



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST LANDSCAPES ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Annual Report 2016-2017
RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests







Forests are inextricably intertwined with the world's greatest challenges – poverty, hunger, gender equality, climate change, biodiversity, peace and partnerships. Addressing these challenges through community forestry requires approaches that consider multiple dimensions - securing community forestry (CF) land, transforming conflict, enhancing livelihoods, climate change, and gender - across landscapes.

Foreword

The Asia-Pacific region displays some of the world's most diverse landscapes: majestic forests, rich wetlands, thriving riparian, coastal and marine ecosystems, and increasingly crowded urban and built environments. Interwoven in these landscapes are communities and stakeholders that shape their surroundings through individual and collective action in their pursuit of better lives and improved well-being. The challenges of balancing development and ensuring sustainability pose an urgent need for new solutions, which is why RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests has been working to develop the capacities of local, national, and regional actors to promote and implement community forestry, an approach that can yield multi-tiered developmental and environmental outcomes. To meet these needs and challenges, RECOFTC has therefore continued to develop innovative ways to build leadership skills and help people live more equitably, with dignity and greater empowerment to protect themselves from the injustices of poverty and environmental degradation.

These initiatives move beyond regional engagement and align with larger global trends as well. In September 2015, Member Countries of the United Nations agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a global framework for our collective future. Three months later, in December 2015, governments at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) finalized a new climate deal, at the forefront of which is forestry and landscapes. Consequently, the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement, along with these other related international commitments, have now provided the global community with a common framework for development in which more holistic and participatory management of land and resources can play strategic roles. As this document shows, the forestry sector –and in particular RECOFTC's work on community forestry –is in a position to significantly contribute to the implementation of this common framework and the realization of these international milestones.

RECOFTC embraces a broad definition of community forestry that includes all aspects, initiatives, science, policies, institutions, and processes that recognize and enhance the role of all local peoples—including women, youth and disadvantaged groups—in governing and managing forest resources within landscapes. Similarly, forest landscapes refers to forests in the broader context of the landscape, that is, the heterogeneous mosaic of different land uses (agriculture, forestry, soil protection, water supply and distribution, biodiversity conservation, pasture provision, etc.) across a large area of land or watersheds. With these interconnected definitions, RECOFTC advocates involving stakeholders from all affected land-use sectors and applying participatory decision-making processes to strengthen rural livelihoods and ensure healthier forest landscapes in the Asia-Pacific.

The interdisciplinary work conducted at RECOFTC includes a variety of institutional arrangements such as indigenous management, direct community control, small-scale forest-based enterprises, and other forms of decentralized and devolved forest management schemes. By supporting and assisting government, non-government, and community partners, and through concerted engagement at different levels from local, national to regional levels, RECOFTC has shown that community forestry and related approaches can deliver results that both improve livelihoods and safeguard the environment.

For the past two years, RECOFTC's annual reports have highlighted the contributions of community forestry to achieving different SDGs, with the last report focusing on social inclusion and gender equity. This report is thus an important continuation of RECOFTC's previous work. The following pages illustrate the connection between community forestry-focused interventions and SDGs in the context of multifunctional, and often contested, landscapes. Multifunctional landscapes are at the center of the new climate and development agendas, providing a demonstration space where people from diverse backgrounds and stakeholder interests interact through forestry, agriculture, fisheries, food and energy systems.



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These results are demonstrated in our stories found in this report. This includes the support RECOFTC provided to a community in Phnom Prak, Cambodia, which has now established a healthy and thriving ecotourism model. By preserving their community forestry and enhancing their livelihoods, they are currently working towards achieving SDG 1, 5, and 15. Similarly, through a crowdsource-funded project, RECOFTC was able to support women-led beekeeping and tree planting initiatives in Nepal as an effort to adapt to climate change, reflecting SDG 1, 5, 13. These are only two of the many stories that encapsulate this pattern of development.

By expanding and disseminating our professional knowledge of multifunctional landscapes, RECOFTC can provide a better understanding of particular interactions, consequently giving policy makers the evidence base they need for effective and appropriate decision making. This will ensure that relevant policy processes fully consider the role of forest resources in rural livelihoods and the dynamics that drive change in this region. RECOFTC is proud to work with all of our partners to demonstrate these principles. In the following annual report, RECOFTC demonstrates the multi-faceted dimensions of human well-being that community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region makes possible, especially within the context of the SDGs and other development agendas.

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Crooked wood

A community in Cambodia develops a business plan and earns a sustainable income

Like many in his community in Kravanh District, Pursat Province, Cambodia, Mr. Cheas Ken, 45, lived in an impoverished household. His family of seven regularly lacked enough food to eat, and did not own land or a home. Ken, 45, tried to make ends meet as a day laborer, but still had to often turn to his relatives for support.

Ken was invited to participate in a RECOFTC training on livelihoods and markets, where he learned about developing a community forestry (CF) enterprise plan and ways to access markets. As a laborer, one of his jobs was collecting wooden poles from forests far away from his village and selling them to businesses for low prices. The training inspired him to think about ways to develop a business plan around that would add value to the crooked wood poles. In early 2014, Ken and a few friends decided to take initiative and start producing wooden furniture. Ken's idea started to succeed when he took the initiative to

produce wooden swings. "I used to collect poles and sell them for USD 40-50. Now I am making my poles into swings that I can sell for USD 250-300."

His business makes a profit of USD 500-1,000 per month and he employs 10 people. His clients include merchants who sell his products in other provinces. From the profits of this business, he was able to buy land, build his own house and expand his business over the last five years.

Ken is concerned about the decreasing forest area, "I cannot imagine my future if there are not enough poles to supply my business; it would be devastating. However, the poles I use to produce swings are crooked and rough, and useless for other things, so I can still easily source them." Ken feels he has some degree of security in his livelihood, which is based on adding value to crooked wood and non-timber forest products.

Mr. Ken's swings made from crooked wood.



Mr. Ken with his family in their home.



located in O' Svay commune, Thakbovonev district, Stung Treng province. It was established in 2006 aiming at improving community livelihoods, promoting public awareness of the importance of the landscape and contributing to biodiversity conservation of the Ramsar. The location of this community is near Khmer-La border and Preah Nimitch water fall. The uniqueness of this CBET is built from breath-taking view of community forestry, community fishery and the Mekong flood forest landscapes.



Healthy homestays

Incorporating eco-tourism into community forestry in Cambodia

Many forest communities depend on their forests for food, fodder, medicine, building materials and more, while among urban communities there is increasing demand for unplugging from the constant buzz of the city.

Eco-tourism is one solution that responds to these needs and encourages forest sustainability. Several years ago, with support from RECOFTC and partners, eco-tourism aimed at enhancing community livelihoods began along the Mekong River, and included guided hiking tours in community mangrove forests.

