



RECOFTC

Strategic Plan

2023-2028



Highlights

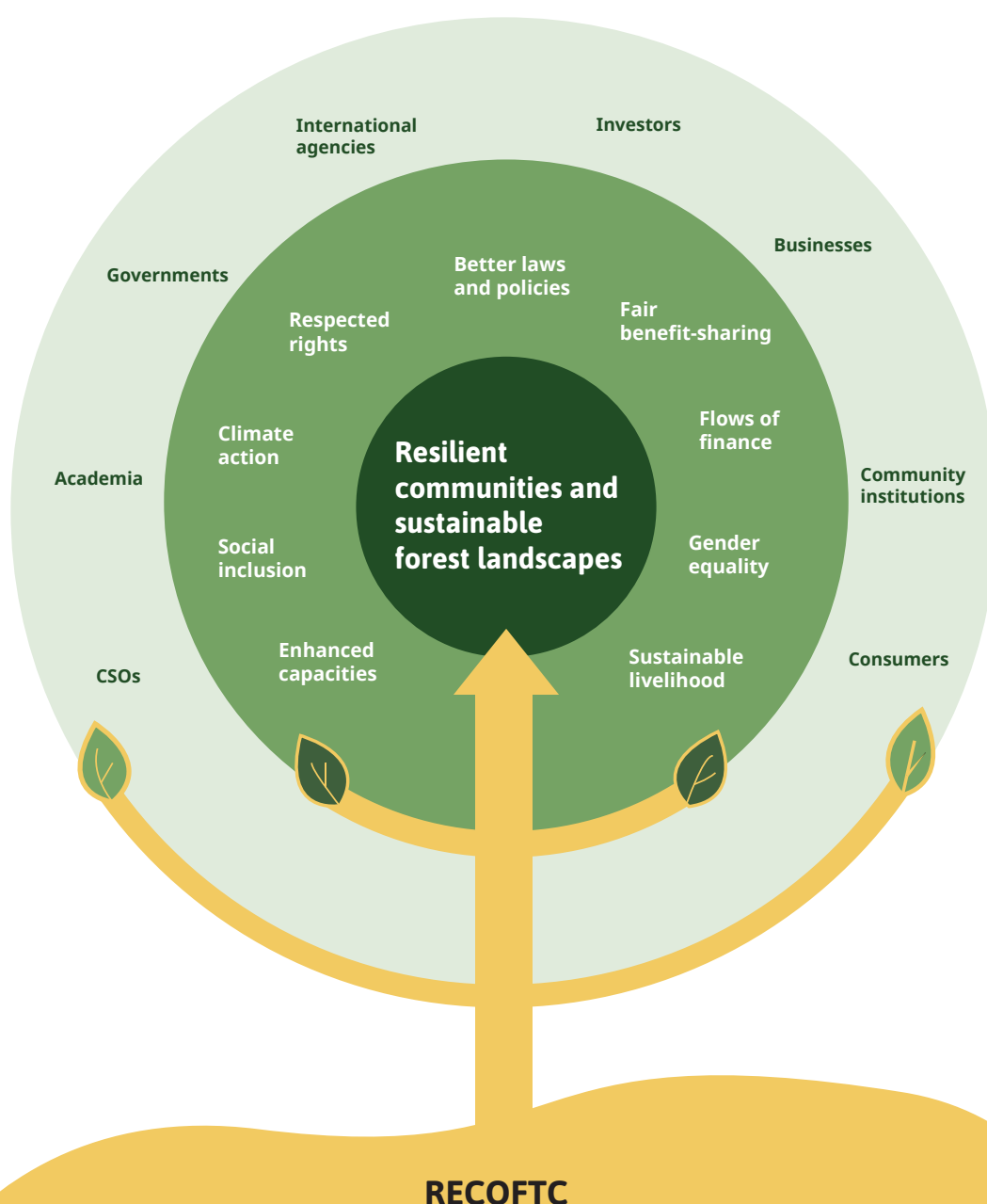
With 36 years of experience in community forestry, RECOFTC operates in the Asia-Pacific region, having country offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam. Our vision is of a world where resilient communities with respected rights thrive in forest landscapes that they manage sustainably and equitably. Our mission is to strengthen capacities, rights and governance to ensure that local people can maintain and benefit fairly from sustainable forest landscapes.

