

# RECOFTC

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

# RECOFTC Annual Report

2006–2007

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# Message from the Chair of Board of Trustees

## Regaining Center Stage

Over the last year or so, forests have moved back from the periphery to the center of the global debate as scientists and policy-makers have realized that forest loss and degradation is responsible for some 20% of global carbon dioxide emissions, an amount comparable to the global transport sector.


This heightened focus on forests and climate change has enormous implications for Asia's forests and the people who depend on them. Emerging carbon markets have the potential to redress some of the disjunct between the costs and benefits of both forest exploitation and forest conservation that have inhibited effective forest management for decades. Throughout the region and indeed the tropical world, forests have continued to be degraded and lost because those who exploit forests rarely pay the full costs of their exploitation and the costs of forest conservation often differentially fall on the rural poor.

People living in and near forests must be active participants in any national or international efforts to reduce emissions from forest loss and degradation. Many forest-dependent people and communities have traditional ownership claims over forest resources and many depend heavily on these forests for their subsistence and livelihoods. Their rights and interests in these resources should therefore be respected as matter of principle. Pragmatically, forest conservation and management efforts will not be sustainable unless there are clear net benefits to the people living in and near forest areas.

In this context, I believe that the work of the Regional Community Forest Training Center (RECOFTC) is of greater importance now than any time in its 20 year history. Governments of the region face enormous new challenges as they seek to develop forest conservation and management regimes that simultaneously reduce emissions from forest loss and degradation, contribute to national economic development, and meet the needs and aspirations of forest-dependent people. The people who live and work in communities in and near forests can be the most effective allies in these efforts. However, this potential will only be realized with just and equitable co-management systems that respect the rights of these people and allow them to participate as full partners in both the decision making about forests and the practice of forest conservation and management.

The development and continued improvement of equitable and just community forest management systems is thus an urgent regional need and Asia is fortunate that an institution such as RECOFTC exists in the region. RECOFTC is playing a key role in synthesizing and disseminating knowledge about the principles and practice of community forestry and its capacity building services have long been recognized for their contribution to the region. I am confident that RECOFTC will continue to develop as an action learning institution that will provide an even greater contribution to the governments and people of the region as they work to develop socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable forest management systems that meet the growing challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Mr. David Cassells  
Chair, 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, and 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 management."



## Message from the Executive Director

The year 2006–2007 was special for us for three reasons. Firstly, we bade farewell to the Board of Trustees outgoing Chairperson, Dr. Don Gilmour, and welcomed his replacement Mr. David Cassells. Secondly, 2007 marked 20 years since RECOFTC was established, and we observed that important anniversary by successfully organizing a series of events. They included a national workshop on two decades of community forestry in Thailand and the International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms. Complementing those events, a supplementary report highlighting major achievements over the past two decades was published and circulated widely. Thirdly, the year proved to be very productive in advancing RECOFTC's goal of promoting community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond; building partnerships with global, regional, and national organizations; obtaining formal mandates for operation from national governments; building relationships with donor agencies; and securing additional funds.

Our three programs of regional analysis, capacity building, and country support, were busier than ever in executing program plans and delivering quality products and services to our clients. As well as international events in Bangkok, we carried out more in-country capacity building activities with national partners during the reporting period – a trend that is likely to continue in future years. The program staff continued to project RECOFTC's image as far more than just a training center. Increasingly, our clients and partners view RECOFTC as an institution that serves as a "hub" for community forestry knowledge and information. That includes knowledge brokering and synthesizing, creating neutral platforms for a range of stakeholders, analyzing and presenting issues for practitioners and policy-makers, and importantly, building effective partnerships. Viewing our activities in those terms captures much of what RECOFTC has been trying to do over the years and indicates that our current strategy is viewed by our clients and partners to be both appropriate and relevant.

RECOFTC's financial situation continues to improve as its sources of income expand. In December 2006, we signed a three-year contract (2007–2009) with Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), thus increasing the number of agencies supporting RECOFTC's core program to three. We exceeded our target set for RECOFTC-generated income (from its products and services), which contributed to the steady increase in our financial reserves.

Of course, there were also challenges. The continual changes in global and regional agendas, and donor shifts in position and focus remains a major obstacle for RECOFTC. To respond effectively, we need to design and execute focused activities that have significant impacts on the ground. Internally, we continue to face the challenge of making our employment packages more competitive to attract people with the required skill sets. Finally, while RECOFTC's financial situation has much improved in recent years, the goal of financial sustainability has yet to be attained.

The next 12 months will also be a busy period for us. Being the fourth and final year of the current program cycle, we need to ensure that all commitments are met and, at the same time, arrange for a final program review and the development of a new strategic plan.

Dr. Yam Malla  
Executive Director



The 2006–2007 year marked two decades of RECOFTC involvement with community forestry issues in the Asia–Pacific region. To commemorate this important milestone, we organized a number of special events, which provided an excellent opportunity for everyone who has been involved with the organization to acknowledge RECOFTC’s founders, reflect on our achievements, examine current forestry issues, and consider our pursuits for the future.

# RECOFTC's Strategic Plan 2004–2009: The Final Stages

In December 2006, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) signed a three-year agreement as RECOFTC's new core donor. We now have three core donors, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). We greatly appreciate this support and acknowledge how critical it is to the continuation of our work.

As this report shows, RECOFTC successfully juggled anniversary events with 2006–2007 program requirements, and the organization remains well on course to fulfil key objectives as we move toward the final stages of our Strategic Plan.

## 2007–Celebrating 20 Years of RECOFTC

In March, we hosted a reception to formally acknowledge the continuing, and much appreciated, support from RECOFTC's founding organizations. Representatives from the Royal Thai Government, Kasetsart University (KU), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Government of Switzerland joined RECOFTC's founder, Dr. Somsak Sukwong, as honored guests. The reception also provided the ideal occasion to launch a scholarship scheme for Kasetsart forestry students working on dissertations related to community forestry, as well as a booklet and CD detailing two decades of RECOFTC work.

In August, RECOFTC organized a national workshop on Twenty Years of Community Forestry in Thailand. Each of the 400 participants who attended received a media packet showcasing the stories of eight community sites with which we work closely.

In September, RECOFTC co-organized with the Rights and Resources Institute (RRI) the International Conference on



Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms. Three hundred participants from 46 countries attended, making it one of the largest conferences ever organized by RECOFTC. Feedback on the conference was overwhelmingly positive and we again demonstrated our competence to host such events. By raising the profile of forest-poverty issues, we hope the Conference will stimulate action at country, regional, and international levels. Progress is underway on a summary report of the conference and its proceedings.

## Regional Collaboration

Partnerships and collaborations are essential for nearly every aspect of our work. During the past year, we have worked to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones as we continue to collaborate closely with stakeholders at all levels.

Following from the success of the August 2007 conflict training course, plans are

underway to deliver further training for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) project. With SNV Netherlands Development Organization, discussions have begun to build upon the success of our current partnership and deliver capacity building services into the 2007–2008 year and beyond. In August 2007, RECOFTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and a joint work plan is currently under development. Planning for the near future, RECOFTC has initiated discussions with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) about potential joint activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

RECOFTC actively led and participated in many important learning and information-sharing initiatives over the last year. Besides the aforementioned Poverty Reduction and Forests Conference, RECOFTC successfully hosted the Second Regional Community Forestry Forum in partnership with FAO and SNV in March 2007. Further collaboration with FAO, SNV, and also the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) led to another international conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction, which was held in Vietnam in October 2006. In addition, we hosted the first Asia meeting of the Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods (PAEL) Task Force in June 2007. The PAEL is a global initiative of two IUCN (The World Conservation Union) commissions, and following the meeting RECOFTC became the Asia focal point.

