



The NFP Facility and PROFOR – two initiatives in support of national forest policy processes – how do the two interrelate?



The National Forest Programme Facility (Facility) and the Program on Forests (PROFOR) are two initiatives with a common mandate – to support national forest programs (nfps) or other national forest policy processes. Both programs work to implement internationally agreed priorities and objectives related to forests, including the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the International Forum on Forests, as well as broader sustainable development agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, in working towards their shared goals, the two programs take distinct approaches and fulfill different roles.

In short, the Facility provides country support to enable governmental and civil society actors to manage and develop nfp processes, whereas PROFOR supports analytical work and generates knowledge in the form of lessons learnt and new tools and approaches on key issues within the forest sector, such as forests-poverty linkages. These two distinct yet complimentary roles are the foundation of a two-way partnership between PROFOR and the Facility: the Facility's engagement in many countries throughout the world provides experiences that can help to inform PROFOR's work; and the tools, concepts and approaches generated by PROFOR can help Facility countries in developing and implementing their nfps.

This information note provides an overview of how each initiative works independently and of the growing partnership between the two.

The NFP Facility

Mission: To assist countries to develop and implement national forest programmes (nfps) that effectively address local needs and national priorities, and reflect internationally agreed principles, through informed participation of civil society.

Institutional setting and management: The Facility operates under the authority of a Steering Committee representing the key partners for forestry development in the developing world. The Facility is financed through a multi-donor trust fund supported by the European Commission, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the USA, and with in-kind support from Germany. The Facility is operational since mid 2002 and is hosted by FAO in Rome.

Strategy: The Facility supports nfps in order to (i) build a consensus on how to address forest related issues at the national level; (ii) integrate sustainable forest management into broader inter-sectoral processes, with a focus on poverty reduction; and (iii) translate commitments at the international level into national forest policy and planning.

Main beneficiaries: At the country level, beneficiaries are stakeholders actively participating in nfp processes such as national and local government agencies, other institutions, NGOs and community-based organizations. Worldwide, they are nfp practitioners and international funding partners and investors with an interest in the forestry sector.

Country Support: Most of the Facility funds go to country support to enable governmental and civil society actors to successfully manage and develop nfp processes. The average amount of funds made available to a partner country over a three-year period is US\$300,000. Facility support focuses on enhancing governance in the forest sector through civil society participation in nfps, formulation and adoption of policies, strengthening stakeholders' skills, and knowledge management.

Facility partners: The Facility has now 46 partners including 21 African countries, nine countries in Asia and the Pacific, nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, three Central

The Program on Forests (PROFOR)

Mission: To foster forests' contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable economic development and the protection of global and local environmental values through the implementation of nfps or equivalent forest policy processes.

Institutional setting and management: PROFOR is a multi-donor trust fund program housed at the World Bank within the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESSD) Forests Team. Initially established in 1997 at the United Nations Development Programme, PROFOR relocated to the World Bank in 2002. PROFOR is funded by the governments of Finland, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The German Government is an in-kind contributor. A Management Board comprised of representatives from donor agencies, the World Bank, and the NFP Facility provides strategic guidance to PROFOR.

A Thematic Approach: PROFOR focuses on four key thematic areas:

Livelihoods: Meeting subsistence needs, reducing vulnerability, overall poverty reduction, and increased access to market opportunities are the focus of activities in this area. Currently, PROFOR is working with partners to devise a rapid appraisal methodology to assess forest-livelihood linkages based on field research and case studies documenting the role of forests in poverty reduction and livelihood security. This new tool will assist planners and practitioners to understand how forests can help to enhance rural livelihoods, conserve biodiversity and achieve the MDGs. It will also provide a sound basis for incorporating forest issues into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

Governance: In general, PROFOR activities in this area help to facilitate good forest sector governance by providing opportunities for countries to learn from one another's experiences in forest sector and institutional reform. For example, PROFOR supported dialogue in Russia on institutional change and key issues such as concession systems and fire management has helped to inform the institutional reform process and to disseminate and generate information through workshops and publications.

Asian countries, and four sub-regional organizations.

