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Communities at the heart of forest management: How can the law make a difference?

This publication explores what an enabling legal framework on communityforestry can look like. It provides guidance and a framework for reflections for actors engaged in creating, implementing or revising laws on community forestry.

ClientEarth analysed the community forestry laws in Nepal, the Philippines and Tanzania, three countries with long-standing and diverse experiences of community forests. While recognising the uniqueness of each country-specific model of community forestry, we identified ten key building blocks for consideration to develop an enabling legal framework:

1. **Land and forest tenure**
2. **Community forests allocation**
3. **Community internal governance**
4. **Community participation and representation of vulnerable groups**
5. **Community forestry management**
6. **Access to markets**
7. **Benefit sharing**
8. **Conflict resolution**
9. **Enforcement**
10. **External support**

'Communities at the heart of forest management' stresses the importance of considering how legal frameworks on community forestry are designed and implemented, including by conducting participatory and iterative reform processes. It highlights key principles for the development of legislation on community forestry and offers practical tools on where to locate the relevant legal provisions.

Finally, it highlights the need to put in place simple and accessible laws, tailored to the local contexts, to ensure those most affected benefit from community forestry.

Link to the publication: https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/communities-at-the-heart-of-forest-management-how-can-the-law-make-a-difference/ (English)

https://www.clientearth.fr/actualites/ressources/les-communautes-au-coeur-de-la-gestion-des-forets-comment-la-loi-peut-elle-faire-la-difference/(French)

For more information on ClientEarth's Gabon work: https://www.clientearth.fr/nos-actions/nos-priorites/les-forets-et-leurs-communautes/gabon/

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