

South Asia Sustainable Livelihoods Policy (SASLP) Forum

The South Asia Sustainable Livelihoods Policy (SASLP) Forum was set up in 2000 as part of a research project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom (see annex for details of the project) involving a number of partner institutions in South Asia. The South Asian partners in the research project proposed to set up a forum including key individuals from governments, NGOs, academia in the region to discuss the research findings as well as develop further research agendas to promote the concepts of sustainable livelihoods in policy making in the countries in South Asia (and to learn from each other wherever possible).

The Forum meets once a year in one of the countries of South Asia. The first meeting was held in Delhi, India in September 2000 and the second meeting was held in Colombo in March 2001. The third meeting is planned to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in March 2002 and the fourth meeting in Nepal in late 2002. Each meeting is for 3 days and includes time for:

- Reviewing the progress of the research being carried out by the project
- Discuss any important ongoing policy initiatives in the countries and region
- Discuss ways in which the research outputs can feed effectively into ongoing policy initiatives in the region
- Hold a public Seminar on a particular topic

Forum Members

The Forum consists of a number of core members who include senior representatives from each of the South Asian partner organizations plus selected individuals from government, NGO or academia from the South Asian region who are in a position to act as both advisers to the research programme as well as ensure uptake of research findings into ongoing policy development in the countries of the region. Members participate in the forum in their individual capacities and do not represent their governments or organizations.

The following is a list of Forum members (as of 2001):

- Dr. Saleemul Huq, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (Forum Coordinator)
- Dr. Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives, India
- Dr. George Varughese, Development Alternatives, India
- Dr. Mohan Munasinghe, Lanka Institute for Environment (LIFE), Sri Lanka
- Dr. Anupam Bhatiya, ICIMOD, Nepal
- Dr. Keshav Kanel, Ministry of Forests, Nepal
- Mr. Kaji Shrestha, Nepal
- Dr. A. T. M. Huda, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh
- Mr. M. A. Quassem, Director General, Water Resource Planning Organization, Bangladesh
- Dr. Ain un Nishat, Country Representative, IUCN, Bangladesh
- Mr. Avinash Tyagi, Commissioner, Ministry of Water Resources, India
- Mr. R. S. Tucker, Commissioner, Department of Rural Development, Andhra State Government

- Mr. Tishya Chatterjee, Director, Pollution Control Board, State Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. R. A. Samranayake, Director, Coast Conservation Department, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Attapaattu, Director, Department of Fisheries, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Frank Rijsberman, Director General IIMI, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Asad Naqvi, SDPI, Pakistan

The Research Team members are also invited to attend the meetings of the Forum but are not be members of the Forum.

Forum Meetings

First meeting: Delhi, India, September 2000

Second meeting: Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 2002

Third meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 2002

Fourth meeting (tentative): Kathmandu, Nepal, November 2002

Forum Documentation and Communications

Each meeting has a meeting report for circulation to all Forum members and research team giving the main research advice inputs to the research team.

There will also be a more public document from the Forum stating its main findings and recommendations for general circulation.

In between Forum meetings members will receive research outputs regularly both hard copy and through e-mail and will be requested to send comments and suggestions. There will be a website for the project and the Forum. Outputs from the Forum which have been discussed and agreed amongst the members will be posted on the website regularly.

Forum Sustainability

The Forum will seek to expand and bring along other similar initiatives and donors to support its sustainability beyond the project lifetime. It will also actively seek linkages to other ongoing initiatives of a similar nature (i.e. organizations working across several countries in South Asia on policy issues related to natural resource management.)

Forum Coordinator

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Annex:

Research Project on Improving Policy Livelihood Relationships in South Asia

The Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom has commissioned a three year research project on “ **Improving Policy-Livelihood Relationships in South Asia**” starting from April 2000. The research project is being executed by a consortium consisting of partner organizations in the UK and in South Asia. The UK partners are led by the University of Leeds and include the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Marine resources Assessment Group (MRAG), University of East Anglia and Reading University. The South Asian partners include Development Alternatives (DA) in India, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) in Bangladesh, the Lanka Institute for Environment (LIFE) in Sri Lanka and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Research (ICIMOD) in Nepal.

Project Goal

The project’s **goal** is to develop and promote practical policy options to support rural livelihoods through a range of research, development and advocacy activities that will together realize the stated project **purpose** of developing and promoting policy reform options to improve access to livelihood assets and reduce vulnerability of poor rural people.

Project Focus

The focus of the research project will be on natural resource policies and the research will look in detail at three policy areas across four countries:

- **Participatory Forestry:** Community Forestry in Nepal and Joint Forestry Management in India (Himachal Pradesh)
- **Water resources Management:** Water Policies and institutional reform in Bangladesh and Micro- Watershed Management in India (Andhra Pradesh)
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** Policies on ICZM in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Project Approach

In each Policy area, the research will analyze policy-livelihoods relationships through a twin-track approach:

- **To understand policy impacts on livelihoods** through analyzing the process by which the poor gain access to natural and other capital assets and the ways in which different policies affects this access. This will mainly be realized through field research programmes.
- **To analyze the policy process** itself: the origins and characteristics of the different policies, their relationship to other policies and laws, the institutional arrangements for policy implementation and the ways in which macro policies are interpreted and implemented through different levels in the institutional structure.