Recently, in Phnom Prak, Cambodia, the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA) has begun to further foster eco-tourism through encouraging forest homestays that offer glimpses into local living. The homestays generate local incomes through providing work as guides, and sales of local products, handicrafts, and groceries. For example, homestay accommodation is USD 3 per night, plus USD 2.5-3 per meal. A hired guide earns USD 5 per day, and performances or traditional ceremonies range between USD 10 and 25. In Phnom Praka, three homestays have improved the incomes and well-being of 57 households.

The local community has also developed a Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), in which the community divided their community forest area into three categories: a restoration area (2,468 ha), tree harvesting area (983 ha), and conservation area (932 ha), which protects high-value trees and wildlife. In 2017, after establishing protection activities including regular patrols, tree planting, silviculture and more, the area's Community Forestry Management Committees (CFMC) saw potential for extending ecotourism in Phnom Prak into the CF area. Ms. Men Sokin, chief of the CFMC says that as of 2017, more groups of visitors have come to this area, generating sustainable funds for both CF activities and local incomes.

Not only is this enhancing livelihoods in the community, but it is connecting CF members and visitors. Local people have gained respect from decades of work to sustain their forests. They are now developing ways to attract visitors to stay longer, generating further income that can contribute to the community and continue to help sustain forests.



Trees and bees

Women earn incomes and adapt to climate change in Nepal

Along the base of the Chure mountains of Nepal, women in the Sarlahi district are using their local knowledge of the environment to develop a sustainable relationship with the forests that surround the community. The residents of Sarlahi collect wild fruits, nuts, bamboo shoots, mushrooms and medicinal plants from the forest for their own consumption, but they also supplement their income by selling their excess goods. However, the irregular weather patterns caused by climate change and the flooding of a nearby river, which was caused by deforestation on upstream areas, has jeopardized the community's ability to sustainably utilize the forest's natural resources.

To adapt to this reality, the women-led Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) of Bishnupur and Pragatishil in the Sarlahi district made a plan: through beekeeping and agroforestry, they could integrate fruit trees into the forests. The result would increase forest cover and help them generate additional revenues for their livelihoods.

Beekeeping and planting trees are practices proven to enhance forest health, decrease reliance on cash crops and generate income. Furthermore, since women (especially single or widowed women), ethnic minorities and Dalits are the most reliant on communal resources, like forests, this plan intended to strength the livelihoods of the community's most marginalized groups.

To engage with the local communities on their pursuit, RECOFTC launched an online fundraising campaign called 'Trees & Bees, Please!' The intent was to provide the community with funds for beehives, tree saplings, and training to ensure that the trees and beehives, as well as the income generated from them, were sustainable in the long-term. After two months of online and offline fundraising activities, the 'Trees & Bees' campaign reached its fundraising goal with support from individual donors from across the globe - from the United States to Thailand, Nepal, South Korea, and even Tanzania. Online donations reached USD 9,725 and offline donations reached USD 1,116, totaling USD 10,841.

To date, the project has distributed a total of 37 beehives to CFUGs in the district.

In Pragatishil, five women have received three beehives each. The process to select these households was undertaken by the Pragatishil CFUG members, who undertook an assessment of the existing capacities and knowledge of beekeeping amongst the women members, also considering their willingness to take up such a task. The recipients of beehives come from Dalit families, who in the caste system occupy the lowest place and are the most disadvantaged.

In Bishnupur, six women have received 22 beehives. Over the past six months, the women have already harvested honey three times, averaging five kilograms per harvest, which has been sold at a nearby market in Lalbandi. Currently, one beehive can produce up to 18 kilograms of honey in a year. This honey is sold for around five US dollars per kilogram. One family has already received around 270 US dollars (27,000 Nepali Rupees) from their three hives.

Additionally, the project has overseen the distribution of 546 mango, lychee and jackfruit trees in Bishnupur and Pragatishil. While this activity was delayed due to a lack of rain, all distributed trees have now been planted. On top of this, the project has also overseen the distribution and sowing of 900 pointed gourd saplings to 32 families in Pragatishil. Finally, in Pragatishil, a total of 2,000 grass slips of fodder species have been planted. On top of this, the project has planted just under 300 fodder trees and 150 bamboo rhizomes.

This project goes beyond a one time interaction. Eleven families have received the tools needed for beekeeping and harvesting, plus additional training on the proper techniques to ensure that the new bee entrepreneurs have the knowledge and skills they need to generate income from the beehives. RECOFTC has supported multiple trainings, which focused on health, bee identification, protection from insects, and honey collection, in both Bishnupur and Pragatishil. All trainings were attended by the wife and husband of the corresponding households. Going forward, the women will receive continuous support for one full year from a beehive contractor. The contractor is to ensure the success of the project and the women's ability to generate income and enhance their livelihoods. A contract has been established with the beehive provider to fulfill this service and provide enhanced capacity development training.

Diversification has been instrumental in developing income generating capacities. Bishnu Mahat, from the Bishnupur women's CFUG, has commented on the benefit of diversification: "Instead of planting sugarcane, I have started planting mango on my land. Sugarcane uses too much water and is drying the land, whilst reducing productivity. I am expecting that mango will provide a better return than sugarcane and will diversify my income source."

These practices also increase long-term sustainability. "We have planted lychee and mango in our home garden and they will provide a good harvest after 5-6 years. We can consume some of the fruit at home and we can sell the rest to generate income. It will be a long-term source of income, which will benefit me in my old age as well as my children," Harimaya BK states. This would not be possible had the women not shown keen insight into diversifying their forest products.

The project has continued to improve as the CFUGs have outlined ways to ensure the sustainability of the project and build on its success. Each of the families that have received a bee hive will split their hive at the end of the year to provide a hive for another family; the CFUG's are continuing to plant tree seedlings each year; and plans to scale-up vegetable cultivation have already seen an increase of area under cultivation from six to nine kattha (1 kattha = 720 square feet).

The 'Trees & Bees' project has made significant progress. Women have already been able to harvest and sell honey at local markets. The Trees and Bees project has diversified rural incomes, particularly for women, and has allowed for further economic mobilization. Two of the participating women of Bishnupur CFUG have already moved up the income ladder from being full-time laborers in the local market to bee entrepreneurs. In Pragatishil, the women have been unable to harvest honey due to an ongoing drought and later flash flooding. The lack of rain has meant that there has not been enough flowering for the bees to feed on. The local trainer has advised against artificial feed, which is not healthy for new hives. Despite these challenges, the women of Pragatishil CFUG are looking forward to their first harvest. "I have observed from other villages that there is a good market for honey and the possibility to profit with a few inputs. I am expecting that within a few months I will get a good harvest and return from the honey, which I can spend on my children's education", confers Dhanamaya BK, Pragatishil women's CFUG.

Overall, 'Trees and Bees, Please!' has been a great success. The program has shown how local communities can diversify their income, overcome marginalization, enhance their livelihoods, and secure their rights through the implementation of their own local knowledge. This knowledge is vital in our mutual goal to acquire gender and economic equity, while mitigating the harmful effects of climate change.



Past vs. present forest condition in Sel Pyar village.



