



RECOFTC

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

RECOFTC

Annual Report

2004 - 2005

CONTENTS

Chair's report	1
Director's report	2
Strategic developments	3
Objectives:	
1. Analysis and representation of regional issues	6
2. Capacity building	10
3. Demonstrating best practice	17
The year ahead	18
Reports and Publications	20
Board of Trustees	21
Program Structure	22
RECOFTC Staff	23
Donors and Sponsors	24
Finance	25
Acronyms	29

Message from the Chair of Board Of Trustees

"Community forestry involves the governance and management of forest resources by communities for commercial and non-commercial purposes, including subsistence, timber production, non-timber forest products, wildlife, conservation of biodiversity and environment, social and religious significance. It also incorporates the practices, art, science, policies, institutions and processes necessary to promote and support all aspects of community based forest management³."

How can local communities in the Asia Pacific region gain better control over the resources they depend on? That is the question we have been trying to answer.

A number of important trends in community forestry have emerged, four of which seem likely to dominate community resource management in the future. The first relates to increased recognition of the forest communities' involvement in forest management.

The area of forest owned or managed by communities has doubled in the last 15 years, and is expected to double again to roughly 50% of the forest estate by 2015¹.

Much of this area will be under some form of collaborative arrangement where stakeholders share decisions. In many cases land will be under de facto community management (see sidebar).

Management considerations are particularly important given the current movement toward "formalized" community forestry. Cambodia and Vietnam, for example, have made significant steps to legislate in this direction over recent years.

RECOFTC is balancing support for legislation while continuing to promote feedback between policy and the field, where enforcement can be difficult and traditional management strong.

The second trend: the human "right" to access and use of natural resources is, we believe, justly becoming more central to the value judgments societies make regarding forest management. The result can be conflict, an issue we have begun exploring through a number of courses.

A third theme is poverty — probably the preeminent social challenge of our time. In response the world has declared it will halve extreme poverty by 2015². We believe that community forestry can help achieve such a goal.

Some 350 million of the world's poorest people are heavily dependent on forests for their survival, with many more relying on remnant woodlands, homestead and farmland trees for household needs. RECOFTC is making considerable effort to understand the links between forests and poverty, and to see that findings are communicated to policy makers.

A final trend links poverty and rights with concerns for sustainable development. RECOFTC is involved in a number of projects that are investigating the possibilities and limits of markets to achieve societal goals. Our aims include introducing new markets through "payments for environmental services" (or PES), or by reforming existing markets to make them work better for the rural poor.

These shifts and challenges are not new. But as our understanding of how to achieve pro-poor outcomes improves, we must continually evolve as an organization. Only then can we ensure RECOFTC will continue gaining new knowledge and experiences to facilitate more responsive and effective institutions, policies and practices in community forestry.

With this annual report, which is the first of the new 5-year Strategic Plan, we have attempted to reflect our efforts over the twelve months.

Ms Madhu Sarin

Chair, Board of Trustees

¹ Bull, G. and White, A., 2002. Global Forests in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities. In Proceedings of Global Perspective on Indigenous Forestry: Linking Communities, Commerce and Conservation, 4-6 June 2002, Vancouver, Canada.

² Spelled out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, 18 September 2000.

³ RECOFTC (2004), Multiplying the Impact of Community Forestry: RECOFTC Strategic Plan, 2004-2009



Message from the Executive Director

In our first annual review of progress following implementation of the RECOFTC Strategic Plan of 2004 -2009⁴ we are pleased to say there is much to report, while recognizing there is still a long way to go, especially involving real impact on the ground.

Activities of note include major structural and program changes, matching the focused goals of the five year plan. The expansion reflects too our status as the only international not-for-profit organization solely committed to community forestry in the region.

Our working approach, which has always rested on partners - whether organizations or individuals - experienced renewed emphasis during the year. Relations were formalized with a large number of partners, from governments to local and international agencies.

We have also identified a range of priority "themes" in community forestry, focusing on improved forest governance and poverty reduction through community natural resource management.

Our new projects take RECOFTC into several challenging areas, including: verifying legality in forestry sectors, and market reform for poor communities. The international presentation of findings from our field work, and from regional studies, provided another area of growth.

We have now prioritized 12 countries in the region; and continue to support and nurture our Thailand country program which acts as an important civil society voice for forest residents in Thailand, supporting activities in eight diverse sites and facilitating reforms in the forest sector.

The broader challenge demands new skills and expertise. We acquired the services of 65 local and international consultants, building a strong pool of trusted specialists. Staff numbers total 40 - including Thai based and other expatriates, and Thai nationals.

We continue to offer high-quality and cutting edge training, running eight courses for 160 natural resource sector professionals from the region. In addition, ten study tours have exposed 120 more individuals to resource management and forestry issues.

The year saw us manage eight on-site field projects, of which six were completed. At the same time, seven externally funded projects, with a total value of approximately one million dollars, were signed.

These and other developments described in this report reflect RECOFTC's steady progress toward our strategic goals.

Dr. Yam Malla

Executive Director

⁴ RECOFTC (2004). Multiplying the Impact of Community Forestry: RECOFTC Strategic Plan, 2004-2009



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

The first year of the new Strategic Plan implementation has seen much greater and systematic efforts on regional and international partnerships – including collaboration with national government and non-governmental institutions. At the same time, organizational expansion has required some restructuring and more robust planning and management systems. RECOFTC’s role as a non-partisan facilitator of improved community forestry has been enhanced; with a strong focus on learning processes to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders.

Implementing RECOFTC's new Strategic Plan 2004 - 2009

RECOFTC was initiated in 1987 in response to a need for a regional community forestry training institution. Since then – with community focus based on management of natural resources – we have sought to both influence and keep pace with political, environmental, economic and social changes in Asia Pacific.

An important recent step was the introduction in 2004 of a new Strategic Plan, which will guide us over the next five years. Our 2004-2005 annual report indicates how – in our new status as an international non-profit organization – we are working to realize these new goals in community forestry throughout the region.

Partnerships

RECOFTC has always seen collaboration with other agencies and organizations as central to its mission. The new Strategic Plan redoubles this emphasis, and states that RECOFTC “will operate through strategic partnership and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental institutions, programs, projects and networks”⁵

RECOFTC continues to appreciate the generous support of our two core donors, SDC and SIDA, and project donors Danida and Ford Foundation, and new project funding from EU and IDRC.

New agreements were signed with the Government of Indonesia, and processes initiated for MoU's with the agencies in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Nepal.

Collaboration with international organizations, NGO's – both international and local – also continued to be key to RECOFTC work.

In-country partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding

Implementing country activities involves establishing a mandate, by clarifying our role and identifying appropriate partners. We have been very active in this area over the past year.

As the authority for resource management, governments are clearly important partners, and in some cases we are framing our interventions around memoranda with state agencies.

For example, RECOFTC has been involved in training and other activities in Indonesia for around ten years. Now we have begun negotiations with the Ministry of Forestry on how we can contribute to the community forest sector. An MoU, signed on 20 September 2005, focused on current challenges including decentralization and forests' contribution to poverty reduction. Similar processes are underway in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Nepal.

