

KNOWFOR/PROFOR Global Evaluation

Deep Dive Case Study

**UNDERSTANDING FORESTS' CONTRIBUTION TO POVERTY
REDUCTION**

**An Evaluation of the PROFOR-funded activities in India, Philippines,
and Turkey**

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1. Introduction

Currently, there is no systematic understanding of how forests may help the poor move out of chronic poverty and/or improve their current economic circumstance. Frameworks such as those focusing on ecosystem services, or those elaborating different types of contributions of forests to human welfare can be used to structure analyses of forest-people linkages. But there are also critical knowledge gaps about forests as a source of employment and pathway out of poverty challenges in collecting relevant information on the contribution of forests to household well-being. Difficulties of measurement, valuation, and enumeration thwart efforts to capture this contribution. In particular, the remoteness of many poor, forest-reliant households and the length of time required to complete many surveys are barriers to collecting adequate information, which contributes to the lack of consolidated knowledge available on the linkage between forests and a pathway out of poverty.

The **Understanding Forests' Contribution to Poverty Reduction**, program of PROFOR is focused on generating knowledge on forests as pathways out of poverty. The research is designed to produce a number of outputs, some of which are: (1) A knowledge review, focusing on synthesizing evidence on the impacts of forestry policies and programs on poverty reduction in evidence maps. (2) A conceptual framework on the potential pathways out of poverty. (3) A compendium of country case studies, providing information on various facets of the forest-poverty nexus, and (4) Dissemination and outreach targeted to specific internal and external users and audiences. The work is being conducted in close collaboration with an external reference group of advisory experts and key institutions that includes representatives from the organizations, such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) as well as universities, policy institutes, foundations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The three subcases included in this evaluation form part of the evidence gathering products in the Understanding Forests' Contribution to Poverty Reduction program. The program, and the 3 country cases have all been funded from KNOWFOR funds. In the year 2014, the Program on Forests (PROFOR) supported activities in India and Philippines that explored the contribution of forests towards poverty reduction. In 2015, it supported a similar activity that assessed linkages between poverty and forest dependence in Turkey.

India

The project "Understanding the Role of India's Forests in Contributing to Combating Extreme Poverty and in Promoting Shared Prosperity" in India had three objectives. First, understand the extent to which the poor in India depend on forests and their associated ecosystem services for livelihoods. Second, assess whether and how sustainable forest management (SFM) investments result in poverty reduction and shared prosperity outcomes. Third, identify key forest related policies that have the

highest impact on poverty reduction and shared prosperity, and possible entry points for the World Bank and its development partners to engage on these issues.

The main audience for this work was the Country Director (CD) for India and the poverty economists in the Country Management Unit (CMU), to convince it of the importance of investing in forests as a way of addressing rural poverty.

Philippines

The objective of the project in the Philippines, which is still ongoing, is to assess ways in which forests can contribute to ending extreme poverty in a generation and promote shared prosperity for the bottom forty percent. The primary audience for this work are is the staff of the regional planning offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The central DENR staff is also an important audience. By focusing on three specific forest ecosystems in the Philippines, the project has identified ways through which sustainably managed ecosystems can promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The project has modeled the interactions between ecosystem services provided by forests and environmental income and analyzed the impact of different development scenarios on the selected forest ecosystems in three sites—UMRBPL, LPW and UMAM. The recommendations intend to inform forest investments, policies, and program design. The key outputs produced include: (a) methodological note, report with executive summary, policy brief, data base at the site level, including newly collected information, and (b) site-level spatial model and maps for ecosystem services.

Turkey

The development objective of the project in Turkey, which is also still ongoing, is to inform forest policy through a survey of forest villagers on: forest dependence, poverty, and migration. The activity has been undertaken at the request of the Director General of Forests (DGF) and will be fed into a policy note for the sector. The staff of the DGF is the primary audience for this work. The higher-level objective of the project is to enhance understanding of the linkages between poverty and forest dependence. The project consists of five distinct but interrelated activities: (a) socio-economic survey development, (b) review of the survey instrument¹, (c) pretest and implement the survey, (d) data entry, analyses and reporting, and (e) dissemination of the final survey report. Activities 1-4 support the final end-of-activity outcome. The goal of the fifth activity is to provide stakeholders (principally the DGF) analytical evidence necessary to formulate better and more targeted forest policies and programs.

The above-mentioned projects funded by the PROFOR have tried in different ways to understand the role that forests play in poverty reduction and prosperity enhancement. Results will help policy-makers and practitioners better understand forests' contribution to poverty reduction, including pathways through which forests influence poverty reduction. In other words, the approach adopted has been one of gathering the evidence and then using that to reach out to equip decision makers and influence them

¹ It is reviewed along with the Forestry General Directorate of Forestry (DG Forestry) and the Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives (OR-KOOP). DG provides financial support to forest villagers.

to change policies and practices. This is consistent with PROFOR's Theory of Change, which is captured in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: PROFOR's Simplified Theory of Change (TOC)

