



LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD (LPF)

Fair Partnership for Local Development to Improve Forest Sustainability



As its title suggests, LPF is about creating a fair space in which all forestry players, especially those less empowered, can compete equally. LPF is achieving this by giving local people the skills to work collectively in negotiating successful partnership with more dominant actors, such as government agencies and private companies.



Achieving SFM - Sustainable & Fair Forest Management

When the 'playing field is level', stakeholders are more likely to work together and be mutually accountable. This results in the project's main aim of promoting good forest governance that encourages sustainable forest management that is also fair to the rural poor who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

Currently LPF operates from six different sites in three ASEAN

countries: Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. Funded by the European Union through its Tropical Forest Budget Line the four year project ends later this year.

LPF is managed by France's Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in partnership with three universities: University Putra Malaysia, University of the Philippines in Los Banos, and Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.

LPF's Indonesian site is on the island of Java and operates closely with the state owned company, Perum Perhutani, which manages some 2,000,000 ha of forest plantations. To increase the plantations security and improve farmers' livelihoods, LPF has mediated partnerships between farmer organizations and the company. This has required setting new rules, defining the rights and duties of the partners, and agreeing on how benefits are shared. LPF contributed to this by helping local people develop the skills and resources necessary to implement collective action and partnership management. As a result, three of four villages have teak forest resources and farmers now receive 25 percent of the timber harvesting revenue. In Glandang, however, where the forests have long been depleted and are in desperate need of being restored, a lack of capital is the issue. For the people of Glandang, a third party has helped facilitate a new form of partnership, involving farmer organizations, Perum Perhutani, and Accor Indonesia.





State forest security. Fair partnerships with neighboring villages reduce the risk of illegal logging and support local development.



Landless farmers get access to state land. Thanks to their partnership, landless farmers now have a clear right to cultivate between trees.



Education, both formal and informal, is now a priority in Glandang following the villagers' recognition of the importance of building a strong human resource base.



Creating capacity at the village level for transparent collective action is a social investment with high returns. This capacity is a prerequisite for fair partnerships and sustainable forest plantations.

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