

COMDEKS

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative

United Nations Development Programme
Environment and Energy



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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

This newsletter is produced by the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund. It provides updates on a range of topics including the status of ongoing country programmes, landscape performance indicators, project impacts and results, and noteworthy announcements.

For more information about the COMDEKS project and latest news, please visit our blog at www.comdeksproject.com

Welcome to the second issue of our Newsletter! In this edition, we highlight:

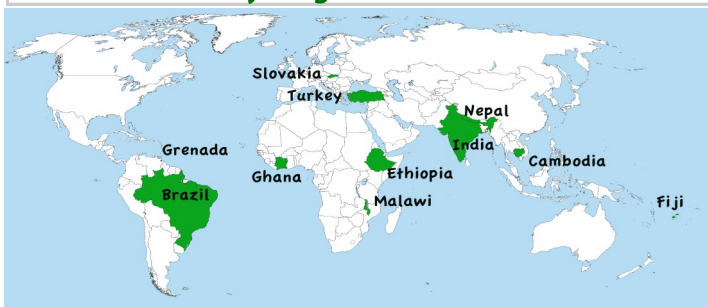
- (1) Brief overview of COMDEKS, and updates on its implementation
- (2) COMDEKS featured at CBD COP 11 *Satoyama* Side Event
- (3) Linking Community and Landscape Resilience: the Community Palli
- (4) Stories from COMDEKS participating countries: Cambodia, Malawi, Fiji, Nepal, India, Turkey

Stay in the loop: COMDEKS Blog

The COMDEKS Blog has dedicated pages with the latest information about project activities in all participating countries. The blog also hosts technical guidance and information about conducting landscape-wide baseline assessments, piloting SEPLS indicators, guidance documents and toolkit for monitoring and evaluation.

Visit our blog at www.comdeksproject.com

COMDEKS Country Programmes: Nov 2012



About COMDEKS



The COMDEKS project has been designed to support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful on-the-ground actions for replication and upscaling in other parts of the world.

As part of COMDEKS, small grants are provided to local community organizations with the overall long term objective to enhance socio-ecological production landscape and seascape resilience by developing sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize landscapes. COMDEKS grant making is expected to generate key lessons on community-based best practices to maintain and rebuild SEPLS toward the realization of "societies in harmony with nature", as defined as the vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative.

Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the COMDEKS project is implemented by UNDP, and delivered through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP).

Implementation Status

Goal

To develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS)

Countries

First Phase: Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia, Turkey

Timeframe and Budget

Japan Biodiversity Fund contributing with 2 million USD a year starting in 2011, with the scope of expanding to a 5-year partnership program.

Status

First phase: Currently under implementation in 10 countries

COMDEKS Project featured at CBD COP 11 Side Event



On 11 October 2012, at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), organized by the CBD Secretariat in Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), India; the UNDP implemented COMDEKS project was prominently featured at a side event on "Achievements and Further Development of the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative (IPSI)". The side event was organized by the Ministry of Environment of Japan and the IPSI Secretariat (UNU-IAS) attracting the interest of practitioners on how to operationalize the *Satoyama* Initiative Concept.

The event, chaired by Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana National Biodiversity Committee), aimed to showcase a number of IPSI activities undertaken since the partnership was launched in 2010, and to provide an update on the partnership's strategy development and a discussion of future plans. Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino (MOEJ) opened the event congratulating IPSI on its development and emphasized the importance of COP11 as an opportunity for following up on the key



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Side Event Presenters

Photo: IPSI Secretariat

outcomes of COP10, held in October 2010. This was followed by the Director of the IPSI Secretariat, Mr. Kazu Takemoto, presenting an overview of IPSI's progress in the past two years. Next, Dr. Jo Mulongoy, visiting professor at UNU-IAS, provided an outline of the IPSI strategy development process and its usefulness in measuring progress and mobilizing resources. Finally, two in-depth presentations discussed the COMDEKS initiative and indicators of resilience in SEPLS.

Ms. Fumiko Fukuoka (UNDP), provided background information and the latest updates on COMDEKS while Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi (GEF-SGP) provided on-the-ground insights of the COMDEKS programme in India, where more than 100,000 people are currently its beneficiaries. Dr. Pablo Eyzaguirre (Bioversity International) explained the development of the SEPLS indicators of resilience and its utility, stressing the need for further testing and refining of the indicators.

