Contributions and potential of community forestry to achieve SDGs

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The potential contributions of community forestry are multiple:

- **Contributes to family livelihoods**, though activities often yield low returns, and income sources remain diverse.
- **Generates local income**, but not always evenly distributed.
- **Can catalyze local efforts to conserve forests**, but can increase risks of degradation.
- **Preserves values and cultures**, but migration and social erosion a growing reality.

AND, still many gaps in understanding the role of population dynamics, market forces, and biophysical factors in explaining the outcomes from community forestry.
While outcomes are mixed, community forestry has important potential for contributing to more sustainable futures.

- Contributes to climate change mitigation
- Helps to protect biodiverse ecosystems
- Supports local economic development
- Provides a safety net against external shocks
- Builds social and institutional resilience
- Nurtures local values supportive of nature
Factors explaining failure or success of community forestry tend to interact in complex ways.

Modified version from Baynes, et. al. (2015)
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Experience in several countries (Philippines, Nepal, Mexico, & others) shows that community forestry can increase local incomes and improve forest outcomes.

Supportive public policies are essential, e.g. strengthened tenure security, more market-friendly regulations, and capacity building.

Supportive local conditions also important, e.g. equitable distribution of meaningful benefits, legitimate local institutions, & acceptance of the rules.

Some SDGs are more relevant than others, especially 1, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15, 16

These are complementary and mutually supportive, and full benefits more likely to result where planning and delivery are integrated.