

Study on the Management of Forest Reserves in the Province of Comoe, Burkina Faso

(Study period: 3 months from December, 2001 Our assignments: Participatory Development)

Background of the Study

In Burkina Faso, forest is the important resource of fuel wood and NTFP (Non Timber Forest Products) such as fodder and medicinal plants. The forest is therefore protected by designating the reserved area in Burkina Faso. However, the reserved area is not properly managed due to the shortage of budget and human resources. Forest size is reduced and forest quality is deteriorated due mainly to population increase, shifting cultivation, over grazing and field fire. The province of Comoe is located at the southwestern part of the country with more than 1,000 mm of annual precipitation and very few original forests are remaining in this area. The area forms precious ecosystem called as Comoe Ecosystem and regarded as important because of biodiversity and the habitat of precious species. The Government of Burkina Faso strengthened the activity for participatory forest management and sustainable forest utilization by formulating the National Forest Conservation Program in 1996. A 5 Year Forest Plan was also prepared by the Water and Forest Department of Comoe Province and Rehabilitation/Conservation of reserved forest was proposed in the plan. Since practical countermeasures were not included in the plan, however, the formulation of practical forest management plan is requested in order to conserve the reserved forest and utilize them in a sustainable manner.

Outline of the Study

Under these circumstances, the Government of Burkina Faso requested the implementation of the Development Study to Japan on September 2000. The preparatory survey team was dispatched in order to confirm the background and the contents of the request and also to finalize the scope of work. Outline of the study was discussed with the relevant authorities of the Government of Burkina Faso. Various activities such as field survey, discussion with other donors, collection and analysis of relevant information, discussion and signing the contracts were also conducted.

Our Assignments

- Survey on socio-economic aspects such as demography, government system, livelihood, local industry, culture and tradition, gender issue and etc.,
- Data and information collection on policy, program and operation related to participatory resource management,
- Study on cooperation situation among international organizations, donor agencies and NGOs in the field of natural resource management,
- Data and information collection on extension and education system for participatory development, village revitalization, environmental conservation and resource management, and
- Data collection on the selection of local sub-contractor for the implementation of socio-economic survey.