Transformation through participation

A village in Myanmar becomes a regional model for community forestry

The local community in Sel Pyar village in Myanmar once had no interest in investing their time and resources in CF. Even though the village owned 4 hectares of CF, the forest was severely degraded due to a long history of livestock grazing and unsustainably extracting forest products. The community had 25 community forestry (CF) members, but they were not active in forestry activities. There was no record keeping, no monitoring and evaluation, and no regular meetings. People did not see benefit in community forestry because they felt 10 acres (4 ha) was not nearly enough land to support CF activities and livelihoods for the 92 households in Sel Pyar village.

RECOFTC started working in the village in 2015, and has since trained 45 households on sustainable forest management, record keeping, reporting, gender and social inclusion and monitoring and evaluation. In addition to these trainings, RECOFTC has provided technical support to the group in developing tree plantations, weeding and the sustainable harvesting of resources.

RECOFTC's participatory approach to CF development facilitated a healthy learning environment for the development of CF, which included women and youth, groups that were previously marginalized. U Kyaw Swe, a representative of National Parliament from Myaing Township, says, "I was shocked when I saw the positive change in capacity of the Sel Pyar villagers, especially youth. They asked questions in public events and actively took part in meeting discussions. I think community-based projects or activities also embody the concept of democracy, and it is very important for our country's development."

As well as developing capacity for agro-forestry management, RECOFTC facilitated local community members' understanding of forestry governance through their participation in negotiations with the Forest Department for

formal CF Certification. The formal CF aims to ensure secured community forestry and land rights.

Networking Sel Pyar villagers with other CF villages to create a CFUG network was another key activity to help strengthen the CF. Sel Pyar villagers went on local study tours to other CF sites, such as Shaw-Pyu village where they learned about tree plantation. One CFUG member also participated in an international study tour to Thailand to learn about Thai experiences in CF implementation.

Throughout these trainings and capacity development events, the villagers were able to expand and share their areas of expertise and knowledge. They gained trust in the concepts of community forestry, especially of community forestry rights and rights to management, withdrawal, access and inheritance of land tenure. They also learned the value of monitoring and evaluation for better transparency and full participation to ensure sustainability of the community forest.

Recognizing that there must be space for planned flexibility and monitoring, due to contextual changes and unforeseen events, U Thein Nyo, the Secretary of Sel Pyar CF group says, "I think the existing rules and regulations aren't enough to have a sustainable CF and good governance. We need to update our rules and regulations yearly based on our implementation experiences."

In 2012, the villagers transferred their investment in collective customarily owned community forestry land towards establishing new community forestry in individually owned land. They tried to apply the newly learned concepts of community forestry and the benefit stream potential from community forestry.

Now, all villagers with previous customary rights in Protected Public Forest (PPF) have obtained formal, legal management rights. This process



Women participating in nursery development.



Sel Pyar chairperson demonstrates the transplanting of seedlings, from seed bed to bag, to other CF villagers.

was as per Community Forestry Instruction (CFI), submitted to the Forest Department (FD) in August 2016. U Nyo San, the CF chairperson of Sel Pyar CFUG says, “We had previously tried to obtain land ownership rights in our customary forest area but we failed at that time. Then RECOFTC helped us realize the best way forward to get land ownership.”

The Sel Pyar villagers received their CF certificates from the FD in October 2017. The certificates ensure rights for 30 years of land management, inheritance and withdrawal. To top it off, their secretary was elected as chairperson of 11 villages in their local CF network, signifying the trust they had built and their reputation as a leader and model in CF.

The CF has also expanded. There are now 45 CF group members – an increase from the 25 from before. Members are now actively giving their opinions and suggestions, and committed to monthly meetings and systematic book-keeping on finance and operations.

With this significantly increased level of participation, the villagers were able to increase their CF area from 10 acres to 515 acres (4 ha to 08 ha) , including 285 acres (115 ha) of forested land and 230 acres (93 ha) of barren land for restoration

and CF. They have started nurseries and planting *Shaw Dhyu* trees and *Thamat Kar* trees, which can provide sustainable cash incomes to make cosmetics and gum. They planted over 42 000 teak trees, *pyinkado*, *paduak* and *yinma* seedlings. The villagers have also pruned and felled trees to improve the health of the former CF area of 10 acres (4 ha). They sustainably harvested two tons of firewood, for their own use and to sell, with a portion of the proceeds used to buy 200 *Thanakar* tree seedlings, which are in high demand for cosmetics, and planted the trees in the gap areas of village-owned CF.

Their cycle did not end here – Sel Pyar village also gave trainings to other CF villages to teach basic concepts and principles of CF, and share participatory decision-making and nursery establishment skills. They also gave over 1600 seedlings to other CF groups. U Han Tun Cho, a forest ranger from the Forest Department of Myaing township, confirms “Community Forestry established under the SuComFor project is more systematic and organized, especially the Sel Pyar village. Nearby villages also carry out their CF activities, inspired by Sel Pyar village.”

The expansion and sharing of their CF principles and resources reveal a natural equation of growth. As their cup overflows with water, they pour and invest into other communities.



Sel Pyar CFUG members are now actively giving their opinions and suggestions, and committed to monthly meetings and systematic bookkeeping on finance and operations.





Legal livelihoods

Villagers in Myanmar end illegal logging and sustain their forests

The Ya Haing Bya village, in Gwa Township, Rakhine State, was once dependant on illegal logging for their livelihoods. Local communities, private companies and outside villagers illegally extracted unlimited amounts of timber, bamboo and rattan from their nearby forest. The area suffered from rampant deforestation.

“Seventy-five percent of villagers - including me - illegally logged to make a living,” said U Ko Myint. Outside the village, several private companies and loggers extracted timber both illegally and legally from the forest. Mountainous roads were constructed in CF areas to transport the high volumes of logs.

As a result, the dense forest - previously rich in natural resources and biodiversity - gradually degraded. Forest cover, fresh water and valuable flora and fauna species including aquatic species in the mangrove area all declined. The effects of climate change and natural disasters such as landslides contributed to reduced crop production. As the local community faced these adverse conditions, villagers began to realize that the village’s degraded forest resources were affecting their own well-being. But they didn’t know how to manage and sustain forest resources, although they were waiting for opportunities to obtain ownership and management rights, since all forest areas near their village were owned by the Forest Department and private sector companies at that time.

Around this time, in 2011, MERN, a local NGO, began a project with other partner organizations in Gwa Township. Ya Haing Bya Village was involved in the project through collecting information about CF. They found that the local community was trying to establish CF, but that they did not receive any support from any organization.

In 2015, RECOFTC started working with Ya Haing Bya community. The SUComFor project began working with the village by initiating discussions with all levels of the local community. Local community members felt that they finally found the

support they were looking for and began focusing on the establishment of CF.

RECOFTC and village leaders developed a resource map of the proposed CF area. According to their resource map, they had two main reasons for why they wished to establish CF – firstly, the forest area that the local community depended on was located in the Taung Nyo Protected Public Forest (PPF), which was under the management of the Forest Department. This meant people did not have legal access to resources.