RECOFTC has been invited to develop an MoU with the Cambodian Forest Administration and Ministry of the Environment, and with the Lao DPR's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. We are also set to gain membership of the Vietnam Forest Sector Support

Program; and to become involved in planning for key players' training needs, such as in Guizhou, China.

Our approach is clearly flexible, tailored to specific circumstances and needs. This is particularly the case in Nepal, where political upheaval in early 2005 undermined plans for a second phase of our governance initiative. Yet we continue to maintain good relations with partners there in the hope that renewed peace will offer a fresh opportunity to continue this program.

Contributions to and influencing regional and international processes

RECOFTC is an active member of a number of international expert groups, providing an opportunity for representation and leadership at the international policy level.

Over the last year – apart from Dr. Yam Malla's serving in the ITTO's Civil Society Advisory Group and the World Bank's External Advisory Group – RECOFTC staff attended six such meetings, and joined the ASEAN Social Forestry Network, the Commonwealth Forestry Association and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy under their equity and protected areas theme.

In 2005, RECOFTC joined with Forest Trends, CIFOR and IUCN, Ford Foundation, IDRC and DFID to launch the Rights and Resources Initiative.

The initiative aims to help communities, governments, the private sector and civil society increase community control of forest resources, and thereby enhance forestry's contribution to local livelihoods. An autonomous body, the Rights and Resources Group was recently established to take the initiative forward. Dr. Yam Malla is a member of the RRG Board.



⁵ See RECOFTC Strategic Plan.

Multi-stakeholder platforms

RECOFTC is increasingly facilitating platforms for stakeholders to present their views on contentious community resource management issues. Indeed, the new Strategic Plan makes a priority of building on our impartiality and ability to bring together divergent views.

One particular event in 2005 helped encourage open dialogue on institutionalizing community forestry. As countries' experience in forestry grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep abreast of developments. In Vietnam, for example, forestry officials were aware that their efforts to create a legislative framework for community ownership of forests would benefit from face-to-face dialogue with regional counterparts. Others echoed this desire.

Thus the first regional Community Forestry Policy Forum was hosted by RECOFTC in August, as a platform for senior level government officials to discuss forestry policy. Attended by 29 delegates from eight Asia Pacific countries, the participants shared experiences on the development of regulatory frameworks for community forestry. (see Objective 2: Capacity Building)



Financial sustainability

A first step towards this key objective was to secure support for the Strategic Plan, which we partially accomplished with generous grants from SDC and Sida late in 2004. Since its inception, RECOFTC has relied on donors to cover operational expenses. Recognizing the inherent dangers, we have taken two main approaches to diversifying our revenue base.

Firstly, we emphasized the potentially important role of field projects. Improvements in financial management over the last year have allowed core costs to be better recovered from project work. We have also worked to develop new projects, with seven coming on line during the year, and many more under development or negotiation as we move into 2005-2006.

Secondly, we are also fortunate to have a number of assets - and the ability to raise income from meeting and accommodation facilities, which brought in an increase of 27% over the previous year.

RECOFTC's financial sustainability is still dependant on core donor funding -- and the need to secure a third core donor for this program phase continues to be a priority. Efforts are continuing with frequent meetings with other donors.

The time lag between developing large regional project proposals, or country specific proposals, and the actual overhead return to the organization is considerable. Consequently it is not possible to change from a core funding base to a project income base in a short time frame.



RECOFTC's financial management system is seeing the benefits of more regular and frequent monitoring, transparency and discussion at the monthly Executive Committee meetings as well as the Board of Trustees meetings which take place twice a year.

Actions in the field

On the ground, RECOFTC has sought to identify key constraints to the adoption of appropriate community forestry strategies in various countries, and to find innovative solutions. Across the region, a number of established and pilot activities sought to address these constraints, as will be reflected in the following pages - organized under three program objectives.





Objective 1:

ANALYSIS AND REPRESENTATION OF REGIONAL ISSUES

A growing component of RECOFTC's work is to investigate and advance new strategies for addressing poverty and environmental issues through sustainable forest management, mainly through the analysis of current trends, or " themes " in community forestry. Information based on national case studies is being analyzed at regional level and shared with partners and clients at various international forums, including conferences, policy forums and expert group meetings. This network of institutions will then be able to effectively and equitably manage forest resources for poverty reduction and sustainable development in their particular national and local contexts.

Themes in regional analysis

At present most community forestry activities are planned and implemented within the individual country context (social, economic, political and environmental). While this is important, many of the problems facing any one country in promoting community forestry are also common to other countries. Analysis of these issues and strategies to address them will be more effective if it is done jointly at the regional level rather than at the individual country level. Some of the thematic issues that seem to be affecting the development of community forestry in different parts of Asia include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Poverty reduction and livelihoods

We know that community forestry has brought many environmental benefits: can it also reduce poverty? The widening assumption is that it can -- and we are advocating for poverty reduction to be a core goal of community forestry, which in turn should be a significant component of national poverty reduction strategies. This view was explained more fully in a position paper released in October. Over the past year we were particularly focused on gaining a better understanding of the issues and linkages by analyzing the effectiveness of current strategies for "pro-poor"⁶ community forestry, testing new approaches and sharing lessons. One aspect we felt needed investigation was the social, economic and institutional factors affecting small scale enterprise development in community managed forests. To this end, we partnered with Forest Trends to produce three case studies on the subject -- two in Nepal and one in the Philippines -- for a global project supported by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). (see box 1)

BOX 1:

Case studies examined the institutional and social issues associated with small-scale enterprises in timber production (Philippines and Nepal) and Bel fruit juice processing (Nepal). The Bel processing case study demonstrated some useful strategies to ensure that the poorest members of a community are fully involved in and benefit from such enterprises. The timber production case studies examined the challenges faced by small-scale timber enterprises. For example the Pagsabangan Forest Resources Development Cooperative (NPPFRDC) in Southern Philippines had to compete in the same market as illegal timber producers while bearing the considerable costs of compliance with certification standards. The studies suggested potential directions for supportive institutional change to encourage such industries.

These case studies will be published following the ITTO Council meeting in November 2006. Additional exploration of issues in equity took place during our eleventh "writeshop" for regional resource management professionals (see box 2).

BOX 2:

Equity "writeshop"

Although often overlooked, any resource management regime involves issues of fairness, or "equity", between stakeholders. This was the theme explored by 12 regional community forestry practitioners at a RECOFTC workshop in August, run in collaboration with the East-West Centre and with funding from the Ford Foundation.

The aim was to build participants' capacity for critical analysis and writing through the preparation of case studies exploring critical equity issues in the region and lessons for community forestry.

Participants wrote about subjects of personal interest, including rubber expansion in northern Laos, the role of civil society in equitable community forestry, policy options for equitable national park management in Indonesia and forest devolution and equity in Vietnam.

The "writeshop" was the 11th in the series, and the case studies from nine Asian countries will be available from RECOFTC early 2006.

