Community Forestry : Bridging Ecosystem based Adaptation and Community based Adaptation

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The argument

Community forestry is a useful (and under-recognized) approach to local level adaptation, bridging EbA and CbA in forest landscapes

- ✓ Multi-functionality of community forests/ landscapes well aligned with integrated resilience building

- ✓ CF sustainability dependent on quality of forest resources including ecosystem services, biodiversity and overall system vitality

- ✓ CF offers infrastructure to support adaptive measures for both social and ecological systems

- ✓ CF approached through a SLA framework, also used for assessing adaptive capacity

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How we understand CF

"*Community forestry covers social, economic, and conservation dimensions in a range of activities including indigenous management of sacred sites of cultural importance, small-scale forest-based enterprises, forestry outgrower schemes, company-community partnerships, and decentralized and devolved forest management* (RECOFTC, 2008)."

Why CF matters in adaptation

▸ Forests cover approx 30 % of world's land area; billion+ people rely on forests for food, fuel, and income (RRI, 2014).

▸ In Asia Pacific region over **450 million people are considered forest dependent** (FAO, 2010).

▸ CIFOR's PEN research initiative in 33 countries determined global livelihood contributions of forests are much higher than believed. On average, **1/5 to 1/4 rural household income** derived from forests (Angelson, 2011).

▸ Globally, at least 513 million hectares, (1/8 world's forests), are government-recognized community forests (FAO, 2010).

What is an EbA approach?

- "Use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help <u>people</u> to adapt to the adverse effects of CC." (CBD, 2009)

- " Adaptation policies and measures that make into account the role of ecosystem services in reducing the vulnerability of society to CC, in a multi-sectoral and multi-scale approach". (Vignola, R., Locatelli, B., Martinez, C., and Imbach, P., 2009)

- " Local and landscape scale strategies that enable both people and nature to adapt in the face of CC" (IUCN 2009).

Community based Adaptation

- Community-led process, based on communities' priorities, needs, assets, knowledge and capacities.

- Should empower people to plan for and respond to climate change impacts.

- Uses both local and scientific knowledge to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

What makes CbA different?

How is CbA different from a 'typical' rural development approach?

• Based on a holistic analysis of people's vulnerability to climate change;

• Examines both current and projected climate risks;

• Explicit goal of reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

Connecting forests and adaptation

Forests for adaptation
- Provide range of ecosystem services that reduce vulnerability of local communities and broader society
- New challenges:
  - Linking forest sector adaptation to other sectors
  - Balancing other priorities such as conversion for agriculture and commercial purposes

Adaptation for forests
- CC will, and is, affecting forest ecosystems
- Adaptation measures needed for forest landscapes
- New challenges:
  - Understanding impacts
  - Developing frameworks for involving communities closely in forest adaptation

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Community Forestry Climate Change Adaptation Practices (example intervention options)

Livelihoods

✓Climate resilient agroforestry practices

✓Multi-use community forests (timber, resin, medicine, fiber, nuts and fruit)

