

Community Forestry International, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2000



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2000 Highlights:

- ◆ CFI's affiliate organization, Asia Forest Network, was awarded a grant from the EU to support CF in Southeast Asia
- ◆ CFI was asked to facilitate CF workshop in Vietnam
- ◆ CFI was awarded a grant from USAID/US Forest Service for Carbon Study in India
- ◆ Director was asked to speak at the EXPO 2000, Hannover, Germany on the panel for the World Commission on Sustainable Forest Development
- ◆ CFI opened new office in Santa Barbara, CA

CFI DIRECTORS LEAD WORKSHOP ON THE MEKONG WATERSHED

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – At the second annual regional workshop for the Mekong River Watershed Program, Dr. Mark Poffenberger, CFI Director and Kate Smith-Hanssen, Administrative Assistant, facilitated a three-day dialogue process for working groups from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. Country working group members, as well as representatives from international agencies such as SIDA, World Bank, IDRC, RECOFTC, and IUCN, participated.

The workshop was organized by the Sustainable Management of Resources Program assisted by Hans Helmrich and Michael Glück of GTZ, the German development agency. This program has been operating in the Mekong Watershed for two years, helping to coordinate resource management among the four Mekong River countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos. The program assumes that more sustainable forest and upland management, facilitated by resource dependent communities will help stabilize the hydrology of the region, reducing upstream erosion and downstream flooding. This collaborative strategy seeks to enable supportive policies to emerge in the four nations that will enhance the livelihoods of upland peoples.

Proceedings from the workshop were published by CFI in a 100- page report highlighting each country's management activities, progress reports, field research data, and work plans for the coming year within the context of the current political climate.

Right: The Vietnam Working Group with representatives from some international agencies and GTZ. Spirits were high as representatives met for three days to review last year's progress and plan for the coming year's management activities.



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Message from the Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Community Forestry International (CFI) has made substantial headway over the past year, evolving from an inspired vision to a dynamic organization engaged in diverse research and networking activities in Asia, Europe, and the United States. As a not-for-profit organization, CFI is incorporated in the State of California and this year obtained recognition as a tax exempt, scientific and educational organization by the Federal and state government. CFI's board of nine members has met twice in the last twelve months creating a supportive governance body. The organization moved into its new headquarters in Santa Barbara in January 2000, and will be moving into a larger office complex early next year.

Community Forestry International grew out of the need for a globally oriented organization that could take learning emerging from the work of our partner organization, Asia Forest Network, which has focused primarily on initiatives in Asia, and extend the work internationally, drawing in experience from other regions. CFI's mission is to support the initiatives of communities striving to play a greater, more formal role in the stewardship of public forestlands, linking them to the greater world community.

In February and March, CFI staff worked with GTZ-SMRP Project Specialists to organize a regional meeting in Ho Chi Minh City for country-level Community Forestry Working Groups operating in Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. CFI and SMRP published a regional report on the meeting in May 2000.

In May, 2000 a grant from the USDA/Forest Service's Office of International Programs financed CFI to initiate a collaborative research program with India's Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM-Bhopal) and the Center for Ecological Sciences (CES/IIS-Bangalore). This field study examines how joint forest management systems in the Narmada River watershed contribute to carbon sequestration and the slowing of global warming trends.

In June 2000, the work of CFI and AFN was presented at a special seminar organized by the Office of International Programs of the USDA Forest Service who organized a seminar in its Washington DC office.

Also in June, I presented a paper, "Getting Local Communities Involved," at the Workshop on Forests in Crisis, Forests Solutions, and Forests and the Politics of Change upon the invitation of the past Prime Minister of Sweden, Ola Ullsten. The panel was convened by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in Hanover during the EXPO 2000 to bring international attention to environmental issues.

CFI, Asia Forest Network, and the Institute for Environmental Science for Social Change met in Manila in November to discuss plans for the Southeast Asia Community Forestry Support Program 2000 that will be initiated in January with support from the European Commission. As our programs continue to grow we are grateful to the individuals and organizations that have supported our work over the past year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Poffenberger, Director

HELPING TO PROTECT THE WORLD'S FORESTS



Left: CFI has been doing field research in Harda District, India as the first phase of its study on carbon sequestration. Here Professor Deep Pandey and IIFM graduate student, Rahul Bista, are taking vegetative measurements to determine carbon values in community protected forests. (Photo: Mark Poffenberger)

CARBON CREDITS STUDY Phase One

With a grant from USAID, CFI launched the first phase of its carbon study aimed at coming up with a valuation system that could be used to compensate communities who protect their forests. The first phase of this study will develop methodologies for monitoring and verifying field-level performance by assessing carbon sequestration level in regenerating sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests in Madhya Pradesh, India. The study will allow India to familiarize itself with project modalities that may be financed in future through the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. The study will be conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Indian Institute of Science. Findings will be presented to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The first phase of this project is being funded by USAID and the USDA Forest Service.

CARBON CREDITS STUDY Phase Two

With additional funding, CFI plans to continue its carbon study by extending its field research to Sri Lanka, Philippines, and northern California. The objective of this program is to assess the feasibility of involving disenfranchised, forest-dependent people in countries of the north and south in global climate change agreements. Four country teams from India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and the USA would work collaboratively in conducting participatory field studies and bringing the results to national planners and climate change negotiators. The goal of the program would be to create and build capacity at the national level to quantify, monitor, and verify the carbon sequestration and storage values of community managed forests and to inform the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change regarding the viability of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through community-based forest restoration. This proposal is currently pending approval of funding from the MacArthur Foundation's Collaborative Research Program for Global Security and Sustainability.

