

Country engagement strategy Thailand

RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests

2013-2018



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Bangkok, Thailand

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Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations	i
Executive summary	iii
1. RECOFTC's vision and mission	1
1.1 RECOFTC's history of CF development support	1
1.2 RECOFTC's Strategic Plan 2013-2018	3
2. National development context	7
2.1 Geography, population and economy	7
2.2 National social and economic development	9
2.3 Land and forest resources	10
2.4 Forest administration and policy	11
3. Context for community forestry development	15
3.1 Development trends and strategies	15
3.2 CF policies and resources	16
3.3 Stakeholders	17
3.4 Country CF development priorities	18
3.5 Risks	21
4. RECOFTC's priorities and strategies	23
4.1 Problem statement	23
4.2 Priorities	23
4.3 Partners	26
4.4 Donors	26
4.5 Thematic milestones	26
5. Resources	33
5.1 Human resources	33
5.2 Fundraising	33
6. Results	35
6.1 Impact and outcomes	35
6.2 Participatory monitoring and evaluation	36
6.3 Learning and leveraging at regional and country levels	41
References	43

List of figures

Figure 1	Thailand's five regions	7
Figure 2	Regional differences in GDP per capita	8
Figure 3	Forest cover (2013-2014)	10
Figure 4	Stakeholders in CF development in Thailand	18
Figure 5	NESDP implementation strategy	19

List of tables

Table 1	RECOFTC's thematic areas	3
Table 2	RECOFTC's functional approaches	4
Table 3	Proposed framework for national CF programme components	5
Table 4	Types of conservation areas	11
Table 5	RECOFTC's CF development priorities and approaches in Thailand (2013-2018)	24
Table 6	Thematic areas, outcomes and outputs of RECOFTC Strategic Plan (2013-2018)	28
Table 7	Indicators for programme goal and strategic outcomes (2013-2018)	37
Table 8	Indicators for monitoring of intermediate outcomes	39

List of boxes

Box 1	Evolution in national development planning	9
Box 2	Findings from research on forest land reform	11
Box 3	Reflection of CF based on village studies	16
Box 4	NESDP priorities for enhancing natural resource management systems	20

Acronyms and abbreviations

ALRO	Agricultural Land Reform Office
ASFN	ASEAN Social Forestry Network
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change
CBLC	Community-based Learning Center
CBFCM	Community-based Forest and Catchment Management
CBNRM	Community-based Natural Resource Management
CC	Climate Change
CDNA	Capacity Development Needs Assessment
CF	Community Forestry
CFMB	Community Forest Management Bureau
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DANCED	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
DMCR	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
DNP	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
EFI	European Forest Institute
ELM	Enhancing Livelihoods and Markets
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FERN	Forests and the European Union Resource Network
FLB	Foreign Law Bureau
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICEM	International Center for Environmental Management
IMPECT	Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JoMPA	Joint Management of Protected Areas
LRCT	Law Reform Commission of Thailand
LEAF	Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests
MAB	Man and Biosphere
MFF	Mangroves for the Future
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MoV	Means of Verification
NCPO	National Council for Peace and Order
NESDB	National Economic and Social Development Board
NESDP	National Economic and Social Development Plan

NGO	Non-government Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NSO	National Statistical Office
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PFE	Permanent Forest Estate
PFFC	People, Forests and Climate Change
RECOFTC	RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests (Regional Community Forestry Training Center)
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RFD	Royal Forest Department
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RRI	Rights and Resources Initiative
RTG	Royal Thai Government
SCF	Securing Community Forestry
SCBF	Siam Commercial Bank Foundation
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SPK	Sor Por Kor (similar to STK, but issued by ALRO)
STK	Sor Kor Tor (5 year usufruct licence)
ThCCSP	Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program
TPBS	Thai Public Broadcasting Service
TCP	RECOFTC Thailand Country Program
TFC	Transforming Forest Conflicts
TOP	Thailand Outreach Program
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive summary

Thirty-seven percent of Thailand's land area of 51 million ha or 19 million ha is covered by forest. Most of this is located in the north of the country; 23 million ha or 45 percent of the land area is designated as forest reserve.

Half of Thailand's 67 million population lives in rural areas, with members of many rural families working in cities or in other off-farm income-generating activities. It is estimated that about 20 percent of Thailand's villages (12 million people) is located within forest reserve areas. However, Thai state forestry, until relatively recently, focused overwhelmingly on extracting timber and keeping local people away from forests (Usher, 2009). The recent Constitutions of B.E. 2550 (2007) and B.E. 2540 (1997)¹ and the decentralization legislation provide a legal basis for the involvement of communities in the management of natural resources. However, the forestry regulatory framework constrains such involvement and a draft Community Forestry Bill has remained in limbo since the early 1990s.

The present National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) places much emphasis on community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), providing additional opportunities for furthering community forestry (CF) development. RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program (TCP) continues to collaborate with key national forestry agencies (the Royal Forest Department [RFD], the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation [DNP] and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources [DMCR]), other relevant agencies such as the National Law Reform Commission of Thailand and National Human Rights Commission, as well as local governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) and their networks.

The priorities for the RECOFTC Thailand Country Program (2013-2018) focus on securing CF, enhancing livelihoods and markets, strengthening the role of CF in climate change policies and initiatives, and strengthening capacity for transforming forest conflicts. For this purpose, the expected outcomes of the country program for 2013-2018 include:

- To secure CF through more effective institutions and resources (more efficient procedures for CF identification and formalization):
 - Capacities of new facilitators for CF and sustainable forest management (SFM), including young leaders and local communities, are enhanced and used for improvement of CF management;
 - Policy-makers in the RFD and other relevant agencies recognize and support CF as a key approach for SFM with respect to community rights enshrined in the law;
 - The general public and policy-makers have greater understanding and recognition of CF's role in SFM, and provide support; and
 - Pilot sites are developed to promote understanding and recognition of CF among stakeholders, the government and the general public.

1. http://www.thailaws.com/index_thai_laws.htm

- To enhance local livelihoods and market access through sustainable CF practices:
 - The RFD and CF-supporting partners include livelihoods and marketing in their own training curricula and programmes to be shared with other partners;
 - Enabling policies are supportive for enhancing local livelihood security and market access of CF members;
 - Knowledge and analyses on CF and livelihoods and marketing are developed, recognized and used through different communication products; and
 - Pilot sites on CF and livelihoods and marketing are developed for public understanding and other learning purposes.
- To strengthen enabling conditions for local people's engagement in the governance of forested landscapes in the context of climate change:
 - The RFD, DNP and other partners adopt safeguards, including free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in climate change mitigation and adaptation training curricula and programmes;
 - Policy-makers and civil society actors incorporate CF in climate change policies, considering the impacts of climate change and relevant policies on CF management and local people's rights;
 - Thai civil society understands and recognizes the impacts of climate change; relevant mechanisms are in place that respond to climate change impacts on CF; and
 - Pilot sites on the role of CF in climate change adaptation are established for better understanding among related stakeholders and the general public.
- To enhance the effectiveness and support the establishment of institutions to transform forest conflicts:
 - At least 80 percent of the participants in training of trainers (ToT) and transforming forest conflict (TFC) training are able to adopt and apply their learning in their work and training curricula on CF;
 - Natural resource - and forest-related laws and regulations are reformed to address and transform forest conflicts with respect to community rights enshrined in the Thai Constitution;
 - Civil society and CF networks understand and recognize different TFC techniques to be applied in their contexts; and
 - Improved practices in TFC are identified in case studies and tested in selected pilot sites.



1

RECOFTC's vision and mission

RECOFTC's vision is that 'empowered local people are effectively and equitably engaged in the sustainable management of forested landscapes'. To achieve the vision, RECOFTC has a mission to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improve governance and ensure fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and Pacific region.

RECOFTC's vision and mission for CF development is detailed in its Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 (RECOFTC, 2013). This Country engagement strategy analyses the status, prospects and priorities for CF development in Thailand and how RECOFTC will support it. In this section, a brief description of RECOFTC's past activities, the current status of RECOFTC's country programme and the strategic programme framework are presented.

1.1 RECOFTC's history of CF development support

RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program (TCP) was established in the early 1990s as the first RECOFTC country program. It played a leading role in the development of the first drafts of the 'people's version' of the Community Forestry Bill in Thailand and in the advocacy for its adoption, in collaboration with regional CF networks. In addition, pilot projects were designed and implemented with local communities and NGOs throughout the country. As the adoption of the CF Bill stalled because of conflicting views about the capacity of local communities to manage forests in a sustainable manner, the focus shifted to participation in the consultative process in preparation of the 'people's constitution' of 1997. Decentralization was one of the cornerstones of this constitution, with responsibilities for natural resource management granted to elected sub-district councils. Subsequently, the emphasis of TCP has been shifted to working with local governments to develop their capacity for CF development support.

The Thailand Collaborative Country Support Program (ThCCSP) operated by RECOFTC's Thailand Outreach Program (TOP) during 2003-2008 was another major program help lay foundation for securing rights of local people to access and manage forest resources. ThCCSP could effectively demonstrate practices of CBNRM in seven CFs, which by the end of the program could expand to 26 community forests. This also established CF platform linking both CF members from local level to sub-regional and national level. The Thailand CF Assembly was then founded and served as a main channel to address key policy constraints for exercising community rights in natural resource management (NRM). Another important achievement of TOP was that the program could successfully strengthen role of local administration office and promote decentralization in NRM, ensuring the long term impacts of the ThCCSP, RECOFTC's initiatives in Thailand.

From the previous strategic phase (2008-2013) of RECOFTC, it has been clearly determined that the TCP would operate as a neutral organization involving multiple stakeholders (including local governments). A number of activities carried out are listed below:

Demonstration sites

- Strengthening coastal and mangrove management networks through community-based learning centres of seven communities in six sub-districts in Trat Province (Eastern Thailand);
- Case studies of good practices in CF governance, community-based mangrove restoration, the cultural basis of CF management and enhancing livelihoods and markets; and
- Community-based mangrove restoration in abandoned shrimp farms (Trat Province).

Forests, people and climate change

- Research on the concept and model of appropriate REDD in sustainable forest management and to promote environmental justice;
- Action research on adaptation to climate change in four communities: Aow Krood of Trat Province, Pang Yang of Nan Province, Klong Ruea of Chumporn Province and Thung Yao of Lampun Province;
- Design and implementation of the RECOFTC- Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) project on strengthening stakeholder capacity in responding to climate change in Maesa Kokma Biosphere Reserve in Chiang Mai;
- Production of a manual on community-based carbon accounting; and
- Organizing CSO consultation and dialogue on REDD+ and the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

Capacity development and networking

- Capacity development needs assessment (CDNA) for CF development in Thailand;²
- Strengthening social forestry in responding to climate change in Thailand through training and dialogue;
- Strengthening local communities and supporting organizations through a CBNRM approach and capacity development (with Myanmar refugee camps);
- Strengthening CF networks (dialogue discussion, learning platform, training and workshop support); and
- Strengthening 'Young Seedling Networks' (a new generation in CBNRM) through capacity development, discussion and sharing of lessons.

Policy advocacy

- Facilitation of CF network leaders in policy dialogue;
- Facilitation of CSOs and CF network leaders in Thailand through Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade/ Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT/VPA) negotiations; and
- Organizing an annual national seminar on topics related to CF.