We take a long-term, inclusive, landscape-based approach to supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equality. As a trusted, honest broker, we occupy a distinct position as an international organization that supports, informs and brings together governments, communities, businesses, academia and civil society organisations.

Our context—challenges and opportunities

The Asia-Pacific region confronts multiple environmental and economic challenges, worsening existing social inequalities. Climate crises, highlighted by floods and droughts, put both food security and public health at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic's economic shocks and geopolitical conflicts, which cause market instability and rising social tensions over finite resources, exacerbate these problems. In this complex landscape, women, Indigenous Peoples and youth often find it hard to engage in sustainable supply chains. RECOFTC, backed by its longstanding experience in social safeguards, governance and community involvement, is equipped to offer critical guidance in these areas.

Despite these challenges, there is a rising global focus on forests' role in climate change and biodiversity. Efforts are aligning with international commitments like the Paris Agreement to expand forests and reduce emissions. New policies are empowering local communities in forest management, backed by digital transformation and the push for transparent governance. Emerging financial avenues like green funds and carbon credits also offer promise. RECOFTC will leverage these opportunities for sustainable forest management and community participation.



Training | Research | Demonstrating landscape interventions
 Network building | Convening | Advocacy | Outreach | Policy analysis

Towards a better future: four key goals

We will work towards four interlinked goals that will contribute to the overall impact we want to see: resilient communities sustainably and equitably manage forest landscapes in collaboration with other stakeholders, ensuring that these landscapes provide goods and services that benefit all community members and wider populations, including by contributing to climate action and biodiversity conservation.



Goal 1 - Enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation

Communities contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation through sustainable forest management, strengthened adaptive capacities, biodiversity conservation and securing of landscape-level ecosystem services.



Goal 2 - Improved gender equality and social inclusion

Communities and their most marginalized members, exercise their rights to live in and around healthy forests, assume leadership roles to sustainably manage forest landscapes and gain a fair share of the benefits these landscapes provide.



Goal 3 - Improved governance and respect for rights

Communities contribute to and benefit from institutions, policies and laws that protect and respect their rights. Governments, businesses and communities follow good governance principles in relation to forest landscapes.