Previously, there was limited understanding of the linkages between forests, poverty reduction and international markets. This is changing with the launch of a new project on pro-poor tenure, markets and trade, which aims to advance policy and market reform in East Asia, primarily through strategic analysis, advocacy and networking. Launched in Beijing in a workshop with analysts from Forest Trends, CIFOR and national institutions in China, Malaysia and the Russian Far-East, this SIDA/DFID funded project will run until 2008.

2. Sustainable forest use

Ensuring sustainable use of forest resources has been a driving concern in community forestry from the outset. With the growing emphasis on poverty reduction, how can we ensure that the sustainable management of subsistence and commercial forest use is not compromised?

A number of RECOFTC activities over the last year have promoted analysis and lesson sharing from innovative approaches to sustainable resource management. Prime among them was a regional workshop on the impact of community forestry policy on land use patterns in Asia, which we co-organized in Nepal with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the German development agency GTZ, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). We also conducted an analysis of lessons learned with equity in payments for environmental services in Indonesia, and we continued to facilitate the Ngao Model Forest in Thailand, providing invaluable insights from the field (see page 13).



⁶ Pro poor: engagement of poor forest communities in eliminating their poverty through sustainable development

3. Governance

Various modes of decentralization in forest management are emerging in Asia, with different degrees of rights and responsibilities being shared between national governments, provincial and local government, and citizens. While use rights are rarely disputed under many of these arrangements, the rights to control, manage, modify, commercially exploit and exclude others from forests are more contested. This year we have been actively analyzing the key elements of “good forest governance”.

Our regional forest governance project, funded by the Ford Foundation, came to a close during the year after supporting an alliance of community forestry stakeholders. Having provided inputs to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002 the alliance evolved into a Global Caucus on community based forest management. We also prepared for a follow-up project on community governance that will bring the extensive Nepalese experience in community forestry to Laos and Vietnam.

During the year we became involved in two global forest governance initiatives, both funded by the EU. One, the VERIFOR project – which is coordinated by ODI - aims to develop verification systems so tropical countries can ensure forest products are legally harvested. (see box 1) The other is the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) coordinated by the International Institutes of Environment and Development (IIED). RECOFTC is responsible for the Asia component, mainly Vietnam.

4. Protected areas

Exclusive protected areas have long been seen as a cornerstone of conservation. Yet experience in the Asia-Pacific suggests that ignoring the needs of local residents in protected areas is frequently inappropriate or simply unworkable. RECOFTC supports the testing and adoption of approaches from community based natural resource management in protected areas. For example, this year we continued to work with two communities in Thailand to help them implement community forestry management plans and participatory monitoring. So far, this commitment to sustainable livelihoods in Sum Phak Nam and Hua Hin (see Objective 3) has convinced local authorities that forest communities can be compatible with protection goals – the challenge now is to advocate for this at the national level. Representing our beliefs on the international stage, we outlined the current evidence in a position paper at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in November 2004.

BOX 1:

VERIFOR. In many developing countries a large portion of the trade in forest products is outside the existing legal framework. This problem reflects a common challenge facing sustainable forest management in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It affects negatively the livelihoods of the poor and also contributes to a complex set of criminal activities and increased conflicts and violence. It constitutes unfair competition and a disincentive for sustainable forest management, significantly decreasing its economic viability. The VERIFOR project will provide access to knowledge about verification systems, in a non-partisan way, to national governments and their agencies responsible for monitoring legal compliance as well as the forest industry and civil society groups of the forest-rich countries. RECOFTC's role is to document regional lessons, and case studies have been initiated in Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia, with scoping studies in China and Nepal.

5. Payment for environmental services (PES)

There is a growing recognition that markets may provide the solution to a number of problems where public goods are provided by one party and enjoyed by another. The principle is simple: create an economic link between the costs and benefits of good resource stewardship. The possibilities are most clearly seen with watershed protection, but are being mooted for other “ecosystem services”.

Our involvement has been primarily through a worldwide PES status review by Ford Foundation Mexico, for which we conducted four case studies with partners in Indonesia. We also attended a global PES synthesis workshop in South Africa, which found rapid growth in the field was leaving some parts of the world behind, and that the complexity of PES mechanisms meant equity for community groups was difficult, creating a growing need for capacity building. (see box 2)

BOX 2:

RECOFTC, with the support of the Ford Foundation, led a project titled “**Payments for Environmental Services (PES)?**” The project aimed to assess the demand for PES, address the needs for information sharing and capacity building, and synthesize learning, through a series of workshops. Key lessons from the project included:

- Communities often lack property rights, as well as the capacity and resources to influence the development of markets;
- Transaction costs are very high; and regulatory frameworks are ad hoc and incomplete;
- Effective and fair negotiation processes are needed to make markets work for the poor; communities must be actively engaged in setting the rules and developing the PES mechanisms and institutional arrangements. Ultimately, communities also need to be engaged in the broader policy dialogue about rural development and resource management.
- We need to continue documenting and sharing PES experiences, outcomes and lessons – positive and negative – in order to better understand if and when PES can be an effective tool for advancing both environmental conservation and poverty alleviation.

International forums and expert groups

RECOFTC has a mandate to represent regional lessons and principles from community based natural resource management at key national and international policy forums - a crucial means of transforming learning into action, as a way of scaling the achievements and realizing potential. During 2004-2005, RECOFTC joined three new groups. Perhaps the most important of these was the IUCN Commission for Environmental, Economic and Social Policy. This is a key body supporting networking and learning on social and economic issues amongst conservation and natural resource management professionals. Secondly, we supported the development of the ASEAN CF Network, which aims to promote experiences in community forestry across ASEAN member states. We see this as a highly significant step in the growth of regional capacity to develop regional solutions. Lastly, we joined the Commonwealth Forestry Association, the world's oldest international forestry organization, which has a strong emphasis on poverty reduction through sustainable forestry, thus helping us promote a number of our priority themes.

We also attended six meetings, including the Community Based Forest Management Caucus, which is an alliance of community forestry practitioners, advocates and civil society organizations. In addition, RECOFTC attended 22 international seminars, conferences and workshops - co-organizing six, facilitating two and participating in three others.

Community forest status reports

In addition to its work on thematic analysis, RECOFTC plays a critical role in disseminating information on current trends in community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. As part of this agenda, we supported the development of community forestry status reports for Nepal and the Philippines during 2004-2005. They helped record a comprehensive picture of the region:

The Status of Community Forestry In Asia

Nepal – Community Forestry (CF): Since 1980 about 1.2 million ha of forest has been handed over to more than 14,000 Forest User Groups (FUGs). About 1.6 million households are involved. Forest is handed over to FUGs after application to the Forestry Department and joint completion of a management plan. Supportive policies and legislation for CF have been adopted. About 25 percent of the national forest is now managed by more than 35 percent of the total population. There is evidence of marked improvement in conservation of forests (both increased area and improved density) and enhanced soil and water management, although some poorer groups suffer from less access to forest products than in the past. Retraining of foresters has been carried out to fit them for new roles as community advisors and extensionists. Implementing CF in the lowland Terai continues to be a contentious issue.