Knowledge management

- National CF database development and mapping support;
- Case study on Forest Governance and Self-management in Mae Tha community and on Economic Value of *Dipterocarpus tuberculatus* (also known as 'Yang' or 'Gurjan' leaf and locally known as 'Tong Teung') Production in Fang, Chiang Mai Province; and
- Production of a story of change to capture the impacts of the Young Seedlings Network and Myanmar refugees in Mae Ra Ma Luang Refugee Camp in Tak Province.

2 The CDNA identified stakeholders that had relevant roles in CF development in Thailand: RFD provincial offices, particularly CF provincial and regional centres, subdistrict administrative organizations, educational institutes (Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University), local and international NGOs and community-based organizations/networks. The CDNA of these stakeholders was conducted at both personal and organizational levels. The findings indicated the required levels of competencies for CF policy and planning, followed by programme development and project management.

Some of these activities were planned and implemented in collaboration with RECOFTC's other regional programmes and projects, including the Livelihood Improvement Through Generation and Ownership of Forest Information by Local People in Products and Services Markets project (ForInfo), Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong project (GREEN Mekong), the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) and the implementing partner for capacity development component of Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program being supported by USAID.

Key lessons adopted in the design of future programmes include the increased interest and opportunities for collaboration with the national and sub-national offices of the Community Forest Management Bureau (CFMB) under the RFD and the DNP as well as the DMCR. All these departments operate under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE). Another set of opportunities for the future is the growing interest in CF's contribution to climate change mitigation (as in REDD+) and adaptation initiatives.

However, the TCP has to deal with the challenge of mobilizing funding for the support of its operations. Although the TCP has received annual funding from the Royal Thai Government (RTG) through the Office of the Higher Education Commission via Kasetsart University, sources of other national funding are limited due to the contested nature of CF in Thailand. In parallel, access to foreign funding is constrained because of Thailand's middle-income status. Collaboration with regional programmes has been successfully initiated to address this constraint, as has engagement with the private sector, and thus further similar opportunities will be actively explored.

Priority activities for the period 2013-2018 include collaborative projects on SFM with the CFMB and other agencies under the RFD, and the DNP for upland forests and with the DMCR for mangrove forests. The MoUs with the RFD and Chiang Rai Rajabhat University were signed in 2013, covering a period of five years. The MoU with RFD focuses on information exchange, technical capacity development and regional sharing and learning while with Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, as an institutional partner, the collaboration is visible through partnership and joint implementation of the EU-funded Empowerment of Local Networks and Authorities for Sustainable Inq Watershed Management Project that commenced in early 2015.

1.2 RECOFTC's Strategic Plan 2013-2018

RECOFTC's thematic areas and functional approaches are outcome-driven and focus on addressing key issues to achieve measurable progress towards positive changes in rights, governance and benefits for local people living in and nearby forests (Table 1).

Table 1. RECOFTC's thematic areas

Thematic areas	Strategic outcomes
Securing community forestry	Institutions and resources for securing community forestry are more effective.
Enhancing livelihoods and markets	Institutions are actively enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable CF practices.
People, forests and climate change	Enabling environments for local people's engagement in forested landscapes in the context of climate change are strengthened.
Transforming forest conflicts	Institutions to transform conflict are in place and becoming more effective.

These strategic outcomes will derive from achieving intermediate outcomes that are the result of four functional approaches applied in each thematic area both in regional and country programmes (Table 2).

Table 2. RECOFTC’s functional approaches

Functional approaches	Intermediate outcomes
Training and learning networks	Enhanced capacities are used by key stakeholders to provide quality support and professional advice to local communities.
Research, analysis and synthesis	Enabling policies and regulatory instruments are adopted to enhance the rights of local people, improve forest governance and ensure a fairer share of benefits.
Strategic communications	Communications strategies are used to enhance awareness, attitudes and behaviours among target audiences.
Piloting and demonstrating	Improved practices adopted in CF are effectively replicated.

During this strategic plan period, RECOFTC will enhance the value of its approach by fostering a learning culture and creating a learning environment within RECOFTC and with partners, and placing increased emphasis on addressing the cross-cutting issues of:

- **Social inclusion and gender equity through a rights-based approach**

A socially inclusive approach is mainstreamed across thematic areas and functional approaches with specific indicators to monitor and evaluate the progress. This involves the integration of social and gender equity perspectives in regional and country-specific programmes and projects; organizational capacity development with supportive functions, processes and policies; expansion of social inclusion and gender-focused work; and knowledge sharing for social- and gender-responsive policy and practice.

- **CF leadership development**

This initiative consolidates RECOFTC’s core business of strengthening and expanding CF in the region with a targeted approach to identifying and cultivating ‘agents of change’ within the field of CF. Building on RECOFTC’s extensive CF networks and learning from cutting-edge leadership development approaches being pioneered elsewhere, RECOFTC will identify and cultivate long-term relationships with key individuals demonstrating the potential to bring about real and effective change in the field of CF.

- **Participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E)**

Active engagement with key project stakeholders in assessing the impacts, outcomes and progress of the programme or project and in particular the achievement of results is the focus of this cross-cutting effort. Through the active engagement of community groups and key stakeholders, they are enabled to contribute to the M&E process and activities. Consequently, the assessments and learning from changes become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the local people or primary stakeholders of the interventions, building ownership and empowering beneficiaries. Eventually, accountability and transparency, including timely corrective actions for improved performance and outcomes can be pursued.

RECOFTC’s work in Thailand will be supported by integration with and learning from its regional work and engagement in its other seven focal countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, and beyond.

As in other RECOFTC focal countries, the focus of the country programme in Thailand is on supporting development and building capacity for the implementation of a comprehensive and holistic national CF programme through:

- Development of individual and organizational capacities for CF development;
- CF development at the field level:
 - Identification of potential forest communities and community forests;
 - Formalization of CF institutions and framework;
 - Management planning of CF institutions for sustainable CF management; and
 - Ongoing management/implementation/institutional development.
- CF networks and coordination (within and between stakeholder groups);
- CF research, information management (including M&E) and communication and outreach; and
- Policy, legislation and administrative development.

Table 3. Proposed framework for national CF programme components

1 Training	2 CF Development		3 Information Management and Communication	4 Networks and learning groups	5 Policy and regulatory framework development
	CF establishment and management	Additional subcomponents			
Needs assessment	Identification - communities and forests	Institutional development	Research	CF membership networks	Review
Course & materials development	Formalization	Enterprise development	M&E	Multi-stakeholder networks and learning groups	Clarification
Training / coaching	Management planning	PES and climate change mitigation	Database and mapping	National CF working group	Revision
	Implementation	Climate change adaptation	Communication and outreach	Regional and global networking (e.g. ASEAN)	Budget allocation, sustainable financing and investment
		Alternative livelihoods			

RECOFTC will support the formation or strengthening of national multi-stakeholder CF working groups and align its portfolio of in-country initiatives with national CF programmes.



2

National development context

2.1 Geography, population and economy

Thailand's total land area is 51 million ha; over two-thirds of the terrestrial area is considered to be hilly land where forest cover predominates.

In addition to the geophysical differences between various regions in Thailand, there are considerable differences in population and socio-economic conditions.

According to the 2010 census, Thailand's population was 65.6 million and currently it is estimated to be 67 million. This does not include the estimated 2.2 million legal and illegal immigrants.³ Of the total population, in 2012, 34.5 percent of the population lived in cities or in urban centres. There has been a steady increase in the urban population between 2002 and 2012, increasing its share from 32 percent to 34.5 percent, averaging an annual increase of 0.3 percent or roughly around 200,000 people. Ethnically, 75 percent of the population is considered to be Thai, 14 percent Thai-Chinese and the remaining 1.2 million people are regarded as hill tribes who live in around 20 provinces in the upper and lower north and the western regions, mainly mountainous areas. Official recognition as 'mountain peoples' has been granted to only ten ethnic groups: the Karen, Hmong, Lahu, Lu Mien (Yao), Lisu, Akha, Lua (Lawa), H'tin (Kachin), Khamu and Mlabri, despite many others (Luithui and Lasimbang, 2007).

The share of the urban population grew from 31.1 percent in 2000 to 45.7 percent in 2010, an increase of 46.9 percent (NESDB, 2012). The region⁴ with the largest population and the highest outmigration was (in 2010) the northeast or *Isaan* with 18.8 million people (28.7 percent of the total population), followed by the central region with 18.1 million people (27.7 percent), the northern region with 11.5 million (17.5 percent), the southern region with 8.9 million people (13.5 percent) and Bangkok⁵ with 8.2 million people (12.6 percent) (NSO, 2011).

Figure 1. Thailand's five regions



Source: TICA (2015)

3 <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/thailand/population/>

4 There are five regions (northern, northeastern, central, eastern and southern) and 77 provinces that are further subdivided into districts (amphoe) and sub-districts (tambon) constituting about 56 000 villages.

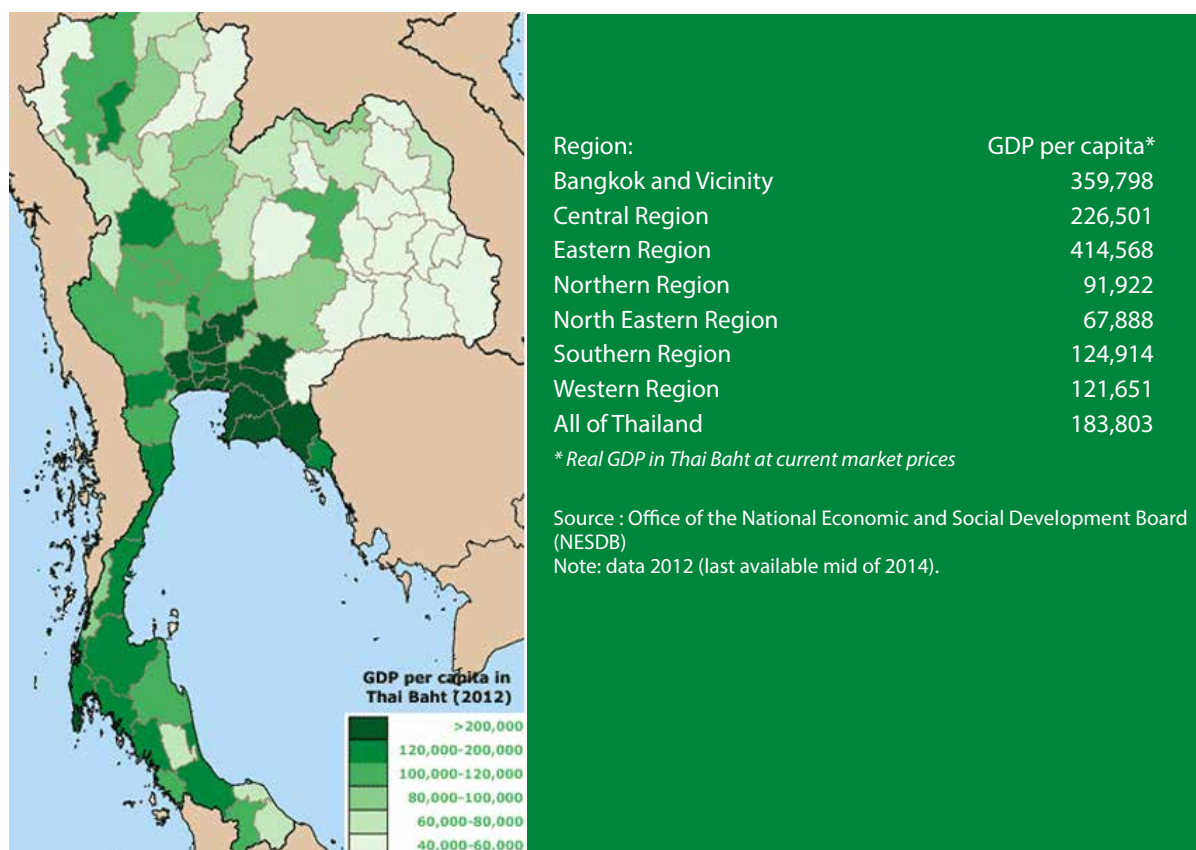
5 This refers to Bangkok municipality; Bangkok Metropolitan area (including some of the neighbouring provinces) has a population of 14 million people, representing 22 percent of the total population (www.populationreview.com).

