



THE CENTER FOR  
PEOPLE AND FORESTS



# Delivering impacts for people and forests in Asia

Annual report October 2013-September 2014

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests



## From the Executive Director and the Board Chairperson

Building on a very successful previous strategic phase, RECOFTC's new Strategic Plan (2013-2018) has completed its first year with many exciting outcomes.

Our new strategic plan has an increased focus on four thematic areas: Securing Community Forestry; Enhancing Livelihoods and Markets; People, Forests and Climate Change; and Transforming Forest Conflicts. Within these thematic areas, we are exploring emerging issues, including landscape approaches, food security, water security, and biomass energy security.

Our focus on a rights-based approach based on three principles - strong and secure rights, good governance and fair benefits - has also been strengthened, along with increased emphasis on social inclusion and gender, forestry leadership development, and a more robust participatory monitoring and evaluation system.

RECOFTC's expanded engagement in eight focal countries - Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam - continues to be a cornerstone of our work to deliver tangible outcomes on the ground. Meanwhile, our four functional approaches - training and learning networks, research, communication, and piloting and demonstrating - continue to complement each other and contribute to our strategic outcomes.

This year, progress on the ground in Cambodia is one of the many highlight outcomes - a community forestry network supported by RECOFTC has successfully transformed several forest land conflicts; meanwhile, a pilot community enterprise on sustainable bamboo shows much promise for scaling up. In Myanmar, fundamental groundwork has been laid for effective sustainable management of forests, through the establishment of community forestry government units that are recognizing the importance of non-stake stakeholders' participation in forest development. In Lao PDR, the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) helped form a village forestry working group, which aims to serve as an advisory body to the government of Lao PDR.

Regionally, RECOFTC's Grassroots REDD+ project has not only cascaded climate change awareness down to local communities, but has also cascaded communities' concerns up to policy dialogues at the national level. Meanwhile, our Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong (GREEN Mekong) program has promoted equity by developing capacities of sub-national government officials and local CSOs. We hope you enjoy reading about the very successful first year of our new Strategic Plan in this report.



**Dr. Tint Lwin Thuang**  
Executive Director  
RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests



**Dr. Doris Capistrano**  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests



# Improving forest management

## A community forest network unites local communities and helps sustain forests in Cambodia

In Cambodia's Pursat province, RECOFTC is supporting 36 communities to secure rights to their forests. In 2012, RECOFTC supported the creation of the Anlung Vil commune network, which has united 16 community forests. Prior to the creation of the network, the community forests had a difficult time dealing with illegal logging and land encroachment in their forests. Through the network, the communities have been able to join together and secure their forests.

At the beginning of 2014, Chey Bun Nhoern was elected representative of the Anlung Vil network. He has since coordinated the solving of seven cases of illegal logging and six cases of land encroachment. Most of the cases involved outsiders clearing 1-2 ha of forestland for agricultural purposes and illegal logging. The community forestry management committee (CFMC), under coordination of the

network, was able to bring stakeholders together - the 'offender', commune councils, the local forest authorities, network members and CFMC members - to discuss and resolve the situation in most cases, while a few have been brought to court.

"When we unite," says Bun Nhoern, "we have a common voice that allows us to be more effective in addressing illegal forest activities."

The network, through Mr. Bun Nhoern's guidance, has assisted community forest members in preparing action plans for patrolling activities, coordinating conflict cases and helping community forest members compile relevant documents for reporting illegal cases to concerned authorities when necessary. The network has also promoted active information sharing and has created a forum for group discussions.

"The network's representative always reports to me about illegal cases occurring in the community sites. Then I work together hand-in-hand with community and local forestry administration officials to solve the conflicts," says Pring Touch Sunly, Chief of the Anlung Vil commune.

