



Training workshop on “Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in National Forest Programme Processes” in Viet Nam, September 2009

1. Background information:

The training workshop on ‘Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in national Forest Programme Processes in Viet Nam’ aimed to strengthen the capacity of National Forest Programme (NFP) coordinators, and other key forestry stakeholders to meaningfully enhance the practical application of the principle of participation in forestry decision making in Vietnam.

It was the first time in Viet Nam such a diverse range of stakeholders had a chance to sit and learn together in a training course on participation. 18 participants came from Government departments (Department of Forestry, Sub-department of Forestry in Phu Tho province, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Thai Nguyen province), academia/research institutions (Forest Science Institute of Vietnam, Forest Inventory and Planning Institute), NGOs (Consultative Institute for Social – Economic Development of Rural and Mountainous Areas, Institute of Development Research on Rural and Mountainous Area, Economic Ecology Institute, Center for Nature and Community Development), private sector (Shipping Furniture factory of Shinec, Agriculture – Forestry Development Investment Company), national park (Tam Dao national park), TFF (Trust Fund for Forests) and FSSP itself.



2. Content of the training workshop

11 methods for enhancing stakeholder participation were introduced during the training, including visioning, poster presentations with post-its, problem analysis, target scoring, stakeholder analysis, 3Rs ranking, relationship mapping, role play, fishbowl debate, priority ranking, rotating panel presentation, synthesis brainstorming on problems and priority auction.

With those methods, participants had identified key issues as constraining participation of stakeholders in forestry decision-making as follows:

- Methods for stakeholders to participate in decision-making process are not suitable
- Not enough consultative environment to participate
- Economic issues drive decision making
- Lack of information
- Stakeholders do not have proper concern or not aware of importance of participating in decision making
- Stakeholders are not invited

Also, participants had identified the key strategies to overcome the constraints:

- Encourage participation of national NGOs to decision making process
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of implementation of forestry decisions
- Conduct training to raise awareness of necessity of stakeholder participation
- Conduct workshops with participants from more various stakeholders (e.g. medium and small enterprises)
- More involved in development of forestry strategies of more various stakeholders
- Improve information sharing and dissemination on forestry policies and decisions
- Identify clearly rights, responsibilities and benefits of each stakeholder



Fishbowl debate with community, Tam Dao national park staff and sawn-mill workers

Based on those findings, participants had planned way forward to implement these strategies:

- Encourage participation of national NGOs to decision making process: using SWOT, fishbowl debate. Target groups are NGOs, small and medium enterprises, relevant ministries and departments.
- Conduct workshops with participants from more various stakeholders (e.g. medium and small enterprises): using visioning, poster presentations with post-its, synthesis brainstorming on problems. Target groups are NGOs, small and medium enterprises, relevant ministries and departments.
- Improve information sharing and dissemination on forestry policies and decisions: using visioning, poster presentations with post-its, leaflets. Target groups are NGOs, small and medium enterprises, relevant ministries and departments
- More involved in development of forestry strategies of more various stakeholders: using SWOT, poster presentations with post-its and problem analysis. Target groups are forestry departments and agencies, research institutes, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Identify clearly rights, responsibilities and benefits of each stakeholder: using 3Rs ranking, fish-bowl debate and stakeholder analysis. Target groups are all stakeholders.
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of implementation of forestry decisions: using problem analysis. Target groups: forestry departments take lead, other stakeholders are involved.
- Conduct trainings to raise awareness of necessity of stakeholder participation: using SWOT, relationship mapping and role play. Target groups are all stakeholders.

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