Thailand's economy grew at an average rate of 3.62 percent during 1994-2015 period. As a result the number of poor people diminished from 42.2 percent of the population (22.1 million people) in 1988 to 10.9 percent (7.3 million people) in 2013. Income inequality has, however, also risen dramatically. The gap between the top and bottom income deciles had widened to 22.8 times in 2009 (NESDB, 2012). Now the main challenge is no longer absolute poverty, but relative poverty due to growing income inequality. In the mid-1970s, the richest 20 percent of the population earned about eight times as much as the poorest 20 percent. The main cause of this growing disparity is much lower labour productivity in agriculture as compared to other sectors in the economy (Walker, 2012).

A major reason is the declining return to labour (as compared to other factors of production) and particularly the low returns to labour in agriculture: "In 2009, the industrial sector's share of gross domestic product (GDP) was 34 percent and accounted for only 15 percent of employment, while the agricultural sector's share accounted for 9 percent in the same year while providing 38 percent of the jobs. This situation has created a huge gap in returns to labor in these sectors. In addition, low agricultural wages, which account for only 4 percent of the country's total wage bill, have meant relatively low income for agricultural households" (NESDB, 2012).

The inequality also has a strong regional dimension, with a GDP per capita in the Eastern Region and Bangkok and its vicinity is little over nine times the GDP per capita in the North Eastern (*Isaan*) region (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Regional differences in GDP per capita



Source: <http://www.thaiwebsites.com/thailand-GDP.asp>

2.2 National social and economic development

The shift in national development planning in Thailand from the first national development plan to the present eleventh plan is summarized in Box 1 (NESDB, 2012).

Box 1. Evolution in national development planning

Development from the First through the Seventh Plans resulted in notable improvements to the national economy, but led to unsustainable development and negative consequences for society. These problems brought about adjustments to the process by which the Eighth Plan was formulated so it would focus simultaneously on both economic development and human and social advancement (...). The Ninth Plan formally adopted the Sufficiency Economy as the guiding philosophy for the country's development and administration. It emphasized a balanced approach toward issues of social, economic, natural resource and environmental development. The main goal was to improve the quality of life for Thai people and adhere to the principle of moderation. In addition, the Plan was also designed to support Thailand's recovery from the crisis and secure long-term development for the country that is sustainable and of high quality. The planning process was shifted from "for the people, by the government" to "people's participation" in setting the direction of progress. The emphasis was placed on moderation, reasonableness, and resilience based on knowledge, caution, diligence, and ethics.

The Tenth Plan reiterated the vision of the Sufficiency Economy as stated in the previous Plan, but placed more emphasis on social harmony and sustainable co-existence between Thai society and natural resources and the environment. Preparation of the Tenth Plan included analysis of the country's endowment for development its economic, social, and natural resource capital (NESDB, 2012).

The emphasis on maintaining or restoring a balance between economic, social, political and environmental aspects of development is reflected in the four components of the plan's mission:

- To promote a fair society of quality so as to provide social protection and security, to enjoy access to a fair judicial system and its resources and to participate in the development process under good governance.
- To develop people with integrity, knowledge and skills appropriate to the age of each individual, and to strengthen social institutions and local communities to ensure positive adaptation to changes.
- To enhance the efficiency of production and services based on local wisdom, knowledge, innovation and creativity by developing food and energy security, while reforming the structure of the economy so that consumption becomes more environmentally friendly, and strengthening relations with neighbouring countries in the region for economic and social benefits.
- To build secure natural resource and environmental bases through supporting community participation and improving resilience that will cushion impacts from climate change and natural disasters (NESDB, 2012).

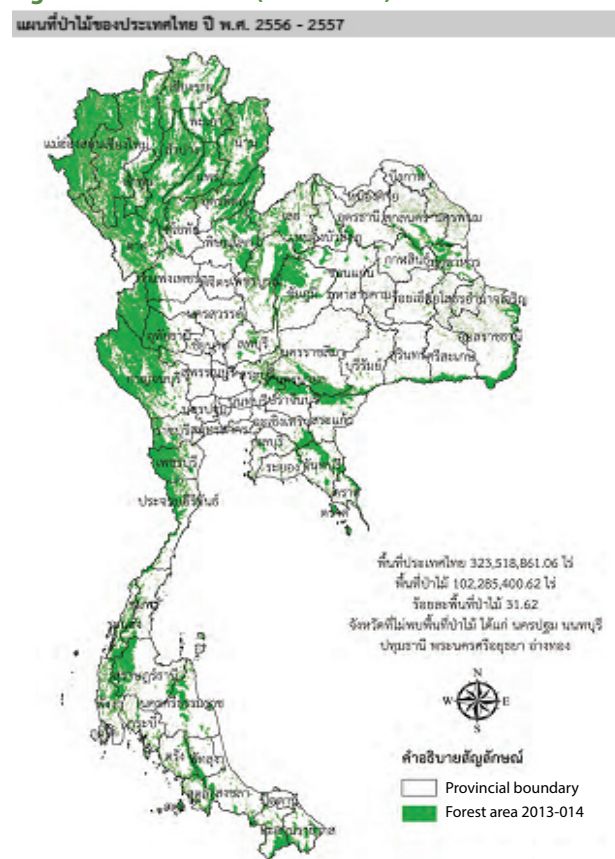
The strategy for building secure natural resource and environmental bases is defined as follows: "In order to maintain balances within the ecosystem, emphasis will be aimed at managing natural resources and the environment through a shift of the development paradigm and participation by local communities. Under this approach, various issues will be addressed, including creating a low-carbon society, preparing for climate change and natural disasters, and ensuring consistency between trade practices and environmental protection." And "support should be given to empower communities and to advocate their rights to gain access to and utilize natural resources" (NESDB, 2012).

2.3 Land and forest resources

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates forest cover in Thailand to be almost 19 million ha or 37 percent of the total area. In the period between 2005 and 2010, the total area covered by forest increased at an average annual rate of 0.1 percent due to an increase of forest plantations which compensated for the loss of natural forest. According to these data, more than one-third of the forest lands (6.7 million ha) is primary forest. Other naturally regenerated forests and forest plantations cover an area of 8.3 million ha and almost 4 million ha⁶ (21 percent of the forest areas) respectively (FAO, 2011).

The RFD in 2006 estimated forest cover to be 15.9 million ha (31 percent of the total area). The reason for the difference with the FAO estimate is not known, the difference with earlier estimates is explained in terms of change in scale of the imagery used and different methods of calculation (FAO, 2009). This difference led to yet another

Figure 3. Forest cover (2013-2014)



Source: Royal Forest Department of Thailand (2015)

estimate – 17.1 million ha in 2000, with considerable regional variation: 55.3 percent in the north, 32.9 percent in the central region, 27.4 percent in the south, 22 percent in the east and 16.5 percent in the northeast (ITTO, 2011).

Thai state forestry, until relatively recently, focused overwhelmingly on extracting timber and keeping local people away from forests (Usher, 2009). Establishment of forest reserves was initiated with the Forest Act of 1941 in which forest was defined as ‘land without any private rights according to land laws.’ In the early 1960s the first National Economic Development Plan (NEDP) stipulated that 25 million ha (about half the total area) needed to be kept under forest. Much of this area was identified and indicated on maps as permanent forest by 1963. These permanent forests were turned into forest reserves by the National Forest Reserve Act of 1964 (Fujita, 2003). International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) (2011) estimated, based on assessment in 2005, that about 20 percent of the 56 000 villages in Thailand are located within national forest reserves.

In the mid-1980s, about one-fifth of the forest reserve (4.6 million ha) representing 21 percent of the land under cultivation was estimated to be under permanent cultivation by ‘squatters’. They could not obtain titles to these lands because the RFD was reluctant to give up jurisdiction over demarcated forest reserve, but farmers could obtain a five-year usufruct license (Sor Tor Kor or STK) for a maximum of 2.4 ha, renewable after permanent cultivation during the five-year period. Many of the areas were larger than the maximum size. The STK project ended in 1993, when degraded forests were transferred to the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO). The titles issued by ALRO (Sor Por Kor or SPK-4.01) were similar to the STK in that the lands could not be leased or sold. Also there was a lack of political will to implement the programme at scale, leading to a total SPK-4.01 allocation in the period 1975-2003 of 3.8 million ha of public land, out of a declared reform area of 9.6 million ha. These titles were allocated to 1.5 million farmers (Gine, 2005).

⁶ ITTO’s 2009 estimate was 4.88 million ha of plantations (ITTO, 2011).

Box 2. Findings from research on forest land reform

Differences in rental rates of secured (full title) and unsecured (SPK-4.01) plots in land reform and non-reform areas were compared (based on data from 2 874 households collected in 1997). In reform areas, households were more likely to lease secured plots and cultivate unsecured plots. Also, there was a 6 percent premium due to expropriation risk of unsecured plots, indicating that the –partial – property rights reform distorted the land rental market by triggering a sense of insecurity among owners of unsecured land (Gine, 2005).

These research findings indicate that not only were the private benefits from these titles limited, they also contributed to a sense of insecurity among the landowners and thereby contributed to distortion of the land market. The general conclusion is that allocating partial titles may create worse impacts than having no title at all and therefore issuing full titles would have been more beneficial with less negative side effects (Gine, 2005).

2.4 Forest administration and policy

The obsolescence of the forest reserve concept and the ambiguity of forestry data are also reflected in the attempts to identify the permanent forest estate (PFE). As discussed earlier, in 1991 the PFE was reported to cover an area of 23.5 million ha, based on the definition that forest reserve is permanent forest stipulated in the 1964 National Forest Reserve Act. However, the PFE in Thailand is not deliberately demarcated and reserved. ITTO (2011) presented an estimate of PFE which comprised 1.9 million ha of state-owned plantations, 251 000 ha of semi-natural teak forest and 10 million ha of protection forest. Therefore, the total PFE area was estimated at 12.16 million ha, out of the total forest area of 17.2 million ha (according to the RTG) or 19 million ha (according to FAO). The numbers here exclude 2.1 million ha of rubber plantations and 248 000 ha of mangrove forests,⁷ part of which lie outside protection forest (ITTO, 2011).