## Myanmar's Forest Department establishes community forestry units and recognizes the importance of non-state stakeholders' participation in forest development



RECOFTC's Myanmar Country Program has helped bring about positive changes in the forestry sector through bringing stakeholders together in national community forestry roundtable meetings and the development of the Community Forestry National Working Group (CFNWG). Supported by the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC), these forums mark the recognition by the government that participation of non-state stakeholders, especially local communities, in community forestry (CF) development and implementation is crucial to effectively address deforestation, tenure security, benefit sharing, and poverty in the country. The working group has also

contributed toward the establishment of Forestry Department CF units.

The series of roundtable discussions, begun in 2012, have offered key community forest stakeholders a platform for discussing the challenges and solutions for community forestry in Myanmar. At the roundtable meetings, participants gave priority to six main interventions that could support community forestry development. They include the development of a community forestry law, establishment of a community forestry government unit, a capacity building and research program for government and non-government personnel, establishment of a national working group, and a neutral platform for practitioners.

In late 2013, the CFNWG was created to build collaboration and information sharing between various governmental and non-governmental organizations. Since its creation, members of the working group have regularly met to discuss various issues, in particular the need to revise the country's Community Forestry Instructions first issued in 1995. Members of CFNWG have also conducted study tours around the country to get a sense of the various implementation methods of community forestry.

The recommendations resulting from the initial roundtable meetings and carried out by the CFNWG have been taken up by Myanmar's Forest Department, which has established community forestry units in order to scale up the existing implementation of community forestry across the country. The national and sub-national community forestry units are supporting the development of community forestry across the country in order to meet the national target of 2.27 million acres of community forest by 2030.

## Village forestry working group works to solve challenges to village forestry in Lao PDR

In 2013-2014, RECOFTC and the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) helped form the Village Forestry Working Group (VFWG) in Lao PDR. The creation of the working group was recommended by key stakeholders during a RECOFTC-supported meeting, and the working group is now endorsed by the government of Lao PDR.

Following the RECOFTC National Forum on People and Forests in Lao PDR, RECOFTC helped the Department of Forestry organize a follow-up consultation meeting because key participants in the National Forum expressed the need to further address village forestry development in Lao PDR. The participants highlighted key issues in developing village forests in Lao PDR during the follow-up meeting, namely, a lack of proper land management due to conflicting policies and authorities, which leads to poor coordination among and between government agencies and relevant stakeholders.

To address these issues, the participants recommended developing a village forestry working group, which would serve as an advisory body to the government of Lao PDR by sharing ideas with village forestry practitioners, providing guidance, exploring opportunities, strengthening the capacities of village forestry stakeholders, supporting coordination mechanisms and seeking funding possibilities for village forestry development.

The VFWG is now actively conducting regular meetings, practical studies and research, workshops, training programs, awareness-raising events and the development and dissemination of CF communication tools.



## Strengthening forest governance through capacity development on FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on tenure

RECOFTC is working to promote community forestry in Asia and the Pacific by strengthening forest tenure systems and governance. Partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), RECOFTC is developing capacities on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). The VGGT, a guide for instituting reforms, encourages governments to promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed the VGGT in 2012.

RECOFTC has delivered multiple training programs on VGGT in Asia and the Pacific. The training programs have engaged participants in understanding and analyzing forest tenure and tenure reform and governance through experiential and action-oriented methodologies. "Before this training, I had no experience with forest tenure systems in my country," said Lwin Lwin Naing of Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative, Myanmar. "Now, I have a real understanding of forest governance and tenure systems, and I also learned how to facilitate participatory tenure analysis."

In addition to capacity development activities, RECOFTC also sits on an international panel that drafts the international implementation guide: "Governing tenure rights to commons: A technical guide to support the implementation of the VGGT." This guide provides strategies and correct practices for recognizing, protecting and supporting collective tenure rights of local communities and indigenous peoples.

Developing capacities on VGGT is crucial if appropriate tenure reforms are to be successfully developed and implemented. Over the past two decades, forestry has undergone substantial changes globally, with a significant shift from state forest management towards participatory and local forest management. This shift requires ongoing forest tenure reform processes, which are critical to enable non-state actors such as local communities, smallholders and indigenous people to participate in and benefit from forest management.

