



# TRAINING ON PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Djalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan, March 30-31 March, 2010  
Report



- TRIP AGENDA AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

- TRAINING CONTENT





## TRIP AGENDA AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

| Day n° | Date     | Place                                      | Programme  | Contacted persons/<br>Participants   |
|--------|----------|--|--|--|
| Day 1  | 29/03/10 | Djalal-Abad                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival to Djalal-Abad.</li> <li>• Brief meeting with the local FFI representative.</li> </ul>  | /  |
| Day 2  | 30/03/10 | Djalal-Abad<br>( <i>Lesik-Jug Office</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Training on Participatory Forest Management Planning, day 1:</u></b></li> <li>-Introduction: Sustainable Forest Management; the need for new approaches to Forest Management; preamble on Participatory forest management. -<b>The Kyrgyz context:</b> transition to market economy; forests of Kyrgyzstan are suffering from a combination of ecological and socio-economic factors; the <i>leskhoz</i>es are confronted to the increasing demand and use of natural resources, organisational and financial constraints...</li> <li>-The need to Participatory Forest Management Planning: argumentations linked to the local situation.</li> <li>-Conceptual frame for integration of different components into the process Participatory Forest Management Planning.</li> <li>-Criteria and indicators as main tools for organizing the debates between t of he managers and the users at local level.</li> <li>-The main objectives of Participatory Forest Management Planning: formulation of variants for a better management.</li> <li>- Participatory Forest Management Planning process: Analysis; Definition of management objectives; Management actions (action plan)</li> <li>-Logical sequence in the analysis.</li> <li>-Management objectives definition procedures.</li> <li>-Management actions: What should be done and when?</li> </ul> | (see the details concerning the names and positions of people attended the training in the annexed list) |

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| Day 3 | 31/03/10 |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Training on Participatory Forest Management planning, Day 2:</u></b></li> </ul> <p>- Open debate/discussions:<br/>According to the main orientations listed during the training, the participants assessed the situation in Djalal-Abad's <i>leskhozes</i>, and highlighted the most important issues and problems facing the forests, the managers and the users at local level.</p> <p>-Debate on forest management functions repartition (control and regulation, economic functions...) and how to link this issue with the management planning.</p> |  |
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## TRAINING CONTENT

Sequence of the presentation

### I. INTRODUCTION

- **Sustainable Forest Management: The need for new approaches to Forest Management**
- **Forest Management** should be implemented through an **approach**, a **process** and **clear procedures** aimed at **reaching sustainability**.
- **Forest Management Planning** should consider the forest area as a **global system**, where the **Ecological, Economic and Social elements** (components) are in **constant interaction**

- Need to **reliable knowledge** of the ecological, social and economic conditions;
- Need to **active participation of all stakeholders**, through procedures which should build a concrete partnership relation;
- **The decisions** should be taken through a **joint approval** by various concerned stakeholders.

- Forestry “expertise” has to be based on “multidiscipline” approach;
- Decisions have to take into consideration the diversity of actors (who should participate in forest management);
- Establishment of negotiation mechanisms to achieve compromise between different interest groups.

**Joint decision making process**

### II. KYRGYZ CONTEXT

- 1. Transition to market economy:** this transition is not easy and the country is facing difficult economic situation which appears on all levels, **including the forestry sector**.
- 2. All the forests of Kyrgyzstan are suffering from a combination of ecological and socio-economic factors:**
  - **Ecologically vulnerable**, the degradation of the forest resource may lead to the depletion of various species and would disturb the right balance and dynamics in the whole ecosystem.
  - **Critical social and economic conditions** that force the local people (especially in the rural/mountain zones) to use intensively the resources as a main sustain for their livelihood.
- 3. The Management Units (*Leskhoz*s)** are confronted to the increasing demand and use of natural resources, organisational and financial constraints (Many negative impacts on forest resources which worsen the ongoing process of forests depletion).
- 4. The Forest Policy as an organizational framework** to face this situation: Orientations in the National Forest Policy: involve local stakeholders in the decision making process

