

# COMDEKS

## Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative

United Nations Development Programme

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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.*

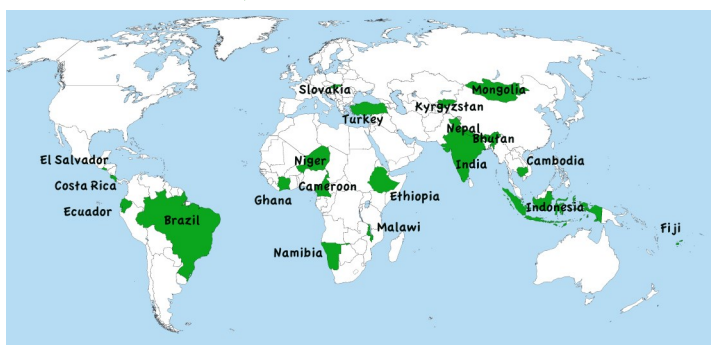
For more information about the COMDEKS project and latest news, please visit our blog at [www.comdeksproject.com](http://www.comdeksproject.com)

Welcome to the tenth issue of our Newsletter!

In this edition, we highlight:

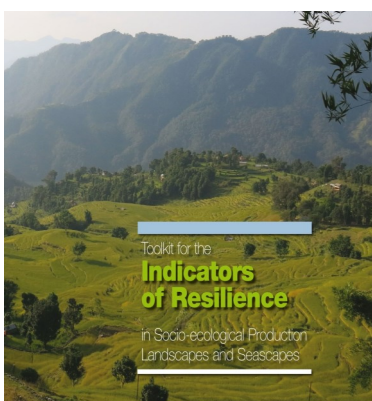
- 1) Resilience Indicators Toolkit released at WPC, Sydney
- 2) Launch of COMDEKS Publication during CBD-COP12
- 3) A new COMDEKS Brochure
- 4) Towards productive landscapes – ETRN News
- 5) Launch of community projects in Cameroon
- 6) A COMDEKS video from Slovakia
- 7) Portfolio Updates: Indonesia and Namibia
- 8) A COMDEKS photo story from Cameroon

### COMDEKS Country Programmes: December 2014



Participants carry out a scoring exercise during a consultation meeting Photo : Bhutan

### Resilience Indicators Toolkit released at the World Parks Congress



The publication 'Toolkit for the Indicators of Resilience in Socio Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)', was officially released at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC) during the side event 'Production landscapes and protected areas: approaches of the Satoyama Initiative', on 17 November 2014, in Sydney, Australia. The newly released Toolkit, developed

jointly by Bioversity International, the Institute for Global Environmental Studies, the United Nations University and the United Nations Development Programme, aims to provide communities with a framework for discussion and analysis of socio-ecological processes essential for resilience of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes. It is also an effective tool for researchers and development practitioners to understand resilience and develop resilience-strengthening landscapes and seascapes strategies.

In order to strengthen resilience of SEPLS, it is important for local communities to understand the current conditions of the landscapes and seascapes in which they live and work. To accomplish this, the toolkit consists of a set of 20 resilience indicators designed to capture community perceptions of different aspects of key systems – ecological, agricultural, cultural and socio-economic. The toolkit familiarizes the reader with the relevant concept of resilience and provides practical tips to use the indicators through examples from the field featuring Namibia, Fiji, Turkey and Kenya. COMDEKS is one of the first programs of its kind to deploy resilience indicators as an integral part of its design and as an organizing principle for community participation. The indicators are designed to be revisited periodically by the community, allowing community members to evaluate progress toward outcomes and to identify priority actions for local innovation. As such, they are a primary mechanism for adaptive management and the sustainability of COMDEKS interventions.

Please click [here](#) to download a PDF version of the toolkit

(Continued from page 1)

## COMDEKS Publication released during CBD COP-12 in Korea



The COMDEKS programme recently launched its first publication at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Titled *Communities in Action for Landscape Resilience and Sustainability: The COMDEKS Programme*, the publication collates and analyzes the results and lessons learned from ten community-lead initiatives from COMDEKS countries. The new report proposes ways

towards maintaining and expanding landscapes and seascapes where there is, or can be, harmonious interaction between people and nature.