✓Facilitating access to micro-finance

✓Business plans for high-value NTFP/agroforestry product markets

Protecting multi-use community forests

✓Forest restoration and conservation

✓Strengthen systems for patrolling illegal harvesting

✓Establishment of fire breaks

✓Collect and distribute drought-resilient seed stocks

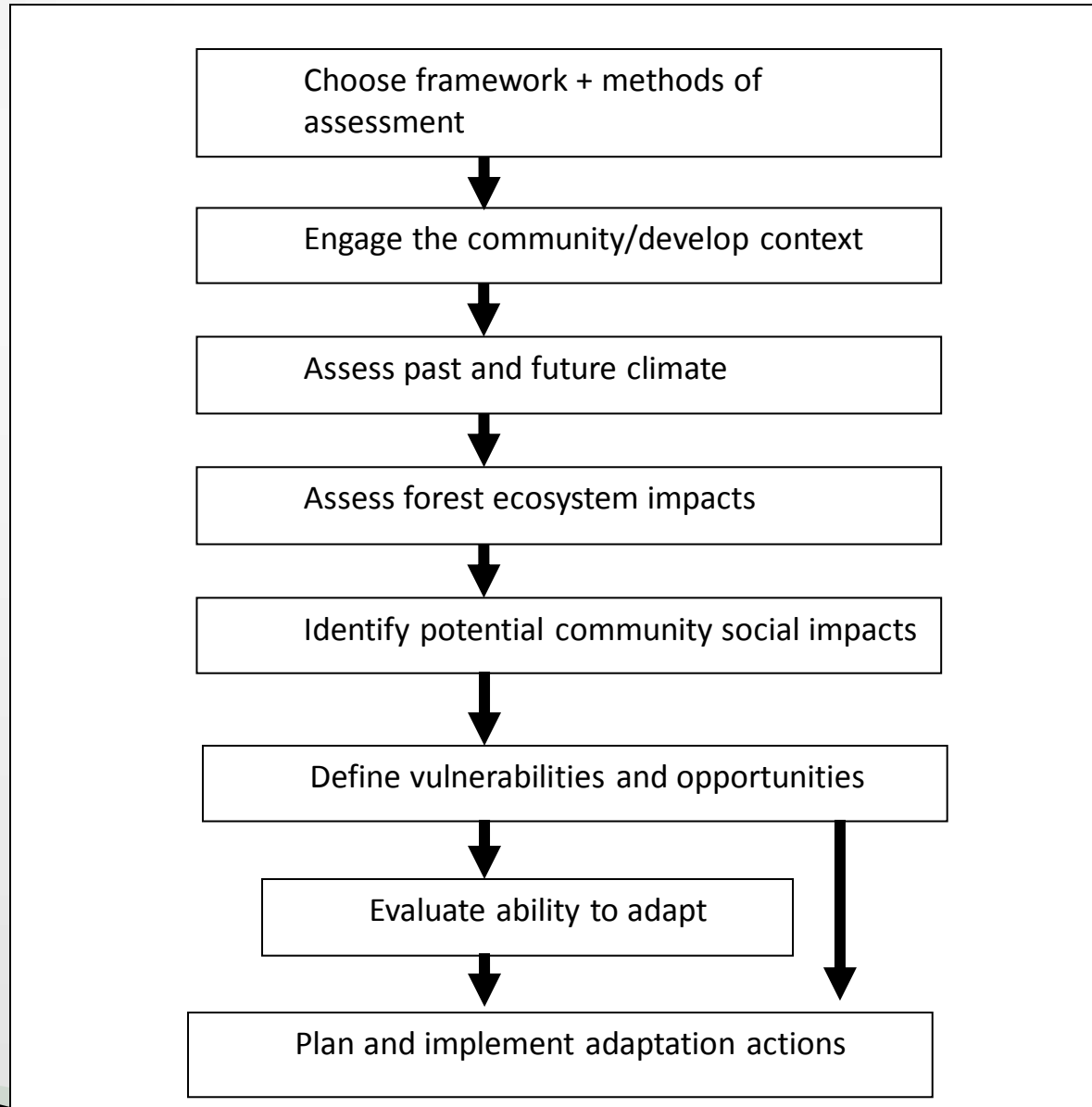# Community Forestry Climate Change Adaptation Practices (more examples)

Training in participatory research methodologies

✓Monitor climate and ecological changes

✓Track tree species composition and morphological change

✓Wildlife inventorying and ranges

✓Managing forest landscapes to: enhance hydrological functions, improve soil quality and retention for ag fertility, reduce disaster risk

✓Horticultural skills for seedling propagation

✓Planting/establishing seedlings in degraded ecosystems

RECOFTC APPROACH TO CF- CCA

RECOFTC, 2014

Frameworks we have drawn upon....

- CARE's CVCA
- ICEM's CAM
- **USAID Adapt** Asia-Pacific Guidelines
- **ICIMOD** 's gender focused CBA approach
- **Canadian** and **US Forest Services** have detailed forest ecosystem VAs

- **None of the toolkits alone covers all dimensions sufficiently** – customized version is required to encompass both social and ecological dimensions

Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
Handbook

care

In practice: developing a CF-CCA demonstration site

▸ USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported project initiated (2014) in Bishnupur (women-led CFUG) in Sarlahi district, Nepal.

▸ Pilots RECOFTC's approach to assessing CF-CCA vulnerabilities and developing community-led solutions. Initiated in Nepal, to be expanded to 7 focal countries in Asia.

▸ CF-based 'best practices' will be piloted with aim to demonstrate approaches that work to multiple stakeholders and to support accessing of adaptation funds

Figure 1: Map of Nepal showing Sarlahi district

Gaps and challenges in incorporating CCA through CF:

- Does pursuing sectoral adaptation undermining national strategies and integrated local level planning??

- Challenges with coordination between sectors and 'territoriality' limiting local level adaptation planning.

- Pressing need for capacity dev't/ training at local levels of government.

- Insufficiently mapped out and systematized adaptation financing options available to communities and local level actors.

- Limited availability and access to downscaled climate modeling data.

Conclusion

- EbA focuses on the protection and enhancement of ecosystems to support the adaptation of people

- CbA is community driven process of understanding vulnerabilities and assets and developing solutions in response

- CF, while not explicitly designed to tackle CC adaptation, *provides an excellent vehicle to offer the benefits of BOTH EbA and CbA*

Thank you!

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