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PROFOR Poverty-Forests Linkages Toolkit

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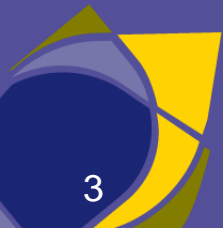


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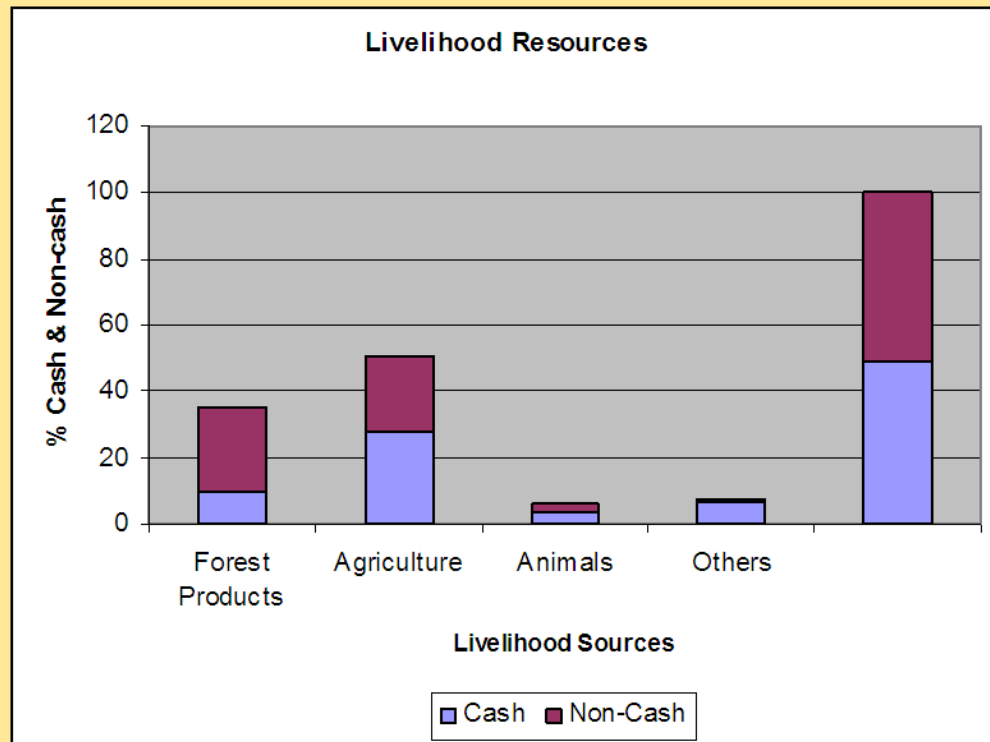
Why are forests important?

- **Stern 2006: Curbing deforestation is a highly cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and has the potential to offer significant reductions fairly quickly. It also helps preserve biodiversity and protect soil and water quality.
- **Stern 2008: Deforestation is also a development issue.** An estimated 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. The international community is committed to supporting developing country governments move towards sustainable development.



How important are forest products to rural peoples' livelihoods?

Country	Percentage forest product contribution to household livelihoods (%)
Uganda	30
Ghana	35
Cameroon	45
Madagascar	29



Gender concerns

In Ghana, forest products were found to be more important for women than for men as a contribution to ***cash income***. Forest products represented a significant source of cash for poor women. This tended to hold as incomes (i.e. wealth status) rise.



Outline of presentation

- What is the PROFOR Poverty-forests linkages toolkit?
- What questions can the toolkit help to answer?
- What have we found out so far about how poor rural communities rely on forest products for their livelihood?
- Key findings from the Ugandan country case study
- Points to consider when commissioning the use of the toolkit
- What does all this mean for the design and implementation of forest-based activities to address climate change?



