



RECOFTC

Community-based Fire Management

Strengthening community-based solutions for managing wildfire for healthy, resilient landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region



Project factsheet

About the project

The Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) project assists communities and governments in the Asia-Pacific region to reduce the frequency and intensity of forest fires and enhance resilience to climate change by building capacity, promoting use of appropriate technologies, and facilitating knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.

RECOFTC, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, is collaborating with a wide range of partners in biodiversity-rich countries in the Asia-Pacific region, starting with sites in Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The project area's specific sites are chosen based on the history of fire-threatened landscapes, community need, land use and ecosystem type.



[recoftc.org/
projects/cbfim](https://recoftc.org/projects/cbfim)

At a glance



Project launched 1 October 2022 and ending 31 March 2025



Addresses the root causes of forest fires and responds to growing national and regional concern about the impact of fires on the environment and public health



Builds the capacity of communities and governments to manage forest fires and adapt to climate change in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam



Supported and implemented as part of a five-year regional cooperative agreement between the USDA Forest Service and RECOFTC



Why the project is important for the region

Extreme forest fires are threatening human health by poisoning the air we breathe and destroying forests that sustain local livelihoods and biodiversity. The number of forest fires in the region is increasing and their size and intensity escalating. The crisis is driven by climate change and land-use change. The UN Environment Programme predicts a global increase of extreme fires of up to 14 percent by 2030, 30 percent by the end of 2050 and 50 percent by the end of the century.

Because climate change is likely to further increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires, the need for solutions is urgent. The transboundary impact of smoke and haze from fires shows us the severity and scope of this global issue. Environmental degradation and worsening public health are among the many negative impacts of longer and more frequent fires. Smoke and haze from forest fire has devastating effects on peoples' health such as escalating rates of respiratory and cardiovascular disease and increasing hospital admittance during fire season. Research and experience tell us that people-centred, community-based approaches are proving to be effective to empower residents to act.

Many of the communities RECOFTC works with are at high risk of fire and provide ideal settings for demonstrating how community-based approaches to integrated fire management can be scaled up across the region. Communities are involved in all stages to use their knowledge and ensure that the policies, plans and practices reflect and are supportive of their ways of life. In addition, we emphasize the equitable inclusion of women, youth and other marginalized groups.

About the approach

Community-based fire management as an approach involves communities in decision making, draws upon their local knowledge and prepares them to prevent, help control and utilize fires. This approach to fire management empowers forest communities to make decisions based on their needs and to define their objectives and practices within a larger context of integrated fire management.

The project draws on RECOFTC's community forestry experience. Community forestry is a broad term for approaches that empower people to manage, protect and benefit from a local forest, on which their community has relied for generations.

Main activities of the project

CBFiM addresses the root causes of forest fires and their socio-ecological consequences. Activities are designed to respond to needs and challenges of countries, provinces and communities. The project will:

Strengthen community-based fire management policy, planning and practice by



Assessing policies, practices, stakeholder awareness, capacities and priorities



Building capacity for developing and implementing community-based fire management plans

Promote community-responsive development and use of technologies by



Ensuring tools and technologies are shaped by the needs and experiences of communities and are widely used to support forest fire management



Facilitating connections between technology developers and communities



Training communities to use new tools and technologies

Facilitate knowledge sharing across geographical boundaries and stakeholders to improve forest fire management policy and practice by



Documenting and demonstrating best practices



Helping communities and governments to share their innovations



Engaging the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other policymakers to promote enabling policies and transboundary solutions



Project partner

The CBFiM project is implemented through a five-year cooperative agreement between the USDA Forest Service International Programs and RECOFTC. The project receives financial support from the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) of the Department of Defense, along with funding from USAID and the USDA Forest Service International Programs.

Timeline

Phase 1 of the project runs from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2025.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Contact

Marina Tornorsam

Regional Project Manager

Community-based Fire Management

marina.tornorsam@recoftc.org, cbfim@recoftc.org

RECOFTC

P.O. Box 1111, Kasetsart Post Office,
Bangkok 10903, Thailand

T +66 (0)2 940 5700, F +66 (0)2 561 4880

info@recoftc.org

@RECOFTC



Our sponsors

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



RECOFTC's work is made possible with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).