# Developing capacities for effective community forestry

During 2013-2014, RECOFTC produced 34 capacity development products to help facilitate 329 capacity development activities. Over the course of over 16,500 training days, almost 7,000 participants were trained, the most ever during any of RECOFTC's years as an organization.

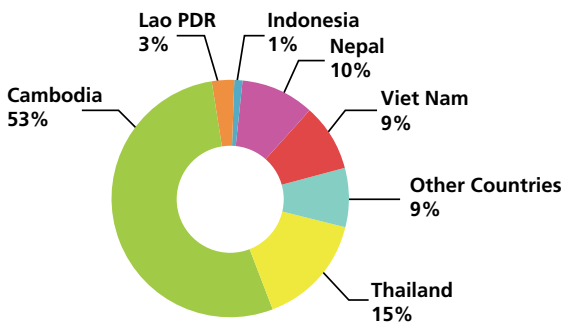
RECOFTC's Monitoring & Evaluation department has followed-up with the training participants representing all of RECOFTC's focal countries – 53 percent Cambodian, 15 percent Thai, 10 percent Nepalese, 9 percent Vietnamese, 3 percent Lao, 1 percent Indonesian, and the remaining 9 percent from other countries – to determine the success of the capacity development activities.

Training participants were randomly selected in order to encourage candid responses. Participants noted that they have applied their new knowledge and skills towards a wide variety of forest-related work including REDD+; policy review and formulation; updating of citizen's charters; good governance initiatives and activities; conflict research; delivering further trainings; publication development; gender equity-related work; and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). As one participant explained: "Not only do we now apply FPIC at the beginning of new projects, but we also now do so in every stage of our work."

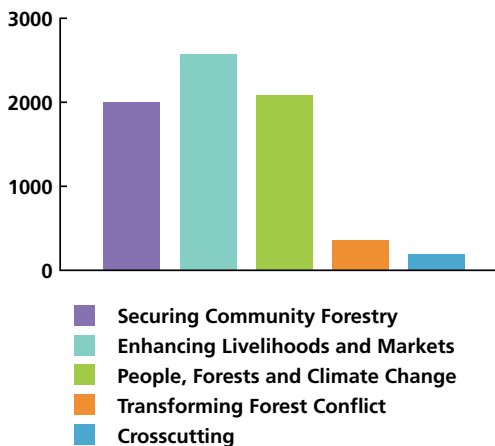
The capacity development activities were, for the most part, equally divided between three of RECOFTC's thematic areas, with 2,500 participants joining Enhancing Livelihoods and Markets trainings, and 2,000 participants each for the Securing Community Forestry and People, Forests and Climate Change trainings. Transforming Forest Conflict trainings were relatively lower in comparison with other thematic programs, due to staffing for the thematic area during this reporting period.

## RECOFTC capacity development 2013-2014

Training participants by country



Training participants by thematic area



6,999

participants

### Capacity development totals



329

Capacity development activities



16,701

Training days



34

Capacity development products produced

# Empowering community enterprises and sustaining livelihoods

## Bamboo brings income to local peoples' livelihoods in Cambodia



A RECOFTC project is helping villagers in Cambodia increase their incomes and better their livelihoods. The villagers of Prey Torteng, one of five villages in the Chros Svay community forest in Kampong Speu province, have traditionally mainly depended on rice cultivation. However, in recent years, rice production has not been able to fully sustain the village, and the villagers thus required alternative income opportunities.

RECOFTC's Cambodia Country Program, through the UNDP-supported Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) project, which aims to enhance community livelihoods through sustainable use of forests, has helped the Prey Torteng villagers develop an alternative income source through selling bamboo. RECOFTC has worked with the villagers to create a bamboo business group, which is comprised of 150 families.

In the Chros Svay community forest, nearly a third of the forest land is covered with bamboo. Members of the bamboo business group are allowed to harvest bamboo during the three-month period between July and September when they are not farming.