Facility grants: The Facility stimulates participation in the nfp process by providing grants directly to stakeholders in partner countries, based on a country-driven programme of activities and a competitive and transparent process to select proposals by stakeholders interested in Facility support. Catalytic funding to these stakeholders supports activities such as workshops, fora and in-service training; policy analysis and specific studies; and information sharing and knowledge management initiatives.

Scope of Facility support: The Facility supports a broad range of nfp-related topics, dealing mainly with:

Informed participation of stakeholders: Developing capacities and education of government and non-government stakeholders; raising awareness of stakeholders in the nfp process, and sensitisation of decision makers at national and local levels on forest related issues; establishment of consultation processes; and development/establishment of forest information systems, web based initiatives, and knowledge sharing and management initiatives.

Policy & strategy formulation at different levels: Development and implementation of regional or sub-regional forest strategies; development, updating or revival of national forest policies and programmes; and development of sub-national forest programmes and sub-sector strategies.

Broadening nfps to wide range of topics: Integrating IPF/IFF proposals for action in national policy development; integrating nfps into broader national strategies (poverty reduction, combating desertification, landuse planning), and inter-sectoral coordination in nfp implementation; and participatory forestry.

Legal, fiscal and institutional instruments: Development and adoption of new forest legislation and dissemination of forest related laws and regulations; development of new mechanisms to fund forestry (payment for environmental services), and enabling private investment in the forestry sector; and decentralization in the forestry sector.

Information Services: The Facility shares experiences and knowledge on nfps worldwide through: a web-based information platform (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-facility>); and dynamic methods of information and knowledge sharing based on regional workshops, networks and communities of practice that link nfp actors and provide access to experiences of other countries.

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Innovative Finance for SFM: Creating a sustainable forest sector requires innovation in both the practice and financing of forest management. A particular area of interest is reform of market structures to make sustainable forestry more profitable than unsustainable forest exploitation. Recent and ongoing PROFOR activities have helped to clarify global dialogue and understanding in this area through events such as the Forest Investment Forum (October 2003), the Forest Fiscal Systems Workshop (October 2003), and the Workshop on Payments for Environmental Services and Forest Landscape Restoration (February 2004). The findings from these events are now serving to inform potential regional and national level work. For example, plans for a regional investment forum for countries from Southern and Eastern Africa are underway.

Cross-sectoral cooperation: Sustainable forest management requires coordinated cooperation across several sectors to ensure that policies and practices are not undermined by activities stimulated by general macroeconomic policy shifts or changed levels of investment in other sectors such as agriculture, energy, mining, and transportation. Activities in this area will focus on ground truthing emerging methodologies for assessing the impacts of macro-economic policy shifts on forests, so as to ensure that they do not impact negatively on forests and to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes.

Scope of work: PROFOR's portfolio is diverse, comprising activities related to the four thematic areas at the international, regional or country level. Projects are demand-driven by governments and other stakeholders, and to the greatest extent possible take the form of multi-partner, larger-scale initiatives rather than stand-alone activities. PROFOR gives special emphasis to projects with high potential for lesson learning and significant gains in knowledge that are transferable and relevant to a wide range of situations. Grants vary in size, with an average allocation of US\$100,000. At present, there are 23 activities in the portfolio. These activities are carried out at either the global, regional or national level.

Contact information: The PROFOR Secretariat would be pleased to provide further information on PROFOR. Mailing address: PROFOR Secretariat at the World Bank, 1818 H St. NW, MC5-514, Washington DC, 20433, USA; fax: +1 202 522 1142; e-mail: profor@worldbank.org; Internet: <http://www.profor.info>

The NFP Facility and PROFOR – A Two-way Partnership

Back-to-back meetings: The Facility and PROFOR host their annual steering committee and management board (respectively) meetings back-to-back, with a half-day joint meeting on partnership between the two programs.

Information sharing: Collaboration on information and knowledge sharing is a primary focus of the partnership at present. An example of this work is the Facility and PROFOR co-sponsored special edition of European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) on National Forest Programs published in Autumn 2004. Additional collaboration includes the NFP Facility's translation and dissemination of the PROFOR summary guide to the IPF/IFF Proposals for action.

In-country collaboration: Opportunities for partnership at the national level in countries where both PROFOR and the Facility are active are currently being assessed.