RECOFTC continued working with the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), and on the committees of both the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), which provides input to ITTO's work, and with the External Advisory Group (EAG) on Forests, which influences the World Bank's forest program.

One of RECOFTC's key roles is that

of a regional information hub which involves documenting and sharing lessons and best practices related to community forestry and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in general. During the year, often in collaboration with partners, many publications were produced including *Forest Lives*, which reported on the lessons learned from hundreds of projects under the Small Grants Program for the Promotion of Tropical Forests.

## In-Country Collaboration

In line with the Strategic Plan, RECOFTC has continued to seek formal mandates to operate in target countries. During this reporting period, we signed an MOU with the International Forestry Cooperation Center (IFCC) in Beijing, which is part of China's State Forestry Administration. This MOU will open the door for many potential activities in China during the coming years.

RECOFTC now has formal mandates to operate in six countries, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam. In Cambodia, RECOFTC began implementing the three-year World Bank-administered Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project (CBSFLMP). This has placed RECOFTC in a strong position to support the formal establishment of community forestry in the country. In Indonesia, RECOFTC facilitated a series of in-country training programs under a Ford Foundation-funded project, and conducted a situational analysis to identify capacity building gaps.

The Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program (ThCCSP) continues to be a major influence in promoting community forestry in Thailand. The Program has been busily collaborating with a variety of stakeholders to organize forums, implement on-site projects, support training activities, and conduct field-based research.

## Financial Sustainability

During the year, RECOFTC continued to make improvements to generate more revenue and efficiently utilize core funds. Though our core donors



have continued to provide our main source of income, increased contributions, especially from capacity building services, as well as from project grants and facility use, have helped maintain diversity in our funding sources.

Good financial management ensured that expenditures for RECOFTC activities stayed well within budget, and enabled us to take on a number of new initiatives. The Reserve Fund and Endowment Funds have been further strengthened during this period, and financial liabilities from the previous program phase settled. Overall, RECOFTC is moving towards an increasingly sound financial position.

## RECOFTC Governance and Management

RECOFTC's governance and management is overseen by its Board of Trustees (BOT) and Executive Committee, the latter consisting of an Executive Director,

three Program Managers, and a Finance, Administration, and Human Resources Manager.

We have continued to enjoy diverse representation on our BOT. David Cassells, TNC's Director of the Asia-Pacific Forest Program and Chief of Party of RAFT, took over from Dr. Donald Gilmour as Chairperson. Additionally, Dr. Damrong Sriparam, Dean of Kasetsart University's Forestry Faculty, has joined the Board and in the upcoming year, a new board member from China will be appointed.

As the 2004-2008 Program Phase approaches its final stages, RECOFTC has been carrying out a number of internal evaluation exercises whereby each program assesses progress against the milestones set in the current Program Plans.

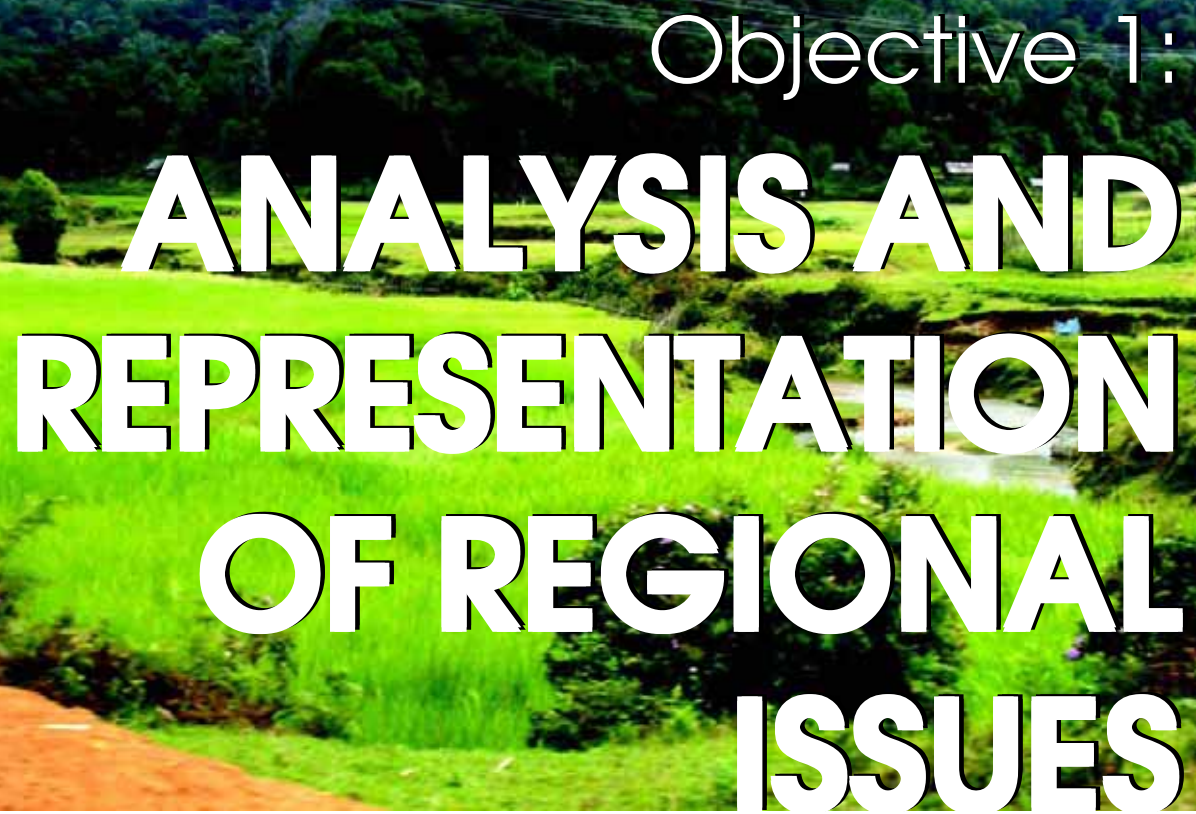
During the year, we expanded activities relating to communication, marketing, and corporate fundraising, and revamped the Information Management and Communications Unit (IMAC). Two external consultants were engaged to analyze RECOFTC's impact in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. We also completed preparations for a final evaluation of the current Program Phase, and three independent consultants will begin work on this in November 2007.

## Strategic Plan

RECOFTC focuses on capacity building, regional analysis and representation, and demonstrating best practice to meet strategic goals as stipulated in the Strategic Plan 2004-2009.

The 2006-2007 year saw numerous collaborative projects and activities, which have put us well on track to meet these goals.





Objective 1:  
**ANALYSIS AND  
REPRESENTATION  
OF REGIONAL  
ISSUES**

RECOFTC analyzes and synthesizes key issues and experiences in community forestry and other CBNRM sectors, and shares related lessons with practitioners to inform policy and develop new capacity building products. These issues drive RECOFTC projects and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region.



# Analysis and Representation



## Thematic Analysis

RECOFTC's analysis on regional issues focuses on Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Forest Governance, and Productive and Sustainable Forest Management. These themes cut across our projects and initiatives.

## Representation Strategies

RECOFTC uses several strategies to share information and represent our stakeholders in the region. During 2006–2007, RECOFTC produced numerous publications, engaged in networks, organized and participated in conferences and workshops, and contributed to regional fora.

## Country Profiles

Since 2005, RECOFTC has been supporting the development of country profiles on community forestry in target countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These profiles provide an overview of the status of community-based initiatives in forest management; analyze lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities; and provide guidance for future work. During the year, RECOFTC and NAFRI partnered to develop the Lao PDR Community Forestry Country Profile. This status report highlights gaps in community-based forest management by looking at community contributions to forest resource management and the extent and modes of community participation.