"Money earned from selling bamboo has helped boost my family's income," says Nheak Kosal, a father of four children who joined the business group in early 2014. With the money earned from bamboo, Khosal was able to buy a bicycle for his eldest son who can now attend the local school, which is located far from the village.

Em Sophoan, the chair of the group, says that in the first half of 2014 alone, the community group earned almost US\$8754 in income from bamboo. The profits benefit not only the individuals; part of the benefits are directed toward the community forestry development fund.

"We have a business plan ensuring that the bamboo is harvested sustainably," said Sophoan. The supply, moreover, far exceeds the current local demand, and the community may have an opportunity to expand business by pushing into more far reaching markets.

## Increasing harvesting efficiency of bamboo and teak in Lao PDR for better incomes

Throughout 2013-2014, RECOFTC's Livelihood Improvement Through Generation and Ownership of Forest Information by Local People in Products and Services Markets (ForInfo) project, in cooperation with the Bokeo Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry in Lao PDR, completed demonstrations and delivered capacity development programs for local farmers on the efficient harvesting of bamboo and teak wood. The demonstrations included the use of different methods in cutting, hauling and transporting the timber.

In the case of bamboo, local farmers have traditionally harvested it to use as banana poles, wasting approximately 30 percent of the raw material in the process. This wasted raw material, however, has the potential to be used as fuel chips or pellets for biomass energy generation.

But the local farmers do not yet have the capacity to harvest bamboo efficiently – and without such capacity, they are not able to meet the industry market requirements. With efficient harvesting methods, the combination of the low raw material price and high energy value of bamboo can provide an attractive investment opportunity for biomass power companies and other industrial consumers.

The use of bamboo waste from banana poles for the production of biomass energy not only offers a viable livelihood option for local communities, but it also ensures the full utilization of available resources. Biomass-based power generation is increasing its share in the energy supply of Thailand and the overseas export market for biomass energy products like pellets or briquettes is also developing rapidly.

In addition to helping local farmers tap into such expanding markets, the ForInfo project is helping them make use of appropriate harvesting technologies. Modern technologies allow for a significant increase in labor productivity in comparison with traditional manual methods, and the result is more commercially viable livelihood opportunities.



## Supporting Thailand's Readiness Preparation Proposal for REDD+ by bringing CSO stakeholders into the conversation with government

In 2014, the Thailand government, in a major step for REDD+ in the country, submitted its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for REDD+ to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a World Bank-supported climate financial mechanism for the development of REDD+. Since 2011, RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program has been a key facilitator in the development of the R-PP, acting as a facilitator for open dialogue and linking key stakeholders, including CSOs, NGOs, government departments, academics and REDD+ negotiators. RECOFTC's work in this capacity has been supported by USAID's Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF), USAID's GREEN Mekong program and the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC).

In 2011, RECOFTC conducted a study on an appropriate REDD+ model for Thailand. The study used participatory research methods in local communities to help determine the model. In 2013, the study was disseminated via consultation workshops, organized by RECOFTC, for community forest networks and CSOs to prepare comments and recommendations for the R-PP to be developed by Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation (DNP). The DNP took the results of the workshops into account, and then proceeded to organize its own follow-up workshops prior to finalizing the R-PP.

Moreover, during one of the workshops on the R-PP development, a civil society working group for monitoring the R-PP was formed. After the DNP officially released the official R-PP, the working group found that the drafting process lacked a genuinely participatory process. The working group submitted further recommendations for R-PP amendments, and as a result, the DNP is aiming to organize additional regional and national consultations to ensure improved participatory processes.

## Developing capacities of grassroots stakeholders to engage in REDD+ processes and policy dialogues

During 2013-2014, RECOFTC's Grassroots REDD+ project developed the capacities of grassroots stakeholders in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, involving over 2,000 participants, on REDD+ processes. The project also supported consultations with grassroots stakeholders to document their concerns about REDD+ and climate change issues.