Secondly, the forest condition has great potential to be a successful CF, considering the large range of biodiversity prior to deforestation. There could be many different NTFPs and resources for livelihoods sourced from the CF. On the other hand, the local community had concerns due to a multitude of challenges from illegal loggers, from both their own village and outsiders. There would be heavy impacts on livelihoods of local communities dependent on illegal logging. However, in the end the villagers decided to establish CF in their forest area to become legally accepted by the government and attain management rights for their forest near their village.

When forming the CF group, they started with a good foundation because all villagers became CF group members and they actively participated in all CF activities. Villagers improved their capacity in forest management and overcame the challenges they were concerned with prior to CF establishment. In April 2017 they finally obtained a CF certificate from the Forest Department because they were able to manage the forest systematically according to their Management Plan.

CF certificate award ceremony in Gwa Township.





Women in Ya Haing Bya Village, Rakhine State, actively participate in CF workshops and nurseries.

Through this CF certificate, the community gained formalized access to land. U Hla Thien, secretary of the CFMC, says, "There are now 111 CF group members in my village. That means each household has 10 acres (4 ha), as the community has 1000 acres (approx 404 ha) overall. I believe that we will raise living standards in the future now that we have management and production rights."

Although the community has been using this land for years, their work is now finally secure through land tenure ownership and government support. There is now an increased level of participation in CF activities. U Myint Shwe, the CF chairman, says, "While establishing CF in the village, I was selected as chairperson by the villagers. None of us fully understood the concepts of CF at that time. After we attended RECOFTC trainings, we understood more about CF and how to improve the capacity

of the local community." The villagers also had training in participatory approaches to sustainable forest planning, "Recently, we developed a plan ourselves and divided zones according to the condition of the forest, such as plantation area, natural forest area, and so on."

Village leader, Daw Mon Mon Khine, adds, "Establishing CF in our village helped unite all villagers. Now, women actively participate in all CF activities. I'm very happy about that."

Overall, U Myint Shwe notes the success of CF is because of "our strong unity and good leadership in managing CF. This will continue to support the improvement of local people's livelihoods and sustain forests for the long-term."

Vision map. The 2017 management plan reveals how the community is now systematically managing their forest taking into account various contexts. The vision map shows how the community envisions their forest in 2027.



Resource mapping in 2015.

CF management plan in 2017.



Revitalizing community participation

Empowered leadership and community in Myanmar successfully reduce forest fires and illegal logging

Less than two years ago, unsustainable forest use was the norm in Kothlaing village. Illegal hunting, illegal logging and illegally selling land was a common occurrence in the village and nearby areas. The practices led to excessive deforestation and degradation.

While the village had demarcated the community forest, and even had a CF group, members did not try to stop these activities because they did not possess an official CF certificate and thus had no formal means to challenge the practices.

RECOFTC first began working in the community in 2016. During the initial stages, only a few people attended CF events, trainings and group meetings. The group nearly dissolved after the chairperson U Maung Zaw passed away in November 2016. Then, U Saw Nho Phaw, a Kayin native, was appointed as CF chairperson.

U Saw Nho Paw seized opportunities to attend subnational-level CF trainings, collaborated with the Forest Department and RECOFTC to learn about CF and shared CF knowledge with CF group members. He reformed the CFMC and was soon able to mobilize participation of more villagers in CF activities. He conducted regular CF meetings, and was able to reconcile conflicts within the village CFUG. Eventually, members began to follow the guidelines of the committee, and the group slowly began to unite and become engaged in CF.

CF members made fire lines, and began patrolling for forest fires in the hot season of 2017. The group started to become popular and more villagers joined the group. The group began to exercise their right to prohibit others from entering and misusing their CF, cooperating with the Forest Department to restrict encroachers and shifting cultivators in the CF area.

The newfound activity was a group endeavor - other CF members including secretary U Si Thu Htike, U Win Naing and treasurer Daw Lae Lae Zaw all played key roles. It was this group who took part in state- and district-level workshops and began to try to obtain formal certification for their community forest.

In 2017, regional and district level forest department officers visited the Kothlaing village CF. After the field trip, the village received good news: their CF certificate was approved due to their group's unity and active participation in CF.

The FD staff recorded the baseline forest condition of the Kothlaing CF using drone images and digital videos. The Forest Department granted the CF certificates to Kothlaing village along with six other villages, covering an area of 2678 hectares. The certificates secured the rights of villagers to prevent their CF from illegal encroachment and to guarantee legitimate use of forest resources.



Kothlaing village CF meeting.



Peaceful resolution

Nonviolent negotiations in Cambodia lead to compensation

Conducting peaceful negotiations rather than resorting to violent confrontation is the new reality for the Trapeang Rong community forestry group in Kampong Thom, Cambodia. The CF group was recently able to celebrate a legal victory over an electricity company that had been clearing their community forest to build electric power lines without their permission. The victory is indicative of a larger trend: the community understood the laws and regulations of community forestry and were able to seek legal help to peacefully resolve a conflict.

In 2015, an electricity company began to clear the local community forest area to build electricity power lines. Although the community forestry management committee (CFMC) members were able to negotiate to stop the company at the time, the success was short lived. A few weeks later, the electricity company returned – again, without former consultation or permission – and began clearing the land once more, claiming electricity lines are a part of government responsibility and thus override the community forest land rights.

The CFMC members explained the rules of community forestry according to law, and were able to get support from local police. The company then once again agreed to stop clearing the land and begin negotiations with the community forestry user group.

The CFMC requested compensation of USD 10,000 based on their calculations of tree loss within the area the company cleared (1 ha, or 50m x 2000m). The cleared forest was a conservation area with pine trees. However, the company declined and got a district official involved in the discussions, who explained that the company was setting up public electricity services that would benefit many Cambodian people. In consideration of the public benefit, the CFMC agreed to a settlement of USD 2,500 compensation.

Although the compensation was not what the CFMC had requested, the CFMC was able to obtain the timber and forest products the electricity company cut down and produced. Mr. Pheakdra,

a local Forest Administration official notes, “Forest Administration and local authorities played an important role in getting the two parties to come and negotiate with each other. And we are happy that this case was resolved peacefully.” In the end, Trapeang Rong’s CFMC was able to obtain compensation and hopefully set a precedent for further steps to fairer compensation.

Throughout this whole process, the Forestry Administration and RECOFTC supported these negotiations. RECOFTC provided trainings on assessing inventory, improving negotiation skills and increasing knowledge on community forestry legalities and rules. They also mediated linkages between government and community forest user groups.

Within the same year, the CFMC received their compensation of USD 2,500 from the company, which they put toward microcredit funds for all three community forest groups, USD 375 per group. They also used it for the construction of a community forest office.

The office was opened on the 17th anniversary of CF establishment in the area. The community celebrated the occasion and commemorated their journey of persistence and violent confrontation. They recalled a staff member of a local NGO who supported the community in obtaining land for their community forest. One night in 1999 a gunman went to his home and killed him - there was no conflict, no confrontation. People suspected it was because of his involvement in CF.

