

Indicator: # of local organizations that demonstrate improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands**ENVIRONMENT SECTOR** **Type:** Outcome**Unit of Measure:** Local organization**Disaggregation:** None**Outcome Measured:** Improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands implemented by local organizations**Precise definitions****Natural woodlands:** For Peace Corps purposes, natural woodlands may be considered to be stands of mainly native trees that have not been obviously planted and that are regenerating by natural means. They may range in size from small patches of trees on farmers' lands to community forests, regional and national forest preserves, and national parks.**Improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation** of natural woodlands include:

- **Coppicing:** Cutting young tree stems to near-ground level, allowing new growth to emerge and harvesting again after a number of years. This practice exploits the capacity of many species of trees to put out new shoots from their stump or roots if cut down.
- **Fire management:** Techniques may include the removal of dry brush and plant debris, construction of fire breaks (vegetation/fuel-free strips and rings), prescribed burns (controlled burning of small amounts of dry plant debris before the debris accumulates to a dangerous level), public education and policies to discourage people from starting uncontrolled fires.
- **Selective harvesting:** The harvesting of renewable forest products (wood, medicinal plants, wildlife, fibers, mushrooms, fruit, etc.) at a sustainable level, ensuring that the resources can replenish themselves and that the ecology of the woodland remains healthy.
- **Enrichment planting:** Planting trees and other plants, especially native species, to enrich and restore degraded woodlands.
- **Woodland protection:** Techniques may include the development and enforcement of local laws, policies, and regulations; fencing to exclude livestock; and designation as forest reserves and parks.

Requirement for demonstrating improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands: The organization with which the Volunteer works implements any of the above practices and/or delivers training to community groups to implement the above practices.

Data collection

Tool: Observation of any of the practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands included in the tracking sheet below.

Frequency of data collection and tracking:

Time 1 (T1)—During the needs assessment activity/beginning of the intervention: At the beginning of the intervention, as part of the needs assessment activity, the Volunteer will conduct an assessment of the organization’s practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands. The assessment will include observation of natural woodlands and interviews with representatives of the organizations with which he/she expects to work on natural woodlands conservation to determine which of the five practices in the tracking sheet are currently being carried out. Following the assessment, record the organization’s name and which practices are currently demonstrated under the T1 column in the Improved Practices for Sustainable Management, Rehabilitation, and Conservation of Natural Woodlands Tracking Sheet (below). If an organization demonstrates all practices at T1, do not include them in the measurements. This organization already meets the requirement for implementing sustainable woodland management practices and should not be further recorded on the tracking sheet.

Time 2 (T2)—Six to 12 months after beginning the intervention: After six to 12 months, PCVs will administer the same assessment with representatives of organizations that meet the minimum requirements described below (see “Who to measure”). Record the organization’s T2 scores in the tracking sheet.

Time 3 (T3)—Three to six months after T2, if applicable: Some organizations may not demonstrate new or improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands after only six to 12 months of work with a PCV. If an organization has *not* adopted new practices at T2 and if the organization meets the minimum requirements described below (see “Who to measure”), then the PCV should conduct the assessment again after an additional three to six months and record the T3 score in the tracking sheet.

What to measure: Volunteers should only include organizations for this outcome measurement that they have worked with in the following way to demonstrate new or improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands:

- Train local organizations (governmental, nongovernmental) how to rehabilitate, conserve, and/or sustainably manage natural woodlands.



Reporting

Measuring progress toward the outcome, by unit of measurement: A community organization is considered to have demonstrated improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands if at least one practice from the list above is demonstrated at T2 or T3 (if applicable).

- For all organizations that have adopted at least one improved practice at T2, place a Y in the far right column. Record an N for those that have not adopted at least one improved practice.
- Record the sum of all Ys + Ns for each organization in the row titled “TOTAL REACHED” and the sum of Ys only for each category in the row titled “TOTAL ACHIEVED.” Report both column totals in the VRF.
- If an organization did not demonstrate improved practices for sustainable management, rehabilitation, and conservation of natural woodlands at T2, use the second tracking sheet with the T3 column to repeat the assessment and reporting process after an additional three to six months.

Note: An organization may only be counted once as part of the “TOTAL ACHIEVED” in a Volunteer’s service for this indicator. If the same organization is eligible for measurement for another indicator, they may be counted for that indicator according to the guidelines in that indicator’s definition sheet.