"Most forest policies, until recently, have viewed people as the prime threat to the forest, and have attempted to exclude groups other than government from decision-making. In many ways, therefore, forestry has become a "free-for-all", with the politically strongest being free to take almost all...highly influential decisions affecting forests and stakeholders is in the hands of politicians who are, in turn, strongly influenced by logging contractors...timber "mafia" exploits the fixed-price and net sale systems of allocating forest concessions, leading to the disenfranchisement of the local right holders, the production of large profits for concessionaires and ultimately the unsustainable harvesting of forests."
-Javed Ahmed and Fawad Mahmood, Pakistan



COMMUNITY FORESTRY SUPPORT PROJECT 2000



"In the past, our forest was so badly degraded that people could see their cattle grazing on this hillside from across the ridge! Now, people are impressed by how green and dense the forest has become."
Basanta Rana Bhat,
Nepal

Bohol, Philippines - Currently, AFN is engaged in moving its Southeast Asia headquarters from Manila to the island of Bohol. Bohol is located in the Visaya's between Luzon and Mindinao. From this location, AFN staff will coordinate activities for the Community Forestry Support Project 2000, which has been recently funded by the EC with counterpart funds from other sources pending. CFI will collaborate with AFN in facilitating a program designed to strengthen synergy among communities, NGOs, donor organizations, and government planners and agencies working on CF in Southeast Asia. The program will operate in: Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. It will focus on three thematic area: Working Group Management & Policy Analysis; Field Level Activity's Program: CF Dialogue Process and Planning & Mapping Methods; and, Communication. The three-year program will focus on one designated program area in each participating country, where active CF initiatives are already underway. Program areas will be designated by consensus with the national working groups and be established as precedents in formalizing management partnerships between forest dependent communities and governments. Field sites will act as learning laboratories for communities and working group members to develop new dialogue process and mapping methodologies. The communications program will disseminate CF experience through an end of the project regional report and individual case studies with maps of the area and through a website. Case Studies will be published both in English and in the national language.



In the forests of Behroonguda, India a Joint Forest Management (JFM) project gets underway in a severely degraded forest.

(Photo: Emmanuel D'Silva)



Eight years later, after the community organized to protect the forest, the same forest has regenerated and become lush and dense once more.

(Photo: Emmanuel D'Silva)

Financial Report

For the Period January 1- November 30, 2000

Statement of Activities

Revenue:

Grants	\$75,000.00
Privately Donated Services	\$52,000.00
Private Revenue	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$127,050.00

Expenses:

Overseas Program	\$72,740.46
Administration & Management	<u>\$34,072.67</u>
Total Expenses	\$106,813.13

Statement of Financial Position

Assets:

Cash	\$17,709.93
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$2,658.94</u>
Total Assets	\$20,368.87

All information based on
Community Forestry
International's Financial
Statement for the period
from January 1 through
November 30, 2000.



We are the Manobo who live in this place since time immemorial. It is our hope and longing that we will be recognized as the rightful stewards of the forest which we depend on for our survival.

*-Datu Hawudon Tagleong
Supreme Datu of the Manobo people in
Agusan del sur, Philippines*

Left: Datu Hawudon Tagleong (Photo: Mark Poffenberger)



**Community
Forestry
International,
Inc.**

**Preserving the World's
Forests through
Community
Involvement**

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*CFI, Inc. is a 501(c)(3)
charitable organization,
contributions to which
are tax-deductible to
the full extent of the
law. A copy of our
current financial
statement is available
upon request by
contacting Community
Forestry International.*

CFI Looks Ahead to the Year 2001

- ◆ Ongoing collaboration with our affiliate organization, Asia Forest Network, initiating the Community Support Program 2000 for Southeast Asia. This year's activities will include a meeting of the leaders of five country working groups in Bohol, Philippines and strategic planning for the coming year.
- ◆ Publishing of a ground-breaking report on the feasibility of financing Joint Forest Management in India with carbon-offset credits. The study will be the first of its kind in South Asia and will be circulated to national planning agencies and to the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change.
- ◆ Coordinate a four-country study to examine the roles communities play in restoring natural forest ecosystems through regeneration and the reduction of catastrophic fires. Participating research teams will be drawn from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, the Institute of Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC), Philippines, the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, India, and the Watershed Training Center in Hayfork, California.
- ◆ Explore new opportunities to link participatory management practitioners in Asia with those working in Canada and the U.S. through a series of cross-regional exchanges and workshops focusing on policy development and operational strategies.
- ◆ CFI will move to even larger office quarters in mid-January to accommodate volunteer staff from the community and in order to hold meetings.



CFI Mission Statement

Community Forestry International (CFI) assists rural communities to stabilize and regenerate forests by helping policy makers, development agencies, NGOs, and professional foresters develop the legal instruments, human resource capacities, and negotiation processes and methods to support resident resource managers. CFI believes that sustainable forest management enhances livelihood security and poverty alleviation which, in turn, leads to sustainable development.

CFI enables Community Forest Management (CFM) strategies to become an integral part of sustainable forest management world-wide. CFI strategies are implemented through four interrelated thematic program areas. These include 1) Regional and National Policy Dialogues, 2) Mediation Processes and Methods for Enhancing Tenure Security, 3) Participatory Research & Field Programs, and 4) Communication.

The program components are designed to engage national policy makers, professional practitioners, and communities to facilitate learning, reduce conflicts, and ultimately create management agreements that result in more equitable, sustainable forest use.