



Forest Policy and Environment Programme Overseas Development Institute

Project Title:	The Poverty-Forests Toolkit: showing what forests mean to the poor
Year / Time Period:	February 2007 – June 2008
Countries:	Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Uganda
No. of Staff:	1 from ODI (with colleagues at IIED and CIDT, Wolverhampton)
Client:	PROFOR / World Bank

Objectives:

This project will improve analytical capacity in four forest-rich countries so that the contribution of forest resources to national poverty reduction strategies is better understood.

Over an 18-month period, from February 2007 to June 2008, a multi-country team will present, test and evaluate the PROFOR Poverty-Forests Toolkit in four countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Uganda. This process will provide data and indicators for policy decisions, which can be readily understood by local people, district officials and national policy-makers.

Policy Relevance:

Forestry often has a low profile within national policies and strategies for poverty reduction because the contribution of forest products and services to rural livelihoods is not sufficiently understood. The PROFOR-funded **Poverty-Forests Toolkit** aims to address this gap. It provides a framework, fieldwork methods and analytic tools to understand and communicate the contribution of forests to the incomes of rural households.

Outputs:

Phase 1: National level analysis

At the national level, working primarily with government agencies, the project will identify (i) available data of the dependence of poor people on forests, and impediments to their advancement out of poverty, in the contexts of national policies including those for poverty-reduction and forestry; and (ii) statistics collected regularly by government agencies.

Phase 2: Local situation assessment

At field sites, working with communities, the project will use the PROFOR toolkit to identify (i) their use of forest resources; (ii) their level of dependency on forests/tree products; (iii) the contribution of forest products to their household income; and (iv) the key constraints in the existing system (access, policy, markets).

Phase 3: Presenting information and priorities at the district level

Working with district officials, the project will discuss and evaluate the outcomes of the local situation assessments and decide what data on use of forests by the poor could be usefully included in district-to-national reporting.

Phase 4: Presenting information and priorities back to the national level

By sharing the data with national agencies, the project will spread knowledge on the role of forests in the cash and non-cash incomes of the poor. Ways in which national data collection could be modified to incorporate the roles forests play in contributing to livelihoods of the poor will be explored.