

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT & ENTERPRISES PROGRAMME

CFME
COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT & ENTERPRISES

Helps communities benefit economically from sustainable forest use and add value to their forest resources.

Improves local forest governance through partnership building.

Provides capacity building and training to support sustainable community enterprises.

**ENHANCING
COMMUNITY
LIVELIHOODS
& ECONOMIC
RESILIENCE
THROUGH THE
SUSTAINABLE
USE OF FOREST
PRODUCTS.**

WHY IS COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT & ENTERPRISES NEEDED?

Over 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods.¹ Forests provide income, employment, food and a range of other goods and services. However, due to high levels of poverty, poor governance, education and training, and limited market opportunities, many communities use their forest resources unsustainably which leads to deforestation and forest degradation. Even when communities are able to start their own forest-based enterprises, a lack of human, financial and physical assets means they struggle to compete with larger businesses. Opportunities to develop into medium-sized industrial enterprises and truly add value are almost non-existent.

¹Factsheet, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), 2011.

THROUGH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, ITTO HAS DEVELOPED INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING, AND DISSEMINATED CRITICAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND LESSONS LEARNED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISES (CFEs).



A nursery established by a group of women to help rehabilitate degraded forest lands in the Volta Region.
Photo: Polycarpe Masupa-Kambale

CASE STUDY: GHANA

The Ashanti, Eastern and Volta Regions of Ghana are home to numerous communities who rely on the forest environment for their homes, food and livelihoods. In these communities, the sustainable management of forested areas is vital to reducing poverty and forest degradation.

Recognizing this need, ITTO initiated a project to help local farmers establish community forest enterprises (CFEs) and build capacity in sustainable forest management (SFM). Working with local farmers, ITTO provided training in farming methods and skills, and viable business management practices to encourage community members to start their own businesses.

As a result, ITTO helped establish numerous CFEs, providing 150 farmers and their families with more diverse and secure sources of income. The established model is now applied to 10,000 farmers in the area. Ultimately, the project enhanced local livelihoods through the promotion of new CFEs and improved community participation in SFM.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ITTO's Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME) Programme provides solutions for the sustainable development and use of forests by local communities. Supported by a streamlined and effective funding process, forest communities, civil society organisations, government agencies, donors and the private sector are invited to submit project proposals that are aligned with the goals of SFM and the needs of forest communities. Proposals are then assessed and prioritized to determine those that will create dynamic partnerships among stakeholders.

CFME PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES FOCUS ON 3 KEY AREAS

1) Strengthening Community-Level Capacity in SFM and Adding Value to Forest Resources.

- Deliver pilot and demonstration projects to support capacity building of forest communities and community enterprises.
- Provide training for CFEs in managerial and technical skills.
- Support capacity building of community-based cooperatives, such as trading associations, alliances and networks.

2) Strengthening Country Capacity and Enabling Conditions in the Development of CFEs.

- Enhance social and natural assets through improved land tenure and resource rights, and cooperation between community organisations.
- Design and generate improved policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote CFEs.

3) Strengthening Knowledge Management.

- Support knowledge generation of community forestry and CFEs, including traditional indigenous forest uses and management methods.
- Enhance knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons through partnership-building across national, regional and international bodies.



The Shuar people of Ecuador. Photo: Fundacion Natura

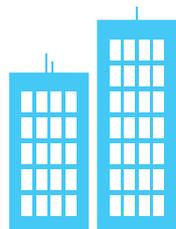
THE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT & ENTERPRISES (CFME) PROGRAMME DELIVERS BENEFITS FOR:

FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES



IMPACT: Increases access to resources, skills and knowledge resulting in poverty reduction and improved, more resilient livelihoods.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR



IMPACT: Expands the supply of sustainable forest products and strengthens cooperation with local communities through effective corporate social responsibility practices.

GOVERNMENT & THE PUBLIC SECTOR



IMPACT: Improves governance, policy decisions and institutional capacity in education and research through better access to information.

DONORS & THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



IMPACT: Enhances investments that provide direct impacts on the ground; economic stability, poverty reduction and improved livelihoods for local communities.

THE ENVIRONMENT



IMPACT: Adds value to forest resources, reduces deforestation and forest degradation, and enhances forest quality.

WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE

The Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME) Programme presents a vitally important opportunity to contribute to the development of forest communities by supporting national and global goals on sustainable development. Increased financial support to CFME will allow communities to develop their own methods of economic resilience, and help manage and protect our planet's natural resources in more sustainable ways.

There is an increasing global demand for high value, socially responsible products such as construction materials and sustainably sourced non-timber forest products. Since forest communities provide these products, by strengthening their ability to sustainably manage their forest resources, and assisting CFEs to add value to forest products and services, the CFME Programme is helping communities gain access to international markets. This connects global markets with local solutions for the effective management and use of forests, resulting in more economically resilient communities that benefit from forests over the long term, reduced poverty levels, and sustainable development.

PARTNER WITH US

To successfully deliver the Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME) Programme over the next three years, ITTO requires an additional US\$5 million per year. This will deliver significant livelihood improvements for communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America and support the development of sustainable forest products for local and global markets.

The CFME Programme is just one of ITTO's key areas of work and we need your support to deliver it successfully. Download our Strategic Action Plan for 2013-2018 at www.itto.int/publicity_materials, which outlines ITTO's programmes of work and opportunities for donor support. For more information please contact tp@itto.int.

By partnering together, we can help sustain the world's tropical forests. Our work over the last 30 years has reduced forest degradation, delivered improved governance systems and created more resilient livelihoods but there is still much to achieve. To learn more about ITTO, the Community Forest Management and Enterprises Programme, and how to support our projects, visit us at www.itto.int.

WHY ITTO TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISES?

Since 1989, ITTO has gained in-depth knowledge and experience through the implementation of more than 85 results-driven community forestry projects in 36 countries, which cover approximately 80% of the world's tropical forests. With investments of more than US\$40 million in community forestry, we have an unparalleled track record of engagement in field-level activities in countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

To date, programme evaluations have consistently demonstrated that CFME projects have had a significant impact on country and community capacity in a broad range of forestry and related business operations.

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