



RECOFTC

Community forestry models in Asia-Pacific

Forestry partnerships in Indonesia (kemitraan kehutanan)

Infosheet

In Indonesia, there are five types of community forestry models: community forests, village forests, community plantation forests, forestry partnerships and customary forests. An environmental partnership among parties, such as the government, the private sector, communities or other institutions, is a voluntary collaboration aimed at improving the quality of the environment and/or use of natural resources. A forestry partnership (kemitraan kehutanan) is an agreement to use an area of production or protection forest. The parties are, on one side, a permit-holder who uses the forest and, on the other side, a community or other partner. A conservation partnership is a collaboration between the head of the forest area management unit or a permit-holder working in conservation areas and a community or other partner. The partnership model's legal basis is in the Forestry Act of 1999 and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 9/2021 on social forestry management.

Key requirements

Who is eligible?

Communities who live in or around the forest area and communities who live outside the local village who have managed the forest area from generation to generation or for the past five years, as confirmed by a certificate from the head of the village or local subdistrict office, are eligible. One person per household can participate, and professional foresters or other individuals can also be partners.

Allocation process

1. An applicant must prepare the following documents before applying for legal access to the forest area: text of the partnership agreement; map of the area signed by the parties, in a printed version and as a digital shapefile; and list of the committee and farmers' group members, signed by the head of the village, with copies of identity cards and family cards.
2. The applicant submits a physical or electronic letter of application to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
3. The Ministry assigns the director general for Social Forestry and Environmental Partnerships to oversee the permit.
4. The director general assigns an administrative team and a technical team to review the application.
5. The administrative team verifies all the administrative aspects within three days of receiving the documents. If the documents are incomplete or not eligible, the team returns them to the applicant.
6. The applicant has 14 days to improve the documents and return them to the Ministry. If the applicant does not meet this deadline, the application is automatically cancelled.
7. If the documents pass administrative verification, the application proceeds for technical verification.
8. If the application fulfils the requirements, the director general for Social Forestry and Environmental Partnerships issues a permit on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. If the application does not qualify, the director general rejects it.

Main elements



Duration of tenure

- Forestry and conservation partnership duration depends on the agreement between the farmers' group and the parties that the group wants to partner with but not longer than the social forestry management permit.



Type and condition of forest

- Forestry partnership is for production forest that has been licenced for timber, and production or protection forest that has had approval for forest use.
- Conservation partnership is for conservation forests.
- The area should be a potential source of livelihoods for local communities or an area of conflict or potential conflict between local people and forest land licence-holders that needs to be resolved.
- In areas where individual community members have already farmed, the maximum forest area is 5 hectares per household or 5 hectares per person, depending on the type of plants in the area.
- In the case of palm oil plantations carried out by individuals, the maximum forest area is 5 hectares per person. The individual must have lived in or around the forest area continuously for at least five years.



Type and duration of management plan

- Social forestry management plan covers institutional strengthening, forest use, a business workplan and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- Annual workplans provide detailed descriptions and timelines for implementation.



Internal governance

- The communities are required to form a forest farmers' group, a combination of forest farmers' groups or a cooperative, as well as social forestry business units.



Gender and social inclusion

- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 9/2021 on social forestry management states that women and men should have equal opportunity and access in obtaining social forestry permits.

- The implementation of all forms of social forestry should have targets that include gender equality and inclusive participation, especially for women, youth and marginalized groups.



Community-based enterprises

- The permit-holder can form a cooperative to increase the institutional capacity for community forestry management.
- The permit holders are entitled to capital support, marketing partnerships and guidance from government ministries and agencies, the local government, academic institutions, financial institutions and/or the private sector.



Benefit-sharing mechanism

- Assets or capital from the business permit holder or area-use approval-holder in the area of partnership are shared as follows: 80 percent for the permit-holder and 20 percent for the community.
- Assets or capital from the community are shared as follows: 80 percent for the community and 20 percent for business licence-holders or permit-holders.
- The benefits are shared proportionally between the two partners or according to the partnership agreement.



