

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Project introduction and outline

Prof. Ridish K. Pokharel, PhD
Bir Bahadur Khanal Chhetri, PhD
Santosh Rayamajhi, PhD
Thorsten Treue, PhD

Shankar Hotel, Kathmandu
9th of November, 2014

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Partners:

A joint research and education capacity development project between four institutions:

- The Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.
- The Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.
- The Department of Culture and Society, Aarhus University, Denmark.
- The Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Project period and budget:

- SCIFOR runs during the period 2014 – 2017.
- The budget is DKK 9,000,000 (\approx USD 1,500,000)
 - financed by the Danish Consultative Research Committee on Development Research (DANIDA).

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Historical background:

A new project

- inspired by 11 years of collaboration between IOF and the University of Copenhagen under ComForM I, II and III (Community Based Forest Management in the Himalaya).
- conceived and jointly developed during the final part of ComForm III.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Project goal:

To promote participatory forestry planning and management approaches that support equitable, environmentally sound, and economically rational forest management.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Key argument of scientific forestry:

- Scientific forest management planning intends
 - to safeguard nationally important environmental resources.
- The official requirement of scientific forest management plans in participatory forestry is
 - justified by the expectation that they become a tool in day-to-day management, thereby fulfilling the above mentioned national interest.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Key dilemma of scientific forestry:

- The technical quality of a management plan depends on
 - the quality of data informing it which requires detailed forest inventories.
- Yet, statistically sound forest inventories are demanding in terms of knowledge, money and time
 - so resource strained forestry officials face incentives to take ‘shortcuts’.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Key hypotheses:

- Local communities draw on other forms of knowledge (e.g. experience-based knowledge)
 - to inform their CF management *practices*.
- Accordingly, in PFM
 - the technical quality of ‘scientific’ forest management *plans* might be poor and their silvicultural importance might be minimal.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Specific research objectives are to understand:

- The justifications and functions of scientific forest management planning and the values attributed to it, from the perspective of the forest bureaucracy.
- The role of scientific forest management planning in forest communities' forest management and planning *practices*.
- How scientific forest management planning affects communities' relations to the forest bureaucracy.
- How scientific forest management planning affects people's participation and inclusion in participatory forestry at the CFUG level.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Capacity and dissemination objectives:

- To award 4 PhD degrees within the project.
- To develop and implement teaching curricula in adaptive forest management planning.
- To develop practical guidelines on adaptive participatory forest management planning.
- To disseminate project results to the international scientific community and stakeholders in partner countries (Nepal and Tanzania).

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Planned activities:

Senior faculty as main and co-supervisors of the PhD students will follow a three pronged approach:

- investigations targeting all levels of the forest bureaucracy to understand the justifications and values associated with scientific forest management planning (SFMP);
- 15 cases of community-forest bureaucracy interactions in relation to participatory forestry implementation processes to understand the functions of SFMP;
- 2-4 intensive community-level case studies focusing on the role of SFMP in shaping participation and inclusion and actual forest management practices, including the environmental outcomes.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



Anticipated output:

- 4 PhD graduates.
- International peer-reviewed publications (12).
- Policy briefs.
- Guidelines on forest management.
- Teaching curricula.
- Enhanced research capacity.

SCIFOR

Science and Power in Participatory Forestry



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

Intended contribution of the project:

To inspire a revision of relevant forest legislation and implementation practices.

Through an enhanced understanding and appreciation among national stakeholders of different forms of forestry knowledge and the roles of SFMP in CF.

Thereby supporting the project goal:

Participatory forest management approaches that promote equitable, environmentally sound and economically rational forest management