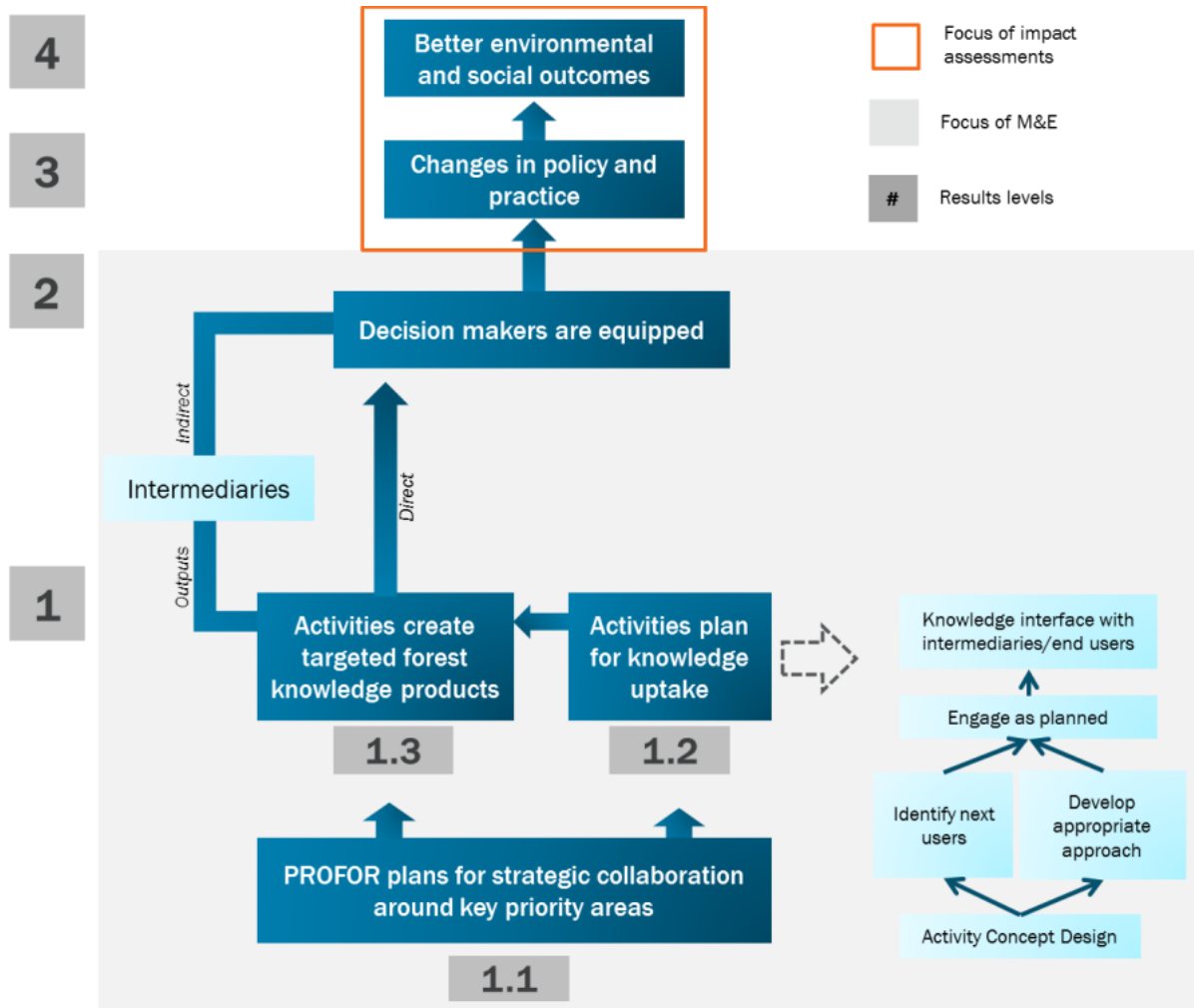


Table 1: Key Evaluation Question 1 and its sub-questions

Key evaluation question 1 (KEQ 1). Did KNOWFOR contribute to equipping decision makers and intermediaries? If so, what lessons can be drawn from KNOWFOR's approach to translating knowledge for action?

- To what extent were programme outcomes realised and were there examples of PROFOR activities (supported through KNOWFOR) contributing to policy or practice change?
- How and under what conditions were decision makers equipped by our knowledge processes and products?
- What were the positive or negative (unexpected) outcomes from these efforts?
- What promising practices can be identified through PROFOR's experience?

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- What lessons have been learned from PROFOR's experience?
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The TOC also helps frame the Key Evaluation Question, and sub-questions in Table 1. These will be the focus of investigation in this evaluation. This report reviews the context, planning, implementation, and impact of the three selected PROFOR-funded projects that have explored forests' contribution to poverty reduction. It attempts to draw some conclusions on the extent to which the reviewed projects have been successful in: (a) informing and influencing policy makers about the role of forests in poverty reduction, and (b) bringing about positive changes in forestry programs and policies. And it will attempt to assess answers to the other sub-questions pertaining to KEQ 1.

The report consists of six sections plus annexes. Section I introduces the projects reviewed, their objectives, outputs, and discusses methodology used. Section II illustrates the context and the need for the projects. Section III provides insights on project planning. Section IV delves into the project implementation and outcomes. Section V discusses the positive outcomes already known or expected in coming years, and lessons learnt. Section VI concludes with a brief discussion.

While the evaluation budget did not allow for any fieldwork, it was discussed with the secretariat, relevant World Bank task managers, and in-country stakeholders. The evaluation of the activities proceeded in three stages:

- Consult with the PROFOR secretariat and World Bank task team leaders to identify/confirm key documents and informants;
- Review of project documents and outputs produced so far;
- E-mail interviews with identified informants;

A list of the people consulted in person, by telephone, or by email is reported in Annex-I. It took way longer than expected to get responses from some of the key informants, including from some of the task managers. In most cases, multiple emails had to be sent to get a response. Some of this delay could be because of the heavy travel schedules of some of the key informants. An evaluation questionnaire was developed to guide the review. In some cases, it was not possible to obtain detailed answers to the evaluation questions as the activities had either just ended, or were drawing to a close. No findings in the evaluation are attributed to specific individuals. Responsibility for the views expressed in this report rests solely with the consultant carrying out the evaluation.