### BOX 1: RECOFTC Themes

1. *Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: Communities living in and around forests often depend on forest resources to support their livelihoods. Mechanisms to achieve poverty reduction through sustainable, forest-related economic development include markets and enterprises, integrated development planning, and analysis of the impact of community forestry on livelihoods and the local environment.*

2. *Forest Governance: Developing and implementing sound policies and laws that support rights of access and use are fundamentals of poverty-reducing community forestry. Efforts to improve forest governance include advocating for effective and equitable forest management by communities, promoting benefit sharing in subsistence and commercial realms, and developing and testing pro-poor institutions.*

3. *Productive and Sustainable Forest Management: Restoration of degraded forests, where community forestry often occurs, can result in significant forest cover improvements and reveal the potential for applying community forestry approaches in high-value forest areas. Focuses in productive and sustainable forest management include conservation and sustainable management of high-value forest resources, landscape approaches to sustainable forest management, and management systems for timber and non-timber forest products.*

## CF E-News

The Community Forestry E-Newsletter (CF E-News) continues to serve as an effective means of communicating important community forestry-related news, publications, announcements, and commentary. In the last year, RECOFTC produced monthly publications on time, and also identified ways to improve the publication. Several ideas will be trialed during 2007–2008.

## Networks

Networks are of great importance to RECOFTC as collaborating with like-minded organizations greatly increases the impact of our work. During 2006–2007, we actively participated in several important networks including signing an MOU with SACEP; presenting at the first ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Social Forestry Network (ASFN) and providing input to their rules, procedures, and workplan; and increasing dialogue with the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF), particularly on verification design systems for timber trade.





### BOX 2: RECOFTC Impacts

The externally conducted Program Impact Assessment with Focus on Country Activities for Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, 2004–2007 concluded the following about RECOFTC:

- RECOFTC is viewed as a credible regional organization with strong training and useful information sources;
- The organization is highly placed and strategically positioned among government officials, NGOs, and communities as a producer of knowledge and a neutral convener, or “honest broker,” for community forestry; and
- Its widely used materials and publications valuably influence the development of knowledge and understanding about community forestry.



## Initiatives and Projects

RECOFTC engages in several regional initiatives and projects that support the three main themes, often through collaboration with other organizations.

### Poverty Reduction

*Themes: Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Forest Governance, Productive and Sustainable Forest Management.*

The role of forests in poverty reduction has been a highly debated topic in the forestry field, and RECOFTC is exploring the potential of community forestry to be pro-poor.

During the year, RECOFTC focused on improving stakeholder understanding of the linkages between forests and poverty reduction, and the potential for pro-poor community forestry, through conferences, workshops, and publications. We co-organized (with FAO, the Tropical Forest Trust and the Vietnam Government) the International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction, and produced the proceedings of this conference, *A Cut for the Poor*. Further insight on this topic was added through our work on the 2020 Outlook paper, *Forests, Forestry and Poverty Alleviation*, which was commissioned by FAO for the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission. In addition, the International Asia-Pacific Conference on Poverty Reduction and Forests also explored the role of forests in reducing poverty.

### Benefit Sharing

*Themes: Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, and Forest Governance.*

Though natural resources are a vital economic asset, the communities who most directly depend on and protect these resources rarely receive an equitable share. Benefit flow and sharing initiatives aim to ensure that financial flows from natural resource-use reach these communities and are shared more equitably among members.

RECOFTC has continued work on this issue during the year and collaborated with organizations such as The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and SNV to facilitate learning initiatives and produce workshop proceedings, reports, and papers, such as *A Fair Share? Experiences in Benefit Sharing from Community-Managed Resources in Asia*. In March 2007, RECOFTC hosted the Second Regional Community Forestry Forum on the theme of benefit flow and benefit sharing from community forestry. The forum provided an opportunity for dialogue among senior government policymakers on mechanisms for addressing benefit flow and benefit sharing from community forestry and community-based forest management in Asia. Thirty-eight representatives from 14 countries in Asia, and eight observers from multilateral and bi-lateral organizations, participated in the two days of discussions. An overview synthesis paper, *Sharing the Wealth*, was published based on the forum discussions.



## Payments for Environmental Services (PES)

*Themes: Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Forest Governance, Productive and Sustainable Forest Management*

Threats to resources such as deforestation and degradation have been motivating the application of market-based development mechanisms. PES is an incentive-based approach to resource conservation that uses market mechanisms to ensure environmental service beneficiaries compensate the providers of these services. Rural communities living in or around forests and other natural resource areas are potential providers and could benefit from PES arrangements.

During the last year, RECOFTC has been exploring issues involving PES and local communities, and has been involved in a number of initiatives. These include presenting papers and co-organizing regional and sub-regional workshops on the potential risks and benefits of PES for communities, producing a synthesis report from these workshops, and dedicating an edition of RECOFTC's *Insight: Notes from the Field* to PES. Current work on this topic includes the development of a policy brief.

## Rights and Resources Initiative

*Themes: Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Forest Governance, Productive and Sustainable Forest Management*

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) work involves rural poverty reduction, improvement of forest governance, conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems, and sustainable forest-based economic growth. Given the parallel between these goals and the RECOFTC themes, our involvement in RRI as the focal point for the Asia-Pacific region is well suited.

During the year, RECOFTC did substantial work with the Listening, Learning, Sharing and Launching Project for Asia (LLSL). The LLSL is designed to further ground RRI partners in the regions (Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific) and at the national and local levels of key countries. Two sub-regional workshops drew out key issues on land and forest tenure and related policy reforms, and RECOFTC was involved with ICRAF and the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) in synthesizing the results of these workshops in a paper titled *Land, Forest and People: Facing the Challenge in South East Asia*. We are developing a proposal which intends to build on this work and other RRI activities in the Asia-Pacific region. We also worked closely with the Rights and Resources Group (RRG), which is the secretariat of the RRI, to jointly implement research projects in Vietnam and Lao PDR.

### BOX 3: Insight: Notes from the Field

This past year, RECOFTC produced the first two issues of *Insight: Notes from the Field*, a publication dedicated to sharing field-level cases and lessons among practitioners working to support community forestry and community-based natural resource management. The first issue explored general community forestry issues. The second issue, produced in collaboration with Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services (RUPES) - World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Southeast Asia and Winrock International India, and supported by SNV, focused on PES.



## Forest Governance Learning Group

*Theme: Forest Governance*

Forestry can contribute to sustainability and poverty alleviation only if good forest governance, including proper leadership,

institutions, policy decisions, and practical systems, are in place. The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) aims to improve forest governance in Africa and Asia. To achieve this goal, FGLG provides fora for sharing approaches and strategies for strengthening forest governance reform.

RECOFTC's collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in supporting FGLG during the year included work on projects in Vietnam, India, Indonesia, and outside of the region; and involvement in learning events, workshops, and a mid-term review. Following a national workshop held in Vietnam that investigated the poverty impacts of different community forestry models, RECOFTC has begun work on a synthesis report and policy brief.

## VERIFOR

*Theme: Forest Governance*

The VERIFOR Project ([www.verifor.org](http://www.verifor.org)) is an Overseas Development Institute (ODI)-led research project which is working with partner institutions in tropical countries to ensure that timber and forest products are legally harvested. Its goal is to help producer nations put in place credible verifications systems that are equitable and have a high level of ownership with all relevant stakeholders.

RECOFTC is the focal point for VERIFOR in Asia, and this is a key project under our forest governance analysis theme. During the year, our work focused on sharing information about verification systems and collaborating with representatives from ASEAN to provide verification training to senior level forestry officials in the region. VERIFOR was well represented at several important fora during the year including the EU-China Conference on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) and the joint FAO-ITTO-DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) Workshop on Forest Law Compliance in Southeast Asia.