### III. THE NEED FOR PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING: ARGUMENTATIONS

- The economic weakness in Kyrgyzstan has led to **irrational use of natural resources**. **Forests are of special concern** because they are of great interest to the local people: they supply quite a lot of products and ensure key ecological, economic and social roles. Thus, the Participatory Forest Management Planning is not just a result of debates on technical measures necessary for the right use of the available resources; it has to be also based on **clear strategies** elaborated on Management Unit (*leskhoze*) level. **These strategies should give answers and provide solutions linked and adapted to the local social and economic context.**
- The *leskhoz*es are not able to cope alone with all the emerging problems. In order to resolve these problems, it will be necessary to develop various activities and partnerships attracting various actors (local population, local authorities...). The *leskhoz*es as economic structures (enterprises) are basically assessed through their economic results. In order to improve their economic actions, they should involve, engage and built an **effective partnership with the local actors**. However, these local actors would be interested in such collaboration only if they make sure that there will be **advantages to share**.

### IV. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

To face this context (situation) the **Management Unit staff** (*leskhoze*), in **collaboration with local stakeholders** (especially the local population, and local administration), should adopt a more **participatory approach** in managing and using the **forest resources**.

In this perspective, among the major tasks to consider, there's the **“reconsideration of roles of forestry service and local population for improvement of Forest Management, with definition of rights and responsibilities of all the parties”**.

This should be based on **flexible procedures and activities**:

- The procedures that make up cooperation between forest services and villagers in order to help each other in development and implementation of management activities aimed at the strengthening of sustainability and productivity of forest, based on the mutually beneficial terms.
- The activities on the territory of the whole area and interactions between the different types of land use should be **planned jointly**.

The main principle is the participation in the decision making process. The forest services (*leskhoz*es) should support the local population and create the environment (conditions) in which they could act on their own initiative, and be responsible for forest management activities. This process will allow local people to have a feeling of ownership with regard to forest resources; this means that, there will be a goodwill, chances and possibilities to observe and to implement the needed and efficient decisions on Forest Management.

The main goal of Participatory Management Planning is the **discussion and the formulation of variants for a better management**. This could be achieved through:

- Development of management variants by interlocutors, on the basis of the current conditions (problems and opportunities), taking into account **current local uses, practices and needs**.
- Choose of management variants in a participatory process (The participation in **each step of the process**, so that the taken decisions should result from discussions and negotiations between all the interested groups (forest service, local forest users, local administration...)).
- Take **compromising decisions** and come to an **agreement** on management: all the stakeholders should be informed on: **who can do (use) what, when, how and with what obligations**.

## V. CRITERIA AND INDICATORS AS MAIN TOOLS FOR ORGANIZING DEBATES BETWEEN MANAGERS AND USERS AT LOCAL LEVEL

C&I are tools which give an opportunity to consider and convert the general contents of the Sustainable Forest Management concept (SFM) into concrete directions that could satisfy expectations and claims of various interested groups. These tools improve the public understanding of SFM objectives, and ensure a useful informing mechanism on the forest conditions and dynamic. C&I are simultaneously a tool for **“informing”** and for **“stakeholders’ needs formulation”**.

The first step of Participatory Forest Management Planning process starts with a definition of a set of criteria and indicators (C&I) by the *leskhoze* and the local population, fixing the framework conditions for management, and linking technical norms with social requirements (of the users).

The definition of the precise list of the C&I is one important moment in the planning process. This task is based on the situation’s assessment through identification of the local ecological and socio-economic conditions, not only from the point of view of forest stands, but also by considering the problems in the Management Unit (*leskhoze*), demands and basic needs of the local population.

At the beginning, the approach consists in identification of all needs and aspirations of local communities regarding forest management. This can be defined by different means. Communicative approaches seem to be the best way to identify the expectation of rural communities. It is necessary to motivate the people to talk about what they are doing, how the environment influences their daily lives, what are their needs, etc. The conversations should be conducted in such a way to assist the local people to express their personal ideas, expectations and visions for a better forest management.

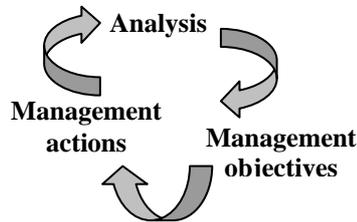
The assessment of specialists is also considered as a priority. Their recommendations should be always adjusted with all the other stakeholders’ claims (Managers, local population, local administration...). Indicators should be agreed by all stakeholders.