2. Context of the projects

In India, the rural poor depend on natural resources such as fish, wood, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for food, shelter, household energy, and employment. Forests are an important safety net for rural populations, especially in times of natural disasters or income loss. Even though the work done under the Economics of Ecosystems and

Biodiversity (TEEB) provided preliminary estimates of economic value estimates of ecosystems services provided by natural resources in rural India, the contribution of natural resources towards livelihoods and incomes of the poor at local levels was lacking before this project. The project aimed at filling that gap. The project assessed the contribution of forests towards livelihoods and incomes of the rural poor using disaggregated district level data.

The Philippines experienced extensive deforestation and forest degradation over the last century due to logging, fires, and other human disturbances. The total forest cover in the country cover has declined to 6.9 million hectares or 23 percent of the total land area. The rural poor, particularly in the upland areas that still heavily rely on forest resources for livelihoods, medicine, and income are the ones impacted the most by deforestation and forest degradation. It is quite evident from previous studies in the Philippines and elsewhere is that environmental incomes from forests support rural livelihoods by: smoothing consumption, serving as a safety net during lean periods, and providing assets accumulation opportunities. What is not very clear is the extent of the contribution, relationship, and understanding of pathways out of poverty provided by forests. The aim of the project in the Philippines is to fill this knowledge gap. The project investigated: (a) the extent to which poor depend on existing forest ecosystems, (b) the vulnerability of this relationship in the face of unsustainable use patterns resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, and (c) how the sustainable management and/or rehabilitation of the forests provided pathways out of poverty.

In Turkey, forest villagers constitute a significant proportion of the country's poor in. They rely on forests for employment and the supply of subsistence goods and services. In the last thirty-five years, urban-centric migration has reduced the population of forest villages from 18 to 7 million, which forest authorities consider to be too low a level of population for sustainable management of upland ecosystems. Because of outmigration, forest villages lack the workforce necessary to undertake key forestry activities such as thinning. It is important to assess and understand the reasons behind the ongoing exodus to urban areas. Only then, is it possible to devise programs and policies that will enable rural poor to stay put. By investigating the level of dependency of forest villagers on forests, pathway out of poverty presented by forests and forest services, specific determinants of migration and the constraints holding back those that have still not left forest villages, the project aims to provide the Directorate General of Forestry (DGF) the information that it needs to devise effective forest programs and policies.

3. Project planning

3.1 How were the projects planned to maximize the knowledge uptake?

The projects reviewed fit the country contexts well as they were developed in close consultation with the World Bank staff (project in India), including the PROFOR and the client countries (projects in the Philippines and Turkey). The project teams considered local contexts in the development of the projects. This becomes evident from the fact

that the projects in India and the Philippines have already created a space for new forestry projects.

The audiences of the projects reviewed were both internal and external. In the case of the project in India, the audience was primarily-internal (the India Country Management Unit and the World Bank staff working on poverty and forestry issues), to convince it of the importance of investing in forests as a way of addressing rural poverty. The study in India consisted of two main components: (a) a profile of poverty and forest dependence amongst rural poor in India (b) review of sustainable natural resource management investments case studies and associated policy environment. Through these components, the project investigated the extent of sustainable forest management interventions' contribution towards poverty reduction and shared prosperity in India. The main knowledge product produced for this purpose consisted of a highly sophisticated quantitative approach to analyzing the forest dependency relationships of the rural poor.

The primary audiences of the project in the Philippines are the central and regional staff (from the field offices) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which has the mandate for natural resources management. The DENR was also the line agency for the project. Next come the local governments and civil society interested and engaged in enhancing the role of forests in achieving inclusive development and green growth. And third were the development partners working on poverty reduction and natural resources management. The project in the Philippines involved the government early on in the process so that it could adequately address the government's concerns. Focus group discussions and consultations helped identify problems and opportunities. In addition, a consultative process was adopted in designing the knowledge products and knowledge dissemination strategy. The project team and the stakeholders chose the knowledge dissemination strategy jointly. The DENR staff consulted for this review suggest that the key target audiences: the DENR, Local Government Units, National Government Agencies, People's Organizations, Women's Group, Indigenous People's Groups, and other organizations involved in the watershed and forest resources management groups were consulted in designing the knowledge products and knowledge dissemination strategy. The DENR staff consulted for this evaluation think that the project also fitted the local context well because it took the existing policies and regulations as well as the problems and opportunities on the ground into consideration.

In Turkey, the intended knowledge audiences were also multi-fold (as is the case in the Philippines). The primary audience was the DGF that works on forest related issues and had requested the project. Second, the World Bank staff, including from PROFOR, that work on forest issues. Third, external audiences like policymakers, opinion leaders, researchers, and others who are interested in forest issues. The project in Turkey worked very collaboratively with the agency (DGF), which had requested the project, in designing the knowledge products. This has inculcated a sense of ownership of the knowledge products within the DGF and maximized the chances of knowledge uptake. A nationally representative household level, socio-economic survey developed and implemented in close collaboration with the DGF answers the specific policy questions

that are of interest to the DGF. The survey results will help the DGF design effective policy responses to many forestry-related problems and challenges.

