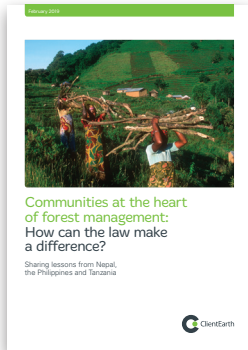


# Communities at the heart of forest management: How can the law make a difference?



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

This publication explores what an enabling legal framework on community forestry 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:

‘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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by Don Gilmour

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### 2.1 Land and forest tenure

How are land tenure and forest tenure connected in community forestry?

Is community land tenure a basis for the allocation of community forestry?

How is indigenous peoples' land tenure taken into account in community forestry?

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Who can a community forest be allocated to?

How can a community forest be allocated?

Where can community forestry take place?

### 2.3 Community internal governance

Is it necessary to establish decision-making bodies to manage a community forest?

How can accountability be ensured?

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What mechanisms help to ensure participation?

How can the participation of minorities, women and other marginalised groups be ensured?

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### 2.6 Access to markets

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What are the administration's enforcement duties?

### 2.10 Support from external actors

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What is the role of NGOs?

What is the role of the private sector?

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A clear vision for community forestry

Clear recognition of community forestry and community rights in legislation

Coherent and consistent legal framework

Coordination across sectors

The process: iterative, adaptive and participatory

### 3.2 Relevant 'rules' on community forestry

Why is it important to ensure good access to the law?

Which laws should be considered to understand the community-forestry framework?

In which legal instrument should these rules be found?

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## Conclusion

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## References

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### Annexe 1: Overview of the global extent of community forestry

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### Annexe 2: Research methodology

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