

ForestAction Nepal become a Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) of International Forest Resources and Institutions (IFRI)

ForestAction Nepal and International Forest Resources and Institutions (IFRI) recently signed a MOU and become an IFRI-CRC in Nepal. Dr. Dharam Uprety, who recently participated in IFRI Asia training 2009 in AIT, Thailand become IFRI Nepal Coordinator. The IFRI Network consists of research partners in 12 countries that focuses on how institutions and governance arrangements shape forest use and management outcomes. Scholars and policy makers affiliated with IFRI are interested in understanding the role of formal and informal institutions in enhancing livelihoods and adaptive capacity of peoples, conserving biodiversity, and promoting greater sustainability in carbon sequestration. IFRI's goal is to carry out rigorous research that can help policy makers and forest users design and implement improved evidence-based forest policies. IFRI utilizes the institutional analysis and development framework which promotes interdisciplinary research and analysis. Researchers use a common data collection method to ensure that sites can be compared across space and time. Unique database contains information about forest ecology, livelihood, governance arrangements, and forest user groups for over 250 sites in 15 countries between 1992 and the present. IFRI provides a way for people to collect, store, and analyze data over time about forests and the communities that use forests.

IFRI comprises 12 Collaborating Research Centers (CRCs) located in North America, Latin America, Asia and Africa (Michigan USA, Indiana USA, Mexico, Columbia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Nepal and Thailand.

The IFRI research program was initiated in 1992 at Indiana University which moved to University of Michigan (in 2006), the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Goals:

- determine how to change processes leading to deforestation in many countries of the world;
- assess the nature of tradeoffs among forest conservation, livelihoods promotion, and carbon sequestration
- the role of institutions and policies in promoting better forest outcomes

How does IFRI differ from other research programs and databases?

- IFRI is composed of a network of Collaborating Research Centers (CRCs) that utilize a common research methodology and database that includes a diverse array of variables taken from the environmental and social sciences.
- The design of the IFRI research instruments is based on the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework and previous theoretical and empirical studies. The IAD framework, developed by colleagues at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, provides a unique way for researchers to transcend disciplinary boundaries.

- IFRI focuses and collects data on institutional, social, and ecological variables which can be stored in a single IFRI database, and analyzed to understand the inter-relationships among social and ecological processes and outcomes.