The PROFOR Forests-Poverty Toolkit



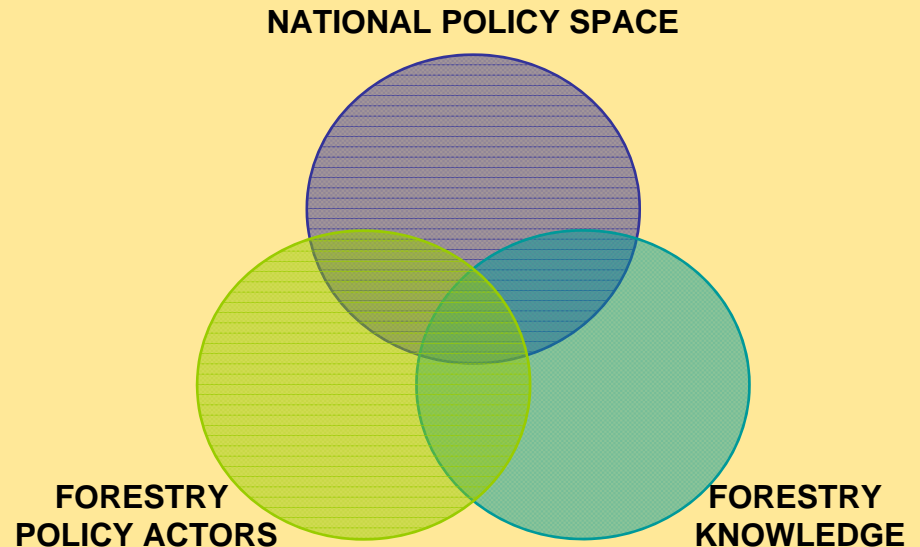
The Toolkit

- The PROFOR Forests-Poverty Toolkit is designed to provide national government and other interested parties with easily comprehensible quantitative data on the value of forestry to poor rural households.
- A multi-organisation team tested, evaluated and communicated the toolkit in four countries – Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Uganda – between February 2007 and August 2008.
- Detailed field-based studies were completed in the four countries, collated and analyzed. These were supplemented by analyses at the national level of the status of forests and poverty and the key processes, actors, content and upcoming opportunities in poverty reduction and in forestry policies



Objectives of the Toolkit

- Provide methodology to generate knowledge on how forests contribute to poverty reduction
- Facilitate inclusion of poverty-forest linkages into PRSPs and other national policy frameworks (e.g. nfps, NAPAs)



Intersection of 3 circles helps to understand synergies needed to effect change in policy processes



The two parts of the PROFOR Poverty-Forests Linkages Toolkit

- The toolkit provides a framework, fieldwork methods and analytic tools to understand and communicate the contribution of forests to the incomes of rural households. It is presented in two parts.



Part 1 - The National Level

- **Purpose:** Part 1 discusses and guides the networking and research needed at national level to understand and communicate the contribution of forest products to rural livelihoods.
- **Users:** Part 1 is intended for those involved in taking responsibility for the use of the Toolkit at the national level.
- **Content:** Part 1 provides information on the overall use of the toolkit, an overview of Poverty Reduction Strategies and national forest programs; advice on how to link with key policy makers and officials; and guidance on how to make sure the toolkit fits appropriately into both the country's general poverty reduction process and into the forest sector's commitments and interests.



Part 2 - The Field Manual

- **Purpose:** Part 2 gives detailed guidance on carrying out fieldwork at village-level to assess the contribution of forest products to rural livelihoods.
- **Users:** Part 2 is aimed at those gathering data in the field. It is adapted to local capacity and assumes that members will need initial training in the use of the toolkit, but that they would be able to manage the process alone on a subsequent occasion.
- **Content:** Part 2 gives suggestions for site selection, pre-field planning and organization of the field visits. It goes on to describe the field tools. There are full explanations of the purpose of each tool, the materials needed, and problems to look out for. Part 2 is designed so that it can be used as a free-standing manual for use in the field.