Twelve consultations with grassroots stakeholders took place in 2013-2014 in order to link stakeholders to policy dialogues taking place at the national level. In Meru Betiri National Park in Indonesia, for instance, the consultation was able to make a direct impact from the bottom up. During the consultation, the grassroots stakeholders noted gaps in coordination between government agencies, a need to improve their own participation in the decision-making process and a lack of awareness of safeguards for grassroots stakeholders by key decision-makers, in particular related with tenure rights, gender mainstreaming and the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). A district-level multi-stakeholder working group has since been formed to address these issues.

The Grassroots REDD+ project also organized 75 capacity development activities during 2013-2014 in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, which involved over 2,000 participants, almost half of which were women. Many of these activities have already been able to make an impact on local communities. In Yateshe township in Myanmar, for example, villagers, following a training, began sustainable practices such as using fallen branches and twigs for fuel wood rather than felling big trees for charcoal. In Nepal, several community forestry user groups in the Kavre and Dadeldhura districts began using the principles of FPIC in their plantations. And in Viet Nam, the Gung Re commune in Lam Dong province established a women-only forest management and protection group after attending a gender mainstreaming training.

All of the Grassroots REDD+ capacity development activities were supported by 12 knowledge products developed by the project, including guidebooks, question and answer booklets, case studies, posters, radio episodes and short videos, available in both English and national languages.

## Bringing grassroots concerns into the international discourse on REDD+ safeguards at UNFCCC

In early 2014, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requested submissions to its Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on existing frameworks that could function as effective safeguard information systems (SIS) for REDD+.

RECOFTC's submission, "Community forestry and community-based forest landscape management: An important existing framework for safeguard information system design, implementation, monitoring and reporting," argues that incorporating community forestry where appropriate as a key component of national safeguards systems would allow for building upon and strengthening existing national institutions and policies, as well as ensuring provisions for local-level stakeholder involvement in SIS reporting and design.

In addition to making a direct submission to the UNFCCC on the relevance of community forestry, RECOFTC has embedded a focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation through community forestry within its capacity development and networking activities. In the lead-up to COP20 in Lima, Peru, which took place in 2014, RECOFTC organized a workshop with the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forests and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC) and the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) with support provided by USAID LEAF, USAID GREEN Mekong and Norad Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+. The workshop brought ASEAN climate negotiators and ASEAN social forestry officials together for the first time and ultimately catalyzed the drafting of an ASEAN submission to the same call for safeguards inputs.

Following these activities, after 10 years of negotiations, the UNFCCC agreed to finalize the REDD+ framework. One of the three main decision areas of the agreement relates to SIS and provides further guidance for countries reporting on safeguards to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness.

## Encouraging collaboration and transforming forest conflict

### Forest communities and mining company transform conflict in Cambodia

RECOFTC is helping to transform forest conflict between companies and forest communities. The government of Cambodia, for the past decade, has been granting Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) to companies, which allow for industrial-agricultural investment on legally untenured land. Because many local communities do not have legal tenure rights to their land, often times, the land granted to companies as ELCs overlap with already recognized community forests.

When Phea Pimex, a mining company, was granted an ELC in 2000, the land granted to it overlapped with 25 already established community forests in Pursat province. These 25 community forests were already home to over 9,000 households on nearly 7,000 hectares of forestland.

Beginning in 2009 and concluding in 2014, RECOFTC initiated a five-year negotiation process between local communities and Phea Pimex. The mining company now officially acknowledges the existence of community forests on parts of its granted land. Following the initiation of the conflict transformation process, RECOFTC supported the key player of the conflict mediation, the Forest Administration of Cambodia, financially and technically, as well as delivering capacity development activities for key stakeholders.

Because local people depend on forests for their livelihoods and often do not have legal tenure rights to their forestland, they are the most vulnerable party in conflict mediation over claims to forestland. Thus the RECOFTC conflict transformation process focuses on empowering local people first and foremost in conflict mediation through participatory processes.