## Objective 2: **CAPACITY BUILDING**

RECOFTC continues to deliver an array of activities and services to strengthen human capacities and contribute to the development and implementation of community forestry and community-based natural resource management. The trend away from international open-subscription courses continued and RECOFTC successfully met this challenge by collaborating with partners and clients to deliver 10 in-country training courses during 2006–2007. Overall, it was an extremely productive year with 500 participants joining our training courses, study tours, and other learning events.

# What is Capacity Building?

At RECOFTC, we define capacity building as:

“Externally or internally initiated processes designed to help individuals and groups to appreciate and manage their changing circumstances, and to enhance their abilities to identify and meet development challenges in a sustainable manner.”

A 2005–2006 review by RECOFTC titled *Capacity Building for CBNRM in Asia: A Regional Review*, further explored capacity building processes.

Observations included:

1. Capacity building is an integral part of CBNRM;
2. Wide interpretations of its nature make for difficulty in describing its success; and
3. While capacity building at the community level for rural development objectives is essential, there must be a parallel process of investing in government agencies, responsible for working with rural communities in natural resource management.

A complete review is available from the Capacity Building Services main page on the RECOFTC website.



## Current Topics In-Demand

RECOFTC training courses and study tours cover a range of topics such as participatory action research, good governance, and facilitation skills. The most popular courses are Conflict Management for Natural Resource Management, Participatory Action Research for Community Livelihood Development, and Case Study Writing.

### *Conflict Management for Natural Resource Management*

Conflict is an inevitable aspect of natural resource management and forestry and natural resource professionals need knowledge of the principles, techniques, and skills to successfully analyze and mediate conflict. Our conflict management course remains a key training program in the region and during the year courses were delivered in-country in Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, and a two-week regional training program was hosted at RECOFTC.

The course was updated during 2006–2007 in collaboration with FAO to increase the emphasis on conflict mediation processes and techniques. Participants now work through a more systematic process of conflict analysis that builds their skills and knowledge in important conflict analysis tools, enabling participants to understand and apply the key steps and techniques necessary to develop an effective mediation process.

We are committed to providing innovative training approaches to improve the outcomes and impacts of our capacity building. As an example, a six-month training and mentoring program on conflict management and mediation was delivered in Indonesia, and led to a case study writing process.

### *Participatory Action Research for Community Livelihood Development*

Programs related to community development have applied a range of livelihood approaches or methodologies to empower communities and related key actors to manage their own resources properly. The Participatory Action Research (PAR) for Community-Based Livelihood Development is a

learning approach that incorporates multiple perspectives among stakeholders. The concept of PAR has been applied in a wide range of community development or CBNRM projects so far. PAR has successfully provided opportunities for stakeholders to learn collaboratively about their complex situation.

RECOFTC facilitated a customized training course on Participatory Action Research (PAR) for Community-Based Livelihood Development in as part of a Villager Support project funded by JICA in Vietnam. Participants appreciated the applicability of the tools and techniques introduced in this course to their work.

### *Analytical Skills and Case Study Writing*

Despite extensive information written and exchanged on community-based natural resource management, there remains relatively little analysis and documentation of field-based experiences by field practitioners. RECOFTC's case study writing program provides an opportunity for practitioners to draw out valuable lessons that can contribute to the development of CBNRM thinking and inform field practice. During this course, participants learn practical tools and methods to sharpen their critical thinking and writing skills. Participants complete well written, logical, and professional case studies at the end of the training program.

This past year, in collaboration with the Participatory Forest Management Project, RECOFTC hosted a case study writing course in Bhutan. The overall process involved a series of linked activities, including mentoring support and writing workshops focused on argument structure and logical presentation. Participants provided positive feedback on the process and lessons learned.

### *Training Partners and Clients*

RECOFTC places great value on developing partnerships to enhance knowledge development, ensure efficiency, and to develop and implement capacity building activities for maximum positive impact. We collaborate with our partners to design, host, and deliver trainings, to translate materials, and to create learning networks.

In 2007, several important collaborations took place. RECOFTC worked with the Community Based Natural Resource Management Learning Institute in Cambodia to initiate the process of translating our facilitation skills manual into the Khmer language. In Indonesia, we collaborated with FAO and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)-Strengthening Management Capacities Project (SMCP) to host a five-phase conflict management course and produce materials in Bahasa Indonesia. In Lao PDR, Village Focus International (VFI) and RECOFTC began planning for conflict management training in the Lao language, and we partnered with SNV to develop and deliver a natural resource management governance training program.

Our clients extend to numerous countries in Asia and the Pacific, and even as far away as Africa. During the last year, these have included Helvetas/SDC, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Council of Renewable Natural Resource Research in Bhutan (CORRB), SNV, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Vietnam and Ethiopia, Intercooperation in Pakistan, an SDC-funded project in Mongolia, and a TNC-RAFT project operating in six Asian countries.

### *Customized Trainings and Study Tours*

In response to the continued trend of reduced funding for international training events, RECOFTC has increasingly focused on designing and delivering customized courses for staff and partners of national-level CBNRM projects. Our customized courses are tailored to meet the specific needs and contexts of our clients and during 2006–2007 we hosted 15 customized courses for over 200 participants. In collaboration with our partners, training events were held throughout the region, including in Thailand, Vietnam, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, and Indonesia.

With the increase of in-country trainings, RECOFTC has taken the opportunity to deliver these in the national language, which allows us to reach many more people. Five of the 10 customized trainings delivered in 2006–2007 were conducted in the national language including in Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Mongolian. We will continue to explore opportunities to develop

materials and deliver trainings in national languages.

Reduced donor funding for study tours during 2006–2007 saw a decline in demand. In total, we hosted six customized study tours for over 80 participants from throughout the region.

#### BOX 4: Training Impacts

Two impact assessments were conducted in 2007 and both positively evaluated RECOFTC trainings. *The Program Impact Assessment with Focus on Country Activities for Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, 2004 – 2007* was externally conducted and found that:

- People trained by RECOFTC can identify specific trainings that have influenced their fieldwork approach and method;
- There is good evidence that people who attended RECOFTC trainings presented their learning to colleagues either formally or informally, serving as a means of disseminating community forestry knowledge within the country;
- Strong demand for in-country field training indicates capacity-building impact and indicates organization's credibility;
- Those interviewed note a behavior and attitude change from trainings, and working on community forestry, recognizing the value of local views and management, although institutional issues often conflict with this practice.



## International Open Subscription Trainings and Study-Tours

One international open-subscription course on Managing Conflict for Natural Resource Management was hosted in 2007. The 20 participants came from nine countries with 16 of them funded by TNC. The 10-day course generated positive outcomes with many participants developing their own conflict management and mediation initiatives upon returning to their home country. A participant commented:

*“The skills and knowledge will help many of my colleagues who work in conflict situations in their own projects. It also increases analytical and thinking skills which are crucial for officers on the ground.”*

The success of this training has led to a planned expansion of the program through TNC's RAFT project, and will be implemented during 2007–2008.

In March 2007, the only open subscription study tour of the year was held for CARE-Bangladesh on Income Generation and Enterprise Development.

## Regional Learning Initiatives

RECOFTC works closely with a variety of national and international organizations to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder processes to support the further development of CBNRM. Using modalities such as conferences and e-learning platforms, regional experiences, ideas, and knowledge are shared to feed into an improved understanding of CBNRM, and to generate effective ways forward.