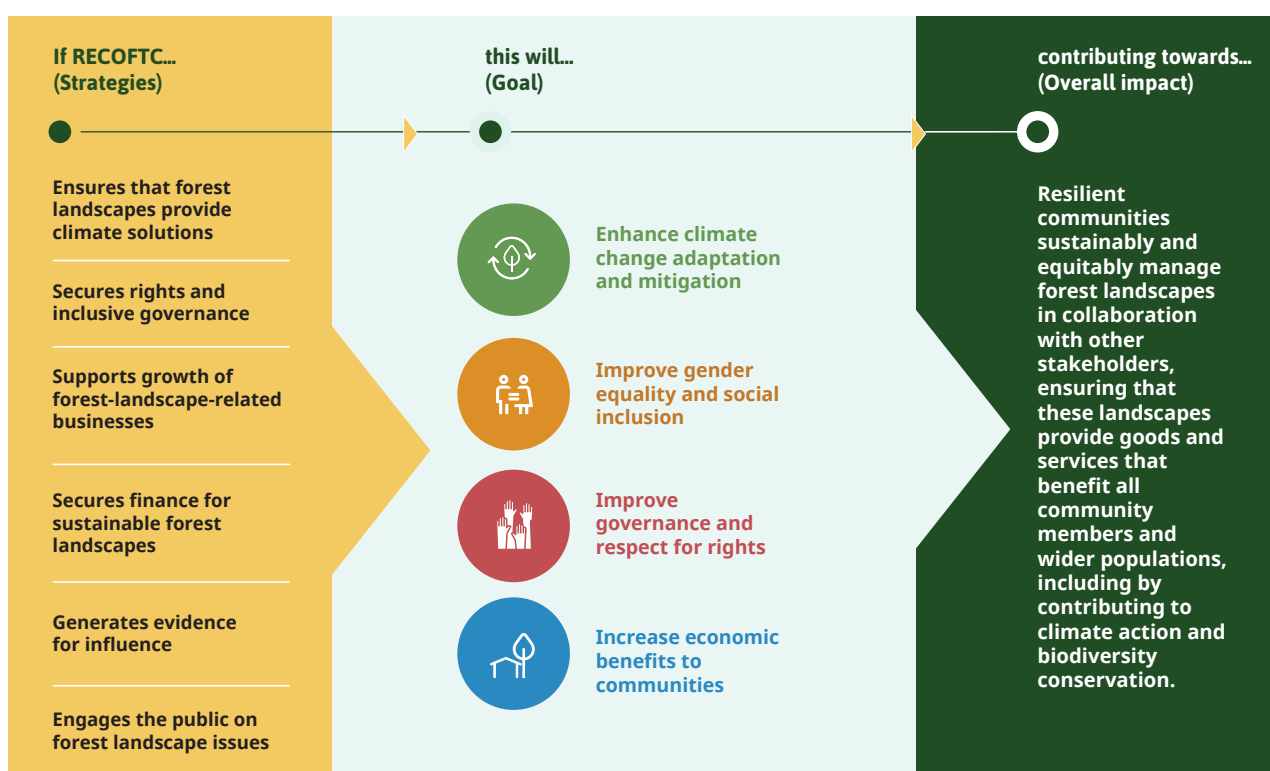


Goal 4 - Increased economic benefits for communities

Communities benefit from forest-based jobs, enterprises, access to finance and partnerships with the private sector, thereby thriving in a low-carbon green economy.

Our theory of change

Through our theory of change, we maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of forest landscapes by empowering local communities to manage and benefit from these landscapes.



Our strategies and tactics

Building on our theory of change, these six mutually reinforcing strategies will help us achieve our goals, realize specific outcomes and make a lasting impact. As we implement the strategic plan over the next five years, we aim to develop an enabling policy environment, increase policy support, unlock new sources of finance and generate sustainable goods and environmental services. These will create a virtuous circle and grow community-based businesses. These will further stimulate public and private investment in community forest landscapes, drive more sustainable and gender-sensitive community forest management practices and support marginalized community members.

1. Ensuring that forest landscapes provide climate solutions

We will continue to implement and promote community-based forest management as climate change solutions while increasing local people's resilience and adaptability.

2. Securing rights and inclusive governance

We will identify and work to address gaps and weaknesses in legal frameworks. We will advocate for multistakeholder participation in decision-making processes, empowering rightsholders, including marginalized groups, to engage, influence and assert their rights.

3. Supporting the growth of businesses based on forest landscapes

We will continue to enable communities to establish and manage enterprises selling forest landscape products and services. We will facilitate equitable partnerships between communities and value chain actors and promote accountability and fair benefit distribution.

4. Securing finance for sustainable forest landscapes

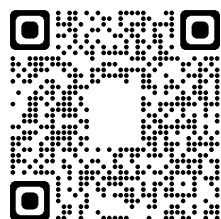
We will demonstrate the financial, social and environmental benefits of investing in inclusive and sustainable forest landscape management. We will support communities in adopting viable business models and in managing finances at the community level.

5. Generating evidence for influence

We will continue generating and communicating evidence of the benefits and practicalities of inclusive and sustainable forest landscape management and restoration.

6. Engaging the public on forest landscape issues

We will raise the recognition of communities responsible for sustainable forest management and the value of community forest products and services. We will increase awareness especially among women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the economic opportunities in forest landscapes and motivate them to take leadership roles in the agriculture, forestry and environmental services sectors.



Learn more

Read the full version of RECOFTC's Strategic Plan for 2023-2028

recoftc.org/publications/0000463

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