

GLOBAL VISION FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY
A CALL TO ACTION

Delegates assembled from 20 countries gathered here in Toronto reaffirm that community forestry is an innovative approach that reconnects lands and people, fosters environmental stewardship, promotes social equity and supports livelihoods. Nevertheless, at this juncture formidable obstacles are impeding community forestry from realizing its full potential. These include insecure land rights, insufficient transfer of authority and a lack of capacity-building and financial support. We call on forest communities and Indigenous Peoples, governments, civil society, the private sector, international actors, and the academic community to join us in fulfilling this global vision of community forestry for the 21st century.

OUR VISION

Local communities and Indigenous Peoples play a meaningful role in managing forests where they live. Such peoples, women and men, are fully empowered as decision-makers, with clear rights and responsibilities to manage, use and control forests and forest lands

A CALL TO ACTION

We call on forest communities and Indigenous Peoples to:

- Manage, protect and utilize local forests and forest resources in a sustainable, transparent and equitable manner
- Organize management groups, training sessions and social campaigns to promote community forestry across communities at the regional level
- Mobilize community resources to promote good governance, improved livelihoods and sustainable forest management

We call on governments to:

- Enact legislation to recognize community forestry, establish secure legal rights including land-tenure for communities and Indigenous Peoples and create an enabling environment for community forestry through appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks
- Recognize the unique rights of Indigenous Peoples and the need for special measures to accommodate those rights
- Provide sufficient financial resources and capacity building to create self-sustaining community forests
- Recognize that the rights of local forest dwellers extend well beyond subsistence use and remove the barriers preventing access to the full range of economic and non-market benefits

- Increase awareness of community forestry among government agencies and increase their capacity to work with and support communities and Indigenous Peoples

We call on civil society to:

- Facilitate communication, information-sharing and networking between local communities, Indigenous Peoples and other forestry actors, particularly national governments
- Foster strategic alliances and coalitions between and with community forest actors and other national and international movements
- Assist community forests through innovative research, monitoring and reporting activities in order to promote transparency, accountability and good governance at all levels
- Raise public awareness for community forestry through the media and outreach campaigns

We call on the private sector to:

- Engage in mutually beneficial partnerships with local communities and Indigenous Peoples to promote local employment and training, access to markets and supply chains for sustainable timber and non-timber forest products and ecosystem services
- Cooperate in making forest certification accessible to small-scale initiatives by adopting simplified procedures and reducing administrative costs

We call on international actors to:

- Ensure that international process and intergovernmental commitments recognize community-based forest management globally, nationally and locally
- Ensure that efforts to mitigate climate change such as reforestation, activities reducing deforestation and voluntary markets, respect the rights of forest communities.

We call on the academic community to:

- Integrate the theory and practice related to community forestry into educational curricula
- Conduct empirical research that builds more informed policy development
- Increase opportunities for community forestry training and knowledge exchange for practitioners

This Call to Action is Supported by the Following Organizations, Institutions and Individuals:

- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF PHNOM PENH, represented at the Workshop by HAM KIMKONG (*Cambodia*)
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Web

<http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/caucuses/forest/index.html#projects> (in English)

<http://www.cen-rce.org/fre/caucuses/forest/index.html#projets> (en français)

Call to Action also available in Spanish on both web pages

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