

## Toward sustainable forest conservation <Part 6>

### Final episode: Summary of the series

This series introduced various efforts of forest conservation which AAI has been involved in so far. Particularly, we examined essential requirements for initiating, activating and sustaining forest conservation efforts, through considering the following three questions.

- 1) How to motivate community's participation?
- 2) How to strengthen capacity of forest conservation?
- 3) How to ensure sustainability of the activities?

Activities and challenges related to the questions are summarized for each initiative in the table below. Livelihood improvement through utilizing local resources is commonly needed for active participation and motivating the community. And, "value addition" such as processing of forest products and certification of coffee would be a key element in this. In addition, it is expected to associate with awareness-raising activities and capacity building for a wide range of people by conducting tree planting and training which involves children and women.

"Capacity building of community around forest areas" is essential for sustainable forest conservation, as well as improving knowledge and skills of forest officials related to forest management. It will take considerable time to develop and strengthen the capacity through conducting training and applying appropriate technologies. The contents may include a wide range of subjects such as "organizational development" and "information exchange

and networking" which enable communities to work together to deal with various issues such as forest conservation and rural development.

"Ensuring sustainability of activities" in the table would describe the ideas and frameworks to continue various activities even after the completion of each project, which are mentioned in "participation and interest of residents" and "capacity building". "REDD+" program aims to provide funds or finance to continue those efforts, as was mentioned at the beginning of this series. It would be difficult to continue activities in the long term, such as for 30 years in the case of Mali, without having strong relationships with mutual trust and continuous ideas and information sharing. On the other hand, no matter how sufficient funding or how much finance is available, effectiveness of the activities will be limited without an appropriate system, capacity, or structure that can utilize those financial resources sufficiently. We will continue pursuing our own efforts exploring better "collaboration" in which concerned people work together to improve livelihoods and preserve forests through mutual-trust and continuous involvement at the grass-roots level.



Relaxing at waterfall in the forest that have been treasured as God @ Sahan Village, Kalimantan

Country	Scheme	Contents of activities / Challenges		
		Participation/interest of residents	Capacity building	Ensuring sustainability of activities
Malawi/ Burkina Faso	Preliminary survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Livelihood improvement</li> <li>● Benefits from utilization of forest resources</li> <li>● Involving school children and women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organizing community</li> <li>● Training of forest officers</li> <li>● Collaboration with NGOs and community organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Benefits for residents through income generating activities</li> <li>● Development of environment encouraging participation and access to activities</li> </ul>
Ethiopia	Technical cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Producing value-added coffee by acquiring certification</li> <li>● Learning farming skills and acquiring self-confidence with mutual trust through FFS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthen capacity of group organization through forest conservation and livelihood improvement activities</li> <li>● Capacity development of administrative officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability and awareness of individuals</li> <li>● Strengthen capacity of sub-village level organizations</li> <li>● Accumulating experience through collaboration</li> </ul>
Oman	Development study/Technical cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understanding multi-purpose usage of mangrove forests by communities</li> <li>● Conservation of mangrove forests with the participation of local residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establishment of structure necessary for awareness program and environmental education</li> <li>● Capacity development of local staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establishment of a core center for human resources development</li> <li>● Providing opportunities for raising awareness</li> </ul>
Mali	NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use and sell seedlings grown by villagers themselves</li> <li>● Providing useful fruit trees and seedlings</li> <li>● Processing of fruits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training to motivated villagers</li> <li>● Learning through repeated failures</li> <li>● Demonstration with appropriate technology which villagers can use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued <i>Satoyama</i> regeneration activities over 30 years</li> <li>● Develop farming system linked to income (vegetable process and mixed cultivation)</li> </ul>