India – Joint Forest Management (JFM): Over 62,000 village forest communities (approximately 75 million people and 14 million ha of forest) are participating with the Indian Forest Service across 26 states (started 1988). The share of benefits to community varies from 25-50 percent - in return for peoples' inputs of labor and time. Policy and laws strengthening the role and rights of communities in forest management and use support these programs. Extensive re-training of forestry officials in JFM is conducted. The Tribal Rights Bill has been developed and is being presented before Parliament.

Bhutan – Social Forestry (SF): The Royal Government of Bhutan has been supporting SF since 1979, when His Majesty the King commanded the Department of Forestry to prepare a scheme on SF to involve local people in the management of trees on their own or village lands. The Nature Conservation Act, 1995, provides the legal basis for SF. The scheme has been implemented on a cautious pilot basis, with a small number of management plans covering mostly plantations, with one natural forest site (Yakpugang, in the east).

Cambodia – Community Forestry (CF): CF projects were initiated by donors in 1994. The Forestry Law and Community Forestry sub-decree (the latter approved in 2003) together provided the legal CF framework, while CF approaches were being explored by projects. A survey in 2004 identified 274 community forests in 19 provinces, including over 600 villages. Community forestry guidelines (or Prakas) are awaiting approval and will provide the framework for national CF implementation.

Vietnam – Community Forestry (CF): CF has been practiced on a pilot scale and its status is now recognized in the new Forest Law which came into force in 2005. Of these exploratory activities the most promising pilots are the allocation of existing forest and forestland with long-term land use titles (Red Book Certificates) to individual households, groups of households and village communities on a large scale in Dak Lak and Son La Provinces.

Lao PDR – Village Forestry (VF): Thrusts of government are to control logging and stabilize shifting cultivation through decentralization and partnership with villages. 187,000 families (30 percent of the population) still depended on shifting cultivation in the mid-1990s and it remains a key and complex issue in rural villages. The forestland allocation process provides an entry point for CF, through village authorities. The 1996 Forest Law provides a legal framework for the NTFP sub-sector, for rural families to be able to satisfy their 'family economic necessity', including collection of NTFPs for sale. There is evidence of substantive devolution of authority to the village level for NTFP management and use in recognition of the basic needs of rural communities. Timber management, however, remains an elusive goal through CF, as early attempts through projects were curtailed. The national government has now developed a 20 year forestry strategy for the country, which has been approved by parliament.

Thailand – Community Forestry (CF): There are 5,441 community forests in Reserve Forests (192,000 ha, representing some 1.4% of the total forest estate) which permit the harvesting of forest products under CF management agreements with the Royal Forest Department. A further 15,000 or so village groups informally manage forest lands in protected areas. The Decentralization Act (1999) and the revised Constitution (1997) provide rights to local authorities and village councils for community management of natural resources. The harmonization of this legislation with the Forest Act (1964) has yet to take place, as the draft Community Forestry Bill remains to be approved by parliament. A National CF Network exists to advocate legal reform, particularly for communities in protected areas.

China – Collective Forest Management (CFM): Townships, administrative villages and village household groups under CFM account for three-fifths of China's total forest area of 153 million ha, concentrated in Yunnan, Sichuan and 10 southern provinces. There are indigenous management systems in many ethnic minority areas. Extensive reforestation and plantation establishment has taken place.

Philippines – Community-based Forest Management (CBFM): SF started in the mid-1970s. CBFM is a national strategy for management and conservation of forest resources. There are now 5,503 SF project sites, covering 5.97 million ha. The beneficiaries are some 5,000 People's Organizations (POs) involving 690,687 households. Management of forest is transferred to POs after application is approved and a CBFM Agreement is issued. POs prepare a Community Resource Management Framework for their forest. Policies, rules and regulations to support CBFM are in place. A pending Act will institutionalize CBFM and strengthen rights of communities to manage forests. A new bill on Ancestral Domain has been approved



RECOFTC has been implementing training courses and study tours for resource management professionals in the region for almost 20 years. Although these remain core activities, with our new strategy we are also broadening this experience by developing integrated national capacity building programs that will provide the skills and training infrastructure that countries need in the long term.

"(T)he field trip and reflection... gives the reality of enterprise development... This helps us to get an in-depth view of the enterprise development process."
Participant, Community Enterprise Development and Rural Livelihoods, July 2005

"The course helped me understand how to apply experiential learning in a participatory manner."
Participant, Participatory Action Research for Community Based Natural Resource Management, September 2004

Sharing skills, knowledge

RECOFTC continued contributing to the development and implementation of community forestry and community based natural resource management by offering high quality cost effective capacity building products and services.

In 2004-2005 the capacity building team continued with international trainings and study tours – but also explored new mechanisms for developing capacity for CF in the Asia Region. One such successful new initiative was the work with senior forestry officials through the First Regional Community Forestry Forum.



RECOFTC hosted the **First Regional Community Forestry Forum for the Asia Region** in Bangkok, August 24-26 – providing a platform for senior government delegates to discuss forestry policy frameworks and experiences from the region.

Representatives of governments from eight countries formed the principle group, along with observers and forestry and policy experts from a number of forestry agencies in Asia. The participants shared knowledge, insights and findings gained from their country experiences with community forestry, particularly as related to regulatory frameworks.

RECOFTC Director, Dr. Yam Malla, pointed out that there are many actors and agencies involved in forestry work in the Asian region. But in all countries it is the government that has the mandate and responsibility to set the policy environment for the management of forest resources, regardless of NGO involvement. For this reason, RECOFTC decided to restrict core participation in the forum to senior government representatives.

Dr. Malla said: "We were happy to...provide a neutral platform for senior government officials in the region to exchange ideas on the development of regulatory frameworks for Community Forestry (which) fits well with our strategic focus..."

Countries taking part in the forum were Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. East Timor joined as an observer; so too did representatives of FSSP, Helvetas and SNV in Vietnam, the FAO office in Bangkok and JICA in Laos. The Forum was facilitated by Dr. Don Gilmour of Australia.

Dr. Malla said insights to be drawn from the forum's discussions included:

- the vast differences in the level of experience in community forestry
- the increasing consideration of community forestry as mainstream forestry
- While there is no alternative strategy to community forestry, there is also no one model to fit the entire region's many variations.
- many countries followed the common challenge of how to use community forestry as a strategy to alleviate poverty.

RECOFTC hopes the forum's papers, now published as a book, will serve to advance the understanding and development of effective community forestry throughout the Asia region, and beyond.

During 2004-2005 CABS offered five open-subscription international courses, including a new course on Good Governance and Decentralization. As with previous years, securing sufficient fee paying participants was a challenge, though we successfully secured participants for four of the courses (see over). Meeting increasing demand, we also delivered ten open-subscription and customized study tours. Overall, national capacity building activities began to place greater emphasis on local language courses and the development of proposals for integrated national programs.





International training courses

1. Managing Conflict for Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Thailand, 21 March to 5 April 2005

RECOFTC has been providing international training programs in conflict management for NRM since 1994 and it remains a key subject with strong demand across the region.

During this year's course, classroom activities and learning activities were supported by a field exercise in Ob Luang National Park, northern Thailand. This site presents a unique opportunity for participants to explore and reflect on multiple "live" conflicts involving management of land, forests and water. A number of appropriate approaches for managing the various tensions between stakeholders were investigated.