Tools under the Toolkit

- **Wealth Ranking**
- **Landscape Situation Analysis**
- **Timeline/Trend Analysis**
- **Livelihood Analysis**
- **Ranking the importance of forest products**
- **User Rights, Duties and Benefits**
- **Forest Problems and Solution Matrix**
- **Final Plenary**



Categories of the poor in Livelihood Analysis

National policy engagement

- At the national level, the **Poverty Reduction Strategy** was the main hook for forestry-poverty linkages: most particularly the working groups and government departments responsible for implementation and data collection within the overall PRS process.
- The main strategy adopted to ensure the toolkit results were taken up within the processes of the PRS, and to have impact on relevant processes in forestry and environment policy was the preparation of a **Policy Briefing Paper**.



Key Process lesson

- One of the main lessons in terms of process was that **the field-based components of the toolkit** (Part 2) are relatively easily picked up during training and do not require pre-existing specialized skills
- The national level analysis, particularly **the analysis and preparation that goes into preparation of a policy brief** (Part 1), is not as amenable to simple generic guidelines and training and requires considerable levels of input and skill. Yet, this is the vital stage if the toolkit is to have any impact.



What the toolkit can and cannot do

What the toolkit can do is:

- Rapidly assess current dependence on forests by poor rural communities
- Provide a vehicle for poor people to comment upon forest laws, policies and programs and their impacts upon local people's livelihoods
- Identify policy problems and opportunities



What the toolkit can and cannot do

What the toolkit cannot do is:

- Deliver data of the kind collected through slower, more detailed and expensive quantitative surveys
- Systematically monitor progress towards poverty reduction over time
- Change political hearts and minds where there is absolutely no interest in a focus on the poor in and near forests and the contribution of forests to their livelihoods



Any questions or comments?



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Key questions that the toolkit can help answer

- To have impact at the national level, there needs to be some comparative study across all the sample villages in order to present a broader picture of forest product use within the national economy.
- It should be emphasized that this analysis cannot be given with any statistical confidence.
- However, the results will still likely be of value in policy circles, as they will highlight probable levels of dependence and usage of forest products where no other figures exist.



1. How important are forest products to rural peoples' livelihoods?

- This is a key figure with which to engage national planners. A case has to be made that the consideration of forest issues is a strategic priority for those involved in developing national poverty reduction strategies.

Country	Percentage forest product contribution to household livelihoods (%)
Uganda	30
Ghana	35
Cameroon	45
Madagascar	29



2. Are forest products more important for subsistence or cash generation?

- In addition to reviewing the combined contribution of forest products, it is also worthwhile to look at the separate statistics for the average contribution made by forest products to **subsistence use** and their average contribution to **cash income**.



3. How integrated with the cash economy are rural people?

- This third question provides some insight into the potential for cash-based growth strategies to deliver poverty reduction in the short-term.

Country	Subsistence use (%)	Cash generation (%)
Uganda	52	48
Ghana	51	49
Cameroon	59	41
Madagascar	63	37