4. Project implementation

4.1 Processes and Products

The projects reviewed took different approaches to meet the stakeholders' knowledge needs and reach target groups.

In India, the activity produced a series of knowledge products: (a) a synthesis report highlighting the role of forests in poverty reduction and the policy implications for donors, development partners, and the government consumption (b) a technical note explaining the approach taken, data limitations, and requirements for research community, and (c) a technical paper for publication in peer-reviewed journal. The latter had full technical details of the results obtained, shortcomings, and analytical strengths and limitations of the study. The main output—the synthesis report--was circulated by the project team internally among India CMU, India country office staff, and Environmental and Natural resources (ENR) Global Practice staff. The project distributed outputs only electronically. The project did not distribute print copies. The project team in India worked closely with the country office and ENR Global Practice staff in order to maximize the knowledge uptake. (ENRGP staff were also heavily involved in the design and knowledge management strategy of the knowledge product). An academic paper, which the team put together using project data and findings has been accepted in a journal--World Development--for publication.

The main knowledge products produced by the project in Philippines were a technical synthesis report and a policy brief. The policy brief provides a summary of key messages and recommendations and is especially targeted to senior decision-makers. The project aims to publish five hundred copies of the main report and one thousand copies of the policy brief. The DENR, which has already received soft copies of the report and policy note, will also receive them in hard copies as and when they become available. The team also intends to provide hard-copies of the report and policy note to the Watershed Management Councils, Local Government Units, and DENR Field Offices.²

The project in the Philippines worked very collaboratively with the DENR and other stakeholders in order to maximize the knowledge uptake and transfer. The project team shared the results with local government units through regional dissemination

² The project intends to provide the knowledge products to the: Central Office Undersecretary, Assistant Undersecretary for policy and planning, Undersecretary and Assistant Undersecretary for field operations, Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Foreign Assisted Projects in the DENR. It also aims to provide the knowledge products to the directors of: Knowledge and Information Systems Service, Policy and Planning Service, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service, Ecosystem Research Development Bureau (ERDB), Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Land Management Bureau (LMB), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and River Basin Control Office (RBCO). The provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs).

workshops. By involving field offices and watershed management units in the study and providing them with the results, the project has initiated knowledge dissemination at the lowest level.

The project team has already discussed the key results and messages with the DENR Executive Committee and will present the final report of the project sometime early this year at an executive committee meeting. The project team also intends to convene a meeting with the undersecretary and assistant secretary of the DENR early this year. The secretary, undersecretary for legislative affairs, undersecretary for staff bureaus, and undersecretary for policy and planning are some of the key policy makers that will be receiving the knowledge products produced by the project.

The DENR staff consulted for this evaluation said that there is a high demand for the knowledge products produced by the project amongst the Watershed Management Councils, local government units, and the DENR Field Offices. They think that the knowledge products produced will serve as guides for future studies and effective implementation of payments for ecosystem services schemes in the country. They suggested translating the report into local dialect (Filipino or Bicol) so that local communities can benefit from it. Reflecting this high demand and the commitment by DENR to translate findings into action, there was the launch of the second phase of this activity on Feb. 28 and March 1, 2017.

The main target audience of the project in Turkey was the DGF. The project team along with the DGF designed the project, so it is very contextual and designed to solve problems confronted by the forestry sector in Turkey. The main product has been a Forest Policy Note (FPN) which the project team co-wrote the along with the DGF, based on the findings of the household level socio-economic survey. The uptake of knowledge products, including the FPN is almost certain. The DGF that requested the FPN preparation wants to reference the FPN in its recommendations for reform in the next 5-year forest strategy.

The project team along with the DGF along with other stakeholders such as the forest cooperatives, NGOs, and the forest villagers will decide on dissemination of knowledge products and outreach activities in coming months. The project team intends to prepare a report for the internal Bank audience, including the PROFOR after the project ends.

4.2 Did the engagement process and knowledge product fit the case?

The engagement process and knowledge products fit the local context. The projects have better equipped decision makers both within the Bank and in the project countries with knowledge, tools, and connections. The stakeholders' ability to develop inclusive forest policies and approaches has strengthened because of the project.

The project in India has enhanced the India CMU, World Bank country office, and Environmental and Natural resources (ENR) Global Practice staffs' understanding of forests' contribution to poverty alleviation. The World Bank (India country office) staff consulted for this review thinks that the knowledge products produced by the project are valuable additions to the knowledge base on poverty and natural resources

management. The academic paper, when published, will be a valuable contribution to the broader development community and donor agencies.

The project team in the Philippines fully utilized the lessons learnt from previous projects. The team engaged key stakeholders early on in the project cycle to ensure that the engagement process and knowledge products fit the local context. This helped address key concerns that stakeholders had at various sites and contextualize the project. Improved understanding of the key concerns helped the team shape the results in a manner that was useful for the stakeholders. Following the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) project's-also co-led by the DENR-dissemination strategy, the project has been conducting targeted dissemination events. The project will be providing key knowledge products (report and policy brief) to the key decision-makers within and outside of the DENR.

The socio-economic household survey used and adapted to the Turkish context was developed under another recent PROFOR-sponsored activity (the LSMS forestry module). The survey was adapted to reflect the local context and ensure that it captured various aspects of the problems faced by forest villages in Turkey. The team along with the DGF is developing forest policy note (FPN) to meet the latter's demand for a forestry sector review. It is still early to say how the FPN will play out in terms of knowledge dissemination practices – but the note itself constitutes a dialogue tool, which should help the DGF shape its future strategies.

