangroves) mitigate disasters/ extreme events (storms or cyclones) and sea-level rise
- **Social forestry institutions contribute to social objectives: social capital, information sharing, pro-poor activities, access to funds**



Why the case studies?

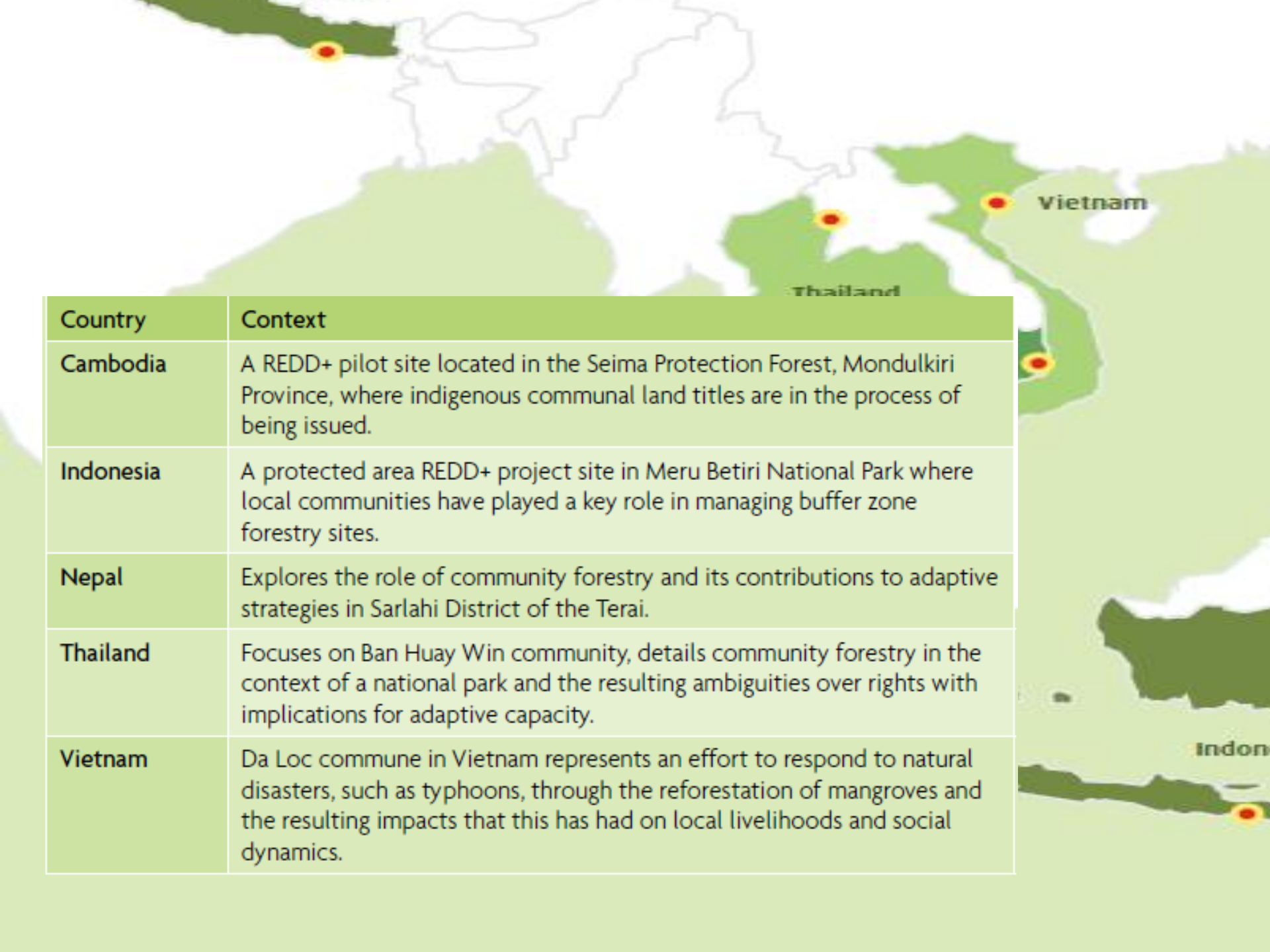
- Lack of documentation of local forest-based adaptation
- Interest in making REDD+ viable in absence of immediate benefits
- Making climate change funding more efficient through linking

Also

- not doing so may undermine efforts at sustainable forestry and result in loss of rights and livelihoods among vulnerable communities.

We wanted to explore

- the multifaceted roles of forests in mitigation and adaptation, identifying potential synergies and trade-offs.



A map of Southeast Asia and South Asia is shown in the background. Red dots with yellow halos indicate the locations of REDD+ pilot sites in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam. The map includes labels for Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Country	Context
Cambodia	A REDD+ pilot site located in the Seima Protection Forest, Mondulkiri Province, where indigenous communal land titles are in the process of being issued.
Indonesia	A protected area REDD+ project site in Meru Betiri National Park where local communities have played a key role in managing buffer zone forestry sites.
Nepal	Explores the role of community forestry and its contributions to adaptive strategies in Sarlahi District of the Terai.
Thailand	Focuses on Ban Huay Win community, details community forestry in the context of a national park and the resulting ambiguities over rights with implications for adaptive capacity.
Vietnam	Da Loc commune in Vietnam represents an effort to respond to natural disasters, such as typhoons, through the reforestation of mangroves and the resulting impacts that this has had on local livelihoods and social dynamics.

Forest-based adaptation synergies in action

Mangroves in Da Loc, Vietnam

- Reduced disaster risk from typhoons and extreme weather events
- Improved livelihoods through aquaculture, duck and bee raising
- Social capital within community through group-organizing
- Strengthened relationship with district and provincial authorities
- High levels of carbon sequestration



Forest-adaptation synergies in action

REDD+ project, Seima, Cambodia

- Iterative relationship with communal land titling process supporting REDD+ and vice versa
- Forest based livelihoods critical safety net for Phnong community during times of duress
- Conservation regime provides alternatives to casava or cashew conversion
- Potential payments from VER sales



Trade-offs

Community forests, Dhanusa, Nepal


- CF management plans can disproportionately impact vulnerable groups such as women and those of lower caste
 - Ex. In Bishnupur CFUG, prohibitions on cattle grazing led to increased labor for women collecting fodder and decrease in cattle numbers – affecting women as beneficiaries of dairy product income
- Opportunity costs – landless groups are organizing and demanding conversion to agricultural land



General recommendations for linking adaptation with forestry

1. Incorporate adaptation lens in national forestry plans and forestry in national adaptation strategies.
2. Avoid sectoral 'silos' and employ ecosystem-based management approaches.
3. Scale-up models of successful mitigation–adaptation initiatives. Document lessons learned.
4. Awareness raising and capacity building for government and communities.

General recommendations for linking adaptation with forestry

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5. Incorporate local knowledge in adaptation and mitigation practices
 6. Accelerate and expand land tenure reform processes in the region.
 7. Facilitate market access and value addition skills for livelihood development.
 8. Support development of knowledge sharing and networks between communities and countries.

Thank you!

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