Please click [here](#) for additional information on this side event. All materials and presentations can be accessed on the [Satoyama Initiative](#) website.

Linking Community and Landscape Resilience



On 12 October 2012, during the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India, UNDP and the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) jointly organized a side event to understand landscape resilience and link the community and social aspects of building and maintaining SEPLS.



Speakers and Co-chairs

Photo: IPSI Secretariat

Speakers from civil society organizations, government institutions, the private sector, and international organizations discussed issues, best practices and lessons learned related to building local institutions and social capital toward more inclusive and participatory decision-making processes at the landscape level.

The event, opened by Mr. Wataru Suzuki (IPSI Secretariat), Ms. Fumiko Fukuoka (UNDP), and Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeb (Ghana National Biodiversity Committee), brought together a dynamic and inspiring group of partners at the community level. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Pablo Eyzaguirre (Bioversity International).



Lively discussions

Photo: IPSI Secretariat

The Community Palli is a peer-to-peer meeting platform at COP 11 that was open to all local and indigenous leaders from around the world. Leveraging the unique partnerships of the Equator Initiative, the Palli aimed to position local advocacy and knowledge sharing within the larger policy dialogues on poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.



Participants

Photo: IPSI Secretariat

Held alongside the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Community Palli acted as a forum for discussion of the role of local communities in biodiversity conservation and in achieving the Aichi Targets.

Please click [here](#) for additional information on the Community Palli.

Portfolio Update

Cambodia

The socio-ecological landscape identified for COMDEKS activities in Cambodia is the Steung Siem Reap watershed area, covering an area of 3,619 square kilometers and comprising 10 districts, 66 communes, 470 villages and a total population of 500,000.

The Steung Siem Reap watershed area was chosen as the target landscape for the COMDEKS project due to the impending natural resource degradation through deforestation, river sand excavation, disturbance of hydrological regimes and water pollution, which is affecting local livelihoods. Also, the watershed is located in the northern plains of one of the "biodiversity hot spots", as specified in the SGP Country Programme Strategy.

The target area is highly heterogeneous as a result of topographical differences and varying soil structures reflecting the geological setup and interactions with surface and ground water. In order to effectively capture this diversity, six socio-ecological zones were identified to take into consideration the various ecosystems and natural resource management practices.

Baseline assessment workshops to pilot the SEPLS indicators were carried out in October 2012 at each socio-ecological zone. During the

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community consultations, landscape stakeholders indicated the need for community based forestry and fisheries management to protect natural resources from overuse or illegal logging and fishing. Stakeholders also pointed out the need to promote ecologically sound agricultural production systems to increase crop yield and productivity. Low rice yield in the target landscape is mainly attributed to low soil fertility and the lack of water storage systems.



Degraded Forest, Cambodia

Contributed by Ngin Navirk, Cambodia National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

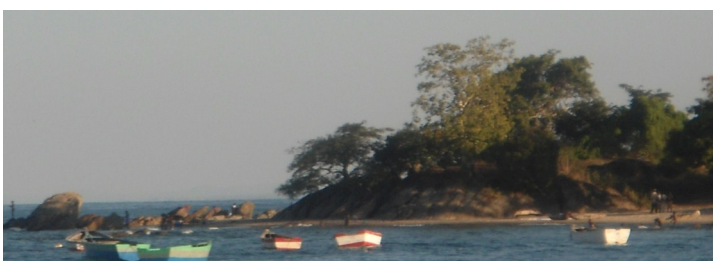
Malawi



Cassava processing, typical livelihood activity in the target area, Malawi

The target landscape selected for COMDEKS activities in Malawi is the Tukombo-Kande socioeconomic production landscape. Tukombo is a fishing town located in the Nkhata Bay district of northern Malawi. Farming is the second largest economic activity in the area, with cassava, bananas, sweet potatoes and maize as the major crops cultivated by the rural population.

The area has been selected as the target SEPLS for COMDEKS in Malawi, due to the existing biodiversity assets that can be protected from continued degradation, the habitat and ecosystem diversity, the integration of fishing and farming communities and the presence of the rich culture of the Tonga ethnic tribe.



Fishing activities in Nkhata Bay, Malawi

Contributed by Alex Damaliphetsa, Malawi National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

Fiji

The socio-ecological production landscape identified for COMDEKS activities in Fiji is the Natewa Peninsula, covering an area of 17,600 hectares. The target area is part of the island of Vanua Levu, one of the two largest islands that comprise Fiji. Local communities in the area derive their income mainly from agriculture (dalo, kava and copra) and the forests are used for firewood, wild foods, hunting, traditional medicines and timber for the construction of local houses.