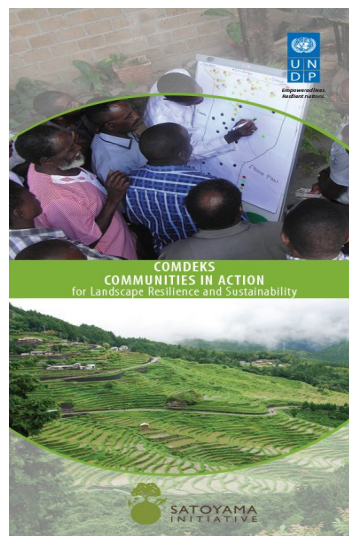
The publication was launched during a CBD COP-12 side event "Contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets from the ground up", hosted by the IPSI secretariat and the United Nations University, which showcased efforts by diverse members of the IPSI, which since its launch in October 2010, has expanded its membership in both developed and developing countries. The COMDEKS presentation during the event highlighted how collective action and the learning by doing approach, applied at the community level, has helped generate important social capital and enhanced community resilience. The COMDEKS strategic framework that is the cornerstone of the COMDEKS approach was also outlined and emerging lessons were highlighted. Lessons included the need for participatory landscape planning to build social capital for collective action, new institutional models for the governance of integrated landscapes and knowledge from innovation to scale up the landscape approach. Another point noted was that work at the landscape level frees communities and donors from the constraints of a single-project focus, but requires time and long-term support.

Another CBD COP-12 side event, "Mobilizing Resources for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Production Landscapes and Seascapes" organized by the UNU-IAS, illustrated approaches developed under the Satoyama Initiative which are used to mobilize resources for the sustainable use of biodiversity at the community level.

Please click [here](#) to download a PDF version of the publication.

### COMDEKS Brochure available

The brochure provides background information on the COMDEKS Programme, its community-based landscape approach and some emerging lessons. Community Development



and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) is a global effort, implemented by UNDP, to empower communities to manage landscapes sustainably with the vision of realizing "societies in harmony with nature." These landscapes and seascapes encompass many uses, from farming and fishing to forestry and livestock herding and provide an economic and cultural mainstay of rural life. The COMDEKS Programme provides small-scale finance directly to community organizations in developing countries for collaborative activities that maintain and

revitalize their critical production land and seascapes. COMDEKS also supports the dissemination of knowledge and experiences from on-the-ground actions to other community organizations and networks, as well as policy makers.

Please click [here](#) to download a PDF version of the brochure

### Towards productive landscapes – The European Tropical Forest Research Network News

Despite significant progress in expanding protected areas (PAs), biodiversity is being lost across the world at an unparalleled pace. In fact, much if not most biodiversity remains outside PA systems. The fate of this biodiversity — and of the vital ecological processes that cannot be sustained within PAs alone — will depend on the sound management of socio-ecological landscapes. Practitioners, donors and governments are increasingly interested in supporting work at the landscape level to protect global environmental values related to climate, biodiversity, and land degradation, as well as development priorities, including food security, disaster risk reduction and poverty alleviation.

A new article on the UNDP community-based landscape management approach to strengthening resilience of socio-ecological production landscapes titled '*Community-based approaches to landscape management*' and recently published by the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) News 56, '*Towards productive landscapes*', identifies various COMDEKS projects and key strategies, instrumental to its success. Along with examples from Turkey and India, the article details initial lessons learned and recommendations that have emerged from implementing the community-based landscape approach. The latest issue of ETFRN News was launched on December 6th in the Farming and Forest Families in Living Landscapes Lounge at the 2014 Global Landscapes Forum in Lima, Peru.

Please click [here](#) to read the full article on ETFRN News 56

Contributed by Nick Remple, Global Technical Advisor, UNDP-GEF and Diana Salvemini, COMDEKS Project Manager, UNDP-GEF.



*(Continued from page 2)*

## Launch of community projects in Cameroon

October 15th 2014, marked the official launch of seven COMDEKS community projects in the Bogo landscape in Cameroon. In April 2014, seven community projects were selected and grants were approved covering a total amount of USD 230,000. Two events were planned for the launch; a community meeting to review the Satoyama Initiative vision and COMDEKS country programme landscape strategy, and the presentation of community projects along with organizations implementing the project.

The launching ceremony for the community projects, organized in Tchabawol, one of the counties in Bogo, saw the involvement of various stakeholders including beneficiary communities and local authorities. The meeting intended to recall the specific objectives of the Country Programme Landscape Strategy and highlight the link between the landscape strategy and community projects, including project deliverables, as well as the involvement and ownership of the projects by target communities.



Celebrations in Tchabawol

Photo: Cameroon

The Lawan of Tchabawol on behalf of his peers from other counties confirmed the commitment of local authorities to accompany the involvement and participation of their communities in the project's implementation. Women, who do not openly speak when men are around, voiced the necessity to have project activities that are tailored to their needs and capacities as the primary users of natural resources, while the CSOs presented the objectives, expected results and impacts of the various community projects.