Forests are owned by the state except for 2.2 million ha of privately owned plantations and 250 000 ha reserved for local communities (ITTO, 2011). The tradition of state ownership has its roots in the 1874 proclamation of the monarchy's legal ownership of all land and the royal order to collect tax on export of timber from the commercial exploitation of teak initiated in the mid-nineteenth century by partnerships of princely states and British foresters in Burma. In 1897 the RFD was established and took control over forests from northern lords. In the first half of the twentieth century a regulatory framework for forest management (teak exploitation) was initiated, followed by various legal and regulatory initiatives on specific aspects of forest exploitation and conservation, and the more comprehensive Forest Act of 1941 (FAO, 2009; ; Usher 2009; RTG, 2005). In the 1960s, the National Park Act of 1961 and the National Forest Reserve Act of 1964 (discussed above) followed as major legal initiatives. Presently, more than 20 laws and a number of cabinet decisions are relevant to forest management (ITTO, 2011). The imposition of a total ban on logging in natural forests in 1989, which was a major policy initiative, resulted in transforming all forests (except plantations) into conservation areas (at least on paper for administrative and management purposes) (Lakanavichian, 2006; ITTO, 2011; FAO, 2009).

Table 4. Types of conservation areas

Type of conservation area	Number	Area (million ha)
Conserved under laws and cabinet resolutions		
National parks	103	5.28
Wildlife sanctuaries	55	3.57
Forest parks	70	0.08
No-hunting areas	2.69	0.43
Watershed Class 1	25	9.32
Mangrove conserved forest	-	0.04
Subtotal		18.27
Other conservation areas	1 221	23.04
Total		41.76

Source: Lakanavichian (2006).

⁷ Other estimates of the mangrove area indicate an area of 276 000 ha (in 2004) with an annual increase of 7 600 ha (FAO, 2009). Most of this (243 000 ha) is in the south, 22 750 ha in the east and 9 650 ha in the central region.

Lakanavichian (2006) distinguishes two types of conservation forest: areas established under laws and cabinet resolutions and additional conservation areas, with fewer restrictions on use than the former category. Note that not all of these conservation areas are forests, and that there could possibly be some overlap between Watershed Class 1 areas and the other categories.⁸ Many of these so-called conservation areas (such as the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries) have in practice become preservation areas, i.e. from sustainable use of timber resources (conservation) to no use of timber resources (preservation) (Lakanavichian, 2006).

The shift from production to conservation is also reflected in the administration of forests. In 2002, MoNRE was formed, with jurisdiction over the RFD being shifted from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) to MoNRE. The RFD is now in charge of forest production, in practice the promotion of forest plantations and the administration of forest areas outside protected areas. The DNP is in charge of conservation forests and the DMCR is responsible for mangrove forests.

The Forest Industry Organization is involved in afforestation and management of 53 forest areas. The largest part of the 4 million ha of plantations is private property, including 2.2 million ha of rubber plantations (FAO, 2009). Rubberwood has become an increasingly important resource for the wood-processing industry as well. Some small pulpwood plantations, including those grown by farmers in the remnant forests, are under outgrowing schemes with pulpwood industries. There is much demand and likely scope for expansion of such plantations by smallholders, but there are constraints over policies to promote this. As Barney (2005) puts it “Given the incredibly complex structure of land titling in Thailand and the limited impacts of new policies to reform this situation, it is somewhat doubtful if these plans (*to promote plantations*) would come to substantial fruition.” Promoting plantations under these conditions would require a very careful approach with ‘farmers’ interest’ in mind and in combination with other policies. These may include the promotion of natural regeneration of forest lands, democratic village representation, local authority capacity development in resource management, fair access to information, pricing, legal mechanisms and smallholders’ and communities’ resource tenure security under common property arrangement. Under such conditions, there may also be an opportunity for Thai plantation farmers to better capture the potential benefits from a substantial new wood consumer in China (Barney, 2005).

8 But note that other estimates support the estimate of the conservation area based on legal and cabinet decisions. The total area of that category was estimated at 20.7 million ha by FAO (2009). The difference with the 18.27 million ha given by Lakanavichian (2006) could possibly be related to the inclusion of Watershed Class 2 areas in the FAO estimate

Before 1985, forest policy was expressed through legislation. In 1985, a national forest policy was formulated to consolidate sectoral policy and to place forestry within the context of overall national development (FAO, 2009). The policy emphasized the need to develop long-term guidelines for forest management and development, clarify the roles of various government agencies and the private sector, maintain 40 percent forest cover (15 percent protected forest and 25 percent production forest), establish a national forest policy committee and promote reforestation and energy plantations (FAO, 2009).

The 6th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP, 1987-1991) specified that 15 percent of forests was to be managed for conservation purposes and 25 percent for production. This was reversed in the 7th NESDP (1992-1996) to 25 percent for conservation and 15 percent for timber production (FAO, 2009). In the 10th NESDP (2007-2011), more specific forest policy objectives were proposed. In addition to the usual area targets – maintaining 33 percent of forest cover, with 18 percent covered by conservation forest – other policy objectives included the restoration of 464 000 ha of conservation forest, the demarcation of forest reserves with local participation and the promotion of community rights and participation in resource management (ITTO, 2011).

This trend in streamlining forest policy objectives and guidelines has continued in the present 11th NESDP, as indicated earlier in section 2.2 and described in more detail below.





3

Context for CF development

3.1 Development trends and strategies

The main long-term trend in the context of CF has been the spectacular economic change taking place in Thailand and its effects on the rural economy. In particular, the outmigration of members of rural households has contributed to weaker ties to the local village community and stronger relationships with the wider world. Policy interventions need to acknowledge the mixed and mobile nature of rural living, the hybrid (rural-urban) identity of households and the diversity of activities in the countryside (Rigg, 2012).

One result of this change is the dramatic decline of rural poverty, from 96 percent in 1962, to 22 percent in 1999, to around 8.1 percent in 2009. If middle-income farmers are defined as those whose incomes are double the official poverty line, then about 60 percent of households are in this category. Their sources of income have diversified as well, usually combining subsistence and cash crop agriculture with various sources of off-farm income (Walker, 2012).

Other trends shaping the CF context include increasing environmental awareness, particularly amongst the urban middle class, and administrative decentralization. The expression of the growing environmental awareness in the form of the expansion of conservation forest has been discussed already. Environmental concerns (and lack of confidence in the ability of rural people to manage conservation forest) have also contributed much to the stalemate in the adoption of CF legislation (FAO, 2009).

The role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation has received much attention in Thailand. It was estimated (in 2002) that 24 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Thailand originated from land-use change. In the National Strategy for Climate Change Mitigation adopted by the Cabinet in 2008, the role of forestry in mitigation (through forest protection, reforestation and afforestation) is addressed (Tangtham, 2008). Also in the 11th NESDP, forests, people and climate change feature as one of the key issues to be addressed in the strategies related to natural resources and the environment (NESDB, 2012).

Although administrative decentralization appears to have much potential for CF management, its realization is constrained by the restrictive forest regulatory framework. Because of the logging ban, villagers are not allowed to fell or harvest living trees from natural forest, they are only allowed to collect non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Various restrictions affect the estimated 1.2 to 2 million people living in and around protected areas as well as another 20 to 25 million people living in or near national forest reserves⁹ (ITTO, 2011).

⁹ Fisher (2009) cautions about such figures in view of data limitations and arbitrary generation of estimates. His conclusion is that it may be more accurate to be less precise: "There are certainly considerable numbers of people living in and around forests in Thailand (certainly millions)." See also USAID's estimate that "12 million live and work on Thailand's forest land" (USAID, 2010).

3.2 CF policies and resources

The contradictions between CF potentials and a restrictive regulatory framework sketched in the previous section are reflected in conflicting policies relevant to CF. The previous Constitution, the 11th NESDP and the legislation related to decentralization provide a strong basis and justification for community management. Whereas the regulatory framework and forestry sector policies restrict the management and use of all natural forest for the sake of environmental protection and conservation.

Sections 66 and 67 of the 2007 Constitution (maintained from the previous 1997 Constitution) specify the rights of communities to participate in the management, maintenance, preservation and exploitation of natural resources (FLB, 2007).

The NESDP's assessment of the current situation of natural resources and the environment identified the damage or destruction of forests as a major issue. The management of natural resources is considered inefficient because of lack of integration of policies and programmes, corruption and inequalities in allocation of natural resources leading to public distrust of government management and policy gaps in balancing conservation and economic goals. It is also noted that community empowerment is a key factor for success in the sustainable management of natural resources (NESDB, 2012).

The NESDP's guidelines for the enhancement of natural resource and environmental management systems form an excellent basis for the identification of country priorities in CF development, as discussed in Section 3.4.

Other enabling conditions for CF development include the understanding, relevant knowledge and expertise that have been developed in Thailand, both by professional foresters and rural development researchers at universities and research institutes.

Relevant professional forestry expertise includes various experiments and pilot activities in SFM, such as the development of criteria and indicators and guidelines for their use in auditing and the institutional and technical arrangements for SFM developed in the Ngao model forest, including the development of a CF model (ITTO, 2011; IMFN, 2013).

One of many examples relevant to rural development research is focused on the CF movement in Thailand, summarized below (Walker, 2004).

Box 3. Reflection of CF based on village studies

"The campaign for community forestry in upland areas of northern Thailand reflects an 'arborealised' perspective on upland agriculture. Arborealisation – which I define as the process whereby upland livelihoods are recast as forest livelihoods – is evident in the main elements of NGO and academic advocacy for the resource rights of upland peoples. As a result of this arborealised perspective, securing rights to forest resources has come to be seen as the key to enhancing the livelihood security of upland farmers. However, the emphasis of the proposed community forest legislation on communally managed forest resources means that it will do little to enhance the tenure security of farmers in relation to agricultural land" (Abstract, Walker, 2004).

Moreover Fisher (2009) referred to CF advocacy as a risky 'strategic simplification' to counter the policy narrative that depicts forest-dependent people as primitive forest destroyers. In his opinion, when adopting a more comprehensive landscape approach, it may be appropriate to include both agricultural and forestry development options. The reference to policy narratives points at a dimension of CF development of particular relevance

in Thailand. There is a clear need to ground that discourse on the basis of critical analysis such as those of the 'genealogies of the political forest and customary rights' by Peluso and Vandergeest (2001). A more comprehensive synthesis of this type of 'political ecological' research on CF policy discourse could be considered as part of a CF development approach in Thailand.

Community forestry development in Thailand is also established by many local initiatives found across the country. Some of these are newly formed in response to illegal logging, others are more traditional types including monastery forests, wetland forests, protected forests as sources of fish, crabs fuelwood, timber or bamboo, and cultural reasons (e.g. 'spiritual forest') (Lakanavichian, 2009).

Over 9 000 of these existing community forests are included in a database managed by the CFMB of the RFD. This database could be used as a basis for surveys or a selection of case studies to gain more insights into the effectiveness of different types of CF regimes and arrangements.

A study on both the potentials and constraints of CF in contributing to the policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation is presented in a case study in Nan Province of Northern Thailand. The findings demonstrate that for CF to contribute to SFM in conservation areas, land tenure and the status of communities in governance and management of national parks need to be clarified and secured. It is concluded that the development of REDD+ in Thailand is likely to be constrained until these issues are addressed (Suzuki, 2012).

The Joint Management of Protected Areas (JoMPA) project (2004-2009) supported by the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (DANCED) demonstrated a range of approaches to support the development of joint management in the 17 protected areas that make up the Western Forest Complex. The main activities included participatory land-use and management planning, formation of local management and development organizations, promotion of alternative livelihoods, community forest management in buffer zones, development of multistakeholder-protected area committees and sharing of knowledge and lessons (Chalermklarp, 2010).