### *ALL in CBNRM*

RECOFTC continued its role as one of six partner organizations in the Adaptive Learning and Linkages in CBNRM (ALL in CBNRM) program, which progressed well throughout the year. This initiative applies a learning process which enhances the capacities of natural resource management researchers, practitioners, and other CBNRM stakeholders in participatory development approaches. The process involves eight learning groups from six countries learning through an e-forum, face-to-face discussions, and mentoring



visits from the partner organizations. RECOFTC is mentoring project participants from Cambodia and Lao PDR and is facilitating two of the 10 learning themes.

### *Asia Model Forest Strategic Planning Process*

RECOFTC hosted a strategic planning process for Asia's Model Forests from September 2006 to January 2007. National model forest teams in China, Indonesia, India, Philippines, and Thailand completed a national-level situational analysis of Model Forests, and the FAO undertook a regional analysis. The Asia Regional Model Forest Strategic Plan resulted from this work, though some issues require further exploration. Finalization of the plan is now the responsibility of the International Model Forest Secretariat.

### *Participatory Management of Forests and Protected Areas*

RECOFTC and the Tanzania-based MS Training Center for Development Cooperation, with significant support from WWF India's Dr. Sejal Worah, have prepared a trainer's manual on Participatory Management of Forests and Protected Areas. As an integration of training initiatives from Southeast Asia and Africa, the manual reflects situations and case studies from both regions and is expected to be finalized by the end of January 2008.

### *CBNRMtrain*

During the year, progress was made to further establish our CBNRMtrain website as the first step toward developing a regional network of CBNRM trainers and practitioners. Various training resources, including all RECOFTC manuals, are now available for free download.



# Objective 3: DEMONSTRATING BEST PRACTICE

One of RECOFTC's main roles is demonstrating improved community forestry practices in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve this, RECOFTC determines the status and potential for community forestry in target countries; builds relationships with key stakeholders; develops on-the-ground field projects to pilot improved community forestry management; and identifies, analyzes, and documents best practices to promote uptake of these lessons learned into national policy processes.



## Demonstrating Best Practice

Though our charter provides the mandate to work in the Asia-Pacific region – comprising some 47 countries – our strategy is to sustain focused engagement through project activities in a core of countries. The 2006–2007 period was the continuation of two multi-year projects in Thailand and Indonesia, and the start of another in Cambodia. RECOFTC has MOUs with all three of these target countries.



## Thailand

RECOFTC has worked in Thailand for 20 years now – a period that has seen significant progress in the development of community forestry. Since its inception in 2003, our Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program (ThCCSP) has had an influential role by working closely with local communities, and by promoting and facilitating collaboration between these communities and the Government, NGOs, and other forest stakeholders. With its project phase scheduled to end in December 2008, ThCCSP increased its focus in 2006–2007 on documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned over the last four and a half years. While working toward this, existing projects and partnerships continued, and new initiatives and collaborations were started.

The training of stakeholders in participatory processes and methods is a key ingredient for the successful implementation of community forestry activities, and has always been an important part of ThCCSP work. In the last year, ThCCSP implemented training activities in collaboration with a number of new partners. Community leaders, NGO professionals, and government staff were among the more than 330 participants involved. Two of the largest training programs were for the Department of National Parks' Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative, and with the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) and Seub Foundation for 60 communities in Central Thailand on community forest management planning. Training for both these initiatives will continue into 2008.

Networks and partnerships are vital for ThCCSP to develop and disseminate information supporting the adoption of community forestry, and to successfully initiate and implement activities. During the year, the ThCCSP manager was appointed to the Thailand National Coordinating Body for Mangroves for the Future (MFF). The MFF initiative aims

to promote sustainable coastal management for 10 countries affected by the 2004 tsunami, and involves governments, the UNDP, NGOs, and civil society.

ThCCSP organized and co-organized a number of important symposia and meetings during the year. The largest and most significant of these was the 20th Anniversary RECOFTC National Seminar on Community Forest: Processing of Learning on Participatory Natural Resource Management in Thai Society. Other important ThCCSP-hosted events included a national seminar on Barefoot Silvicultural and a seminar on Flooding and Landslides. Additionally, ThCCSP hosted a multi-stakeholder CF Bill roundtable discussion, and the Community Forest Network Meetings.

As mentioned, ThCCSP has increased its focus on documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices. Through partnerships with Chiangrai Rajabhat University and Inter-Mountain People's Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT), 12 case studies on good practice of community forest management of ethnic groups in the North have been written and will be published in early 2008. Additionally, six ThCCSP community profiles have been compiled in both English and Thai. As the Thailand focal point, ThCCSP worked under the Biodiversity Research and Training Program (BRT) conducting action research to feed into the development of a strategy framework for Collaborative Biodiversity Management.

Though the ThCCSP will conclude at the end of 2008, RECOFTC intends to build on the work of the program to continue to have an active presence in Thai community forestry.

A strategic plan to fully incorporate the program into RECOFTC was initiated in 2007 and will feed into the overall strategic planning process in early 2008.



### BOX 5: RECOFTC in Thailand

The externally conducted Program Impact Assessment with Focus on Country Activities for Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, 2004–2007 found the following about RECOFTC's Thai Program:

- The program has been instrumental in developing technical skills in communities which have enabled them to develop CF management plans;
- Community leaders and practitioners interviewed speak highly of the support and skills which RECOFTC has provided to them over the years; and
- RECOFTC's Thai program is addressing and influencing policy at multiple levels, which has resulted in change at the community level, has begun to have success at the sub-district level, and is now reinvigorating debate around the CF Bill at the national level.



## Cambodia

After two decades of immense pressure on Cambodia's forest resources, donors and the Forestry Administration are looking at alternative mechanisms (including community forestry) to improve forestry management and rehabilitation. Following the September 2006 signing of MOUs with the Forestry Administration and Ministry of Environment, and with over 10 years of capacity-building experience in the country, RECOFTC is well positioned to assist the scaling-up of community forestry, especially now that a supportive *Prakas* (ministerial guideline for implementing sub-decrees) is in place.

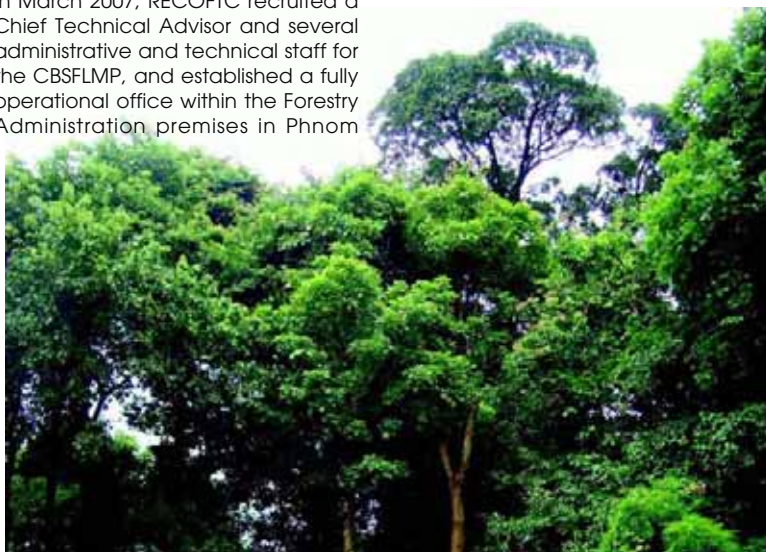
During 2006–2007, RECOFTC prepared the groundwork to begin full implementation of the Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project (CBSFLMP), which is funded by the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) and administered by the World Bank. This three-year project is focused in five cantonments, and aims to help forest-dependent communities to manage their forest resources sustainably. To achieve this, RECOFTC will deliver capacity building for these communities, the Forest Administration, and other stakeholders, in community forestry and participatory monitoring. RECOFTC will deliver trainings and technical support from early 2008.