Trapeang Rong demonstrates that conflict transformation is possible. Moreover, it demonstrates improved coordination between community groups and government agencies. For the government, it is important that community forest groups understand the rules set by government and agree to negotiate non-violently. In this case, Trapeang Rong was able to “prove” their capacity; it is a noteworthy step towards fairer compensation, and a model that can be replicated by other community forest groups.



Confidence sells

Through participatory training, villagers in Indonesia gain confidence to develop and market forest products

If you ask any trainer at the Training Center for Environment and Forestry of Indonesia (CFET) what is the most important part of developing and implementing a training, they will say curriculum design. This is especially true when the sessions are about how to market community-based products. Based on past experience, the CFET trainers understand that they cannot simply pass down techniques and materials about developing small business enterprises, but rather need to stress how essential it is to do so in a sustainable manner.

This predicament is why RECOFTC’s trainings on Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) were influential in showing CFET trainers a more participatory way of designing and conducting their trainings. The MA&D training module, developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), offered detailed step-by-step training phases with clear outputs that facilitated trainers in implementing training curriculums and providing mentoring to their trainees. For Rahmi Astuti of CFET, the training module and approaches helped her to keep track of her trainees’ development and locate gaps in knowledge. Astuti acknowledged the importance of tailoring the training curriculum and instructions to stakeholders’ needs, in this case, the local farmers group and community members. “I realized later on that in mentoring the farmers group my approach had to be practical and relevant to what they needed,” she insightfully noted in her reflection.

The highlight of this learning process is that MA&D emphasizes the need to conduct prior analysis of the product and its sustainability. In other words,

the local community or farmers group were the key actors in the process, from analyzing a product’s potential to developing it, and to finding its market. In the early phases, MA&D stresses the role local communities have in making sure that the product is not socially or legally controversial, that the necessary technology is available to maintain its production, and is sustainable. By allowing the local farmers to go through this process themselves, it fostered commitment, accountability and confidence to manage their forest resources.

Based on the resources and trainings, CFET further streamlined their existing MA&D curriculum by implementing a “Training of Trainers” programme and establishing “training forests” to be used as grounds for research and piloting. The latter allowed for farmers to conduct trials and experiments under the guidance of trainers. In all, this has had a high impact on the communities trained. To date, 70 leaders of forest management units have been trained by CFET using these programmes. Additionally, a number of the farmers who have participated in these programmes have produced products that not only add value to their other forest products, but also provide additional income through improved packaging and marketing. For Astuti, she felt a certain gratification from the success of the trainees: “I was very pleased seeing our farmers find ways to be self-sufficient and create their own business!”



A series of trainings for the trainers and farmers group. Locally-produced brown sugar ready for market.



VIFORA trainees learn about timber plantation in the field.



Forest owners nationwide receive technical support from the association.



Trainees at resource mobilization training workshop.



Forest owners connect

Viet Nam establishes a new network to support knowledge sharing

Forest owners in Viet Nam's provinces are no longer working in isolation. More than 350 forest owners are now able to connect with one another as members of the Viet Nam Forest Owner Association (VIFORA).

In 2013, nearly 30% of forest land in Viet Nam was being managed by local people - involving 1.5 million households and 10,000 communities nationwide (source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). There was no national association that the forest owners could turn to for support.

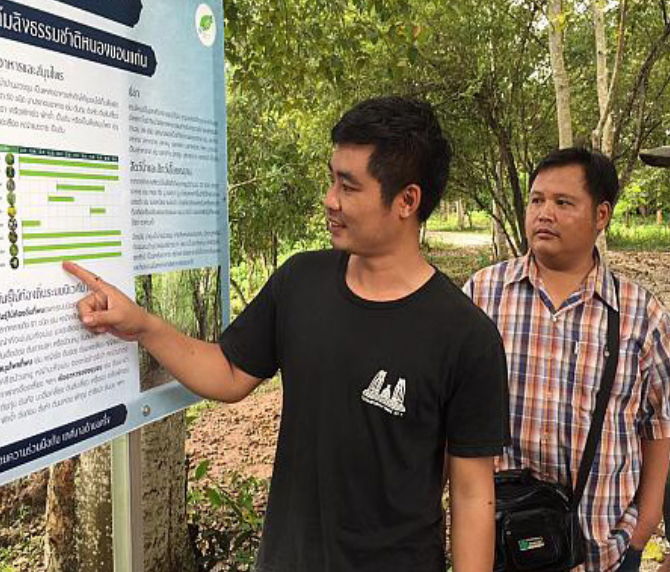
VIFORA began formation in 2016, the result of the joint efforts of a group of dedicated forest owners, government officials, NGOs, civil society groups and RECOFTC. To form the association, the group assembled 200 forest owners from throughout Viet Nam who called for the official formation of VIFORA. The forest owners felt the need to form VIFORA so that members would not only be able to network with one another, but have better access to technical assistance and capacity development in forestry.

Group members then went through the required legal procedures and conditions to establish an official forest association. RECOFTC helped

to support the forest owners throughout the process. VIFORA was officially established in Ha Noi in November 2017, a moment celebrated by hundreds of forest owners in Viet Nam. VIFORA members quickly went to work and elected a board and began to develop official regulations.

Currently VIFORA membership has grown to over 350 members and 9 provincial sub-associations. VIFORA's board has been extremely active, conducting several field trips to provinces to get inputs from forest owners to inform the network's future plans.

Building members' capacity was identified as an important aim of the association. RECOFTC has supported the network by conducting eight training workshops and two study tours. In total, RECOFTC has trained 100 members - including conducting trainings of trainers for key VIFORA members on market analysis and development (MA&D), followed by trainings at the community level. RECOFTC also conducted two study tours to Quang Nam for members to learn about forest plantation models and how local communities can benefit from forests. VIFORA members have been trained on facilitation, communication skills and resource mobilization. VIFORA has been able to gain strength quickly as an institution fostering sustainable forestry throughout Viet Nam.



Pride, love and technology

Youth in Thailand tap into technology and connect with nature

In Southeast Asia, technology has taken even the most rural of villages by storm. Many people report going from using no technological devices straight to a smartphone, without the evolution of a fax machine, home telephone or computer. Youth in the rural village of Muang Chum, Thailand are no exception.

Not long ago, youth in Muang Chum felt out of touch with nature, were unfamiliar with local biodiversity and had little knowledge about edible and medicinal plants in their local area. Knowledge about nature possessed by elders often was not passed on to youth. The area's landscape was degraded, and monoculture and illegal logging occurred more often than not. Community members did not take an integrated, holistic approach to forest management - problems were dealt with as separate issues rather than as part of an interconnected landscape. These grooves of life and habits left little for future generations. Signs of degradation were already present and showed no signs of declining.

A turning point came when villagers learned their land was proposed to become a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). People realized that with the implementation of the SEZ, they would lose their customary rights over forest and wetlands, which the community had been relying on for food and income through the sale of timber and non-timber forest products.