The collaboration between communities and other stakeholders proved to be effective and contributed to better relationships between communities and protected area authorities and reduction of conflicts between them. Also the networks of local organizations proved to be useful. The overall conclusion is that the JoMPA approach could be very useful to solve natural resource management problems in protected areas. But then the forestry laws that restrict joint management would need to be changed, stronger support from senior administrators to joint management would be needed and coordination between policy and field levels would need to be improved (Trakansuphakon, 2010).¹⁰

3.3 Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders in CF development are the millions of farmers living in or near forests in Thailand. As a result of decentralization, local governments at subdistrict and provincial levels become increasingly important stakeholders to provide support to CF initiatives. The RFD's CFMB, the DNP and the DMCR at national, provincial and district levels are other important stakeholders in CF development.

There is a wide range of community-based organizations at different levels, including local and regional networks (e.g. the northern and northeastern CF networks) that are involved in CF development, often supported by national (e.g. the Raks Thai Foundation, Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association) or international NGOs (e.g. World Wide Fund for Nature, International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN]) and/or academic institutions (national and particularly regional universities). Policy-makers include both parliamentarians and the

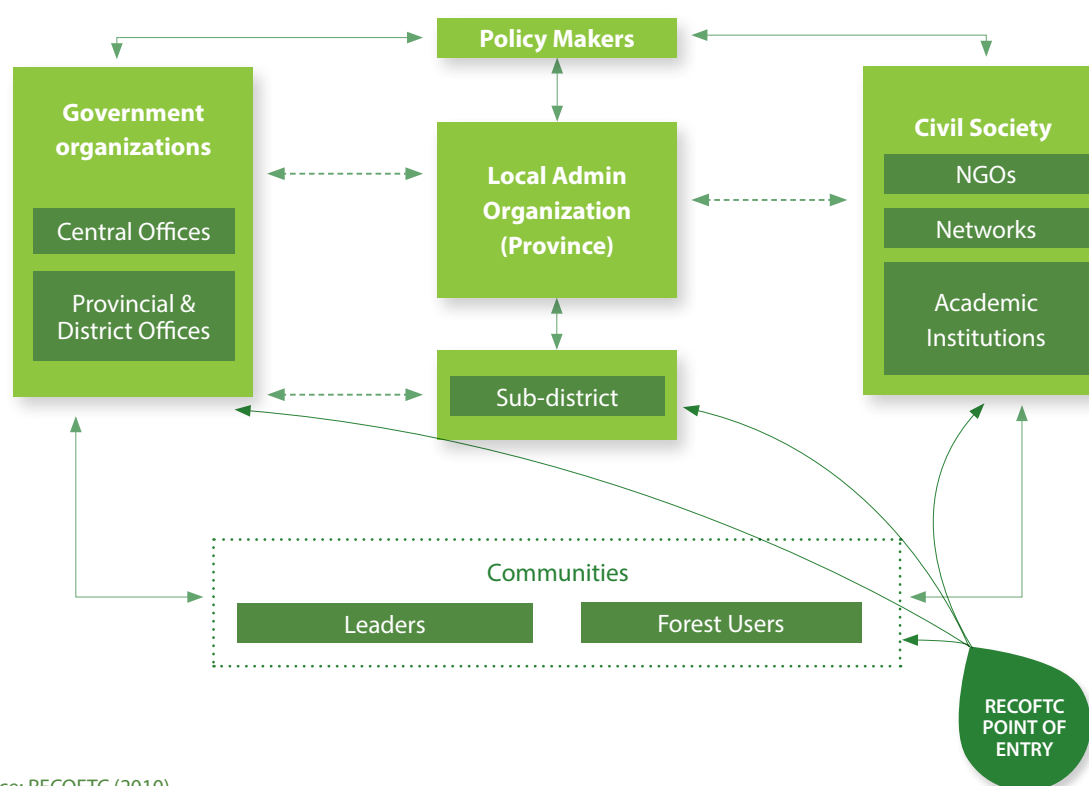
¹⁰ See Vandergeest (1996) for an analysis of property rights in protected areas as barriers to community involvement and ICEM (2003) and Hockings et al. (2012) for assessments of management of protected areas in Thailand.

National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) in charge of preparing national economic and social development plans.

Based on intensive collaboration with all stakeholders in the past 20 years of the TCP's operations, effective relationships with all stakeholders have been well established. In view of the new emphasis on natural resources and the environment (including climate change) in the 11th NESDP, collaboration in implementation of the NESDP will be actively explored, so as to strengthen the linkages with policy development and implementation.

The opportunities for such collaboration have – as compared to earlier plans – improved considerably as there is special concern in the present plan for arrangements and processes for implementation. The strategy and stakeholders for translating the 11th plan into action are summarized in Figure 6. The TCP will actively explore and seek collaboration in the implementation of the plan related to natural resources and the environment which will likely entail collaboration with new stakeholders.

Figure 4. Stakeholders in CF development in Thailand



Source: RECOFTC (2010).

3.4 Country CF development priorities

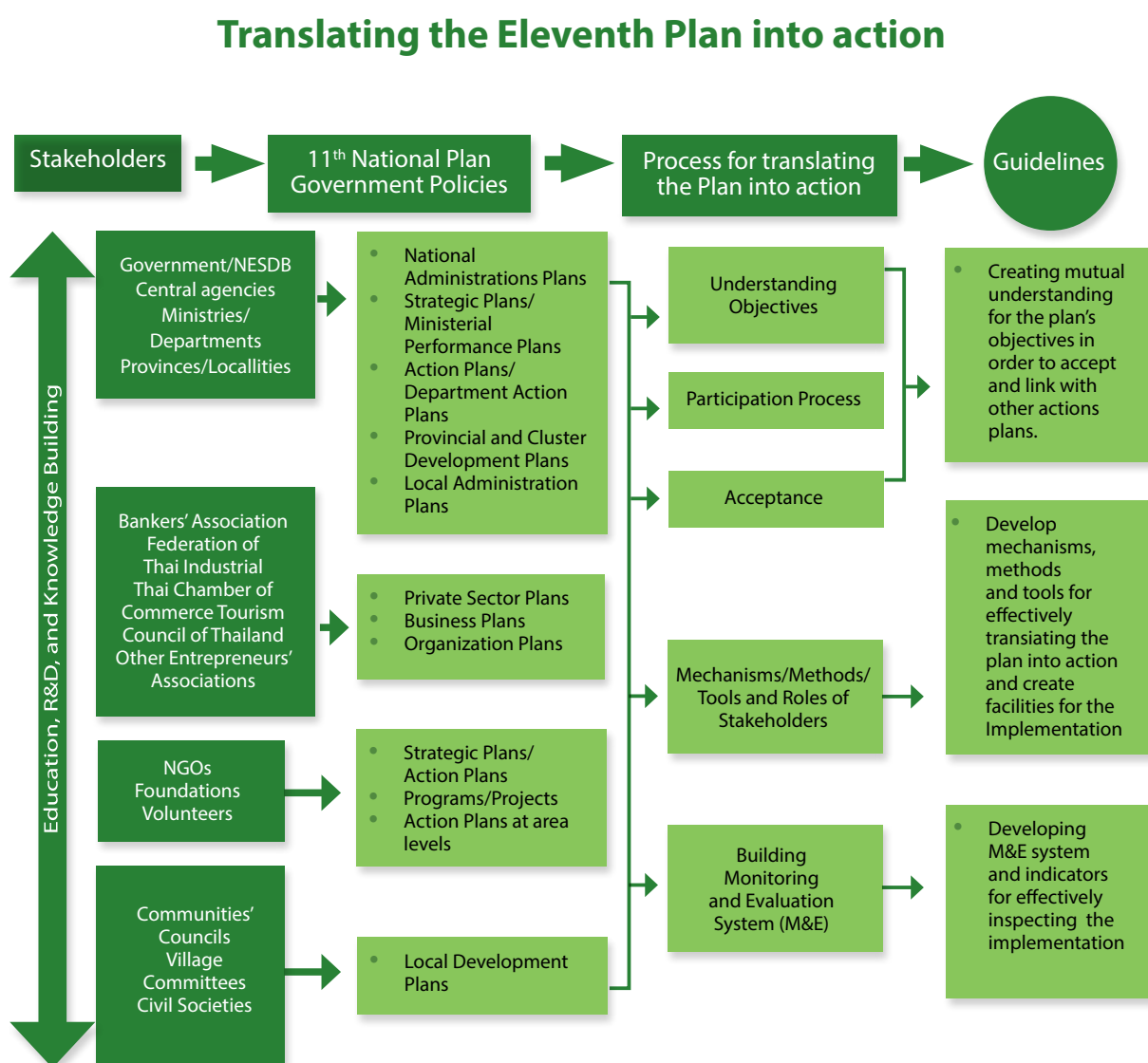
Community forestry priorities are heavily contested in Thailand, as clearly demonstrated in the two decades of debate over the Community Forestry Bill (Brenner et al., 1999). Although there seems to be some softening in the stance of the 'deep greens' (Sikor et al., 2013), the short-term prospects of a resolution of the CF policy stalemate remain very uncertain.

The issue of contested development priorities in Thailand has also been a challenge for the NESDB, charged with the responsibility for the preparation of national development plans. Experiences from the past in implementation of these plans have demonstrated that effective implementation is constrained by the political sector, which

tends to follow its own priorities and policies, as well as by government organizations following the Government Administrative Plan. Also, no effective coordination mechanism for plan implementation exists. Decentralization and the enhanced opportunities and capacities for participation by citizens provide new opportunities for more demand-driven implementation of the plan (NESDB, 2012).

In view of the detailed analysis, strategies and guidelines of the 11th NESDP, and its purported status as a set of 'agreed' national priorities for development, RECOFTC views the priorities identified in the NESDP as the country priorities for CF development. Linkages with the arrangements for national plan implementation proposed by the NESDB will be explored for RECOFTC's contributions to the development and implementation of a national CF programme in Thailand.

Figure 5. NESDP implementation strategy



Source: NESDB (2012).

The selected guidelines for the implementation of the strategy for natural resources and environment, in particular, as presented in Box 4, are considered Thailand's priorities for CF development.