External support

- The local government provides guidance and assistance to the permit-holders through its agencies responsible for forestry, such as the Technical Implementation Unit, the Forest Management Unit and the Community Forestry Acceleration Working Group, and/or facilitators.



Conflict-resolution mechanism

- An evaluation of the forest partnership takes place at least every five years. Among other things, this evaluation verifies the existence and implementation of standard operating procedures for resolving conflicts and/or disputes relating to natural resource management through internal documents and conflict-resolution reports.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 9/2021 does not specify the conflict-resolution procedure.



Rights and responsibilities of community members

Members have rights to:

- forestry partnership: harvest and use non-timber forest products in protection forest; harvest and use both timber and non-timber forest products in production forest.
- conservation partnership: harvest and use non-timber forest products in certain use zones in the conservation forest.
- both types of partnership: obtain protection from forest and environment destruction

Members must:

- comply with the terms of the partnership agreement.
- maintain and protect the forestry partnership area.
- pay non-tax state revenue from the forestry partnership activities, unless the forest manager or the business permission-holder is willing to pay the non-tax state revenue.

- must plant 100 trees per hectare, in the case of a palm oil plantation, after within a year of the social forestry management plan approval. After 15 years, the palm trees are dismantled.

Members cannot:

- not specified

Partners have rights to:

- receive a fair share from the forestry partnership activities according to the partnership agreement.
- obtain technical assistance from the forest management or permit-holder.

Links with climate change policies and targets

- There is no legal requirement for communities to integrate climate vulnerability, adaptation or mitigation activities into their community forest management plans. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 9/2021 on social forestry management refers to opportunities for community forest users to provide environmental services.
- The National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation, published in 2014, emphasizes strengthening forest management, including through community forests and other forms of social forestry, to protect and preserve local ecosystem services. The plan has no specific actions related to social forestry for 2013–2025.
- In 2022, Indonesia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement on climate change emphasized the role of social forestry in tackling climate change and its impacts:
 - It states that sustainable forest management, including social forestry, would contribute to Indonesia's unconditional target of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by 31.9 percent, when compared to the business-as-usual scenario, by 2030.
 - It identifies social forestry among the steps Indonesia has taken to reduce emissions in the land-use sector and acknowledges the active participation of subnational governments, the private sector, small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society organizations, local and adat (customary) communities and women.
 - It includes social forestry among the programs for enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and landscapes to climate change. It highlights strategies for strengthening the engagement of local and customary communities in social forestry development, strengthening implementation of the landscape approach in social forestry and implementing environment-friendly technologies in social forestry.
- Forestry partnership and other forms of social forestry are integral to Indonesia's strategy for turning its forestry and land-use sector from a net emitter of carbon into a net sink by 2030. The Forestry and Land Use Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan emphasizes that social forestry can reduce the risk of deforestation and increase forest cover by resolving conflicts over land and protecting forest areas. It also refers to social forestry as a solution for improving forest areas by encouraging communities to implement agroforestry.

Read more

- RECOFTC, *Special Report: How community forests boosted pandemic resilience across Asia-Pacific*, www.recoftc.org/special-report/community-forestry-boosted-pandemic-resilience
- RECOFTC, *Special Report: Communities are improving lives and landscapes in Southeast Asia through social forestry*, www.recoftc.org/stories/special-report-communities-are-improving-lives-and-landscapes-southeast-asia-through-social
- Find out more about RECOFTC's work in Indonesia at www.recoftc.org/indonesia



We believe in a future where people live equitably and sustainably in and beside healthy, resilient forests. We take a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach to supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equity. We are the only non-profit organization of our kind in Asia and the Pacific. We have more than 30 years of experience working with people and forests, and have built trusting relationships at all levels. Our influence and partnerships extend from multilateral institutions to governments, private sector and local communities. Our innovations, knowledge and initiatives enable countries to foster good forest governance, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

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