Youth in the community felt that although they lacked knowledge of forests held by their elders, they could contribute to combatting the SEZ through their knowledge of technology. They realized that there were no electronic databases with forest information, and that elders held all the knowledge about forests in their heads. As youth recognized this gap, RECOFTC supported the community to develop monitoring and electronic storage systems.

These computer-based data collection systems have helped the community build new communication links to other youth groups, and even informally to external actors such as the Royal Forest Department. These electronic systems are also helping to develop new interests and skills - including measuring carbon in trees and then storing the information electronically.

Youth in Muang Chum are using social media including LINE and Facebook to track, monitor and evaluate, and share information. Capturing information on the status of natural resources - including how much water they have, and what types of vegetables to plant and harvest, and carbon sequestration of the local forest - has already resulted in better decision-making for more sustainable forest management.

The youth group - affectionately self-named "Muang Chum lovers" - is now actively involved in community issues. The youth group has planted 3000 native species trees to help restore the forest. Their knowledge on carbon sequestration has guided decisions on what tree species to plant - youth chose to plant fast-growing species that store more carbon, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby contributing to REDD+. They want to set up a formal knowledge sharing network where people in the city can come to the village and learn about resource management, including gaining a better understanding of carbon sequestration. Thereafter they can return to the city and increase the amount of green areas. The community members believe they can be a leader in knowledge transfer to other communities.

By sharing information villagers feel pride in their work and knowledge. Through technology, youth now have a better sense of ownership of their forest and are more interested in engaging in forest management in the future. These actions will benefit people along the entire Ing watershed, which stretches 130 km long.



Renegotiating the Special Economic Zone

Villagers use information to sustain their forests

Bunrueng village in northern Thailand has reason to celebrate. The local community has triumphed in securing land for over 200 households. The decision by Thailand's Department of Treasury to not convert 3,700 rai (592 ha) of wetlands into a special economic zone (SEZ) was a hard-earned victory - but one that has secured the customary rights and livelihoods of more than 200 families living in Bunrueng.

In August 2015, village representatives at the district level learned of plans for their wetlands to be converted into a SEZ. Lacking details of the SEZ and worried about the possible consequences of losing wetlands, villagers attended meetings to gather more information about the plan. They found out that the government considered the wetlands as degraded land and so decided to establish a SEZ there. Villagers were upset with the unconsulted, unilateral decision of the government that would use an area very important for their existence.

The wetlands are used by five different administrative villages: Boonruang Ban 1, 2 and 10 and Thongplom Ban 5 and 8. The wetlands have provided livelihoods to villagers through fish, bamboo shoots, medicinal plants, mushrooms and a number of other products.

Villagers feared pollution would result from an industrial zone and worried that construction would flood the village. They were also worried about the conflicting information about the SEZ - first, they heard it was 300 rai, but later villagers discovered that the SEZ would be 1,100 rai.

Villagers decided to start a public campaign. Thai PBS, Thailand's public television station, came to interview villagers on their views about the policies. The villagers shared that they were unhappy with this kind of development. Soon

after, government "security" personnel arrived in the village and asked community members to get rid of the banners and posters that villagers had posted. They advised local people to support the SEZ. Local people tried to convince the security personnel otherwise - and using data about their wetlands and forest that they had gathered with the support of RECOFTC, were able to provide information about the wetlands. They convinced them that local people rely on the wetlands for their livelihoods. The information eventually helped to convince the security personnel to support the villagers to protect the wetlands.

The campaign against the SEZ strengthened, and villagers showed their support by wearing campaign t-shirts. Villagers' friends and relatives from other provinces, Bangkok and even abroad joined in and helped raise money to fund the campaign. University officials and famous monks in Chiang Rai also began to support the campaign.

Eventually the provincial governor came to the village and asked the local community to give land for the SEZ. However, villagers used the data they had gathered to prove how important the wetlands were to local livelihoods. Still, the governor used another mechanism to get consent. A district forum was organized, where participants voted on the SEZ - however, village members were not allowed to join the forum. So the villagers started a petition against the SEZ.

Their persistence - backed up with data that provided evidence to convince decision-makers - eventually paid off. The decision by the Department of Treasury to renegotiate the special economic zone (SEZ) was hard-earned but one that will be felt for generations to come.



Teak journey

Empowered teak owners in Lao PDR secure livelihoods through certification and access to markets

Local communities in Bokeo, Lao PDR, have grown teak for decades, yet never seemed to benefit much. The Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade project (RAFT3) began working with teak smallholders in Bokeo in 2016. The project aimed to support local teak tree owners to secure their rights to their forest by obtaining government teak certificates (proving small holders' ownership of their teak trees) and local communities' skills to manage their trees for maximum benefits.

These skills include understanding how to optimize growth of teak trees. Teak trees require sunlight and space, and in order to ensure that the trees receive enough sunlight during their early development in the first three years, the teak trees must be grown without any other plant species around them. A key element for the proper development of the teak trees is well-timed thinning. Thinning refers to when some of the underperforming trees in the plantation are cut and sold prematurely, thus allowing the best trees to continue developing fully with more space and soil nutrients.

Fingerjointing is a technique that allows full utilization of wood by joining small diameter teak timber together in a way that adds value to the teak and subsequently increases income of the smallholders.

Through the RAFT3 project, in 2017 RECOFTC has worked with teak small holders in Bokeo to increase their capacities - and in turn their incomes - by developing capacities on thinning and fingerjointing. The project also helped link smallholders with a local sawmill, and supported them in their negotiations for fair prices.

The local communities have already benefited from the selling of their small diameter teak to the sawmill, and increased their incomes. The total value of teak timber (with a total volume of 151,032 m3) sold to the sawmill till now is Thai Baht 586,058 (about USD 18,315), paid to 27 teak owners in three villages. The sawmill is producing teak construction materials for houses and potentially furniture such as tables and chairs.

Local smallholders have now gone full circle on their journey to better, more secure incomes - from teak mapping, to obtaining teak certificates, to optimally growing and negotiating fair selling prices for their teak wood.

A buyer measures teak logs in the field before paying teak owners in Houaythong village, Paktha district.



Smallholders receive their teak certificates in Had done keo village, Paktha district.



Loading and transporting teak logs from a thinning operation in Khouklouang village, Hoauyxaï district, Bokeo province.



Voices for Mekong Forests

Strengthening civil society voices for improved forest governance in the Mekong region

In the past 25 years, the region has lost more than five percent of its forests. A number of countries in the Mekong region are experiencing traumatic forest loss (i.e. Cambodia and Myanmar) while others have had an increase in forest area but a dramatic loss of their primary forests (i.e., Lao PDR and Viet Nam). Nonetheless, all face forest degradation to various degrees. This degradation poses significant risks and challenges for the rural communities who depend on forests for their livelihoods. Strong governance that is inclusive, transparent and accountable is a key prerequisite to addressing this issue.