In March 2007, RECOFTC recruited a Chief Technical Advisor and several administrative and technical staff for the CBSFLMP, and established a fully operational office within the Forestry Administration premises in Phnom



Penh. RECOFTC is one of the permanent members of the newly established National Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee (NCFPCC), and we have offered technical support for this initiative.

The startup of the CBSFLMP was timely as the Cambodian government endorsed and approved a framework for community forestry in July 2006 through a *Prakas*. RECOFTC contributed financial support for translating the community forestry *Prakas* and its associated rules and regulations into English, and for its publication in both English and Khmer. We also disseminated the *Prakas* nationally and regionally through electronic networks and our *CFE-News*. The CBSFLMP project offers an exciting opportunity for RECOFTC to have an influential role to support the scaling-up of community forestry in Cambodia.



## Indonesia

With extensive forest resources and a general trend towards decentralization over the last decade, Indonesia is a country in which RECOFTC could potentially make a significant impact. Though RECOFTC has been directly involved in Indonesia since 1998, our presence has increased markedly since we signed an MOU with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry in 2005. Currently, RECOFTC is working closely with the Ford Foundation and other donors to advance community forestry through training courses, seminars, workshops, and various technical services.

During 2006–2007, RECOFTC began delivering trainings under the Ford Foundation-funded Enhancing Capacities for Improved Community-Based Forest Management in Indonesia project. The aim of this two-year initiative is to help improve the livelihood and security of forest-dependent communities. Much of the training is aimed at forestry stakeholders in South Sulawesi – a province with high forest cover and relatively little development assistance. Under the project, RECOFTC also completed a situational analysis on capacity building for community-based forest management in Indonesia, the findings of which are expected to guide further RECOFTC activities at the national level.

In an important step toward establishing a long-term presence in the country, RECOFTC established an official office in Bogor under the Ministry of Forestry. This office has provided the base to strengthen linkages and collaboration with the MOF and various NGOs in the country.

During the year, RECOFTC oversaw translation of two manuals into Bahasa Indonesia: *The Art of Building Facilitation Capacities and Community-Based Tree and Forest Product Enterprises: Market Analysis and Development*.



# The Year Ahead...

● October 2007–September 2008

The 2007–2008 year will be an important and busy period for RECOFTC as we enter the final year of the current program phase. Three independent consultants will shortly begin an external evaluation of RECOFTC's last three years, and this will complement the external impact assessment, which is currently being conducted. Both of these reports will be key resources for reflecting on our performance over the past three years and for developing a new strategic plan.

Following the evaluation, which is due for completion in November, we will begin a participatory strategic planning process that will culminate in a new five-year strategic plan starting from October 2008–September 2013. This is expected to be completed by the end of April 2008.

To meet the remaining commitments of our current program phase, work will continue on ongoing activities, but will also include new initiatives for the future.

## Regional Analysis and Representation

In the year ahead, RECOFTC's regional analysis and representation will continue thematic analyses of community-based natural resource management and emerging issues, and feed the lessons learned into improved policy and practice. Work under VERIFOR will include verification system training, development of a book on verification systems, and an international conference. For the FGLG, in December we will be co-organizing and co-facilitating an international learning event in India to share lessons learned on forest governance from both Asia and Africa. RECOFTC will co-facilitate a national write-shop in Indonesia and develop a policy brief and synthesis report of national land allocation programs in Vietnam.

Under the Rights and Resources Initiative, analysis during the year will focus on forest tenure, how emerging markets for forest products can contribute to poverty reduction, and the impact of agro-industrial plantations on communities.

Analytical work will also continue on areas such as PES (including the development of a paper and policy brief), conflict management, benefit sharing, and climate change (including community adaptation and carbon markets). In collaboration with the MS Training Center for Development Co-operation in Tanzania, RECOFTC will assist with the development of a participatory forests and protected areas management manual.

RECOFTC will continue to play important roles in international events during 2007-2008, including leading a panel discussion on conflict at the International Association for the Study of the Commons biennial meeting in mid-2008. At the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in late April, RECOFTC will lead a session for what is expected to be a hugely influential event. Preparations will also begin for hosting a plenary session at the upcoming FORTROP II international conference on Tropical Forestry Change.

## Capacity Building and Demonstrating Best Practice

In Indonesia, we will meet existing commitments and look at new opportunities. Under our initial agreement with the Ford Foundation, training on enterprise development will be delivered in October 2007, and negotiations will continue on provision of additional capacity building activities from early 2008. An agreement with TNC to deliver further training for its RAFT program will be finalized and implemented, and discussions for RECOFTC to implement the South Sulawesi Training and Awareness Green Kecamatan Development Program (Green KDP) project will continue. As an outcome of the five-phase conflict training for FAO and GTZ-SMCP, RECOFTC will also design and deliver a case study write-shop in November.

Activities in Cambodia will largely focus on implementing the CBSFLMP from early 2008, and will involve a national level training of trainers from five cantonments in addition to support for communities in community forestry registration and implementation. A proposal will be developed in collaboration with Cives Mundi (a Spanish NGO) for submission to the Spanish Government Donor. The proposal will provide capacity building support to three national NGOs that are involved in the implementation of community forestry in Northeast Cambodia. Work will also continue on the translation of the RECOFTC Facilitation Skills manual into Khmer.

In Thailand, ThCCSP will focus on documenting lessons learned from its work over the past five years in both Thai and English, strengthening the national community forest network, and mobilizing community forestry organization funds for long-term sustainability. As external funding for the program ceases at the end of 2008, RECOFTC is planning to fully integrate ThCCSP to ensure that we maintain an active presence in Thai community forestry. Outside of ThCCSP activities, various trainings



and events will be hosted at RECOFTC's facilities in Bangkok, including a one-month introductory training on CBNRM for Afghani participants working on a United Nations Office for Project Services project. This will begin in mid-November.

In Lao PDR, RECOFTC will design and deliver a governance training course in collaboration with SNV in November. We will also host a five-phase conflict management course together with VFI and the National Land Management Authority for participants from a range of organizations active in natural resource management in Lao. The course will run over a seven month period from early March. We will deliver a conflict training course in Mongolia for the SDC-Sustainable Artisanal Mining project in early October.

Finally, work on further developing the RECOFTC website and our web-based training network CBNRMtrain, as well as our involvement in the regional learning network ALL in CBNRM, will continue.

# Reports and Publications

## 2006–2007

A Cut for the Poor, Proceedings of the International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction: Capturing Opportunities in Forest Harvesting and Wood Processing for the Benefit of the Poor  
*RECOFTC, FAO and SNV (eds. R. Oberndorf, P. Durst, S. Mahanty, K. Burslem, and R. Suzuki, 2006)*

Sharing the Wealth: Policy and Legal Frameworks to Support Equitable Sharing of Costs and Benefits from Community Forestry  
*RECOFTC, FAO and SNV (lead author-S. Mahanty, 2007)*

The Second Issue of Insight: Notes from the Field, Exploring Payments for Environmental Services  
*RECOFTC, RUPES, World Agroforestry Centre, SNV, Wimrock Int. (edited by M. Rosander, 2007)*

Forest Lives: Lessons on Sustaining Communities and Forests from the Small Grants Program for Operations to Promote Tropical Forests  
*RECOFTC, EC, UNDP, SEARCA, SEAMEO (S. Mahanty and R. Soriaga, 2007)*

Community Forestry E-News–12 issues

Status of Community Based Forest Management in Lao PDR  
*Report to RECOFTC (K. Manivong and P. Sophathilath, 2007)*

Participatory Monitoring and Assessment of Ecosystem: Lessons Learned for Development  
*RECOFTC (eds. S. Soontornwong, R. Thaworn, A. Roongwong, and M. Weatherby, 2007)*