## VI. PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The whole process of Participatory Forest Management is made out of 3 main steps:

1. **Analysis**
2. **Synthesis (definition of management objectives)**
3. **Management actions (action plan)**

For each of these steps, all the aspects should be considered: ecological and socio-economic. At each step of the process, the specialists' expertise is improved through communication with the local actors. This will create a real partnership for an effective and successful implementation of management actions. It's also a tool for raising awareness and collaborative learning among participants. The iterative aspect, which is an important element of the Participatory Forest Management, should be implemented at each level of the planning process.



**Analysis**

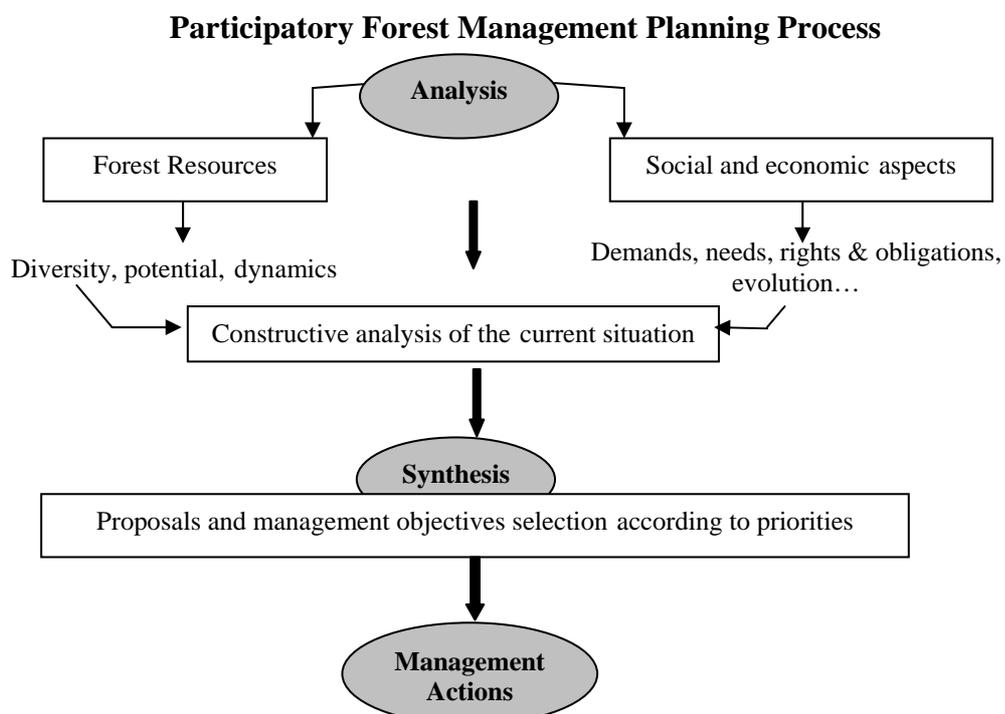
- The analysis of forest resources (the variety, possibility, dynamics...).
- Study of ecological aspects: the analysis should focus in particular on issues (problems, risks...) linked to the human factor.
- Social and economic situation: the analysis should consider all aspects of needs and demand (products, services...).
- The analysis and appreciation of “the previous management period”: the view at the past is necessary not only to understand the evolution of the forest situation, but also to analyze what has been accomplished (results, actions, advantages and inconveniences...) in order to have better information allowing to improve management.

**Synthesis:**

Choice and purpose classification according to priorities: the main actions, activities and decisions which should be undertaken. Synthesis allows to choose and classify the purposes and to initiate the decision making process. It includes all analyses, lessons from previous management period, orientations of National Forest Policy, the urgent requirement and needs of interested groups...