In January 2017, with support from the European Union (EU), the Voices for Mekong Forests (V4MF) project was launched with RECOFTC as the lead, along with eight regional and national partners from the Mekong region. The project aims to ensure that “by 2021 empowered and networked non-state actors (NSAs) in three trans-boundary landscapes assess, monitor and respond appropriately to strengthen forest governance, in line with FLEGT-VPA and REDD+, and effectively engage in policy processes.”

This five-year project targets three trans-boundary landscapes across five countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. To achieve its objective, the project focuses on fostering and empowering networks of NSAs using three sets of activities: the establishment of forest governance monitoring systems; the delivery of capacity

development programs on subjects and skills related to forest governance; and various forms of support to ensure effective engagement of NSAs in forest policy and governance processes at regional, national and local levels.

V4MF has strong institutional support from the European Union, which is supportive of all operations. “The EU European Union is very proud to support this project. We are interested in community forestry and improved forest governance because of its link to reducing poverty and sustaining the environment. We see this project as an important contribution to the continued sustainable development in the region, reducing poverty through improved forest governance and in the end helping to prepare the ground for successful legal timber trade between the EU and the Mekong region,” remarked Mrs. Jenni Lundmark from the EU delegation to Thailand.

Since the launch of the project, V4MF has conducted 14 events including inception workshops, capacity development needs assessments and trainings, and consultations for forest governance assessment. Activities in the second year will focus on capacity development for national partners and non-state actors, developing and testing pilot applications to monitor forest governance, facilitating multi-stakeholders dialogues, and supporting the production of publications, case studies and engagement with media.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation for learning



Community members in Myanmar at a meeting to review the results of their CF monitoring activities. Samples of participatory resource and social/household mapping (tools 1 & 2) were presented to capture the landscape's baselines and comparatives.

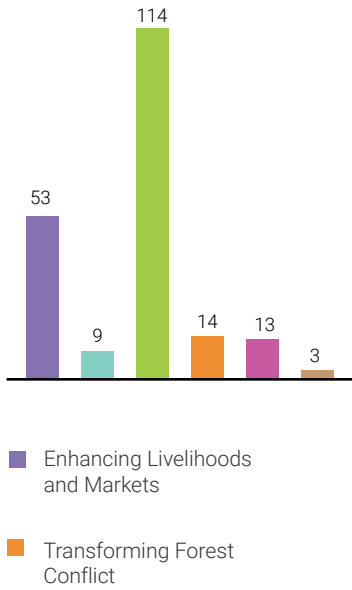
During 2016-17, over the course of 36,000 person days of capacity development events, RECOFTC facilitated 206 capacity development activities with over 5,000 participants. Furthermore, it organized 36 awareness-raising events on forestry, climate change, gender and social issues. About 1,700 additional people benefited from these awareness-raising events. Creating an enabling environment in forestry is one of RECOFTC's key roles. Hence, it proactively participated and contributed to 35 different policy forums, including nine national-level policy processes. During the year, RECOFTC contributed to three national-level policies that were approved by their respective governments; six others are under discussion.

RECOFTC's participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) system was also further strengthened in collaboration with country programs and units. The activities and output monitoring is fully operational with online recording and reporting. With this, RECOFTC staff have access to online monitoring data and reports. Moreover, this system has also helped develop a customized PM&E system for the RECOFTC-managed, EU-funded Voices for Mekong Forests project, which has multiple civil society partners. The system provides partners with a platform to record and retrieve project information and reports as needed.

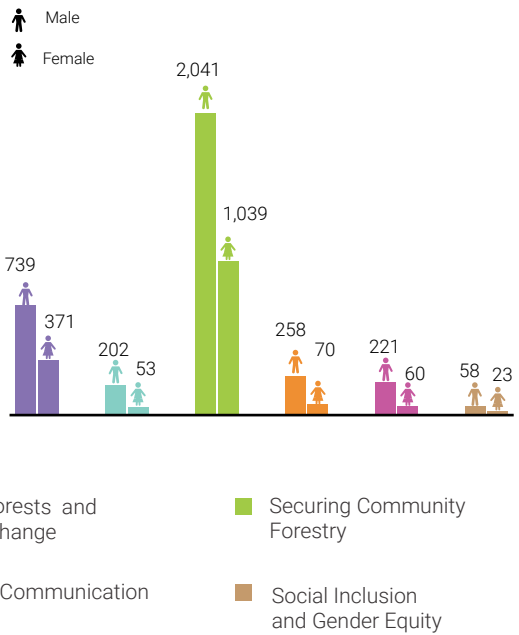
The RECOFTC team, with support from SDC, piloted a citizen's monitoring system for forestry in 2 countries (Myanmar and Cambodia), in which 10 different tools were developed. Local facilitators and CF group members were trained, and as a result, a total of 10 CF groups piloted the tools and shared their feedback. In Myanmar, the groups presented their experiences and findings to government officials, donors and civil society partners. RECOFTC plans to finalize the toolbox for citizen's monitoring in 2018, with translations in Khmer and Myanmar language.

Additionally, RECOFTC has practiced outcome harvesting in multiple countries with the help of local facilitators and community groups. The outcome harvesting focused on the intended and unintended outcomes at the community level, with specific focus on forest resources and on people's behavior and actions. To date, RECOFTC has collected, analyzed and developed 15 outcome stories. These stories include both qualitative and quantitative information, and are designed to tell stories within a broader context of multi-Asia and Pacific countries and multiple stakeholders.

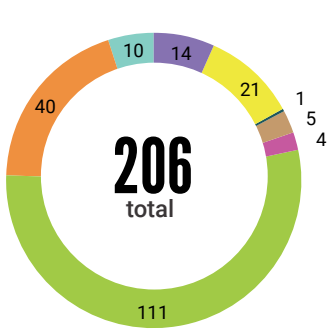
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT EVENTS BY THEMATIC AREA



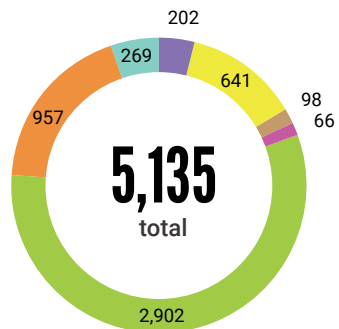
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY BY GENDER



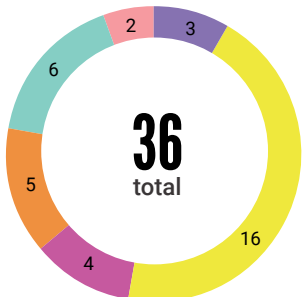
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT EVENTS BY COUNTRY



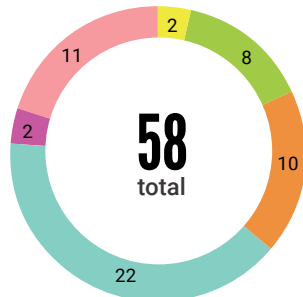
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY



AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS BY COUNTRY



ADVOCACY EVENTS BY COUNTRY



- Regional
- Cambodia
- China
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- Other countries

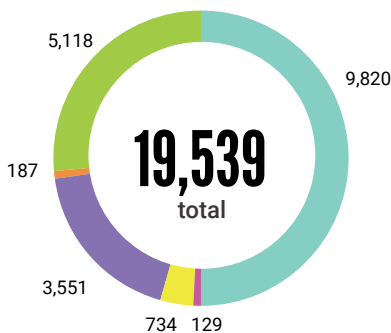


Celebrating the changemakers and milestones in community forestry

RECOFTC continued to provide and share knowledge and resources through our various communication platforms at the regional level and in all seven focal countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam). Under programmes and projects' communication plans, 58 new publications were produced and disseminated, 18 in English and 36 in focal country languages.