4.3 Were knowledge practices (processes or products) enhanced by feedback?

Even though the peer-reviewers and stakeholders' feedback helped refine and enhance knowledge processes or products, they did not result in any substantial change in the processes or products. In the case of the project in India, the country office staff consulted for this review said that the knowledge generation process and products did not change at all during the course of project implementation. This could be because the project was explicitly designed to collect new information (household survey). The team, however, did benefit from the feedbacks on forest management issues that it received from the experts that it consulted during the design of the household survey.

Unlike in the case of the project in India, the projects in the Philippines and Turkey did make changes during the design and implementation phases. Knowledge product development plans changed during the project execution phase as new information or suggestions from the stakeholders became available. For instance, the project in the Philippines dropped ecosystems services modeling because in some cases, data was insufficient for modeling ecosystems services, for example flood regulation. The stakeholders consulted are appreciative of the fact that the task team leader welcomed changes and suggestions made by the stakeholders.

The project in Turkey during the forest village survey's development process solicited the opinions of the DGF, local forestry consultants, and the PROFOR. The project team changed the survey instrument based on the feedbacks received from the DGF, local forestry consultants, and the PROFOR.

4.4 Did they take into consideration the needs of women and girls?

All three projects considered gender issues in project formulation and implementation. The project, in India, carried out disaggregated assessment so that it could better understand forest-dependence of female headed and non-female headed households. The project, however, did not go far enough to explore whether gender differences affected the extent of dependence on forest resources. The World Bank country staff consulted for this review feels that the report would have benefited by additional gender-related information like the differential reliance on forests as a means of livelihood among men and women.

The project in the Philippines applied gender lens to understand how men and women used forest resources differently. The project team consulted women groups (e.g., Sipocot Council of Women) to better understand their role in forest resources management. The project categorized participants into the following groups: (a) Group A—relatively rich male respondents; (b) Group B—relatively poor male respondents; (c) Group C—relatively rich female respondents; and, (d) Group D—relatively poor female respondents to analyze the differences between and among participants. Women identified problems in their respective communities and proposed solutions during the field discussions. The use of the gender lens helped flesh out pathways through which forests support incomes and livelihoods and contribute to poverty reduction.

The project in Turkey has incorporated gender related questions into the forest survey to better understand the role of women in forest villages. The project team intends to control for gender in some of the quantitative analysis that it intends to carry out in the coming months.

5. Outcomes

The project in India recently ended but the ones in the Philippines and Turkey are still ongoing. Thus, for the latter two, impacts as have occurred up to this point, will be evaluated, with the qualification that others, which can now be only anticipatory in nature, may manifest themselves in the near future.

The project in India circulated electronic copies of the report to the practice leaders, the country director, and the task team leaders of the ENR Global Practice. It also presented the findings in one knowledge exchange workshop in New Delhi. The synthesis report has clearly demonstrated to the Bank staff the dependence of poor rural families on forests and answered the challenge posed by the Country Director. As a result, of this “sensitization” the CD has created a space for forestry investments in the Bank’s lending pipeline and encouraged the Bank’s sector staff to develop new business in India. According to the TTL, this they have done, as evidenced by two projects—Meghalaya forest project and an India forest-fires project. Additional requests from other State governments have been received by the Bank and are under consideration.

The project in the Philippines, which is still ongoing, has conducted a couple of regional dissemination workshops to share the results with local government units. Replication of ecosystems services schemes shows that local units have benefited from the regional dissemination workshops. The project, as of yet, has not contributed towards policy making, but that may change after the project team presents the results to policy makers. The team will be presenting the project results at the Forest Management Bureau Executive Committee and Foreign Assisted and Special Project Service sometime this year.

The project in Turkey, has drawn upon the findings from the socio-economic survey to produce a forest policy note. This evidence-based knowledge product has started promoting a discussion in the DGF and that will likely result in policy reforms and investments in the sector. A knowledge management strategy is being designed in close consultation with the DGF, to reach out to a wider set of stakeholders.

5.1 Were decision makers (and those who influence decisions) better equipped because of the products?

The project team India circulated the knowledge product produced among the World Bank staff-the intended users of the product. The World Bank country office staff consulted for this review feels that the project has helped sensitize the India country management unit on the forest sector's contribution towards poverty reduction, and to open up the possibility for Bank supported investments in the sector.

From the progress made so far, it can be said that the project in the Philippines has enhanced policy makers' capacity to use and incorporate ecosystem services tools and approaches (modeling, valuation, scenario development, and forest use analysis) into decision-making for landscape level planning. The DENR staff consulted for this review feel that the trainings, workshops, and consultations have enriched ecosystems modeling, payments for ecosystem services, and natural capital valuation knowledge base. The chances of the tools and results being used are high as decision makers now have the knowledge necessary to design payments for ecosystem services schemes and user fees. An early sign of adoption of payments for ecosystem services is already becoming visible. The regional officials in the Upper Marikina River Basin plan to use the payment of ecosystems services tool for pricing water (extraction) certificates. Finally, the planned presentation of the project results at the Forest Management Bureau Executive Committee and Foreign Assisted and Special Project Service will enhance national policy makers' understanding of the role of forests in poverty reduction.