4. Is the balance between subsistence use and cash generation similar for agricultural crops and forest products?

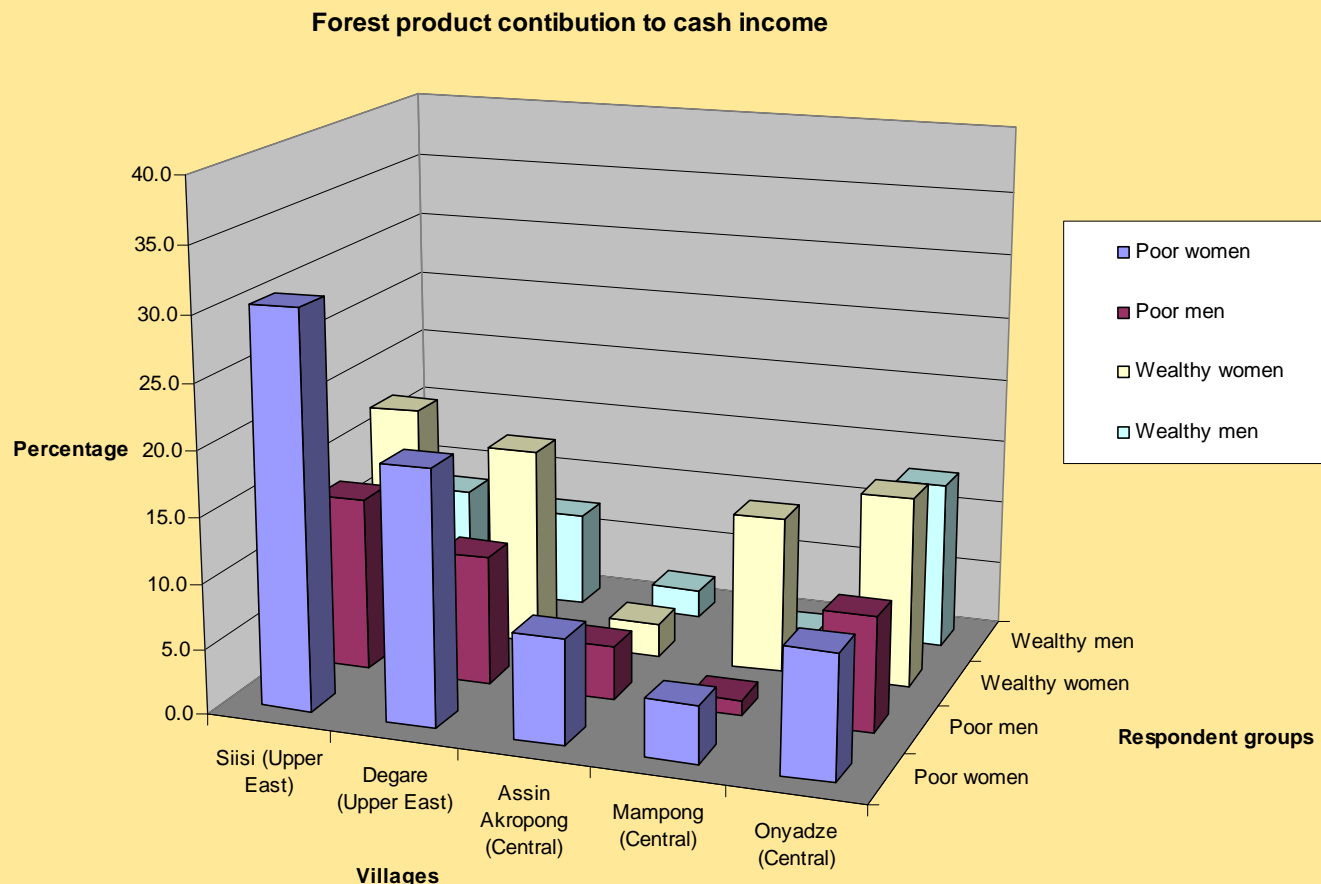
- The ratio of subsistence to cash for agricultural crops and separately for forest products is a useful comparison that helps to explain the 'visibility' of forest products in the national economy.

Country	Ratio of subsistence to cash for agricultural crops	Ratio of subsistence to cash for forest products
Uganda	1:1	3:1
Ghana	1:1	2:1



5. Forest product contribution to cash income

Gender, in particular, is recognized as an important determinant of wealth status and so current use of forest products by gender may provide some clues for further research.



Any questions or comments?



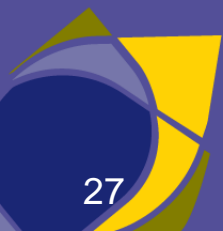
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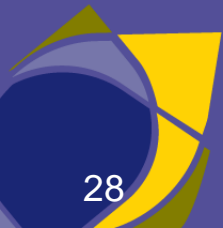
What have we learned so far?