## Regional internship programme develops community forestry leadership

In accordance with the current strategic plan of 2013-2018, RECOFTC has introduced a new flagship initiative: the Community Forestry Leadership Program, which incorporates a targeted approach to identifying and cultivating “agents of change” within the field of community forestry.

In 2014, to help identify and cultivate such agents of change, RECOFTC established an internship program. The internship program aims to discover and develop young talent by providing a learning opportunity for young graduates who have limited working experience in community forestry. The program enhances their work experience through practical

assignments and supports them in furthering their professional career in the development sector. Moreover, motivated and talented interns bring new perspectives and innovative ideas to the organization.

Through the program, young professionals, including those of partner institutions in focal countries, are selected to undergo a one-year program in specific thematic areas and functional approaches at the RECOFTC headquarters as well as at the Cambodia and Viet Nam country offices. The first interns of the program began in June 2014 and consisted of two from Cambodia and two from Viet Nam.

Specific assignments are jointly set-up at the beginning of the internship by the intern and his or her supervisor, a RECOFTC Senior Program Officer specializing in the intern’s particular thematic area of work. During the internship year, all interns are mentored and coached by his or her supervisor and are evaluated every three months. Training and field visit opportunities are also provided throughout the internship period. During a final evaluation and debrief session at the end of the internship year, all interns are evaluated and given constructive feedback.



# Promoting social inclusion and gender

## Promoting grassroots equity in Mekong countries for better forest governance

A RECOFTC project is fostering the key principles of social equity - clear and stronger rights, a fair share of benefits and good governance - in sustainable forest management in lower Mekong countries. In 2013-2014, the Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks (GREEN) in the Mekong Program has worked to promote grassroots equity by developing the capacities of sub-national government officials and local CSOs. An active Regional Learning Group on Equitable Forest Governance was formed, comprised of senior provincial forestry officials from the Lower Mekong countries. In addition, the Program developed a Challenge Fund mechanism to foster forest equity projects among Mekong CSOs. Key resources on improving grassroots equity have also been developed and are being used to support its capacity development activities.

Since the capacity development activities, the participants have conducted their own research on promoting grassroots equity and have also held several awareness-raising events for other key stakeholders. In early 2014, in partnership with the Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program, GREEN Mekong developed a video titled "A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry & REDD+." The 10-minute informational and instructional video highlights local people and forest communities in Thailand and Viet Nam, and uses animation and illustrations to explain the concept of gender equity and why it is important to preserving forests for effective climate change mitigation.

GREEN Mekong also developed a training manual on improving grassroots equity. The manual aims to help grassroots facilitators to design and implement effective engagement processes based on the principles of equity in forests and climate change contexts, particularly for REDD+.

## Increasing women's participation in community forestry in Nepal

In 2009, Nepal's community forestry guidelines were amended to include a 50 percent representation of women in community forestry user group (CFUG) committees. However, although the new rules and regulations allowed women to become part of community forestry management, efforts to help them participate actively needed improvement. For women to be able to have an influence on decision-making in the formerly male-dominated committees, their capacities would have to be developed.

In response to this need, RECOFTC's country program in Nepal, in partnership with HIMAWANTI, a national-level women's network, initiated a women's leadership capacity development program in 2014. Implemented in select CFUGs, the program has worked to provide a platform for women to develop leadership skills. A training manual for the women's leadership program has also been drafted and tested based on capacity development needs assessments, participatory feedback workshops and a series of consultations at national and sub-national levels.

Thus far, over 70 women leaders have been trained. They are now actively engaged in their respective CFUG decision-making bodies. These women are also now advocating and encouraging other female members to actively contribute in the decision-making processes. Moreover, the lessons from these initiatives have been recognized by the community forestry division of Nepal's Department of Forests and Forestry.

"Following the training with RECOFTC, I have started to share with our local forestry users group the need for and importance of effective women's participation in our committee," said Manamati Bohara, treasurer of the Shivashankar CFUG in Dadeldhura district. "I have also explained to the committee that the existing regulatory frameworks have mandated us to involve women in community forestry management."