In Turkey, the high-ranking officials, within the Strategy Department of the DGF, which is responsible for setting both short and long-term objectives for the forestry sector, are now better equipped to design forest surveys that can inform forest policies and programs. The FPN that the project team is preparing in close collaboration with the DGF will have the best practices, examples, and recommendations for addressing forestry sector problems. The DGF wants to reform its forestry practices to conform to the best international practice listed in the FPN.

5.2 What, if any program outcomes were realized in terms of policy or practice changes?

The project in India was not designed to bring about policy or practice changes. The goal of the project was to better inform practice leaders, country directors, and task team leaders within the World Bank about the forests' contribution towards poverty reduction. The findings of the project in India have helped open up new business in the forestry sector, as evidenced by two projects—Meghalaya forest project and an India forest-fires project. Additional requests from other State governments have been received by the Bank and are under consideration.

The Philippine government's keen interest in the project led to the development of a follow-on technical assistance work, which is exploring ways to integrate the payments for ecosystem services approaches into land use planning processes. The follow-on technical assistance (TA) project which started in October 2016 will end in November 2017. This will likely assist in revising forest land use planning (FLUP) guidelines to incorporate ecosystem tools and approaches. Aside from this, the Forest Management Bureau of the DENR is looking into possibilities of using ecosystems services indicators used in the PROFOR-funded project to monitor the performance of the FLUPs and for assessing the outcomes of the country's National Greening Program.

In Turkey, while it is early days still, available evidence suggests that the results will be successful in bringing about positive changes. For instance, the survey conducted by the project focused on the livelihoods of forest villagers that constitute a significant proportion of the rural poor in Turkey. Among other things, it has systematically documented what forest villagers think of the DGF's financial support for engaging in forest activities. Currently the DGF provides grants, credits, and loans to support the livelihoods of forest villagers. The survey results provide concrete evidence that the current support is insufficient to meet the needs of forest villagers. The DGF wants to use the survey results to advocate for greater state budget so that it can provide adequate financial support to the forest villagers. Recommendations stemming from the survey's findings will potentially result in reform of the support schemes for the forest villagers in Turkey.

5.3 Were there unexpected outcomes, positive or negative?

The outcomes have been largely positive so far. The findings of the project in India have validated the long-held belief that forests keep households out of poverty and serve as a safety net during difficult economic times or when disasters occur. The project in the Philippines will likely result in the revision of the forest land use planning (FLUP) guidelines to incorporate ecosystem services tools and approaches. The revised guidelines will help accurately assess forests' contribution towards poverty reduction and climate change adaptation. The project work in Turkey has laid the foundation for an informed policy dialogue and the possibility for adjusting the level of incentive provided to forest villagers to encourage them to engage in forest management activities.

5.4 How have the projects contributed to poverty reduction?

So far, there are no measurable changes in poverty reduction that can be directly attributed to the projects. It will all depend upon how far the project countries will go in terms of using the results, tools, and recommendations in carrying out policy reforms and improving forestry operations. The knowledge generated by the projects has increased the understanding of forests' contribution towards poverty reduction. For instance, the project in India has highlighted the 'safety net' role played by forests and enhanced understanding of how forests keep households out of poverty. The stakeholders' view of forests' contribution towards poverty reduction have changed because of the project.

The DENR staff consulted for this review think that by showing that the poor people are dependent on forests, the project in the Philippines has enhanced decision makers' understanding of the relationship between forest and poverty. They feel that decision makers are now more likely to agree on increasing forest cover not only for conservation, but also for poverty reduction.

As in the case of the other projects, there are no measurable changes in poverty reduction that can be directly attributed to the project in Turkey. The impact on poverty reduction will depend on how far the government is willing to go in terms of adopting the FPN's recommendations.

6. Discussion

6.1 Did these cases demonstrate any promising practices?

Several good things for future use have come out of these projects. For instance, in India, the spatial maps of forest cover and poverty, forest degradation status, data on household incomes from forests, produced by the project, are valuable contribution to forestry and poverty knowledge base. They can help design better forest programs and policies, with greater poverty reduction potentials.

By involving the government throughout the process (not only for consultation but also to undertake some of the work), the project in the Philippines successfully demonstrated how to secure government's buy-in and support for projects. Inclusive consultations led to the inclusion of the project in the Forest Management Bureau's work plan and ensured smooth operation. The DENR staffs consulted feel that by consulting and involving relevant stakeholders in every step of the way, the project inculcated a sense of pride and ownership amongst those involved in the process. Keeping of methodological notes is also a good practice as DENR and field offices can make use of the notes to replicate the project or train natural-resources-management personnel in future.

The project in Turkey had set up an online website, with a GIS map of Turkey and markers indicating the sampled forest villages. This allowed the project team to monitor survey progress in real-time. The markers changed color after survey of a village was completed.

6.2 Were there lessons learned? Were there things that could have been done differently in hindsight?

Like in any project, there are things that could have been done differently or better. For instance, although the project in India undertook the largest primary survey of forest communities (2000 households), the geographic scope of the survey was limited to only one state in India (Madhya Pradesh). A wider coverage and a larger sample size would have made results more reliable and meaningful. The gender-disaggregated assessment of access to forests would have helped better understand whether women that procure forest products actually benefit from it not. The work in India was conceived of as having two components. The first on forest dependency and the second on documenting forests' contribution to pathways out of poverty. While the first was completed, the second part was not supported by the regional management. Lack of this information constraints the Bank from making significantly important investments in the sector. The opportunity to pursue this analysis needs to be explored urgently.