Box 4. NESDP priorities for enhancing natural resource management systems

- 5.8. **Enhance natural resource and environmental management systems** so they are more efficient, transparent and equitable, following these guidelines:
- 5.8.1. **Empower communities and support local rights to utilize natural resources** in a balanced and sustainable manner. Utilization of natural resources and biodiversity-based economic developments should be fostered and take into account local lifestyle, knowledge and traditional culture. Local experts and political leaders should be advocates for community rights to achieve self-reliance in natural resource management. Information about the ecosystem should be provided to communities. Local administrative organizations and their communities should survey their natural resources, biodiversity and local knowledge to develop databases.
- 5.8.2. **Support popular participation and develop community abilities.** Land management mechanisms should be established and addressed by government and private sectors, academia, local administrations and the populace. Local community environmental councils should be established to hold public hearings concerning government development projects. Mass media should be used to raise public awareness about protecting natural resources and the environment.
- 5.8.3. **Amend legislation** relevant to economic and social changes and enforce laws equitably. The goal of laws and regulations should be to **reduce conflicts and disparities involving access to community natural resources**. Regulations should support conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. A progressive land tax should be used to accelerate redistribution of landownership. Laws defining public participation in policy planning and implementation should be enacted.
- 5.8.4. **Change government investment policy** to promote conservation and restoration of natural resources and the environment. Industries that have damaged natural resources and the environment should lose support. Measures to control land use and conform to economic crop promotion policies should be established to prevent encroachment into conservation areas and destruction of vulnerable ecosystems. Research should evaluate the current and future value of natural resources in terms of the ecological services they provide. Criteria to assess impacts should be revisited and improved.
- 5.8.6. **Generate income from natural resources and biodiversity conservation.** Economic development based on biodiversity and its genetic basis should be promoted. Research on local flora and fauna should be conducted to add value to goods and services. New instruments should be used to generate income, such as payments for greenhouse gas emission mitigation from initiatives such as **REDD, SFM**, incremental carbon sequestration in developing countries, PES and the CDM.
- 5.8.7. **Develop databases, evaluate systems and support research.** Establish an efficient management system for natural resources and the environment. Databases should be used to support decision-making. Research to link local tradition with modern knowledge should be encouraged. Mechanisms should monitor and evaluate the implementation of government policies and investigate all influences on natural resources and the environment. These **findings should be used to adjust policies** toward sustainable development and to **reduce conflicting policies between development and conservation** (NESDB, 2012, p.129-130).

Notes: 1) author's emphasis; 2) numbers refer to numbering in the original document; 3) only relevant guidelines and parts of guidelines have been selected, for the complete set see NESDB (2012); 4) additional priorities may be derived from section 5.3. providing guidelines for climate change adaptation.

3.5 Risks

As indicated already, the greatest risk refers to the likelihood of a divergence between the political and administrative priorities from the NESDP priorities. The strategy proposed to address this risk is – as discussed – to establish and maintain linkages with the plan’s implementation process and arrangements designed by the NESDB. Conflict between the NESDP and monocrop plantation expansion against sustainable forest resource management is explicit at the policy and implementation levels.

Another risk is related to the access to funding, as most donors no longer provide aid to Thailand. To address this RECOFTC will explore interest from climate change donors in supporting CF development, continue to explore national public and private sources and intensify collaboration with regional initiatives and programmes.

Given the recent political change in the country and the military-administered government under the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), implications over forest resources and forest communities are visible in the NCPO’s orders Number 64/B.E. 2557 (2014) and 66/B.E. 2557 (2014) which are the basis for the National Forestry Master Plan. Both orders and the Master Plan emphasize suppression of and restraints on deforestation as well as expansion of forest land to 40 percent of the total land area; enforcement is carried out by strict institutional instruments such as the armed forces, Peace and Order Maintaining Command and the police. The risks generated from these orders are anticipated to increase the leverage of law enforcement authorities and accelerate the eviction process of communities from lands with contentious claims, including those in community forests. Amidst the recent political changes, the draft CF bill in Thailand has been proposed for further amendments by the National Reform Council of NCPO. According to its order no. 64/214, strict legal measures will be taken against alleged land encroachers and poachers of illegal forest products. Such a move to amend the draft CF bill has been strongly opposed by the members of civil society groups stating that it will negatively impact the landless communities, who will have to pay high rents for using public plots of land under the current draft bill. The petition to oppose the bill has been signed by 23,000 people. RECOFTC is monitoring the situation closely and engages regularly in the relevant policy platforms and forest law reform process while simultaneously evaluating the policy gaps and capacity and needs. This will determine the RECOFTC’s strategic interventions for the TCP in due course.





4

RECOFTC's priorities and strategies

4.1 Problem statement

The potential for CF to contribute to SFM in Thailand is not fully realized because of conflicting views on the role and rights of local communities in forest resource management, contributing to preservationist restrictions on forest management and use, insecure tenure rights and lack of support services for resource development and management. These same constraints also affect the potential of forests to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms that can provide economic incentives and increase livelihood benefits for local people beyond NTFP collection. Community forests, as a consequence, are confronted by the heightened threat of land-use conversion, mostly monoculture for agricultural products. At the network level, the so-called CF movement is weakened due to the lack of adequate support and strategy.

4.2 Priorities

The priorities for RECOFTC's Country Engagement Strategy in Thailand have been developed in line with the four thematic areas referred to earlier from RECOFTC's overall Strategic Plan 2013-2018. In addition, the priorities are supportive and contribute to the vision set out in the draft joint CF strategic plan developed under the initiative of the TCP and other relevant stakeholders during the first National Forum on CF in March 2014, which was followed by a series of further consultations. Referring to the proposed vision in the draft plan, CF in Thailand is considered to be a process of strengthening capacities and rights of local communities so that they can determine their own direction in sustainable and just development and forest ecosystem management for livelihood security, eventually leading to communities of well-being. Proposed activities generated from discussion over the draft CF strategic plan will be conducted by the TCP and other organizations.

RECOFTC will manage a broader portfolio of projects by the end of the strategic phase under the TCP. The project portfolio will be diversified across thematic areas and will include externally funded projects that are country-specific or regional/multi-country projects with components for Thailand, as well as providing services to other partners and projects. RECOFTC's direct investments of core funds for activities in Thailand will be assessed during its regular annual planning process. Additionally, Thai participants will be invited to join various regional activities conducted by RECOFTC and/or partners.

Based on the priorities for CF development identified earlier, the priorities for RECOFTC’s engagement in Thailand are to assist in the development of effective institutions, policy and regulatory framework and approaches for securing CF; enhancing community livelihoods and market access through greater benefits from active CF management and enterprise development; improving the integration of CF in national climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes; and contributing to the development of approaches and capacity for transforming forest conflicts.

The functional approaches to address these priorities include training and learning networks; policy research, analysis and development; strategic communication and pilot and demonstration initiatives as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5. RECOFTC’s CF development priorities and approaches in Thailand (2013-2018)

Priorities	Securing CF	Enhancing livelihoods and markets	People, forests and climate change	Transforming forest conflicts
Training and learning networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify capacity needs and develop curricula and training materials; • Training of trainers; • Organize or support training events; and • Support learning networks. 			
Research analysis and synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen collaboration with key policy development and administrative agencies; • Explore and exploit linkages with key policy initiatives: FLEGT, the NESDP, the Law Reform Commission, the National Human Rights Commission; • Develop and submit proposals for CF legal reform and a regulatory framework; and • Support policy platforms and networks. 			
Strategic communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information from databases; • Produce and share information graphics, case studies and policy briefs; • Develop and disseminate posters and leaflets; and • Support development of community-based communication. 			
Piloting and demonstrating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop best practices in demonstration sites; • Contribute to design, research, documentation and sharing of lessons related to all four priorities; and • Support network(s) of CF pilot/good practice sites. 			

Immediate priorities include:

- **Securing CF:** The priority for RECOFTC – as a capacity development organization – is to build and enhance appropriate capacities of all relevant stakeholders for securing CF in Thailand. With regard to the functions of research and policy analysis, the focus is to create increased recognition of CF in related policy frameworks and debates with respect to community rights in resource management enshrined by the law. Beginning in March 2015, the new European Union (EU)-supported project to empower local networks and local authorities in sustainable management of the Inng watershed commences, which will contribute to achieving the outcomes under this thematic area.
- **Enhancing livelihoods and markets:** Initial focus will continue to be on capacity development of stakeholders and introducing the topic into the CF network agenda with continuous work on bamboo monitoring and assessment. FLEGT also remains an essential topic under this thematic area. The European Forest Institute (EFI)-supported initiative to enhance civil society’s position in the FLEGT process collaborated with RECOFTC

during 2013-2014. One-year funding has been secured from the EU for the management of the EU-FAO FLEGT programme over 2015 which expands the outcomes of the previous project to establish a civil society organization FLEGT network and support for a series of policy dialogues on legality definition. At the policy level, all activities and outputs should lead to or contribute to the enabling policies that are supportive to enhancing local livelihood security and market access of CF dwellers and communities.

- **Forests, people and climate change:** Collaboration will continue with regional and national initiatives in climate change mitigation and adaptation to strengthen support to CF as a policy instrument in the emerging national strategy to address climate change. In this respect, the TCP will focus on developing the capacities of government partners, CSOs and local communities to understand and adopt FPIC, and provide safeguards and equity in their climate change adaptation/mitigation training or programmes. Based upon the research results on climate change adaptation in Pang Yang village of Nan Province initiated at the end of the previous strategic plan, the TCP's efforts will extend to cover additional target pilot sites, cases for carbon accounting and assessment, and measures for climate change adaptation in CF in order to generate nationwide comparison and evidence-based policy position. Participatory action research under this thematic area will be supported by ASFCC. In addition, the TCP has secured funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) granted through the Pollution Control Department to facilitate four pilot sites on trialing payments for ecosystem services (PES) models in four provinces – Samutsakorn, Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani, Surat Thani – under the Community-Based Forest and Catchment Management project. The TCP also leads the capacity development component of the USAID-funded LEAF project in Maesa Kokma Man and Biosphere Reserve.
- **Transforming forest conflict:** To expand RECOFTC's work into this area, institutional landscape assessment of forest conflict transformation in Thailand will be conducted. This will entail partnerships with organizations already engaging with broader specific mediation institutions and processes and developing their understanding of forestry issues. Based on the assessment report, training and learning networks will be facilitated. Additionally, a case study on forest land conflict will be collected through the identification of existing good practices.

RECOFTC's social inclusion and gender equity (SIGE) policy ensures that inclusive approaches and methods are integral to the programme across all thematic areas and functional approaches. Key components of SIGE are:

- Integration of social and gender equity perspectives in specific programmes and projects; through this strategic phase, the EU-funded project on the sustainable management of the Inng watershed will begin integrating SIGE into its work-plan;
- Organizational capacity development and strengthening functions, processes and policies in which a training workshop and practice capacity development packages will be delivered to programme and project staff as well as the staff of partners;
- Expansion of SIGE-specific work for which a more directed and strategic intervention will be designed and developed; and
- Knowledge sharing for social- and gender-responsive policy and practice.

RECOFTC is developing a national communication strategy for the TCP, which is central to building its portfolio as a CF knowledge/public information and database development hub, including operation and administration of the TCP Web site. The TCP has become widely known as the CF information hub in Thailand and people at all levels can follow issues relevant to CF and updated situations worldwide. Towards this end, activities will include developing, producing and disseminating appropriate CF materials for target groups. The formal elements of the communication strategy (production and sharing of communication materials, Web sites, national forums and so forth) are presented in Table 5. Publication is still an important tool to communicate and disseminate knowledge to wider audiences, including grassroots networks. With the establishment of the RECOFTC TCP Web site and social media links, off- and on-line mediums will converge. Experience has also shown that informal discussions, participation in meetings and workshops organized by others, and maintaining regular (e-mail as well as personal) contacts with key members

of the growing community of CF practitioners in Thailand are of crucial importance, particularly for interactions with senior members of the government (both executive and legislative). Improved management of these informal communications will be explored through a better division of responsibilities amongst members of the Thailand country team and through regular reporting of results.