# Raising awareness on people and forests in Asia

## Regional and national community forestry forums raise the profile of community forestry throughout the region

During 19-20 November 2013, RECOFTC organized the Third Regional Forum for People and Forests in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was organized in partnership with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand, APFNet, ASFN and JICA, along with support from Norad, Sida and SDC. The forum brought together more than 100 representatives of governments, local communities, civil society organizations, NGOs, academia and donor organizations from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Serving as an inclusive sharing platform for key stakeholders at all levels, the forum also called for collective efforts and commitments from all participants to support and strengthen community forestry in the region. A Regional Forum report has been published summarizing the key messages and discussions and focal country action plans to support and strengthen effective community forestry management in their countries. This report has been published in eight languages, including Khmer, Bahasa

Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar-language, Mandarin, Thai and Vietnamese. A video highlighting the key messages conveyed by the forum's participants has also been produced.

A survey conducted at the end of the forum showed that almost all participants were satisfied with the results and offered positive feedback. More than 95 percent of participants believed that the forum's objectives were achieved and the facilitation process was inclusive and effective.

Between February and April 2014, RECOFTC held a series of national forums in six countries in partnership with eight government counterparts and 17 international and local organizations, institutions, private sector representatives and media organizations. As follow-up events to the regional forum, each national forum further developed national community forestry action plans as discussed during the regional forum. A report for each national forum in the corresponding national language has been published and disseminated widely.

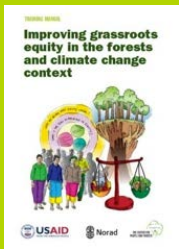
RECOFTC also engaged with media throughout the regional and national events as partners and participants. Wide coverage of the events appeared in print and online newspapers and on television news, and brought the messages of community forestry to a wider audience.



# New community forestry publications

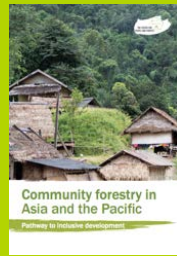
In 2013-14, RECOFTC produced over 33 publications in English and national languages. Ten of the top most widely disseminated (via hardcopies and downloads from RECOFTC and partner websites) publications were related to the thematic areas of People, Forests and Climate Change; Enhancing Livelihood and Markets; Securing Community Forestry and Transforming Forest Conflict and the cross-cutting theme of Social Inclusion and Gender Equity. Moreover, during this period, publications were downloaded 4,580 times from the RECOFTC website. The top three most popular publications by unique downloads were: 1. "Improving grassroots equity in the forests and climate change context: A training manual"; 2. "Current status of social forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation in the ASEAN region"; and 3. "Community forestry in Asia and the Pacific: Pathway to inclusive development."

## Improving grassroots equity in the forests and climate change context: A training manual



This training manual on improving grassroots equity in the forests and climate change context, aims to develop the knowledge and capacity needed among grassroots facilitators to implement participatory processes for improving grassroots equity in forest-based climate change policy frameworks, mechanisms and initiatives.

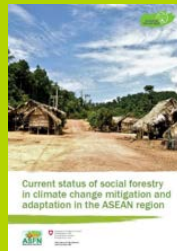
## Current status of social forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation in the ASEAN region



This report covers eight ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia (the state of Sabah), Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam). This situational report examines the current status of social forestry in climate mitigation and adaptation in the ASEAN, and aims to update the Initial Baseline Assessment

on Social Forestry and Climate Change published in 2010. The report found that forest cover in the ASEAN region is slightly less than 200 million ha, with deforestation resulting in the loss of around 1.2 million ha annually. The information on forest cover and social forestry is based primarily on the latest data from national governments, provided by the members of the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change Learning Group.

## Community forestry in Asia and the Pacific: Pathway to inclusive development



This report reflects analysis of the current situation of community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. The study indicates that people will conserve biodiversity, reduce deforestation and manage forests sustainably when they derive regular benefits from them and when they are empowered to participate in decision-making processes regarding those forests.