The 14 regional participants, who included four from a large Indonesia paper manufacturer, explored conflict processes and theories, and developed practical skills to deal with conflict in their own work.

2. Community Enterprise Development and Rural Livelihoods

Bangkok, 18 July to 2 August 2005

Experience has shown that well planned income generation activities can be a valuable aspect of community resource management. In particular, supporting the development of micro and small enterprises can encourage sustainable livelihoods and reach all members of a community.

Significantly revised from last year, this RECOFTC course meets development professionals' needs for skills to diagnose and solve constraints to community enterprise development, including knowledge on value chains, market information, appropriate value-adding technologies and enterprise management.

Analytical tools for assessing existing enterprise and market channels and other topics were provided in a classroom setting, followed by a field trip to examine typical issues among Thai government agencies in Bangkok. The course was attended by 13 participants from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, China, Laos and South Pacific Islands.

3. Participatory Action Research for Community-based Natural Resource Management (PAR)

Philippines, 15 to 30 August 2005

Participatory action research is a loose bag of tools that marries social science research with problem solving. In the resource sector, where community involvement in management is increasingly important, PAR provides a useful framework to assist those directly affected by a problem to "learn by doing".

The course aimed to provide the 17 participants with opportunities to examine the concept and principles of participatory action research, and to explore its applicability to the practical challenges faced by community based natural resource management.

This third course, in collaboration with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction and the International Development Research Centre, was held in the Philippines for 17 participants from Cameroon, East Timor, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, the Philippines and Syria.

4. Participatory Management of Protected Areas

Bangkok, 12 to 27 September 2005

This popular course meets a need among regional forestry, natural resource and conservation professionals for a deeper understanding of the benefits of local community involvement in protected area management and how to achieve it.

It was aimed at helping participants gain the skills to better conceptualize and overcome problems in the application of participatory management within their own circumstances. Fourteen participants from six regional countries attended. Also significant was our conduct of a regional review of capacity building in community resource management activities funded by IDRC. This six month study included an in-depth analysis of the overall status of capacity building, with country specific analysis in the Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia.

Country-specific training activities

RECOFTC is placing greater emphasis on country-specific training as part of the new Strategic Plan. Over the year, three courses were run in conjunction with partners in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam for over 70 participants. The Laos Community Based Ecotourism course was organized in collaboration with SNV Laos, while the Vietnam Participatory Action Research Course was organized in collaboration with IUCN's Non-timber Forest Products project. In Cambodia we delivered a Participatory Mapping Course, organized together with a number of organizations including the Forest Administration, Community Forestry International and the JICA Forestry Project.

Although popular, training tends to be a one-off activity and our aim is to build more comprehensive capacity building strategies for individual countries. Initiatives to develop in this direction were explored in Vietnam, China and Cambodia. One area of success was Thailand, where our country support program implemented a number of trainings. Most important was a "training of trainers", designed for community representatives from eight project sites keen to share their experience in developing community forestry with their neighbors. Another key achievement was on-going training at project sites for over 180 stakeholders, including government, NGOs and community leaders, on how to review and strengthen their community forestry management planning and mapping.



Service provision

In addition to the capacity building activities described above, we also provided services to three projects under our capacity building program.

FAO Technical Cooperation Program, Laos

December 2004 – December 2005

RECOFTC conducted a series of trainings on market analysis and development methodology. We also worked with the project team to design and review a monitoring and evaluation system for future training events in the context of sustainable forest management. These guidelines have now been accepted by the project team.

Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Program

May 2005 onwards

RECOFTC is helping the program meet its training needs by delivering a capacity building strategy for collaborative wetland management. The first step was a planning workshop, where 17 project staff from the four project sites identified common capacity building needs and gaps. RECOFTC will implement the resulting options over coming months.

Ngao Model Forest

September 2004 – June 2005

RECOFTC has been involved in developing Thailand's Ngao Model Forest since receiving a research grant from the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS) in 2003. Our latest involvement has been the conduct of three workshops to discuss the future of the project. As a result, key stakeholders – including the Ngao Model Forest Association, local government, schools, religious bodies and businesses, agreed a long term plan was needed.

Ngao Model Forest

Strengthening partnership and building capacity in Ngao Model Forest

Ngao district in northeast Thailand is a mountainous landscape of over 175,000 hectares of mixed deciduous forest and agriculture. Home to 62 villages, Ngao forest was selected in 2000 to pilot the Model Forest approach.

With support from RECOFTC, representatives from the various groups have formed the Ngao Model Forest Conservation Alliance, which initiated public consultation to develop a five-year sustainable management strategy for the site. The strategy envisions a flourishing Ngao forest with "clear water in abundance, myriad wildlife in coexistence and the peoples' happiness", and was approved by Ngao district in March 2005.

The strategic plan is now being used as a basis for the further development of forestry related projects. RECOFTC is discussing possibilities with the IMFNS for further involvement with Model Forests in the region.



Objective 3:

DEMONSTRATING BEST PRACTICE

RECOFTC's goals of analysing thematic issues, capacity building training and advocacy, require a thorough understanding of the realities of community forestry, which is why we focus on investigating and demonstrating best practice in the field. The Asia-Pacific context, comprising 47 United Nations member countries, is highly diverse in terms of politics, environment, culture and economy.

Country programs

RECOFTC's charter provides the organization with the mandate to work in the Asia and Pacific region, covering some 47 countries. Since its establishment, the organization has been engaged in a number of countries, mainly in Asia, and has established strong relationships and collaboration with government and non government organizations at all levels.

With the commencement of the present Strategic Plan, the organization's approach at country level has changed towards developing more comprehensive and better grounded country programs with the aim of demonstrating improved community-based forest management practices, in a number of countries, through field project implementation.

Through a selection process based on economic, social, political and ecological criteria, 12 countries have been selected and identified as target countries for RECOFTC. Whilst these countries are the prime focus for RECOFTC, the organization will also monitor and respond to arising needs and opportunities in the other countries of the region.

RECOFTC has worked already in some of the targeted countries and according to the Strategic Plan envisages assessing and developing strategies for community based forest management in at least two countries per year. To facilitate RECOFTC engagement and involvement in the target countries, "Country Level Community Based Forest Management" status reports have been developed for the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia and commissioned for Cambodia and Nepal. These country reports outline status quo and issues related to CBFM, including policy framework, stakeholders, shortfalls and opportunities, and serve in-house strategy development for possible activities at country level.

The identified target countries for 2004-05 have been Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia. In addition activities are ongoing in Nepal, China and Thailand. Initial activities and project implementation in Nepal were promising with a second "Good Governance in CF" project phase to be signed in early 2004. However the political situation deteriorated in February 2005, leading to the suspension of all new project activities. In Cambodia and Indonesia exploratory country visits have been conducted, initiating the signing of an MoU with the Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia and the development of an MoU with the Forest Administration and Ministry of Environment in Cambodia. In the context of Vietnam, RECOFTC has been invited to become a member of the Forest Sector Support Program (FSSP) and is now eligible to apply for funding through the trust fund for forests.

