

# Integrated fire management within ASEAN: Approaches to include community-based fire management and address climate change

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**Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM)** emphasizes a participatory approach that highlights community voices, and the need for local engagement at the design stages of fire management. Overall, the baseline findings indicate a deficiency in adopting a holistic approach to fire management in project pilot sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Administrative structures, budget constraints, resource deficiencies and a predominant focus on fire suppression contribute to this gap. Consequently, certain vital components are absent from CBFiM strategies, particularly evident in aspects like the recovery component of the integrated fire management 5R framework and the incorporation of tools and technologies in both general and CBFiM initiatives. As continued capacity development interventions are applied, cascading training, knowledge exchange events, etc., communities build resiliency to climatic events like wildfires.

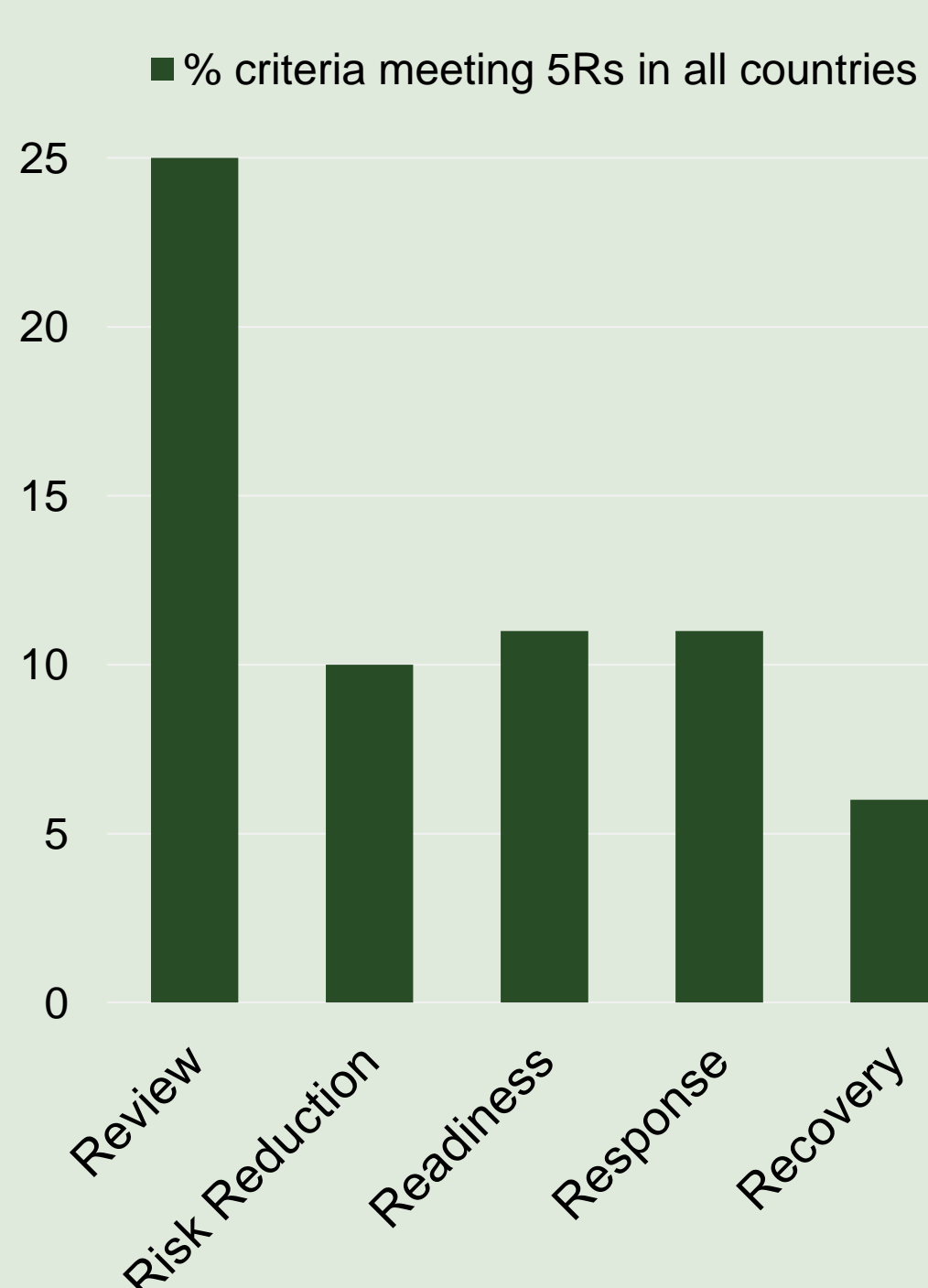


Community-based fire management planning workshop in Sawang Village in Nan Province, Thailand.

## Introduction

Climate change is exacerbating wildfires, with extreme fire weather becoming more frequent and intense especially within the ASEAN region. To tackle these challenges, there's a growing emphasis on people-focused approaches in fire management, known as CBFiM. This approach prioritizes the resources, challenges, and responsibilities available to address fire issues, whereas integration of climate-fire-ecosystem dynamics adds perspective in addressing worsening fire regimes. Within CBFiM, practitioners, stakeholders, and community representatives take ownership and are empowered, ensuring adaptive, sustainable, and effective results (FAO Forestry, 2006; Karki, 2002). CBFiM interventions include workshops for co-designing and collaborative CBFiM plans for their landscape, annual adaptive management, field and practicum trainings, and cross-learning events.

**Methodology:** We conducted workshops to evaluate fire management competencies based on the Integrated Fire Management Framework across different levels within landscapes. Participants included community members, stakeholders, and civil society representatives. Techniques included focus groups, interviews, surveys, and secondary data review.



The needs assessment workshops revealed that only 25% of fire prevention criteria were met in all four countries. These assessments, along with CBFiM plans, are based on the integrated fire management framework outlined as **Review, Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response, and Recovery**.



Before community-based fire management interventions



After community-based fire management interventions

Building on ongoing capacity development in CBFiM planning and training, we seek to improve access to early detection and risk reduction technologies. Future efforts will focus on integrating gender and social inclusion into community-based fire management planning and trainings.



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