1. Forest products are a major contributor to rural livelihoods.
2. A wide range of forest products are used by all, regardless of gender or social class.
3. People value the ecological functions of forests as well as forest products.
4. Forest products often play a greater role in the subsistence economy than in the cash economy.
5. People rely on a greater range of forest products for their non-cash needs than their cash needs.



6. Within a single site, the four groups (poor women, rich women, rich men and poor men) tend to rely on different forest products as their main source of cash or non-cash income.
7. In several cases, poor people use the widest range of forest products for their cash and non-cash needs.
8. In most cases, rich men have most access to the forest products that generate the most cash income.
9. The main forest problems that people identify vary widely among sites, but in all cases include both institutional factors and technical factors.
10. Proposed solutions are multi-scale, combining action led by local residents with higher-level action led by forestry authorities and other agencies.



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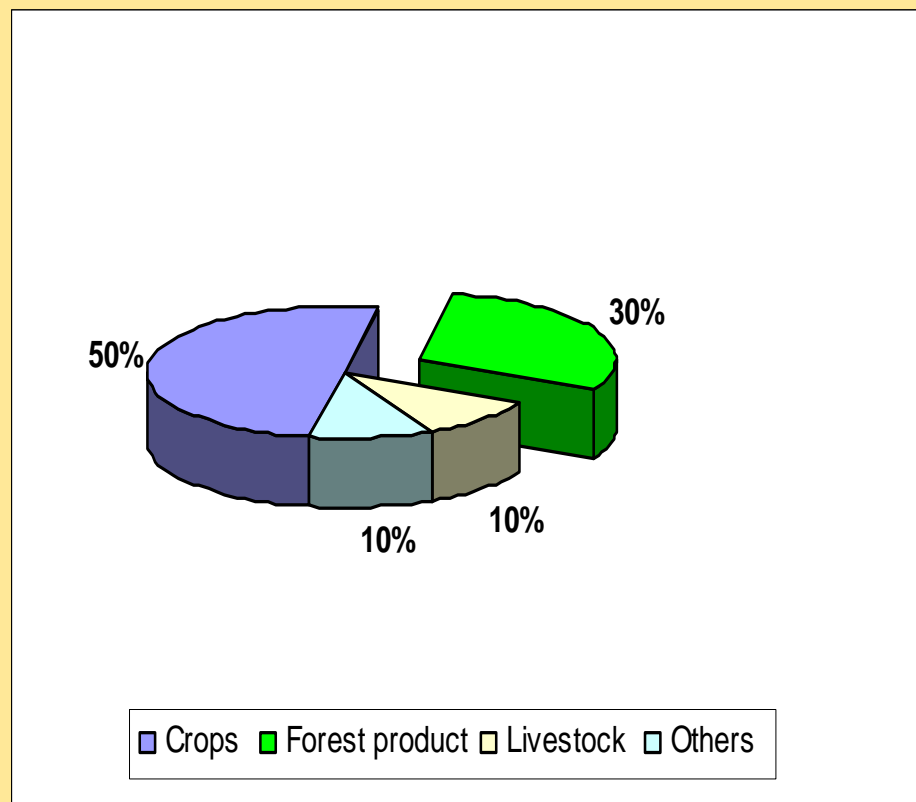
Key findings from the Toolkit in Uganda



Study Team after training

Key findings from Uganda

- Based on a set of indicators, 75% of households considered themselves very poor/poor, 21% average wealthy and 4% wealthy
- Subsistence economy (52%) surpasses cash economy (48%)
- Forest products are only rivaled by agricultural crops