# Financial report 2013 – 2014

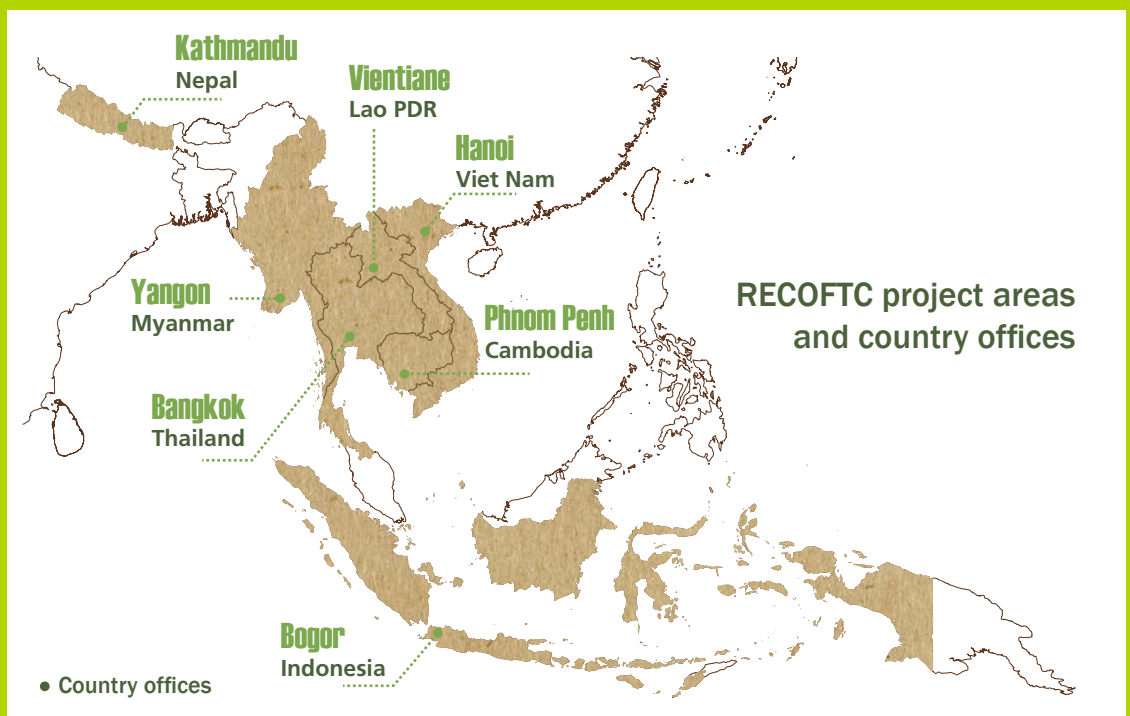
Revenue	Budget (USD)	Actual (USD)
<b>Grant</b>	<b>4,388,895</b>	<b>3,861,337</b>
Core & RECOFTC Funds	4,342,895	3,814,670
Royal Thai Government	46,000	46,667
<b>Internal Income</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>1,869,922</b>
Contribution from projects		1,255,422
Consultancies, etc		288,097
Dorm and facilities		197,231
Other income (interest and misc)		129,171
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,988,895</b>	<b>5,731,259</b>

Expenditure	Budget (USD)	Actual (USD)
<b>Program</b>		
Capacity Development and Technical Services	1,369,484	1,179,526
Strategic Communication	689,752	753,526
Program Coordination and Operations	1,572,660	1,267,732
<b>Governance</b>		
Executive Office & Monitoring & Evaluation	631,284	497,298
<b>Support</b>		
Corporate Services	1,401,221	847,625
Central Operating Expenses	120,000	133,783
Capital Expenses	171,500	423,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,955,901</b>	<b>5,103,042</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		<b>124,700</b>
<b>Carryover to 2014-2015 **</b>	<b>32,994</b>	<b>503,517</b>

**External Project Funding Utilized**

**3,487,918**

\*\* For activities moved from Q4/2014 to Q1/2015



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