**Management actions:**

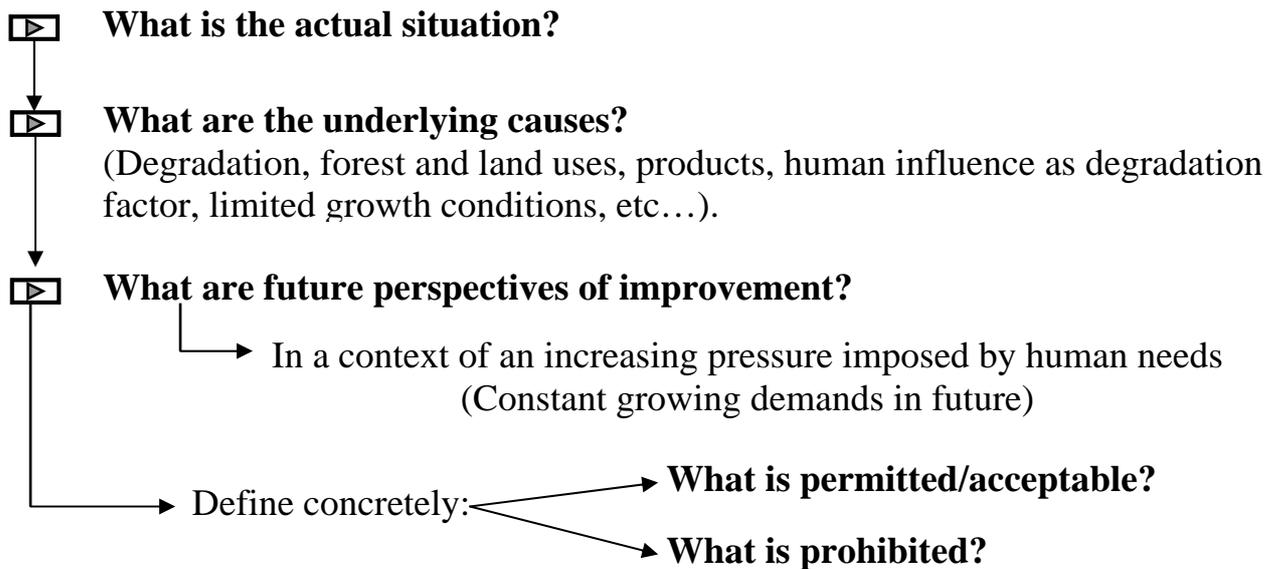
After definition of purposes and required decisions (to reach these purposes), it is necessary to define the action plan to carry out in a defined term (period). According to the management purposes, it is important to consider what actions can be undertaken in each sector, and what the requirements are. At this stage it is essential to check up the feasibility and the probable interactions between the planned actions.



- **Logical sequence in the analysis of the current situation**

To understand the current situation, and initiate more effective debate about management variants, the discussions between the interested groups should focus on **the existing access rules and forest/land use practices**. All exploitation, productive, guarding and protection activities within the forest area (within the Management Unit/*leskhoze*) and its adjacency, should be considered.

At this stage of the analysis, it is important to assess correctly the current situation, its causes and the perspectives for its improvement. As a result, the stakeholders will define: **what is acceptable and what is prohibited** for a better forest management.

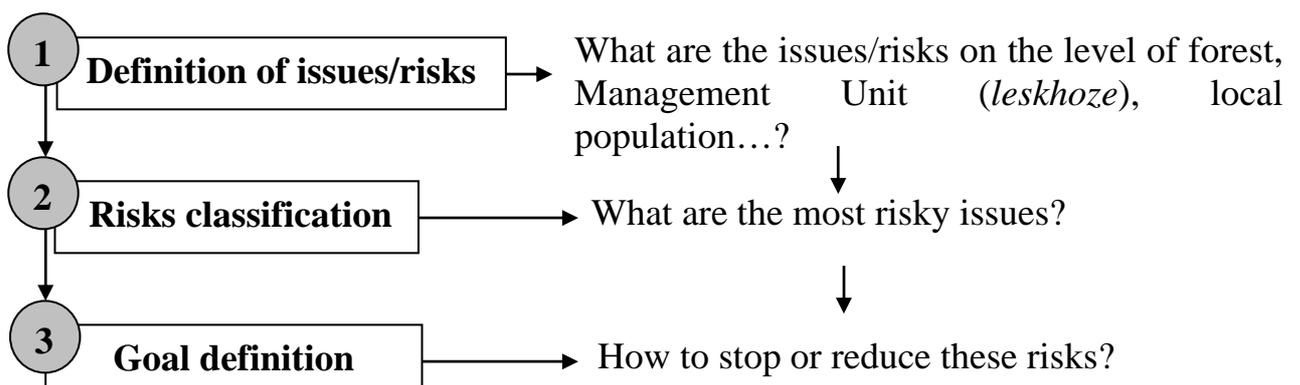


- **Proposals and management objectives selection**

It is necessary that, the stakeholders define a sequence of phases which enables to guide and conduct the procedure of management objectives definition. The following steps are recommended:

- Choice of a topic. This should lead to the emergence of three principal topics: Forest, Management Unit (*leskhoze*), and local population/users.
- Proposal and definition of management objectives for each topic.
- Management objectives classification (according to management priorities).
- Provision of measures and activities for objectives achievement.
- Agreement (between the stakeholders).

**Management objectives definition procedures**



- **Management actions: What should be done and when?**

During the management actions planning, it's very important that the partners considers, and carefully verifies all the elements related to the interaction between the different activities and assess their feasibility:

- What actions and activities can be undertaken?
- Are the activities feasible?
- What will be the requirements for an effective activity implementation?
- What are the possible interactions between the various activities?
- Does implementation of one activity will restrict the implementation of the others?
- Etc...

It's also necessary to think over possible consequences in regard of ecological, economic and social aspects, and assess the sustainability of management activities. The following questions should be put forward and answered:

- Will these activities ensure sustainability of forest resources in a long-term perspective?
- Does it meet the needs and expectations of local population?
- Does it support local development?
- Is it appropriate or it can lead to conflicts?

- **Who will provide what?**

All the approved management activities should be implemented according to available means (human, material, financial...). For this purpose, the partners have to identify and assess for each activity the required means and which stakeholder is expected to contribute (forest service, local population, local administration...). To implement the action program, it would be more realistic for the stakeholders to make the distinction between 2 types of actions:

- **Principal actions**, which should be implemented urgently (using available means).
- **Secondary actions**, which will be implemented according to emerging possibilities.

### **Main management actions at *leskhoze*'s level:**

This concern mainly 5 topics representing almost the major part of the *leskhoze* activities:

- **Sylviculture and regeneration activities:** Regeneration (natural and artificial); Harvesting (timber and non timber); Nurseries.
- **Forest protection:** Anti fires measures; Protection from pests and diseases; Measures against illegal activities; Flora and fauna protection; Control of forest and land use; Ecological awareness.
- **Forest and land use:** Pastures; Land use (forest and non forest lands); Forest and non forest products.
- **Economic activities:** Lease activities; Productive actions...
- **Organizational activities:** Technical and working staff; Material and technical resources; Qualification and training.

## Main management actions related to social aspects (local population):

The accent has to be on the involvement of the local population in the forest activities and particularly on the improvement of leasing relations. However, firstly, it's necessary to define management objectives which allow:

- To resolve and reduce the conflicts between the local population and the foresters.
- To involve and mobilize the local population in the forest activities.
- To raise the standard of living of the local population by insuring new possibilities and sources of incomes.
- To ensure the basic requirements and needs of the local population.
- To raise the public awareness in forestry issues.

## VII. REPARTITION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

The idea is to connect the participatory Forest Management Planning with a “**current subject**” which may prepare the local managers (at *leskhoz*es’ level) to the new directives of the National Forest Policy i.e.: “**the separation between Controlling/Supervision Functions and Management/Economic Functions in the forestry sector**”.

In this “interactive part” of the training, the participants agreed on the necessity to divide Forest Fund management into Controlling/Supervision Functions and Management Functions. From their point of view, the Controlling/Supervision functions have to be kept exclusively under State authority. This may assure the elaboration and implementation of the National Forest Policy, control and regulations regarding property, preservations of forest biodiversity, use, protection, guarding, reproduction and sustainable management of the Forest Fund. Concerning the Management Functions, a State Enterprise might deal with all the Forest Management and Economic activities. From participant’s point of view, the participatory Forest Management Planning is necessary to create an effective social and economic mechanism, which fits market relationship and ensure a sustained development of forest sector in Kyrgyzstan.