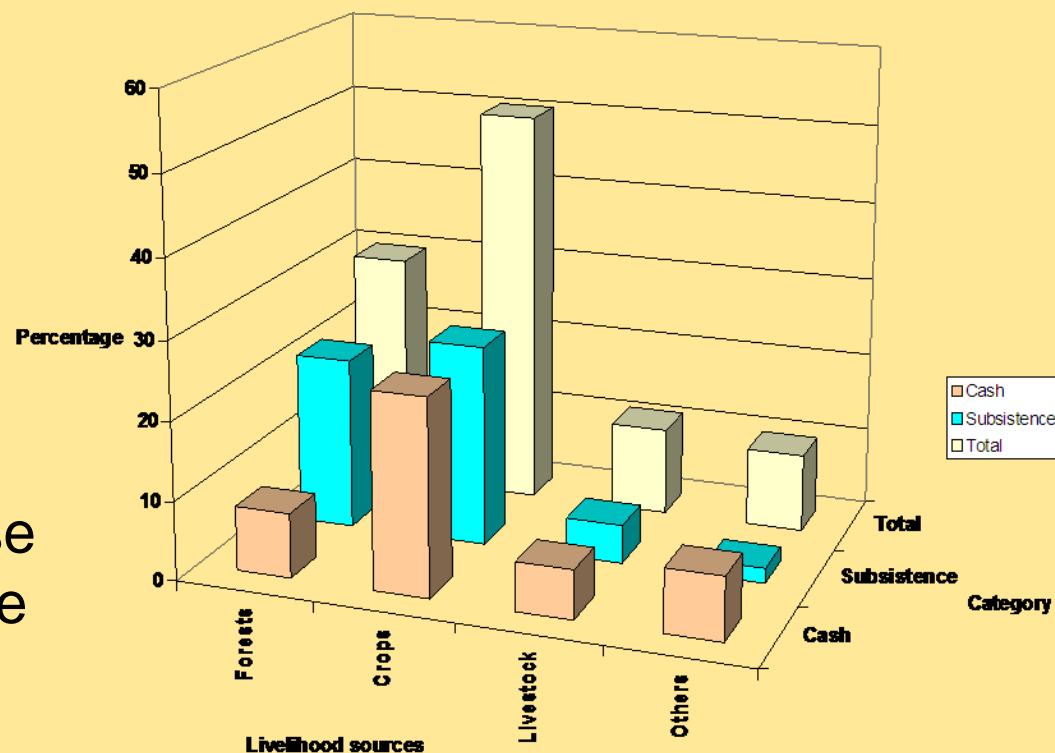


Sources of livelihoods

The proportion of forest products in livelihoods

Subsistence 22% + Cash 8% = Total from forest products 30%

- Among the former forest dependent communities (Abatwa) forest products are main source of income
- The low contribution of forests products to cash income makes them invisible in the PRSP whose focus has been “to increase the ability of the poor to raise their incomes”



Forests products support delivery in other sectors and MDGs

- Stakes used in cultivation of climbing beans over seasons
- In remote areas, stretchers used as village ambulances
- Fodder from forests acts as safety net against climatic vulnerability
- Cash income meets health, education and household expenditure



Key challenges to retaining forest values

- In absence of comparable incentives, households and government convert forested areas to agricultural use
- Poor governance and break-down of rule of law leads to unregulated access, illegality and fast deforestation

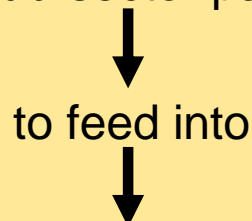


Private natural forest giving way to out-grower sugar cane plantation

Mainstreaming of Toolkit and its findings - 1

■ Mainstreaming in plans/policy documents

- Forestry sub-sector paper (Nov, 2008)



5-year National Development Plan (on-going)

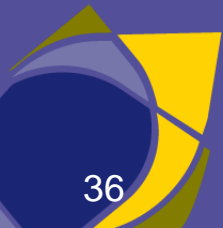
- National Report on natural resources as core assets for poverty reduction (July, 2007)
- NEMA's Brief on Planning for Prosperity (Aug. 2008)