Target countries

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Vietnam





Thailand: RECOFTC continues to maintain a strong country presence through the activities of the Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program (ThCCSP), fully funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The ThCCSP is a two phase initiative with the first phase ending in December 2005, followed by a second phase to 2007. Despite the continued lack of formal legal recognition of community based forest management, the ThCCSP works closely with a thriving network of national government and non-governmental partners to develop practical site-based interventions that promote community management of their forest resources. The ThCCSP went through considerable staff changes in 2005 and was impacted by the conflict situation in the south of Thailand. Despite this and by the end of 2005, the ThCCSP emerged considerably stronger and is maturing from a project focused initiative into an organization with a greater emphasis on disseminating results. The ThCCSP is now well positioned to play an important role in publicizing not only practical 'how to' advice to its network of partners engaged in the practice of community forestry, but also has a growing role in influencing the drive towards the formal recognition of community based forestry in Thailand.



Project sites in Thailand

Site	Province	Key feature
Mae Tha	Chiang Mai	Mixed deciduous forest
Pred Nai	Trad	Mangrove
Khao Rao Tien	Chai Nat	Networked user groups
Rom Pho Tong	Chachoengsao	Lowland forest
Sum Phak Nam	Khon Kaen	National park
Huay Hin Dam	Suphanburi	National park
Mae Khan	Chiang Mai	Upland watershed
Ka Lor	Yala	Includes wetland area

Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E)

Our Thailand program has been using PM&E at project sites since 2003, as a means of supporting communities implementing and developing community forestry management plans. PM&E tends to be focused on specific management concerns, including water quality (Sum Phak Nam), bamboo distribution (Mae Tha) or crab abundance (Pred Nai). Success in basic monitoring skills for community forestry groups led to a national seminar where over 200 practitioners discussed their experiences. The case studies discussed were documented in Thai, providing an invaluable resource for other community forestry groups.

Decentralization

Throughout the region there is an identified trend towards a wider distribution of state responsibilities, of which community forestry is clearly a facet. In Thailand, RECOFTC has been helping sub-district local authorities (TAOs) cope with the responsibility for managing the natural resources within their boundaries, conferred on them in 1992. This has involved working with five TAOs to define community forestry regulations and integrate them into local plans, and has been backed this year with a seminar on decentralization support and local training and workshops. Our work is clearly appreciated, and we have been approached by a number of additional TAOs for help in fulfilling their resource management obligations effectively.



China: Funded by the Ford Foundation, RECOFTC has provided technical services in Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces since 1993. The main goal/objective of RECOFTC and our Chinese partners has been to work towards unlocking the potential of community management in securing the long term future of China's forest resources.

In 2005 the principal focus of RECOFTC activities was the continuation of work with our Chinese partners to develop sustainable forest management regimes through the application of appropriate Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers (PCIV). Considerable emphasis was placed on developing approaches between brokering agreements between local government and communities as to forest management.

Given the centralized approach to forest planning in China, the development of workable, site specific planning and community involvement in forest management has posed considerable challenges to our government and community partners. The PCIV work culminated in an evaluation workshop in December 2005 designed to capture the key lessons learned over the program period. Our Chinese partners reported that the PCIV and community based approach had been impressive enough to deserve testing in neighboring provinces. Considerable challenges remain in marrying community management of forests with existing forest laws but considerable government interest suggests these challenges are worthy of continued effort.

Whilst funding for the PCIV work has ceased, RECOFTC continues to maintain an office and staff in Yunnan province - and work focusing on some of the key findings of our previous activities will continue in 2006.



The year ahead...

The year ahead.....



After the first 12 months of the new Strategic Plan, we are looking forward to forging ahead with our mission as a regional organization. Our work plan for 2005-2006 takes into account strengths and weaknesses we have identified, and lays out a schedule for building on the successes of 2004-2005.

Capacity building programs

We will continue to promote community-based natural resource management through the provision of cost-effective capacity building products and services. In addition to developing new international training courses we also hope to define at least one in-country national level capacity building program which will target specific needs and weaknesses. We will also aim to meet tough targets for income generation.

In-country activities and thematic analysis

There is still much to learn about the field realities of community forestry, especially its relationship with poverty reduction, environment and sustainable development. Improved community forestry practices identified through action research should increasingly be demonstrated through our training programs – and sharing at the various national and international meetings (seminars and conferences).

Over the coming year we will conduct analytical work on at least two of the thematic issues identified in 2004-2005. To expand our reach in these areas we also aim to develop a network of individuals and agencies working on each. This is in addition to continued work on verification in the forest sector under the VERIFOR project and on pro-poor markets and forest tenure with Rights and Resources Group (RRG) together with ODI .

Project development

A major emphasis of the second year will be the mobilization of resources to develop in-country activities and field projects in partnerships with government and non government organizations and donors in target countries. This will mean additional effort to develop and mobilize support for more projects, including through improved internal systems for project development, vetting and tracking.

Dissemination and marketing

Efforts will be made to improve the range of products and services offered through our web portal. We will also increase the reach of our marketing efforts through improved and better targeted materials. We aim to develop our central role as a regional community forestry information hub by offering a wider range of products and services.

Cost recovery and income generation

Despite numerous successes (see Strategic Achievements), one area where we did not do so well over the last 12 months was in finance. The coming year will see more emphasis on recovering costs from projects, as well as on expanding our overall project portfolio. We also aim to increase earnings generated from premises, by offering a greater diversity and quality of facilities.

Management systems

A few areas of internal management will be targeted over the coming year. One is the implementation of a server-based system for centralizing, storing and presenting information from throughout the organization, which will greatly aid management. In parallel, we will complete the core components of our monitoring and evaluation system, and develop appropriate indicators of our wider impact.

Mid-term evaluation

The Strategic Plan envisages that by the end of the second year of its implementation we will have conducted a “mid-term review”, aimed at assessing progress, performance and impact since 2004. This we aim to conduct in May 2006, followed by a possible realignment of our activities and goals until 2008 in response to the findings of the review team

Reports and Publications 2004-2005

Scoping Study on Collection and Dissemination of Community Forestry Information
Consultant's report to RECOFTC, Bangkok (D. Gilmour, 2005)

Linkages Between Community Forestry and Poverty
RECOFTC, Bangkok (D. Gilmour, Y. Malla and M. Nurse, 2004)

The Contribution of Community Forestry to Protected Area Management
RECOFTC position paper, Bangkok (M. Nurse, 2004)

Advances in Community Forestry in Asia
RECOFTC, Bangkok (M. Nurse and Y. Malla, 2005)

In Search of Excellence: Exemplary Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific
Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO and RECOFTC (eds. P. B. Durst, C. Brown, H. D. Tacio and M. Ishikawa, 2005)

Including the Excluded: A Pro-Poor Bel Fruit Juice Making Enterprise in Nepal
Report to RECOFTC and Forest Trends, Bangkok (D. Paudel, 2005)

Behind the Fragile Enterprise: Community-based Timber Utilization in Southern Philippines
Report to RECOFTC and Forest Trends, Bangkok (J. M. Pulhin, and M. A. M. Ramirez, 2005)