After the community meeting, a capacity building workshop was organized which focused on technical and financial aspects of reporting project implementation, including techniques and tools for monitoring and evaluation. The launching ceremony was followed by a thorough monitoring and evaluation mission that covered the seven projects. The visit to project sites was an opportunity to evaluate the level of project implementation and the involvement of various community

components (men, youth and women), while also meeting various stakeholders and partners of the projects.

*Contributed by Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck, Cameroon National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP.*

## Community Development in Harmony with Nature – a video from Slovakia



The SGP Slovakia Country Programme has recently released 'Community Development in Harmony with Nature', a new video that documents the landscape approach piloted by COMDEKS, and highlights supported initiatives that have successfully strengthened community development and landscape resilience in Slovakia. The COMDEKS project in Slovakia has supported seven community initiatives located in the north-eastern part of the Východoslovenská nížina Lowland, in the Latorica river basin.

Due to intensive agriculture, large scale drainage and deforestation, only a small proportion of forests remain, and the target area has shown a low level of ecological stability. The supported initiatives aim to strengthen community development by returning to traditional practices such as beekeeping and sheep farming. Farmers markets that sell local produce have been organized, and forests have been replanted in target areas. The management of protected bird areas has been initiated through the reintroduction of cattle grazing. The video highlights projects that have contributed to the restoration and revitalization of forests and grasslands, thus supporting local development and resilience of the landscape.

Please click [here](#) to access the English subtitled version of the video

## Portfolio Updates

### Indonesia

In Indonesia, Semau Island has been identified as the target landscape for COMDEKS activities. The ecologically diverse area, host to rich marine, terrestrial, and coastal biodiversity, is currently under pressure from a limited supply of fresh water and poor agricultural practices, which are exacerbated by climate change and extreme weather.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Semau Island during the dry season

Photo: Indonesia

Since the baseline assessment conducted in November 2013, local stakeholders have engaged in various projects funded through COMDEKS as part of a coordinated strategy to address these challenges and increase resilience in the socio-ecological production landscape. Given the threats to agricultural and terrestrial biodiversity, projects aim to address these challenges by supporting practices that involve sustainable resource use and sustainable agriculture/aquaculture, along with activities that improve community livelihoods and strengthen institutional governance systems for effective participatory decision-making and knowledge sharing. Projects focus on strengthening the access and management of water resources through the rehabilitation of pipes and wells, agricultural demonstration plots and workshops, along with strengthening institutional systems by facilitating the formation of organizations that manage sustainable water resources in each village. In addition, many ongoing projects aim to improve agricultural practices by increasing farmer's knowledge of practices that improve land, water and health quality, through various means such as demonstration gardens, local food crops and training. One example, is a project dedicated to the environmental conservation of seascape and landscape in five villages through workshops, community training, re-plantation and demonstration plots.

*Contributed by Catharina Dwiastarini, Indonesia National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP*

## Namibia

The newly approved COMDEKS Landscape Strategy for the Lipumbu-ya-Tshilongo Conservancy, Namibia, aims to increase the resilience of natural ecosystems and human production systems through partnership-based community activities. The strategy, approved in September 2014, has a clear emphasis on recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures; natural resource management by various participating entities; and contributions to local socio-economies. In order to incorporate various view-points and best practice, information collected during the baseline assessment conducted in March 2014, was used as inputs for the development of the landscape strategy. The strategy identifies the negative impacts of climate change on food security; reduction in eco-

system services; loss of agriculture biodiversity; weak institutional structures and the outward migration of labor as the key threats faced in the area. After providing an in-depth situational analysis of the threats, the strategy identifies various opportunities including sustainable salt harvesting, the protection of biodiversity through the establishment of a community conservancy and realization of the large potential for sustainable tourism in the area. The strategy aims to address issues through projects that focus on land improvement, afforestation, enhancing food security by promoting the use of indigenous varieties and animal breeds and the development of an environmentally conscious tourism industry. Expected outcomes include; improved agricultural productivity and food security, alternate livelihood options, enhanced provision of ecosystem services, and multi stakeholder participatory decision making leading to stronger institutions.



The Ipumbu-ya-Shilongo Conservancy is limited by freshwater availability Photo: Namibia

A call for proposals was launched through the radio, regional council offices, Ministry of Environment offices, conservancy offices and local constituency offices in October. COMDEKS Proposals are currently under development.

*Contributed by Nickey Gaseb, Namibia National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP*

## A COMDEKS Photo story from Cameroon



Click on the image to access a photo story from Cameroon

*Contributed by Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck, Cameroon National Coordinator, GEF-SGP, UNDP*

**Previous Issues of COMDEKS Newsletter: Issue [1](#), Issue [2](#), Issue [3](#), Issue [4](#), Issue [5](#), Issue [6](#), Issue [7](#), Issue [8](#) and Issue [9](#)**