Codes and Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management

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Presentation Outline

- Benefits of sound forest management
- Codes and guidelines
  - Codes of practice for forest harvesting
  - Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests
  - Voluntary Guidelines for Fire Management
- Conclusion
- Opportunities and challenges
Benefits of sound forest management

- Better forest management =
  - More retention of carbon
  - Reduced fire risk
  - More carbon uptake
  - Better protection of biodiversity
  - Sustained yields of forest products
  - Increased revenues
  - Enhanced livelihoods
  - Improved flow of ecological/environmental services

Linking practice and policy
Codes of Practice for Forest Harvesting (1)

- Improved forest harvesting significantly increases carbon stored in the forest
  - More trees/biomass left standing after harvest
  - Less damage to residual trees
  - Less soil disturbance
  + Improved efficiency in operating machinery
  - 42 ton/ha more C in RIL area: Sabah
  - Long-term monitoring lacking

- What is the cost?
  - RIL’s carbon price varies widely with local site conditions and discount rates
    - Zero net cost to more than $50/ton (Sabah)
  - Competitive with carbon sequestration in tree plantations in many places
Regional Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting (1999)

- Interim guide to improved harvesting practices as countries develop national codes or guidelines
  - Most Asia-Pacific countries have now adopted national codes

- Important elements of the code include:
  - Competent and skilled staff and workers
  - Effective planning involving all affected stakeholders
  - Protection of sensitive resources
  - Reduction of soil erosion, damage to water resources, and destruction of residual forest resources
  - Worker safety and health
  - Increased efficiency, reduction of waste, enhanced profitability
Codes of Practice for Forest Harvesting (3)

FAO support for code/RIL implementation:

- RILNET (1999): e-mail list server
- RIL study tour (1999)
- International Conference on the Application of Reduced Impact Logging to Advance SFM, January 2001, Kuching, Malaysia
- RILSIM (2003/04): a software for financial analysis of RIL systems
  - 12 national training workshops conducted (2003-06)
- “Enhancing Sustainable Forest Harvesting in Asia” Project (2003-2007)
  - Govt. Japan funding – Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam
  - Development of national codes of practice for forest harvesting
  - Establishing demonstration forests
  - Training, raising awareness and building political support
- Monitoring and auditing training in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Viet Nam (2008)
Assessment of code implementation

- Some improvement, but progress remains slow (Asia)
- Implementation has gone backwards (Pacific)
- Some codes formulated without wide stakeholder consultations
  - Lack of ownership by key stakeholders
- Illegal logging posing a serious threat (undermining efforts of legitimate operators)
- Issues and challenges
  - Capacity building and awareness raising
  - Weak implementation strategy
  - Lack of monitoring and evaluation
  - Financial aspects (lack of funding, perceived high-cost of codes implementation)
  - Weak political will
Voluntary Guidelines: Responsible Management of Planted Forests (1)

- Status of global planted forests (2005)

  Total planted forest: 271 million ha
  Forest cover: 7%
  Land cover: ~2%
  Industrial wood suppl: ~60%
  Carbon sequestration: 1.4 Gt/year
  Wood products C storage (from planted forests): 0.5 Gt/year

  Note:
  Deforestation (all forests): 1.6 Gt/year
Transforming international agreements into afforestation/reforestation action
Mainstreaming afforestation/reforestation into wider development goals
Catalyzing multi-stakeholder dialogue
Providing a framework for policy dialogue and strategic decisions
Balancing social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits
Reducing pressure on native forests
Integrating planted forests in the landscape
- Emissions from forest fires
  - Forest fires are a major source of emissions
  - Forest and brush fires release an average of 2-3 Gt CO$_2$/yr
  - In 1997/98 (El Nino year), emissions from fires amounted to 7.7 Gt CO$_2$
Voluntary Guidelines: Fire Management (2)

- **Scope:** integrated management of vegetation fires across the landscape (including forests, woodlands, shrublands, rangelands, grasslands, agricultural lands & wildland-urban interface)

- **Strategic actions (integrated approach)**
  - Monitoring
  - Early warning
  - Prevention
  - Preparedness
  - Suppression
  - Restoration
From Voluntary Guidelines to Action

- **Regional workshops**
  - Multi-stakeholder assessment of needs
  - Preparation of:
    - logical frameworks
    - preliminary proposals for action

- **Mobilizing support**
  - Governments
  - FAO
    - NFP Facility
    - TCP Facility
    - Other
  - Donors
  - Multi-lateral partners

- **Implementation of guidelines into policies, strategies and practices**
Conclusion

Application of best practices in forest management can definitely contribute to emissions reductions and carbon sequestration—while at the same time maintaining the productive and protective functions of forests.
Opportunities and challenges

- Increase awareness and support
- Build and demonstrate political will
- Give legal teeth to codes
- Update national codes regularly
- Provide training
- Improve assessment of economic impacts and implications
- Incentives ~ carbon markets
  - Carbon-offset payments provide one potential way of paying for the additional costs associated with the implementation of SFM
Thank you!