4.3 Partners

Strategic partners in the planning and implementation of the TCP include:

- Community-based organizations in areas selected for project activities, collaborative research and pilot sites;
- Local governments, NGOs and CF networks working with community-based organizations in RECOFTC project areas;
- Academic institutions including Kasetsart, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai Rajabhat, Phayao, Mahasarakham universities;
- Key forestry agencies, including the RFD, DNP and DMCR, at national and local levels in project areas;
- Key national agencies involved in policy and legal reform: the Law Reform Commission of Thailand (LRCT), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and agencies involved in NESDP implementation; and
- International initiatives and programmes, including FLEGT, ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), ForInfo, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), GREEN Mekong and Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN).

4.4 Donors

Donors and international development organizations with a demonstrated interest in supporting CF development in Thailand include the Thailand Research Fund Office (for research and case studies), the Siam Commercial Bank Foundation (SCBF), the Community Organization Development Institute (CODI), the Mangroves for the Future programme (MFF/IUCN), UNDP, the EU, EFI, FAO, the Japan Embassy, USAID through the LEAF project, ASFN and others.

4.5 Thematic milestones

The key principle of the roadmap is to build on the existing strengths and lessons from the TCP, particularly its reputation for effective collaboration with and support to local community leaders, their networks and local governments. The main new elements to be developed are the strengthening of collaborative arrangements and activities with national and local forestry agencies (the RFD, DNP and DMCR) and other agencies involved in legal and policy reform such as the LRCT, NHRC and NESDB.

The summary of the programme roadmap for 2013-2018 in Table 5 provides an overview of the strategic outcomes/targets by priority area, the intermediate outcomes and the planned programme outputs for 2013-2018.



Table 6. Thematic areas, outcomes and outputs of RECOFTC Strategic Plan (2013-2018)

Thematic areas		Securing community forestry (SCF)		
RECOFTC's strategic outcomes	Institutions and resources for securing CF are more effective.			
Functional approaches	Training and learning networks	Research, analysis and synthesis	Strategic communication	Piloting and demonstrating
Country intermediate outcomes/ targets	Capacities of new facilitators on CF, SFM and sustainable watershed management, including young leaders and local communities are used for improvement of CF management.	Policy-makers in the RFD and other relevant agencies support CF as a key function and approach in SFM with respect to community rights enshrined in the law.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The general public and policy-makers have more understanding, recognition and support to CF for SFM. 2) RECOFTC is recognized among social media users as a platform for CF. 	Pilot sites are developed to promote understanding and recognition on CF to stakeholders, the government and the public.
Consolidated programme outputs/ activities (2013-2018)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The CDNA updated and referenced for training course and curricula development 2) At least 150 participants trained and about 50% take part as para trainers to lead some training sessions 3) More than 15 training courses (on fire management, water monitoring, human and biosphere management planning, local participatory research, CFM and SFM, CBNRM, participatory forest assessment, forest landscape management, watershed management and related issues) organized for partners, particularly the RFD, DNP, NGOs and CF networks for at least 500 participants in total 4) At least 20 CF management plans developed and recognized by community members and local governments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Results and documentation from at least 5 annual national seminars are disseminated among CF partners and delivered to policy-makers 2) A number of policy dialogue platforms and at least 2 policy briefs produced on CF and rights on CF and governance 3) Research results on forest law review and CF legal frameworks, contributing to forest law/sector reform amidst political change in Thailand 4) Participatory action research training and implementation in the Upper Ing Watershed through support from the EU 5) National CF database consolidated and up to date 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least 15 stories of change produced and disseminated to the public, donors and partners 2) Documentation of good practices 3) At least 20 radio episode scripts produced and disseminated to community radio in partner communities 4) At least 5 infographic productions on CF for public awareness 5) Video clips produced and used by partners broadcast by the TPBS 6) Social media and Web site 7) Sets of posters on CF and related issues produced and presented at national seminars, platforms and for the public 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identification and criteria of pilot site selection developed for the community-based learning centre in Trat, sustainable management of Ing watershed and networking in Chiang Rai and Phayao, CF rights and land tenure, CF governance/self-management 2) At least 5 pilot sites selected and supported through capacity development with innovative tools in the aforementioned areas 3) Lessons learned documented

Thematic areas		Enhancing livelihoods and markets (ELM)		
RECOFTC's strategic outcomes	Institutions are actively enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable CF practices.			
Functional approaches	Training and learning networks	Research, analysis and synthesis	Strategic communication	Piloting and demonstrating
Country intermediate outcomes/ targets	The RFD and CF-supporting partners include livelihoods and markets in their own training curricula and programmes.	Enabling policies are supportive to enhancing local livelihood security and market access of CF dwellers.	Knowledge and analysis on CF and livelihoods and markets are developed, recognized and used through different communication products.	Pilot sites on CF and livelihoods and markets are developed for public understanding and other learning purposes.
Consolidated programme outputs/ activities (2013-2018)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ELM training curricula and guideline on CF fund management developed and shared 2) At least 4 CF and ELM learning platforms/ dialogues organized 3) Training on the CF management fund and bamboo management and assessment 4) Manual on bamboo management and assessment developed and shared 5) Curriculum on forest governance and FLEGT developed and used 6) The CSO FLEGT network formed and organized with CSO representatives involved in the FLEGT VPA process 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CSO FLEGT policy consultation dialogue platform for sharing and learning organized at national and regional levels and its mechanism for negotiation developed 2) Policy recommendation documents and policy brief for CSOs on FLEGT submitted to the government and EU 3) Synthesis of lessons learned from CSO engagement in FLEGT 4) Research finding documents on timber legality, the timber value chain and limitations of smallholders in accessing timber markets; biodiversity and livelihoods and markets 5) Forest certification/ C&I finalized and proposed to the RFD with recognition and references 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least 3 case studies on coffee producers in Chiang Rai, bamboo production and the timber value chain 2) An introductory leaflet/poster on FLEGT and VPA produced and disseminated; FLEGT awareness-raising production with the media 3) An infographic on CF and L&M broadcast by the TPBS 4) At least 2 booklets on key research results; biodiversity conservation and livelihoods 5) Stories of change on bamboo management and other relevant topics 6) Bamboo forum proceedings produced and disseminated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least 3 pilot sites identified and supported to further enhance and scale up ELM, including CF and domestication of NTFPS 2) Documentation of at least 3 lessons and innovative tools for promoting ELM and CF developed and disseminated to the public

Note: CDNA = capacity development needs assessment; TPBS = Thai Public Broadcasting Service; VPA = voluntary partnership agreement; L&M = livelihoods and markets.

Thematic areas		People, forests and climate change (PFCC)		
RECOFTC's strategic outcomes	Enabling conditions for local people's engagement in forested landscapes in the context of climate change are strengthened.			
Functional approaches	Training and learning networks	Research, analysis and synthesis	Strategic communication	Piloting and demonstrating
Country intermediate outcomes/targets	The RFD, DNP and other partners adopt FPIC in CCM and CCA training curricula and programmes.	Policy-makers and civil society actors incorporate CF in CC policies, considering the impacts of CC and relevant policies on CF management and local people's rights.	RECOFTC partners and networks recognize the impacts of CC and relevant mechanisms in response to CC on CF.	Pilot sites on the role of CF in CCA are established for better understanding among related stakeholders and the public.
Consolidated programme outputs/activities (2013-2018)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FPIC in REDD+ and forest carbon assessment monitoring curricula updated and applied for training 2) New curriculum on SFM and CCA developed and tested 3) ToTs for key stakeholders on forest carbon assessment monitoring (60 participants in total); on FPIC in CCM and CCA (30 participants in total) 4) Training on FPIC in CCM&A for the DNP and partners (80 participants in total); on REDD+, equity and FPIC for CF partners (90 participants in total); on SFM and CCA (60 participants in total) 5) Youth camp on 'Generation Y', CF and CC responses, strategic planning and action 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Series of dialogue platforms on REDD+ safeguards and FPIC in practice; CCM and equity; CCM and other issues organized for multistakeholders (government agencies, CSOs, CF networks and TAOs) with approximately 200 participants in total 2) Participatory action research training and implementation through support from the ASFCC 3) Research results on CC in Baan Pang Yang of Nan Province and on ecosystem service/resource evaluation of Maesa Kokma MAB project produced and disseminated to the public and proposed to policy-makers 3) Policy briefs on CF and CCA in Baan Pang Yang; forest and climate assessment produced and disseminated to the public and referenced by forest and CC stakeholders/policy-makers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Infographic on CF and CC broadcast by the TPBS 2) At least 4 stories of change on SFM and CC; CF and CC mechanisms; watershed management and CCA 3) VDO production of stories of change on CF management and CC 4) At least 2 case studies on CC and equity; and on CCA and CCM produced and shared 5) 1,000 copies of CC and FPIC booklets produced and disseminated 6) At least 2 posters and booklets on CC and PES; CC, REDD+ and adaptation produced 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least 2 pilot sites selected for - CC adaptation and monitoring; REDD+; or CC and equity with collaborating local partners 2) At least 4 sites established under the CBFCM project on PES with funding from UNDP 3) Documentation of best practices on PES; CF and CC adaptation; SFM and CC adaptation; CC adaptation and monitoring from pilot sites to be disseminated to the public

Note: CCM = climate change mitigation; CCA = climate change adaptation; FPIC = free, prior and informed consent; ToT = training of trainers; PES = payments for ecosystem services; CBFCM = community-based forest and catchment management; MAB = Man and Biosphere.

Thematic areas		Transforming forest conflicts (TFC)		
RECOFTC's strategic outcomes		Institutions to transform conflict are in place and increasingly effective.		
Functional approaches	Training and learning networks	Research, analysis and synthesis	Strategic communication	Piloting and demonstrating
Country intermediate outcomes/targets	Training and learning networks will apply TFC in their work.	Natural resource and forest-related laws and regulations are reformed to address and transform forest conflicts with respect to community rights enshrined in the Constitution.	RECOFTC partners and CF networks recognize different TFC techniques to be applied in their contexts.	Improved practices in TFC are trialed in selected pilot sites.
Consolidated programme outputs/ activities (2013-2018)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An institutional landscape assessment of TFC actors in Thailand 2) ToTs organized for 40 trainers with at least 10 new trainers assisting in TFC training 3) Training with the support from ToT trainees organized for local leaders and government agencies for at least 80 participants in total 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A policy research result and analysis on TFC in Thailand 2) A roundtable discussion on natural resource management and TFC for 30 participants from different relevant organizations with summarized results 3) A national seminar and proceedings on CF, land tenure and TFC for 80 participants from the government, NGO practitioners, CF networks 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least 1 poster on lessons learned from TFC in natural resource management produced by LEAF and RECOFTC (Doi Sang case) 2) A case study on forest land conflict 3) A translated version of TFC cases in Thai 4) At least 1 story of change produced and disseminated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pilot sites developed and documented 2) Documentation of good practices and lessons learned in pilot sites with comparative analysis to be used for training and policy purposes





5

Resources

5.1 Human resources

The programme staff for planning and implementing the TCP comprise five core staff members: a country programme coordinator, two national programme officers (training coordinator and partnerships' coordinator), an assistant programme officer for communication and information management and an administrative and accounting officer, supported by RECOFTC headquarters staff.

Additional project staff and consultants are occasionally hired, depending on progress in approval of project proposals.

RECOFTC Thailand also recruits national interns on an annual basis – where possible seconded from national government or non-government institutions engaged in CF development.