The selected landscape was identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) by Conservation International in 2005, an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International, and a Site of National Significance in the National Biodiversity Action Plan. Although the area still retains some old growth forest, a large proportion of the landscape has been degraded or destroyed due to poorly planned logging activities, agricultural developments and mahogany plantations. These activities have led to increasing threats to the extinction of endemic bird species. Also, the construction of several roads in the area have increased access to agricultural pests and other invasive species which have become problematic to the native species of the island.



Natewa Dolphin Bay, Fiji

Contributed by Katarina Atalifo, Fiji National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

Nepal



Pre-workshop consultation, Nepal

The target landscape selected for COMDEKS activities in Nepal is an area comprising 10 contiguous Village Development Committees of the north-west Makawanpur district, central Nepal. The total land area of the landscape is 78,900 ha, only 8% are cultivated and nearly half the area is covered by forest. The area is also inhabited by over 77,812 people, 52% are indigenous Tamangs and 17% are Chepangs, which are regarded as the most marginalized and resource poor groups in Nepal.

The area has been selected as the target SEPLS for COMDEKS as it is recognized as one of Nepal's most hazard prone zones. The landscape is a watershed section and due to its geological and climatic conditions, this area is susceptible to landslides, flooding and wild fires.

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Also, several poverty “hot spots” have been identified where the livelihoods of local populations are threatened by very low food security levels, education, and access to basic services, which are compounded by landscape degradation associated with deforestation.

The landscape-wide baseline assessment involved several community consultation workshops where 200 participants completed the SEPL scorecard exercises. The results of the SEPLS indicators, as well as field analysis, identified key socio-ecological threats to the target area, as well as potential community-based activities to enhance landscape resilience, which helped develop the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy for Nepal.



Manahan River catchment area, Nepal

Contributed by Gopal Sherchan, Nepal National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

India



Farming activities, India

The target landscape selected for COMDEKS activities in India is located in the Uttarakhand state. The Uttarakhand State comprises 13 districts distributed over two administrative divisions, Garhwal and Kumaon. Uttarakhand’s altitude shows a wide variation from about 350m in the southern plains to about 7,800m on the northern mountain peaks bordering Tibet and western passes bordering Nepal.

Nestled in the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is a location where the role of nature and human dependencies on it are most pronounced in India, nearly 70% population resides in rural areas, and communities within the mountain system earn their living through traditional forestry, agriculture and animal husbandry practices. With its rich biodiversity hotspots, like wildlife sanctuaries and national parks interspersed with rivers, deep valleys, glaciers, flower valleys and high peaks Uttarakhand presents a very pristine, and picturesque landscape. However, fragmentation of land holdings, outward migration compounded by weak support from the state system are all testing traditional systems and bringing sustainable practices under threat.

As a result of a stakeholders workshop held in August 2012, six locations in the Uttarakhand have been identified for the COMDEKS baseline which is scheduled for November 2012. The community consulta-

tion workshop, together with the SEPLS indicators piloting exercise will help determine the resilience of the landscape and inform the design of the India COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy.



Terrace farming in Uttarakhand, India

Contributed by Sodhi Prabhjot, India National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

Turkey



Stakeholder workshop, Turkey

The target landscape selected for COMDEKS activities in Turkey is the Datça-Bozburun peninsula located in Muğla province in the southwest of Turkey. The Datça-Bozburun peninsula is recognized as a key biodiversity area as it represents one of the most pristine Mediterranean lowland forest, coastal and marine landscapes. About 90% percent of the Datça-Bozburun peninsula is protected and local communities earn their living mainly through fishery, tourism and agriculture especially almonds, olives, figs and herbs).

The baseline assessment and community consultation workshops clearly indicated that SEPLS Performance of Datça-Bozburun peninsula is quite favorable compared to similar landscapes in Turkey, due to its protection status. However, according to the participants the resilience of the landscape is under severe threats from seasonal tourism and increasing residential developments.



The Datça-Bozburun peninsula, Turkey

Contributed by Gokmen Yalcin, Turkey National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP

Links to Previous issues of COMDEKS Newsletter: [ISSUE 1](#)