# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 5 General principles governing the negotiation process, negotiation in practice, and forest diplomacy**

## **Video 2**

## **Free forestry software in the battle against climate change**

## **TranscriptsDuration: 00:04:44**

(Male Narrator)

150km East of Hanoi rises Sodong district. Rush-burnt forests cover many of the hill tops while much of the lower land has been deforested for agriculture, infrastructure or other uses. Deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries are a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. Vietnam, as one of 30 countries at extreme risks in terms of the vulnerability to climate change, is taking action to reduce its emissions.

(Anssi Pekkarinen, Forestry Officer, FAO)

The reduced emissions from deforestation, countries must first know how much forest they actually have, how much carbon it contains, and how much of that is being lost. Only after having all these information, the countries can manage their forests in a sustainable way.

(Male Narrator)

These Vietnamese field workers have come to measure vegetation as part of the country's comprehensive forest inventory. They're correcting information on the canopy cover, and the number, size, species and quality of the trees. They also interview the local population about the use of forest resources. Back at the office, they then enter the data into the "Open Foris Collect" software. The software is also being used in Tanzania and several other tropical nations. The need to input data collected on paper forms will soon be eliminated with the launch of "Open Foris Collect" mobile which will enable field workers to enter data directly into a database via a smart phone device. A separate software "Open Foris Calc" is then used to process the data. As Vietnam is the first country to use the calculation tool, it is being assisted by the Open Foris software experts, based at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. The software enables them to analyze and visualize the data that's been collected and report the results.

(Manh Tuong Ho, NFA, Project Coordinator)

It enables us to estimate our forest resources, to calculate variables and therefore to calculate changes to our tree resources over certain periods as well as other environmental values of the forests such as carbon pools, biodiversity and non-timber forest products. Through the program the national forest and tree resources stock can be assessed.

(Male Narrator)

Once tropical nations know more about their forests and can use these information to increase the forest resources and the carbon stocks stored in those forests, then they stand to gain financially from the reducing emissions through Deforestation and Forest Degradation Initiative, also known as the REDD+. They also stand to gain directly from the reduced threat of climate change.

(Dr. Rogers E. Malimbwi, Forestry Officer, FAO Tanzania)

Changes of climate change here, they are enormous. In order to see changes of informativeness, it's very very obvious. It comes when it's not expected and when it comes, it's too much than what is needed by farmers, so this really affects the food security.

(Male Narrator)

The wealth of information being gathered by national forest inventories in Vietnam, Tanzania and currently three other countries, and the processing tools provided by Open Foris will help inform better policymaking that supports both forest conservation and sustainable forest management. It is hoped the results will illustrate for other developing countries that sustainable forest management can be more profitable than the unsustainable alternative.