Feedback on local control from the VIP room!

Who we are? Not donors

- Peter Gardiner – MONDI (company)
- Duncan Macqueen – IIED (international NGO)
- Chris Buss – IUCN (international agency)
- Margaretta Renstrom – WWF (international NGO)
- Somying Soontornwong – RECOFTC (international NGO)
- Gabriel Troumi – Forest Carbon Offsets (company)
- Shiva Pandey – ANSAB (national NGO)
- Vila Chanthavong - EDC (company)
- Gary Dunning – Forest Dialogue (who knows)
- Bal Ram Kandel – Department of Forest (government)

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- Community forestry (3 types: *community* that we visited, *leasehold* and *buffer zone* that has more restrictive commercial rules – plus communities can theoretically buy *private forest land*)
- Strong force for equity and social development in Nepal
- Forest governance institutions, processes, rules and social investment at local level
- A political force within Nepal
- Control extends to the whole ecosystem services e.g. water, soil erosion, conservation

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- Recognition of sub-group rights of particular ethnic / socio-economic groups
- Control over carbon is unclear
- NOT land (despite a feeling that local control should involve land)
- Management plan format and regulations etc. shape the responsibilities of communities
- Also – as soon as communities move away from ‘subsistence’ government steps in to control (e.g. in sawmill visited)
- Generally good support from Forest Department but some staff less supportive

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- Communities clearly have capacity to govern their forest resources and commercial production and For. Dept. support has been key
- Opportunities for diversification exist – e.g. ecotourism, carbon, fuel brickets for local industry (e.g. service related industries)
- Carbon companies owned by communities / funding potentially renewable energy
- Increase the resource base (plantation and alternative energy)
- Create a green ‘brand’ for CFUG products

What opportunities and challenges for increasing local control?

- Perception of lack of security about forest land – so strong desire for clear title to land
- Monitoring / measurement of resources is inadequate to monetarise products (e.g. carbon)
- Where there are valuable forest resources there is reluctance to hand over forest
- Migration issues present a challenge to community cohesion / management – changing demography