

# Participatory Forest Management Project (PFMP) in Bhutan

The PFMP is implemented by the Social Forestry Division (SFD), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), with technical support from Helvetas and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

## Community Forestry develops dynamically in Bhutan

Today, community forestry (CF) is a key component of Bhutan's forest policy and an important movement in the country. CF was first explored in the late 1990s, but faced considerable initial resistance. Following the adoption of a more decentralised and people-centred approach to forestry, the number of CFs and Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) has increased rapidly since 2007.

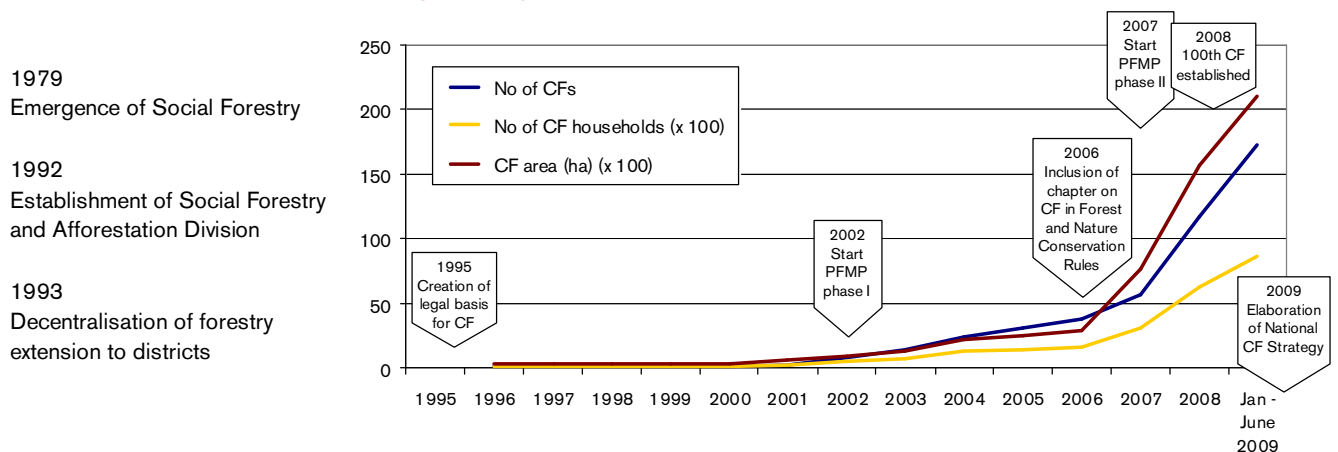
The CF programme has made significant progress to date, but it will take several years before the gains can be consolidated. Most of the CFMGs have just started the process of - hopefully - evolving into mature and strong local institutions that are empowered and able to manage their forests for both biophysical and socio-economic outcomes.

Number of established Community Forests (CFs): 173  
 Forest area under community management: 21,025 ha  
 Number of households participating in CF: ~ 8650

Area of national forest land: 2,471,815 ha.  
 Area covered by forest: 73 % of the land area  
 Proportion of the overall forest area under CF: 0.9 %

Data as per June 2009

## Milestones and Trends of Community Forestry Development in Bhutan



## The PFMP supports the Implementation of the National CF Programme

The PFMP contributes to the improvement of rural livelihoods by empowering local communities to manage their forests on a sustainable basis. The expected outcomes of the project are:

- existence of an enabling environment to establish at least 300 CFs throughout the country;
- capacities built at all levels for effective implementation of the CF programme and to ensure sustainability; and
- the CF programme contributes to poverty reduction.

Since 2002, the PFMP has contributed substantially to the development of technical capacities for CF. Now, the project's support shifts gradually to addressing challenges such as improving governance of CFs and achieving poverty reduction.



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