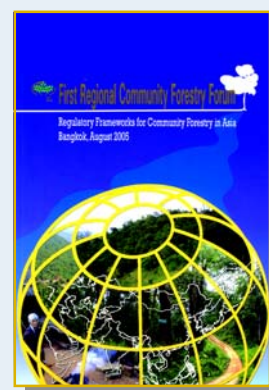
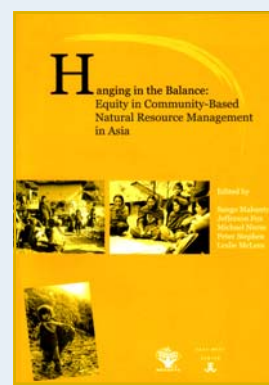
RECOFTC Phase 2001-2004 Completion Report
Bangkok (RECOFTC, 2005)

Conflict Management in Natural Resources – Training Materials (Thai language)
Bangkok (RECOFTC, 2005)

The Year in Review: RECOFTC Annual Report 2003-2004
Bangkok (RECOFTC, 2005)

Supporting Livelihoods Through Employment: The Chaubas-Bhumlu Community Sawmill, Nepal
Report to RECOFTC and Forest Trends, Bangkok (N. P. Timsina, 2005)

First Regional Community Forestry Forum: Regulatory Frameworks for Community Forestry in Asia
Bangkok (N.O'Brien, S.Matthews and M.Nurse (eds. 2005)



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Head, Ecosystem and Livelihood Group, IUCN, Thailand

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Researcher Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia

Dr Bharat Pokharel
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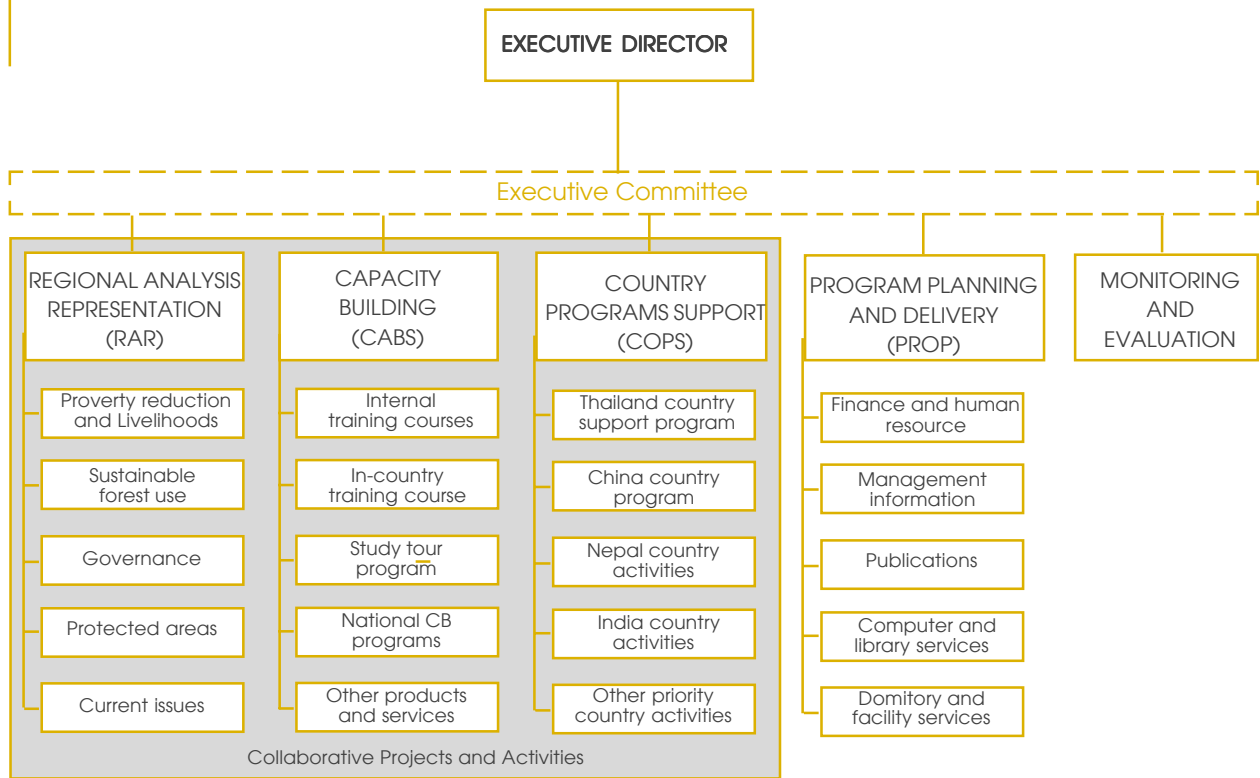
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Executive Director, RECOFTC, Thailand

Dr Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham (outgoing chair)
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Laos



Program Structure



RECOFTC Staff

Program Planning and Delivery

Executive Office

Dr Yam Malla
Executive Director

Ms Pimpakarn Serithammarak
Executive Secretary

Finance, Administration and Human Resource

Ms Roshanara de Croos
FAHR Section Manager (to March 2005)

Mr Sanjiv Ray,
FAHR Section Manager (from June 2005)

Ms Kasma Chatiyonont
Human Resource and Administration Manager

Ms Saifon Bhumpakapan
Account Assistant

Ms Dusita Boonsueb
Tea lady/Receptionist

Ms Jasras Buakartok
Gardener/Porter

Ms Petcharat Na Chiangmai
Accountant

Ms Panida Chokkulsawat
Administrative Assistant

Mr Vinai Im-em
Driver

Mr Komkris Jarutrakulchai
Administrative Support

Ms Sa-nguan Jongjit
Housekeeper

Mr Chatchawal Khumpai
Driver

Ms Benjaporn Kuejij
Administrative Assistant

Mr Boonruen Mataeng
Driver

Mr Jirayu Naisiri
Facility Manager (from June 2005)

Ms Wannasa Ngamdaeng
Receptionist (from January 2005)

Ms Chantana Pakseelert
Housekeeper

Mr Wachirapol Rattanasuwan
Facility Manager (to April 2005)

Ms Phenpichar Sakhamula
Messenger/Receptionist

Ms Prapai Sikram
Account Assistant

Mr Pracha Suwannapak
Technician

Ms Payung Tongkum
Housekeeper

Ms Siriwan Tungsareewongsa
Account Assistant (from March 2005)

Information Management and Communication

Ms Tan Lay Cheng
Manager

Mr. Bede Edward John Key
MIS Officer (from July 2005)

Ms Thippawan Maidee
Documentation Center Administrator

Mr Somchai Manopiroonporn
MIS Officer (till November 2004)

Ms Ketsara Naunpunyong
(Administrative Officer)

Regional Analysis and Representation

Mr Michael Nurse
Program Manager

Dr Sango Mahanty
Program Officer (from August 2005)

Ms Wallaya Pinprayoon
Administrative Officer (from January 2005)

Capacity Building Services

Ms Noelle O'Brien
Program Manager

Ms Jayne Gan
Marketing Advisor (from April 2005)