Mainstreaming of Toolkit and its findings - 2

■ Engagement of policy actors

- IGAD/IUCN convened workshop for Directors of Planning and Conservation in IGAD/region (Nov 2007)
- FAO Regional workshop on mainstreaming forestry in PRSPs (Nov 2008)
- Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Nov. 2008)



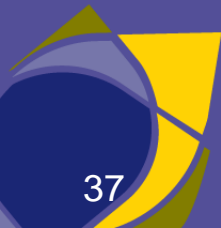
Mainstreaming of Toolkit and its findings - 3

■ Use of Toolkit in project implementation

- WWF/Nature Uganda used Toolkit in the processes leading to Collaborative Forest Management agreements between communities and National Forestry Authority in Kashoha-Kitomi CFR (March-June, 2008)

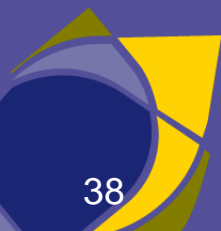
■ Use of Toolkit for research

- Particularly true for Students from Nyabyeya Forest College (on-going)



Factors explaining success in mainstreaming

- The toolkit testing coincided with PRSP revision, and formulation of 5-year National Development Plan
- The research team members:
 - had good understanding of the timing and conveners of events
 - were willing and available to share the findings and to engage the policy and community planning processes
 - had good multi-institutional complementarity (private, NGO, academia, local governments, forestry authority)
 - were supported by strong international collaborators on policy engagement (i.e IIED, CIDT, ODI)
 - were facilitated by other players to participate in the processes and events (i.e UNDP-UNEP, WWF, IUCN, BTC, IGAD, FAO, NEMA)



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1. **Time:** Completing the fieldwork may need a lot more time than originally specified in Part 2 of the toolkit.
2. **Facilitators' qualifications:** Only people with some experience in PRA methods can administer the toolkit properly.
3. **Wealth ranking:** Wealth is a contentious issue and – especially as this is the first tool – a lot of care and sensitivity is needed to get it right
4. **Working with different groups:** Field teams need to be alert to the different issues that will arise for the four groups of 10 participants.



5. **Definition of forest products:** The definition of forest products determines all of the successive quantitative outcomes of the toolkit – so facilitators need to work out a clear mutual definition.
6. **Language:** How concepts are explained in the local language is a major determinant of the outcomes and success of the toolkit – so it is worth dedicating time during training to choosing good translations for key concepts.
7. **Illegal activities:** Participants are likely to under-report illegal use of forest resources.
8. **Ecosystem services:** The tool that identifies forest problems and their solution may be the best place to capture the environmental role of forests.



7. **Mainstreaming products:** Those engaged in policy processes need a 'product' – the policy briefing paper.
8. **Mainstreaming processes:** There are opportunities to disseminate this type of summary at official meetings where government officials meet with other stakeholders. One-to-one briefings are also important opportunities to secure.
9. **Mainstreaming actors:** leadership is critical within all reform processes. Choose your lead actors carefully.



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The implications for climate change programs that involve the forest sector

- Forest products contribute significantly to the incomes of some of the most vulnerable groups in society:
so, their needs must be considered at both the design and implementation stages of climate change programs
- Rural communities are well aware of the values of forests not only for the goods they provide but especially for their ecological services, particularly maintenance of water supplies:
so, such groups are potentially strong allies of mitigation and adaptation programs



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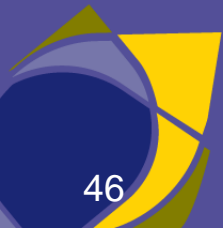
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The implications for climate change programs that involve the forest sector

- Forest areas are often characterised by poor governance and loose enforcement that undermines the rule of law. This has negative repercussions for rural livelihoods:

so, climate change programs need to support the strengthening of forest governance, in particular by helping to address access rights for those communities that live adjacent to forests.



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**Any final questions or
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