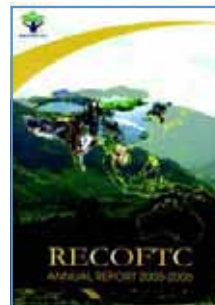
Land, Forest and People–Challenges Facing Southeast Asia  
*RECOFTC, RRI, ICRAF, FPP (M. Colchester and C. Fay, 2007)*

A Series of Case Studies on Community-Based Forest and Natural Resource Management in Bhutan, 2007  
*Ministry of Agriculture of Bhutan, Helvetas, SDC, IDRC, SNV, CoRRB and RECOFTC, 2007*

A Fair Share?: Experiences in Benefit Sharing from Community-managed Resources in Asia  
*WWF, SNV, USAID and RECOFTC (eds. S. Mahanty, K. Burslem, and E. Lee, 2007)*

RECOFTC Annual Report 2005–2006  
*RECOFTC, 2007*

RECOFTC 1987–2007: The First 20 Years  
*RECOFTC, 2007*



# Board of Trustees

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The Nature Conservancy, Indo-Pacific Resource Centre

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Executive Director, CBNRM Learning Institute, Cambodia

**Ms. Neera M. Singh**  
Executive Director, Vasundhara, India

**Dr. Moira M. M. Moeliono**  
Researcher, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia

**Dr. Bharat Pokharel**  
Project Manager, Nepal-Swiss Community Forestry Project, Nepal

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Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand

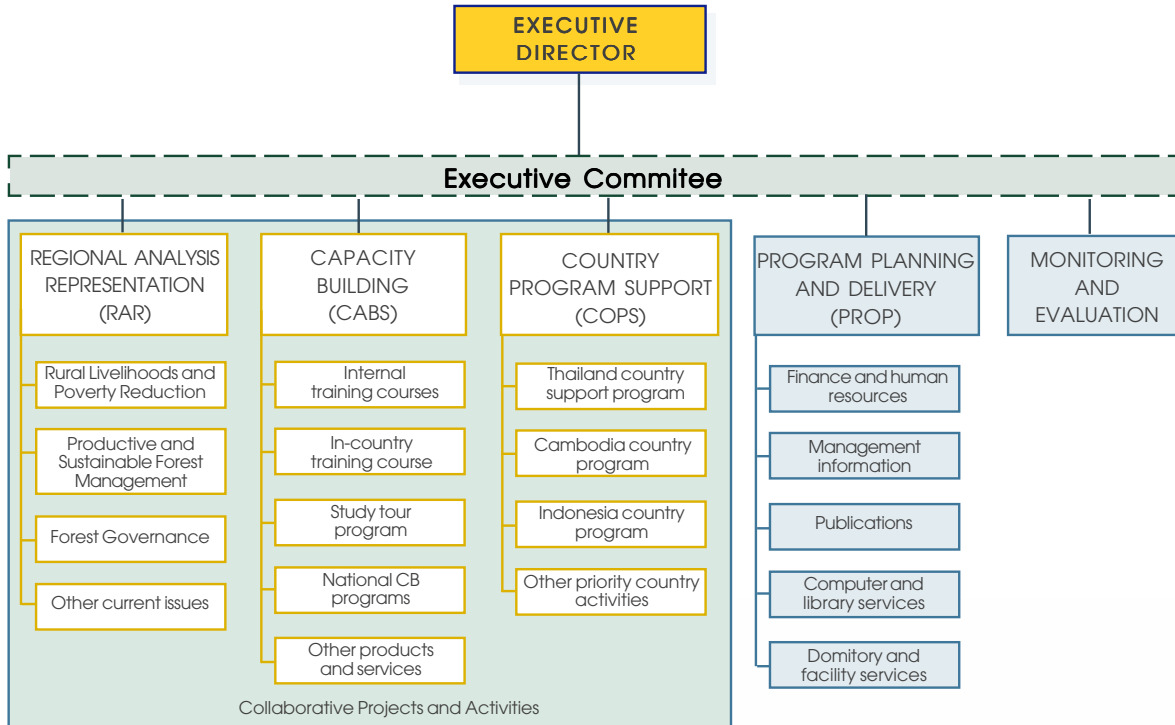
**Dr. Yam Malla** *(non-voting member)*  
Executive Director, RECOFTC, Thailand

## Profile of Mr. David Cassells – New Chairman of the RECOFTC Board of Trustees

Mr. David Cassells, an Australian forester, assumed the Chair of the RECOFTC Board of Trustees in April 2007. Currently the Director of the Nature Conservancy's Asia Pacific Forest Program and previously holding senior positions at the World Bank, Mr. Cassells has over 30 years of working experience in environment and natural resource sectors in Asia, Africa, South America, and the Pacific.



# Program Structure





# RECOFTC Staff

## *Program Planning and Delivery (PROP)*

### *Executive Office*

Dr. Yam Malla, Executive Director  
Ms. Pimpakarn Serithammarak, Executive Secretary  
Ms. Tina Sanio, Program Assistant (joined in March 2007)  
Ms. Patricia Donnelly, Intern (during November 2006 – February 2007)

## *Finance, Administration, and Human Resources (FAHR)*

Mr. Sanjiv Ray, Head of Finance, Administration, and Human Resources  
Mr. Bede Key, IT and MIS Specialist  
Ms. Petcharat Na Chiangmai, Accountant  
Ms. Kasma Chatiyant, Human Resources and Administration Manager  
Ms. Siriwan Tungsareewongsa, Accounts Officer  
Ms. Saifon Bhumpakapan, Accounts Assistant  
Ms. Prapai Sikram, Accounts Assistant  
Ms. Benjaporn Kuejij, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Panida Chokkulsawat, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Jirayu Naisiri, Facility Manager (resigned in June 2007)  
Ms. Sureeporn Klaypan, Receptionist (joined in November 2006)  
Mr. Komkris Jarutrakulchai, Administrative Support  
Ms. Phenpichar Sakhamula, Messenger/Receptionist  
Mr. Boonruen Mataeng, Driver  
Mr. Vinai Im-em, Driver  
Mr. Chatchawal Khumpai, Driver (resigned in January 2007)  
Ms. Chantana Pakseelert, Housekeeper  
Ms. Payung Tongkum, Housekeeper  
Ms. Sa-nguan Jongjit, Housekeeper  
Ms. Dusita Boonsueb, Tea Lady/Receptionist  
Mr. Jaras Buakartok, Gardener/Porter  
Mr. Pracha Suwannapak, Technician

## *Communications*

Mr. Kenneth Burslem, Communications Officer  
Ms. Ketsara Nuanpunyong, Program Administrative Officer (resigned in August 2007)  
Ms. Thippawan Maidee, Documentation Center Administrator

## *Regional Analysis and Representation (RAR)*

Mr. John Guernier, Program Manager (joined in January 2007)  
Dr. Sango Mahanty, Program Officer (finished her contract in July 2007)  
Dr. Yurdi Yasmi, Program Officer (joined in July 2007)  
Ms. Mikaela Rosander, Program Officer  
Mr. Robert Oberndorf, J.D., Project Coordinator  
Ms. Wallaya Pinprayoon, Program Administrative Officer  
Ms. Erica Lee, Intern (during August 2006 – July 2007)  
Ms. Naomi Sleeper, Intern (joined in August 2007)

## *Capacity Building Services (CABS)*

Ms. Noelle O'Brien, Program Manager  
Mr. Ronnakorn Triraganon, Capacity Building Coordinator  
Mr. Peter Stephen, Capacity Building Coordinator  
Ms. Somjai Srimongkontip, Training and Study Tour Assistant  
Mr. Poom Pinthep, Training and Study Tour Assistant  
Ms. Leela Wuttikraibundit, Program Secretary  
Mr. Michael Newman, AYAD (from March 2006 – February 2006)  
Ms. Judith Henze, Intern (during September 2006 – March 2007)  
Mr. Duncan McLeod, Intern (from May 2007)  
Ms. Hannah Perkins, AYAD (from August 2007)