Mr Poom Pinthep
Training and Study Tour Assistant

Ms Somjai Srimongkontrip
Training and Study Tour Assistant

Mr Peter Stephen
Capacity Building Coordinator (from November 2004)

Mr Ronnakorn Tiraganon
Capacity Building Coordinator

Ms Leela Wuttikraibundit
Program Secretary

Country Program Support

Mr Colin McQuistan
Program Manager

Mr Thorsten Huber
Associate Officer (from January 2005)

Ms Ferngfa Panupitak
Administrative Officer

PROJECT Staff

Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program

Ms Somying Soontornwong
Program Manager

Mr Rawee Thaworn
Project Coordinator

Ms Attjala Roongwong
Project Staff

Mr Tanongsak Janthong
Project Staff

Mr Narongsak Prinyasuthinan
Project Staff (from May 2005)

Ms Phatcharaporn Sakham
Project Staff (from May 2005)

Ms Ramida Thanananthachai
Program Secretary (from February 2005)

Mr Surin Onprom
Project Coordinator (to October 2004)

Ms Weena Namcharoensombat
Project Coordinator (to January 2005)

Ms Suwicha Srimongkol
Training Support Officer (to April 2005)

Ms Praewpun Nakkhontod
Project Staff

China Country Program

Ms Xiangjun Yang,
Program Coordinator (from April 2005)

Donors and Sponsors

Asia Foundation

Australian Agency for International Development – AusAid (AYAD)

Danish International Development Assistance – Danida

East-West Center - EWC

European Union – EU

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO-RAP

Ford Foundation

Forest Trends

International Development Research Centre – IDRC

International Model Forest Network Secretariat – IMFNS

International Tropical Timber Organization – ITTO

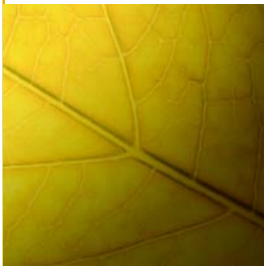
IUCN – The World Conservation Union

Royal Thai Government (core program)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA (core program and BBE)

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC (core program and project)

UK Department for International Development – DFID (APO)





Auditor

The financial figures presented here are not the full statutory accounts but a summary of the information that appears in the full accounts (available from www.recoftc.com). The full accounts were submitted to the auditor in October 2005 and received an unqualified opinion in January 2006.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE RECOFTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To the Board of Trustees of Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets as at 30 September 2005 and 2004, and the related statements of revenue and expenditure and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the years then ended of Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific ("RECOFTC"). The RECOFTC management is responsible for the correctness and completeness of information in these financial statements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position as at 30 September 2005 and 2004, and the results of its revenues and expenses and cash flows for the years then ended of RECOFTC in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Signed

For PricewaterhouseCoopers ABAS Limited

Balance Sheets

As at 30 September 2005 and 2004

	2005 Baht	2004 Baht
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	57,758,838	23,506,283
Restricted fixed/time deposits account	4,924,807	4,924,807
Grants receivable	1,618,400	5,483,430
Accounts receivable	1,606,912	371,964
Advance to suppliers	40,141	2,629,205
Loans and advances to employees	337,545	437,899
Other current assets	<u>326,506</u>	<u>222,125</u>
Total current assets	<u>66,613,149</u>	<u>37,575,713</u>
Non-current assets		
Plant and equipment (net)	<u>19,064,754</u>	<u>19,685,977</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>19,064,754</u>	<u>19,685,977</u>
Total assets	<u>85,677,903</u>	<u>57,261,690</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	65,449	22,255
Deferred grants	37,908,294	18,395,604
Accrued expenses	5,046,588	2,850,904
Other current liabilities	<u>146,861</u>	<u>89,242</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>43,167,192</u>	<u>21,358,005</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for transitional compensation	<u>5,265,777</u>	<u>5,541,402</u>
Total non-current liabilities	<u>5,265,777</u>	<u>5,541,402</u>
Total liabilities	<u>48,432,969</u>	<u>26,899,407</u>
Fund balance	<u>37,244,934</u>	<u>30,362,283</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>85,677,903</u>	<u>57,261,690</u>

Statements of Revenues and Expenditure for the years ended 30 September 2005 and 2004

	2005 Baht	2004 Baht
Revenues		
Grant receipts	84,442,885	75,363,648
Courses, workshops and seminar receipts	4,296,445	8,024,542
Contribution receipts	2,890,801	3,105,156
Study tours	1,846,249	2,203,241
Consultancies	3,877,796	2,822,706
Dormitory and facilities	5,328,303	4,188,550
Interest income	358,992	347,467
Other income	989,055	927,120
Total revenues	104,030,526	96,982,430
Expenditures		
Staff costs	43,014,408	38,597,354
Activities costs	42,416,192	46,529,052
Operational costs	8,773,122	11,065,457
Depreciation expense	2,944,153	2,823,662
Total expenses	97,147,875	99,015,525
Excess of revenues over expenditures (expenditures over revenues)	6,882,651	(2,033,095)
Fund balance, beginning of years	30,362,283	32,395,378
Fund balance, ending of years	37,244,934	30,362,283

Acronyms

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
APO	Associate Professional Officer
BOT	Board of Trustees
BBE	Bilateral Associate Programme Officer (Sida)
CABS	Capacity Building Services
CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
CBNRM	Community-based Natural Forest Resource Management
CF	Community Forestry
CFM	Collective forest management
CIFOR	Center for International Forests Research
COFSUN	Community Forestry Support Network
COPS	Country Program Support
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EWC	East West Centre
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EXO	Executive Office
FAHR	Finance, Administration and Human Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal
FGLG	Forestry Governance Learning Group
FSSP	Forest Sector Support Program
FUG	Forestry User Groups
GTZ	German Development Agency
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IIED	International Institutes of Environment and Development
IIRR	International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
IMAC	Information Management and Communication
IMFNS	International Model Forest Network Secretariat
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JFM	Joint forest management
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRME	Natural Resources Management and Environment
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PCIV	Principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers
PES	Payments for environmental services
PM&E	Participatory monitoring and evaluation
PROP	Program Planning and Delivery
PSC	Project Support Committee
RAR	Regional Analysis and Representation
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
RRG	Rights and Resources Group
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SF	Social Forestry
Sida	Swedish Intl. Development Cooperation Agency
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
TAO	Thailand Local Authority
TCCSP	Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program
VF	Village forestry
WATCH	Women Acting Together for Change



The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) is an international not-for-profit organization based in Bangkok, Thailand, that works closely with partners to design and facilitate learning processes and systems to support community forestry and community-based natural resource management. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental institutions, programs, projects and networks, RECOFTC aims to enhance capacity at all levels, and to promote constructive multi-stakeholder dialogues and interactions to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forests and natural resources.

Vision

Local communities in the Asia-Pacific region are actively involved in the equitable and ecologically sustainable management of forest landscapes.

Mission

To enhance capacities at all levels to assist people of the Asia-Pacific region to develop community forestry and manage forest resources for optimum social, economic and environmental benefits.

Contact details

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