In the Philippines, given the scale of the deforestation and land degradation problem in the Philippines, the DENR staff consulted strongly feel that the number of sites covered by the project should have been more. Inclusion of more sites would have led to wider integration of forest areas into municipal forest land use and comprehensive land-use plans.

The survey instrument used by the project in Turkey should have been designed differently. The one used is not very suitable for capturing the effectiveness of the DGF's support (loan, grants and credits) to forest villages. For instance, the survey inquired about the different types of support at the community level, but not at the household level. Investigation at the household level could have helped better targeting of incentives.

6.3 Does this case shed light on the Theory of Change assumptions of KNOWFOR?

Here are the key assumptions behind KEQ1:

- *More focus on translating knowledge for specific priority groups will increase uptake*

All three sub-cases largely support this assumption. In India, the main audience was Bank staff looking for robust analytical evidence on dependency of poor people on forest products. Thus, a quantitatively rigorous knowledge piece was produced to influence their thinking and was successful in having the desired impact. In Philippines, extensive consultation with the DENR staff at the center and in their regional offices identified the knowledge gaps. A detailed technical report and a succinct policy brief

are the two knowledge products that have been produced to influence the technical staff and the senior policy-makers respectively. In Turkey, the household survey was designed to address the concerns uppermost in the minds of the officials in the DGF. The FPN based on the findings of the survey is now under review and discussion in the DGF.

- *Dialogue, engagement and exchange of ideas and knowledge co-production with decision-makers are crucial to influencing policy and practice.*

The experience of the Philippines and Turkey sub-cases provide good support for this assumption. Extensive consultations in the Philippines were key to getting buy-in, early dissemination and willingness to consider the findings of the studies and their relevance to policy reforms. Available evidence suggests a bubbling of requests for support interest on ways to mainstream ecosystem service approaches in FLUP, from various regions. In Turkey, it bears emphasis that the household survey was designed in full consultation with and inputs from the DGF. This generated confidence that the survey was capable of answering the challenges that the DGF was facing. It thus has got the buy-in of the DGF and the commitment to consider the findings and recommendations with due deliberation.

- *Adaptive management and refining the approach based on monitoring and reflection will increase uptake*

No such evidence exists for this from the India case, as there was little effort put into refining the approach, especially in consultation with the target audience. In the case of Philippines and Turkey, product development was refined with inputs from the primary audience and so offer some support for this assumption.

- *It is possible to enhance uptake by applying lessons from other projects even in highly individualised contexts.*

The experience from all the 3 sub-cases provided support for this assumption. In India, the household survey (to quantify the extent of dependence on forests) was crafted by customizing the PEN questionnaire to the Indian context. Similarly, in Turkey, the LSMS forestry module (produced by PROFOR and FAO) was customized to produce the household socioeconomic survey questionnaire which was administered to forest villages. The Philippines sub-case fully utilized the lessons learnt from previous projects, such as engaging key stakeholders early on in the project cycle to ensure that the engagement process and knowledge products fit the local context. Learning from the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) project's dissemination strategy, this project has also been conducting targeted dissemination events.

Annex 1. List of Informants

A. People consulted

Persons Contacted	In person or email interview
Anupam Joshi	World Bank, TTL (India activity)
Craig Meisner	World Bank, TTL (Turkey activity)
Maurice Andres Rawlins	World Bank, TTL (Philippines activity)
Rinku Murgai	World Bank, New Delhi office
Joseph P. Guiriba	Libmanan-Pulantuna Watershed Area, (DENR Regional Office)
Jerbelle A. Elomina	DENR, Philippines (Centre)
CDD Caraga	UMAM sub-basin (DENR Regional Office)

Annex 2. Key Informant Questionnaire

1. What was the project's intended knowledge audience? (§III.A)
2. Are you satisfied with project design in terms of maximizing knowledge uptake? (§III.A) In particular, are you confident that project target knowledge products will reach priority groups? How do you rank your confidence level (not confident, low, medium, high) (§V.C).
3. How, if at all, did knowledge product development plans change during the project in response to new information or stakeholders' suggestions? (§IV.A.3)
4. What knowledge products did the project actually produce? (§IV.A.1)
5. How satisfied are you with project's approach to reflect issues relevant to women and girls (§IV.A.1 & .4)
6. Are you aware of any knowledge dissemination activities besides the reports, such as briefings, workshops, conferences, press releases, and presentations If yes, can you describe them and highlight their potential impacts? If not, what kind of knowledge dissemination activities besides the reports, such as briefings, workshops, conferences, press releases, and presentations you think should have been more impactful, and hence, carried out? (IV.A.1 & .2).
7. How many copies of printed knowledge products have been distributed? In what languages? If not already published, how many copies do you think should be published and in what languages? Please explain as and why the number and languages you suggest is justified. (§§IV.A.1 & .B.1).
8. Can you think about the key target audience, including key decision makers, in government, the donor community, the NGO community, etc. that should have absolutely received or should receive these knowledge products? (§§IV.A.5 & .B.1)
9. To what extent did this project achieve or not achieve its desired effect? And in particular, will the project contribute to any practice or policy changes? (§IV.B.2)
10. How well or poorly did the project design fit the country context? (§IV.A.2, .5)
11. Will people be better equipped to make and influence decisions because of this project? Can you provide an example of as and how this project will end up enhancing stakeholders' policy and decision making skills with regard to natural resource management? Can you point to specific decision makers that will benefit the most because of this project? (§IV.B.1)

12. Did involving the decision makers in project design, execution, or reporting increase the project's impact? If yes, how? (§V.C).
13. Can you point to how this project will contribute to any changes affecting poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, or climate change? (§IV.B.3)
14. How, if at all, did you apply experience from other projects in shaping the knowledge dissemination practices of this project? (§V.C)
15. Were there things that should have been done differently in hindsight? What could have done that might have made this project even more influential and impactful? (§V.B and & .C)
16. Were there good things done and shouldn't be forgotten, practices that can be used again in other projects? (§V.A & .B)
17. Are you satisfied with the way project targeted/is targeting its knowledge products to reach priority groups? (§V.C)Or would you have done targeting differently?