5.2 Fundraising

Funding has been secured for many of the activities planned for the first three to four years of programme implementation within the current strategic phase. A three-and-a-half-year project to empower local networks and local authorities for sustainable management of the Upper Ing Watershed which started in March 2015 has received committed funding from the EU. In addition, FAO-facilitated EU FLEGT funding has been secured as support for institutionalizing the CSO FLEGT network and other relevant activities over 2015. The TCP has moreover been approached and contracted by the Department of Pollution Control with funding from UNDP for the CBFCM project in four provinces across Thailand. Exploring interest from national and international donors to support activities and outputs foreseen during the last two to three years for which funding has not been secured yet, will be explored through concept notes, discussion and preparation of project proposals in consultation with RECOFTC programme management and interested donors. Also, expanded opportunities for collaboration with RECOFTC's existing and new regional programmes will be actively explored and exploited.



6.1 Impact and outcomes

The desired impact of all RECOFTC's CF development activities is that 'empowered local people are effectively and equitably engaged in the sustainable management of forested landscapes'.

The synthesis of research results and CF project experiences in Thailand presented in this document suggests that more effective engagement of local people requires more secure rights to use and manage forest resources, greater benefits from forest management, better arrangements for resolving conflicts to improve forest governance, enhancing the resilience of communities and strengthening support for their engagement in climate change initiatives.

Hence the outcomes (i.e. changes in capacity and behaviour) that RECOFTC proposes to contribute are in the form of enhanced effectiveness of institutions:

- To secure communities' property rights (rights of access, use, management and exclusion);
- To enhance livelihoods and access to markets (to enable communities to obtain greater benefits from forest resources);
- To reduce communities' vulnerability to shocks, enhance their resilience and strengthen their roles in policies related to climate change; and
- To transform conflicts over forests, from problems into opportunities for better forest governance.

RECOFTC recognizes that none of these changes can be made by RECOFTC on its own. Hence the emphasis on strategic partnerships, strengthening of arrangements for coordination, collaborative planning and implementation, and support to the development and implementation of a national CF development programme as a shared framework for coordination, planning and implementation.

Impact and outcomes are therefore the result of activities by many actors and influenced by events that are not under RECOFTC's control. However, there is also a need to assess the effectiveness of the activities and outputs that are controlled by RECOFTC which contribute to the expected outcomes.

This requires the design and implementation of a participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) approach that enables both RECOFTC and its partners to assess the quality and relevance of RECOFTC's activities and outputs and how they have contributed to changes in institutional capacity and performance as well as how these changes have impacted the effectiveness of local people's engagement in SFM.

6.2. Participatory monitoring and evaluation

For RECOFTC's overall programme, the PM&E system with indicators and means of verification has been developed, that forms the basis for adaptation and development of the M&E system for the TCP. PM&E aims to engage key project stakeholders more actively in assessing the progress of the programme or project and in particular the achievement of results. Stakeholders participate at various levels of monitoring and evaluating a particular project or programme; not only as sources of information. Through their active engagement they are enabled to share control over the content, the process and the results of the M&E activities.

RECOFTC will have three tiers of M&E – routine activity monitoring, some targeted impact evaluations every year and overall country programme evaluation at the end of the strategic phase. However, the PM&E will be conducted with relevant stakeholders, not only as a tool to collect data, but also as a tool to generate learning together.

Activity monitoring: The country programme will conduct monitoring of activities and outputs regularly. A PM&E system will be developed with partners and community groups to assist them to monitor their activities and outputs effectively.

Targeted impact evaluations: In order to monitor progress to achieve strategic and intermediate outcome indicators, at least one impact evaluation will be planned and conducted. The impact evaluations will help RECOFTC to find the trends towards the outcome as well as address the deviation in a timely manner. These evaluations include impacts of RECOFTC work on national and subnational regulatory frameworks, CF as institutions and different groups of local community members – men and women, youth, the landless poor and ethnic minorities. In addition, case studies, success stories and stories of change will be documented and used to improve programme planning and decision-making, and leveraging cross learning at the subnational, national and regional levels.

Country programme evaluation: The Country Engagement Strategy sets the basis for overall evaluation of the country programme at the end of the current strategic phase. The evaluation results will be the foundation for the design and development of following strategic phases for the country programmes.



Table 7 presents the indicators, means of verification and targets for the goal and strategic outcomes.

Table 7. Indicators for programme goal and strategic outcomes (2013-2018)

Goal: Empowered local people are effectively and equitably engaged in the sustainable management of forested landscapes				
Indicators	Remarks	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline for 2013	Target
Number of community forests	Distinguish types (village, user group, household)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government statistics Project documents 	8 500 communities registered with the RFD	10% increase
Area under CF	Total area of increased CF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government statistics Project documents 	500 000 ha of CF registered with the RFD	10% increase
Number of people participating in CF	Specify ethnicity, gender and poverty, where MoV allow for this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government statistics Project documents 	TBI	10% increase
Documented cases that show achievements for Thailand	Scales of 'effectively' and 'equitably' are difficult to quantify, best practices and examples will be presented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories of change (qualitative) Case studies (qualitative) Project reports Survey reports 	21 booklets of community profiles	At least 6 cases
Strategic outcome 1 – Securing CF Institutions and resources for securing CF are more effective				
Newly adopted or enhanced elements of the CF programme	See section 1.2 for elements of the CF programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy analysis Reports 	Based on results of policy review	Yes
Percentage of CF members reporting improved support from the government and other institutions	Improved support from the government and non-government institutions can include both financial resources and advisory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder/ community survey Country policy analysis Stories of change (qualitative) Case studies (qualitative) 	0	TBI

Strategic outcome 2 – Enhancing livelihoods and markets
Institutions are actively enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable CF practices

Indicators	Description	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline	Targets
Number of new or enhanced components of the CF programme to promote local livelihoods through sustainable CF by both the government and NGOs	CF approaches clearly included in livelihood and poverty alleviation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy analysis • Policy briefs • Forest management plans with business components 	0	At least 1 component
Number of communities where RECOFTC has a presence that have an increased income from CF-related activities	40% of participating community members (50% women) has an increased income of 10% from their involvement in CF-related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies • Stakeholder survey • Value chain studies • ELM project reports 	0	40% of members has increased income of 10% from CF

Strategic outcome 3 – People, forests and climate change
Enabling conditions for local people's engagement in forested landscapes in the context of climate change are strengthened

Percentage of communities that include CCM and/or CCA in new or revised CF management plans	Both formal and informal management plans are assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF management plans; land-use plans; other relevant rules or regulations 	1 (from Baan Pang Yang in Nan Province)	50% of new and revised plans
Documented cases where people are engaged and benefiting from mitigation and adaptation activities	Including current regional projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys and case studies • Project monitoring reports 	0	At least 1 case

Strategic outcome 4 – Transforming forest conflicts
Institutions to transform conflict are in place and increasingly more effective

Documented conflict cases successfully mediated following the practices developed by the mediators, resulting in a win-win solution for all actors involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short description of cases, not yet fully developed stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country analysis • Stakeholder/ community surveys • Stories of change (qualitative) • Case studies (qualitative) 	0	At least 3 cases
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Note: TBI = to be identified; CCM = climate change mitigation; CCA = climate change adaptation.

During year 1, the indicators will be adjusted and the baselines and targets identified/modified and defined as necessary. The monitoring of the intermediate outcomes is expected to assist in the necessary adjustments and identification of baselines and targets of the strategic outcomes.

Table 8. Indicators for monitoring of intermediate outcomes (2013-2018)

Intermediate outcome 1 – Enhanced capacities are used by key stakeholders to provide quality support and professional advice to local communities				
Indicators	Description	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline	Targets
Extent to which training participants have applied the acquired knowledge and skills	Self-perceived evidence of trainees (disaggregated by male/female; topic; geographical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirkpatrick level 3 surveys • Documented case studies and stories of change • Reports on RECOFTC-organized capacity development events • Project reports 	80% (survey from 2012/2013 trainings)	80%
Organizational adaptation of knowledge and skills from RECOFTC training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinions of managers of attending organizations • Opinions of clients/beneficiaries of organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirkpatrick level 4 • Percentage of organizations which adapt new knowledge and skills acquired by their staff members through RECOFTC training or capacity development events 	0	40%
Number of active learning networks that RECOFTC engages with by Thematic Areas each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Active' means regular interaction towards a specific goal • A learning network has an objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking documentation • Internal annual report 	3 (MAB network in Maesa Kokma, REDD+ working group, CBLC network in Trat Province)	Cover all thematic areas

Intermediate outcome 2 – Enabling policies and regulatory instruments are adopted to enhance local peoples' rights, improve forest governance and ensure a fairer share of benefits

Indicators	Description	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline	Targets
Percentage of changed policies, laws and regulations at the subnational and national level that are assessed as enabling improvements for: i) securing the rights for local people to benefit from forest management ii) good forest governance iii) equitable sharing of benefits	60% of changed policies, laws and regulations that are assessed are rated as 'overall positive' for local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/regulatory framework analysis (including involvement of local people and processes in policy-making) • Reviewing documents on working group composition or representation; assessment of benefit-sharing mechanisms • Interviews, questionnaires 	0 (only new policies after 1 October 2013 are considered)	10% increase

Intermediate outcome 3 – Communication strategies are used to enhance awareness, attitude and behaviour of target audiences

Indicators	Description	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline	Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of references made to RECOFTC knowledge products • Number of times RECOFTC is quoted 	A high number of references to RECOFTC publications indicates that the provided information is highly appreciated by relevant target audiences and further disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal tracking methods • Peer-reviewed (internal and external) information based on research translations • Citation analysis 	0	10% increase each year
Changes in awareness/knowledge of target audiences as a result of RECOFTC communication tools/activities	Percentage of target audience that reports an increase in awareness/knowledge as a result of RECOFTC communication tools/activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder survey: interviewees should include representatives of policy-makers at ministries, academics, NGO managers, research institutes • Communication surveys 	0	80% report increased awareness and knowledge
Documented cases of action taken as a result of RECOFTC's strategic communication strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short description of cases, not yet fully developed stories • Including all RECOFTC communication activities, not only publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies • Stories of change 	0	At least 1 case

Intermediate outcome 4 – Improved practices adopted in CF are effectively replicated				
Indicators	Description	Means of verification (MoV)	Baseline	Targets
Number of innovative improved practices introduced by RECOFTC that are replicated beyond RECOFTC projects	A list of innovative improved practices promoted by RECOFTC is available in the M&E package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys • Case studies • Stories of change • Direct observation 	0	2
Percentage of CF practices through RECOFTC support that are still active	Still active by end of the programme/project or after support ends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country programme reports • Project documentation • Surveys 	2	10% increase

Note: CBLC = Community-based Learning Center

The results of the monitoring of the strategic and intermediate outcomes are shared with the other RECOFTC country programme staff and the regional programme staff in annual programme review and direct annual planning. Results are also shared with donors and partners through annual reports. Where monitoring results indicate the need, proposals for adjustment of the country programme are presented, discussed and adopted when justified.

6.3 Learning and leveraging at regional and country levels

The RECOFTC programme framework and particularly its linkages with the framework for national CF programmes, enables sharing experiences and drawing lessons amongst other country programmes and with regional programmes, e.g. the CF Champions Network, Global Alliance for Community Forestry, biennial forums for people and forests, regional training courses, regional and multicountry projects, and so forth.

This is expected to contribute to more effective leveraging of change for CF development in Thailand and to more effective application in other countries of the lessons learned in Thailand.





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