

ANNUAL REPORT 2002



Inside this Report:

Director's Message	2
Communities & Climate Change	3
New Website	3
Research Interns	3
Financial Report	4
Mission Statement	4

2002 Highlights:

After many delays, CFI finally received its grant funds from USAID to co-fund the Community Forestry Support Project 2000 for Southeast Asia

CFI was awarded grants for:

- CFM in NE India
- Formation of women-run SHG Federation in India
- Carbon Offset Credit research in Adilabad

New CFI Publication:

Communities & Climate Change: The Clean Development Mechanism and Village-Based Forest Restoration: A Case Study from Adilabad District, AP, India

CFI has revised its website. Please check us out at:

www.communityforestryinternational.org

COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NORTHEASTERN INDIA: FACILITATING REGIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The forests of the northeast India are rich in biodiversity and timber, and are inhabited by a fascinating array of cultural communities. The watersheds of the region are critical catchments that regulate hydrological flows to some of the world's most densely populated agricultural lands and cities. Largely closed to the outside world for the past fifty years, due to the political sensitivity of this region that borders Burma and Tibet, in past decades deforestation and watershed deterioration has progressed rapidly due to heavy timber demand from Bangladesh and urban centers in India. At the same time, land clearing by migrant and local people also threaten these upland forests. Illegal logging and forest clearing is made easier where tenurial rights to forests are weak or unclear. This lack of clarity is often based on a forest policy framework that is ambiguous and being challenged by private sector interests, communities, and even by government agencies.

With an \$180,000 grant from the John D. and Catharine T. MacArthur Foundation, CFI is embarking on a three-year effort to sponsor diagnostic research and guide the formation and operation of a regional policy working group to formulate recommendations for enabling legal frameworks and strategies to facilitate community-based forest conservation. This project will establish and facilitate a policy dialogue regarding the legal position and operational role of resident communities in conserving and managing the forests of northeastern India, based at the Northeast Hill University in Shillong, Meghalaya. Community Forestry International (CFI) will support its Indian partners by creating and facilitating the operations of a Working Group on Community Forest Management (CFM) Policy in the Northeast India. Working Group members would be drawn from government agencies, state forest departments, NGOs and academic institutions in the states of Arunachal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. The policy framework would build on indigenous management traditions, past and present laws that support community forest stewardship, and emerging national policies supporting democratization and decentralization.



Villagers from Andhra Pradesh, India