Annex 3. Evidence base: Overall Strength of Evidence rating

India

Category	Description	Met Y/N	Evidence
High	1.Evidence is provided in the form of a published document available in the public domain that has been peer reviewed.	Y	The synthesis report has been published after peer review, and is available in the public domain.
	2. Evidence is published on an official Government website and is directly relevant to the claim.	N	
	3 Evidence is triangulated through 3 different categories of evidence. For example, expert informants concur with this finding, and there are also 2 examples of documented evidence of the finding from different sources.	N?	2 informants and Bank investment project documents
	4. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected with a statistically representative sample, or with the population.	N	
Medium			
	1. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected using saturation sampling (over 20 participants).	N	
	2. Where highly credible testimony is provided: for example, an email from a government official who is the target of the knowledge product.	N	
	3. Administrative data that is directly relevant to the claim– such as participant records about who attends meetings to comment on reach or evidence about achievement of a report being published.	Y?	Record of all meetings, workshops and seminars exists. However, the number of participants and their details is not available for all such events.
	4. Where there is triangulation between at least 2 weaker forms of evidence (see below)	Y	In the form of responses to questions asked in this evaluation, by 3 respondents representing the World Bank.
Low			
	1.Evidence that is written in a text provided by a third party	na	
	2.Evidence that relies on a single respondent's claim.	na	
	3.Evidence that relies on internally produced documents written by the claim maker that offer opinion rather than substantiated observations.	na	

India-Overall Strength of Evidence rating suggested: MEDIUM.

Philippines

Category	Description	Met Y/N	Evidence
High	1.Evidence is provided in the form of a published document available in the public domain that has been peer reviewed.	Y	The Technical report and a policy brief produced by the project have been published after peer review, and are available in the public domain.
	2. Evidence is published on an official Government website and is directly relevant to the claim.	Y	On http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/profor/update.php
	3 Evidence is triangulated through 3 different categories of evidence. For example, expert informants concur with this finding, and there are also 2 examples of documented evidence of the finding from different sources.	N	
	4. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected with a statistically representative sample, or with the population.	N	
Medium			
	1. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected using saturation sampling (over 20 participants).	N	
	2. Where highly credible testimony is provided: for example, an email from a government official who is the target of the knowledge product.	N	
	3. Administrative data that is directly relevant to the claim– such as participant records about who attends meetings to comment on reach or evidence about achievement of a report being published.	Y	From the detailed activity and progress reports for PROFOR.
	4. Where there is triangulation between at least 2 weaker forms of evidence (see below)	Y	In the form of responses to questions asked in this evaluation, by 4 respondents representing the World Bank, and DENR.
Low			
	1.Evidence that is written in a text provided by a third party	na	
	2.Evidence that relies on a single respondent's claim.	na	
	3.Evidence that relies on internally produced documents written by the claim maker that offer opinion rather than substantiated observations.	na	

Philippines-Overall Strength of Evidence rating suggested: MEDIUM/STRONG.

Turkey

Category	Description	Met Y/N	Evidence
High	1. Evidence is provided in the form of a published document available in the public domain that has been peer reviewed.	N?	The FPN drafted and currently under review.
	2. Evidence is published on an official Government website and is directly relevant to the claim.	N	
	3 Evidence is triangulated through 3 different categories of evidence. For example, expert informants concur with this finding, and there are also 2 examples of documented evidence of the finding from different sources.	N	
	4. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected with a statistically representative sample, or with the population.	N	
Medium			
	1. Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected using saturation sampling (over 20 participants).	N	
	2. Where highly credible testimony is provided: for example, an email from a government official who is the target of the knowledge product.	N	
	3. Administrative data that is directly relevant to the claim– such as participant records about who attends meetings to comment on reach or evidence about achievement of a report being published.	N	
	4. Where there is triangulation between at least 2 weaker forms of evidence (see below)	N	
Low			
	1. Evidence that is written in a text provided by a third party	na	
	2. Evidence that relies on a single respondent's claim.	Y	Bank TTL and primary informant
	3. Evidence that relies on internally produced documents written by the claim maker that offer opinion rather than substantiated observations.	na	

Turkey-Overall Strength of Evidence rating suggested: LOW.

Annex 4. Gender responsiveness rating

India: Acceptable. Women participated in all workshops required for the completion of the assessment, and the final knowledge product consider gender aspects-dependency of female headed households-specifically.

Philippines: Acceptable. The first criteria under “high level” and the first criteria in the “acceptable” category of the uptake rubric have been met.

Turkey: Acceptable. The first criteria under “high level” and the first criteria in the “acceptable” category of the uptake rubric have been met.