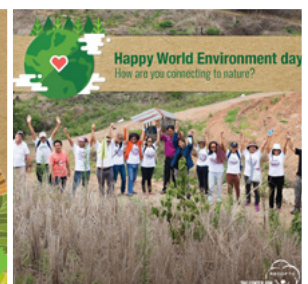
Engagements through the websites and social media channels remained proactive, relevant and strategic, providing our target audience groups with knowledge on topics relevant to current trends in CF. In 2016-2017, RECOFTC's reach increased to about 20,000 followers as a result of a more proactive use of social media tools. RECOFTC

also actively took part in major international and regional campaigns by amplifying campaign messages via social media and corresponding networks (International Women's Day, World Environment Day, Indigenous People's Day and others). One of the highlights was a pilot crowd-source funding campaign called 'Trees & Bees,' which was conducted to raise funding for a community in Nepal to start beekeeping and tree-planting as a climate change adaptation strategy. About US\$20,000 was raised online and through a series of events in Bangkok. Using these funds, the community has now implemented their plans and continues to maintain the project activities.



TOTAL REACH (NO. OF FOLLOWERS & SUBSCRIBERS)

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Youtube
- Enews





Local people hold the key to healthy forests, Lao PDR



Borachanh Latsavongkhol, Chief Deputy of the Provincial Forest Department in Luang Prabang and Manager of the Luang Prabang Task Management Office Laos PDR, explains how being part of RECOFTC's regional learning network has allowed him to promote equity in forest production and the need to share forests benefits.



Teaching participatory approaches to Thailand's future foresters



Dr. Rocharane Pothorn, Asst. Professor, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand, shares how RECOFTC's training have helped her grow as a forester and professor, and ensure that the importance of community forestry is passed on to Thailand's next generation of foresters.

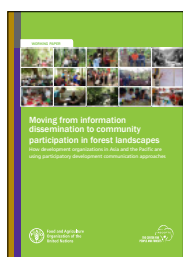
Throughout the year, RECOFTC took part in a number of events to ensure that key messages were heard, helping to influence policy-making processes. In collaboration with key partners, more than 72 national and international awareness-raising and advocacy events were conducted by RECOFTC. The annual Student Debate, organized by RECOFTC in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, sought to involve youth and urban audiences in celebrating International Day of Forests. RECOFTC was also involved in various school fairs and public events that dealt with forestry or environmental issues. The intent was to widen our network and engagements beyond regular supporters.

In addition, RECOFTC retained its firm commitment to strengthening the capacities of forest communicators and practitioners in the region. This included playing a leading role in the Asia-Pacific Forest Communicators Network (APFCN) and conducting capacity development initiatives with regional forest policy-makers. A joint

publication with FAO on participatory development communication was published as a resource guide for communicators and implementers in developing more people-based communication strategies and programmes.

In March 2017, RECOFTC launched a year-long celebration campaign with partners around the region. The purpose was to celebrate the remarkable history of RECOFTC in community forestry. This was done through a series of communication events and products, including a series of videos that captured the positive changes made by RECOFTC alumni and partners, who are now changemakers and champions of community forestry, continuously progressing CF using their own capacities. A major highlight of the year was the celebration of RECOFTC's 30th anniversary of working in community forestry. In March 2017, RECOFTC launched a year-long celebration campaign to mark this remarkable achievement with partners around the region.

Highlighted publications



Moving from information dissemination to community participation in forest landscapes: How development organizations in Asia and the Pacific are using participatory development communication approaches



Grassroots facilitators as agents of change for promoting sustainable forest management: Lessons learned from REDD+ capacity development in Asia



Social forestry and climate change in the ASEAN region



Addressing the concerns of local stakeholders in REDD+ implementation - results from a participatory consultation process in Viet Nam

Financial report 2016 - 2017

Revenue	Budget (USD)	Actual (USD)
Grant	2,940,000	2,940,000
Core Fund & RECOFTC Fund		2,900,000
Royal Thai Government		40,000
Internal Income	1,101,440	1,254,014
Contribution from projects	771,440	786,607
Consultancies, Workshop, Seminar, Study Tour	135,000	198,470
Dorm and facilities	185,000	235,860
Other income (Others & Interest)	10,000	33,076
Total 2016 Incoming Funds	4,041,440	4,194,014
<i>Grant - Project</i>	2,994,463	2,842,440
Total Fund Available	7,035,903	7,036,454

Expenditure	Budget (USD)	Actual (USD)
Program		
Capacity Development and Technical Services	640,051	575,430
Strategic Communication	237,898	213,879
Program Coordination, and Operations	1,181,910	1,062,582
Governance		
Executive Office & Monitoring & Evaluation	488,816	439,465
Support		
Corporate Services	1,031,026	926,931
Central Operating Expenses	426,209	383,178
Capital Expenses - Core Fund	35,531	31,944
Total Expenditure	4,041,440	3,633,408
Project Expenditure	2,929,463	2,852,530
Capital Expense - Project	65,000	64,288
Depreciation		218,922
Grand Total Expenditure		6,769,148
Excess of Expenditure over Income		267,306
Add Purchase of Fixed Assets (To reconcile with 2017 Audit Report)		96,231
Excess of Expenditure over Income (as per 2017 Audit Report)		363,537

Updated: 07/03/2018



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Thailand

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Executive Director, RECOFTC
Thailand (2013-2016)

Dr. David Ganz

Executive Director, RECOFTC
Thailand (2017-present)



Donors and partners 2016 - 2017

Core Donors

Royal Thai Government
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Project Donors

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Department for International Development (DFID)
European Commission (EC)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP), Nepal
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
Royal Norwegian Embassy Yangon
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
United Nations Development Program Global Environment
Facility (UNDP-GEF)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
United States Department of State

Regional and International Partners

AECOM
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)
ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and
Rehabilitation (APFNet)
ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF)
ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
Bank Information Center (BIC)
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
European Forest Institute (EFI)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Forest and Farm Facility

Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF)
International Alert
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Istituto Oikos
Kasetsart University (KU)
Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) program
Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)
Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of
Education, Thailand
Princeton in Asia (PIA)
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT)
Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and
Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
Stora Enso
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
The Forest Trust (TFT)
TRAFFIC
Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF)
United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing
Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-
REDD)
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
University of East Anglia
Village Focus International (VFI)
Wageningen University
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Winrock International
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural
Resource Management (WOCAN)





RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 30 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity development – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests

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