## *Country Program Support (COPS)*

Dr. Mark Sandiford, Program Manager  
Mr. Thorsten Huber, Country Program Coordinator  
Mr. Tony Djogo, Indonesia Country Coordinator  
Mr. James Bampton, Chief Technical Advisor (joined in March 2007)  
Ms. Samantha Webb, Program Officer for Partnerships (finished contract in August 2007)  
Ms. Ferngfa Panupitak, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Thotsawan Champasri, Intern (during September 2006 – January 2007)  
Mr. Julian Atkinson, Volunteer (from July 2007)  
Mr. Matthew Weatherby, AYAD (from August 2007)

## *Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program*

Ms. Somying Soontornwong, Manager  
Mr. Rawee Thaworn, Project Coordinator  
Ms. Attjala Roongwong, Project Coordinator  
Ms. Sarintip Chansila, Training Coordinator  
Mr. Tanongsak Janthong, Project Staff  
Mr. Narongsak Prinyasuthinan, Project Staff  
Mr. Chakrapong Kongchury, Project Staff  
Mr. Aroon Pilachuean, Project Staff  
Mr. Mhethawee Pakilakhe, Associate Project Staff (joined in November 2006)  
Ms. Ramida Thanananchachai, ThCCSP Secretary





# Donors and Sponsors

## Core Program Donors

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Royal Thai Government

## Donors, Partners, and Sponsors

- Asia Forest Network (AFN), Philippines
- Asia Forest Partnership (AFP)
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid)
- Balai diklat Kehutanan Makassar, Indonesia
- Biodiversity Research and Training Program (BRT), Thailand
- CBNRM Learning Institute, Cambodia
- Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK), China
- Center for Development Studies, China
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Centre for People's Forestry, India
- CIP Users' Perspectives With Agricultural Research and Development (CIP-UPWARD)
- Danish International Development Assistance (Danida)
- Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- Department of Forests, Nepal
- Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plants, Thailand
- European Union (EU)
- Extension and Training Support Project, Vietnam
- FECOFUN, Nepal
- Finland Embassy, Bangkok
- Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), Thailand
- Ford Foundation, Indonesia
- ForestAction, Nepal
- Forestry Administration, Cambodia
- German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- International Forest Cooperation Center of the State Forestry Administration (IFCC-SFA), Beijing
- International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
- International Model Forest Network Secretariat, Canada
- International Tropical Timber Organization
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- IUCN-The World Conservation Union
- Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF)
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam
- Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
- Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia
- National Agriculture and Forest Research Institute (NAFRI), Lao PDR
- National Economic Research Institute, Vietnam
- National University of Laos
- Nepal-Swiss Community Forestry Project
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Princeton In Asia, USA
- Pusdiklat Indonesia
- Rights and Resources Group (RRG)
- Royal Forest Department, Thailand
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisation Regional Office, Hanoi
- SNV, Lao PDR
- SNV, Vietnam
- South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP)
- Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAFE)
- Swiss Association for International Cooperation (Helvetas), Bhutan
- Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Thailand
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Development Communication (UPLBCD)
- Vasundhara, India
- Vietnam Forestry University
- Wageningen International, the Netherlands
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- WWF
- Winrock International, India
- World Bank, Cambodia



# Finance

## Auditor's Report

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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 2007 and 2006, 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 2007 and 2006, 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.

For PricewaterhouseCoopers ABAS Limited

By Sudwin Panyawongkhanti  
Bangkok, Thailand  
20 December 2007

## Balance Sheets

As at 30 September 2007 and 2006

	2007 Baht	2006 Baht
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and deposits at financial institutions	46,785,520	33,085,497
Restricted fixed/time deposits account	4,924,807	4,924,807
Grants receivable	1,235,985	3,162,138
Accounts receivable	3,805,174	2,131,112
Loans and advances to employees	241,538	2,761,656
Other current assets	<u>425,519</u>	<u>612,404</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b><u>57,418,543</u></b>	<b><u>46,677,614</u></b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Plant and equipment (net)	<u>14,958,919</u>	<u>16,611,965</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b><u>14,958,919</u></b>	<b><u>16,611,965</u></b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>72,377,462</u></b>	<b><u>63,289,579</u></b>
	<b>2007 Baht</b>	<b>2006 Baht</b>
<b>Liabilities and fund balance</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Deferred grants	18,073,647	13,830,391
Advance received	382,698	1,303,547
Accrued expenses	7,380,238	3,409,731
Current portion of provision for transitional compensation	4,540,368	731,789
Other current liabilities	<u>210,171</u>	<u>444,126</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b><u>30,587,122</u></b>	<b><u>19,719,584</u></b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provision for transitional compensation	<u>-</u>	<u>4,533,988</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>4,533,988</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>30,587,122</u></b>	<b><u>24,253,572</u></b>
<b>Fund balance</b>	<b><u>41,790,340</u></b>	<b><u>39,036,007</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities and fund balance</b>	<b><u>72,377,462</u></b>	<b><u>63,289,579</u></b>

## Statements of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for the years ended 30 September 2006 and 2007

	<b>2007</b> Baht	<b>2006</b> Baht
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grant receipts	78,968,340	72,436,483
Courses, workshops and seminar receipts	3,086,179	1,495,602
Contribution receipts	1,619,094	1,495,956
Study tours	2,409,390	2,662,466
Consultancies	5,559,411	6,802,988
Dormitory and facilities	4,764,614	5,217,781
Conference income associated with other donations and registration fee receipts	8,433,984	-
Interest income	568,133	476,480
Other income	282,809	830,012
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>105,691,954</b>	<b>91,417,768</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Staff costs	48,968,033	50,246,145
Activities costs	36,154,664	29,867,413
Operational costs	6,564,451	6,536,154
Conference costs associated with other donations and registration fee receipts	8,433,984	-
Depreciation expense	2,816,489	2,976,983
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>102,937,621</b>	<b>89,626,695</b>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	2,754,333	1,791,073
Fund balance, beginning balance	39,036,007	37,244,934
<b>Fund balance, ending balance</b>	<b>41,790,340</b>	<b>39,036,007</b>

# Acronyms

ALL	Adaptive Learning and Linkages
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASFN	ASEAN Social Forestry Network
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
BOT	Board of Trustees
BRT	Biodiversity Research and Training Centre
CBNRM	community-based natural resource management
CBSFLMP	Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project
CF E-News	Community Forestry E-newsletter
CODI	Community Organizations Development Institute
CORRB	Council of Renewable Natural Resource Research in Bhutan
CSAG	Civil Society Advisory Group
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
EAG	External Advisory Group on Forests
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGLG	Forest Governance Learning Group
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
FPP	Forest Peoples Programme
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IMAC	Information Management and Communications (unit)
IMPECT	Inter-Mountain People's Education and Culture in Thailand Association
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IFCC	International Forestry Cooperation Center
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSDF	Japan Social Development Fund
KDP	Kecamatan Development Program
KU	Kasetsart University
LLSL	Listening, Learning, Sharing, and Launching Project for Asia
MFA	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFF	Mangroves for the Future
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCFPCC	National Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee
PAEL	Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods (task force)
PES	payments for environmental services
RAFT	Responsible Asia Forestry Trade (project)
RECOFTC	Regional Community Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
RRG	Rights and Resources Group
RRI	Rights and Resources Initiative
RUPES	Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMCP	Strengthening Management Capacities Project
SNV	SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
ThCCSP	Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VFI	Village Focus International
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature



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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