



**COMMUNITY FORESTRY INTERNATIONAL**  
**P. O. Box 6869**  
**Santa Barbara, Ca 93160 USA**  
**Street Address: 1051 Via Regina**  
**Santa Barbara, CA 93111 USA**  
**Tel: (805) 696-9087**  
**Fax: (805) 696-9097**  
**[www.communityforestryinternational.org](http://www.communityforestryinternational.org)**

Front cover: Ancient stone monolith at the entrance of the Mawphlong Sacred Forest, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, NE India.  
 Back cover: Gond and Kolam tribal women gather in Movad Village to discuss watershed management activities by their self-help group.

## COMMUNITY FORESTRY INTERNATIONAL



## Annual Report 2004



CFI FINANCIAL REPORT  
YEAR END JUNE 30, 2004



CFI Mission

**Board of Directors**  
Gary McDonald, President  
David Barker, Ph.D.  
Charles Dixon, CFO  
Jan Hartke, JD  
Zohar Kaplan, CPA  
Kathryn LePage, M.A.  
Walt Rozett, M.S.

**Ex-Officio**  
Mark Poffenberger, Ph.D.  
Kate Smith-Hanssen, Ph.D.

**Staff**  
Evelyn Boyle  
Kristal Passy  
Ron Yttri

Community Forestry International (CFI) assists rural communities to 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. Community forest management leads to livelihood security and poverty alleviation that, in turn, leads to sustainable development. CFI enables community forest management strategies to become an integral part of stabilizing forest management world-wide. CFI strategies are implemented through four interrelated thematic program area: 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.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Revenue:</u>	
Grants	\$1,092,144.00
Private	\$8,000.00
Total	\$1,100,144.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Program Services	\$431,113.01
Admin. & Mgmt.	\$105,298.91
Total	\$563,411.92

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash	\$165,307.95
Accounts Receivable	\$74,129.14
Total Assets	\$239,437.09

All information based on Community Forestry International's financial statement for the period from July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004.

*Community Forestry-cont. from pg.17*  
Citing the comments of the leader of the commune regarding corruption and the example of the park staff, it would be easy to get discouraged and say, what's the use? But, I say, "Stay the course!" For now we are slowing them down, and for the future we are turning the tide, the momentum to the establishment of CF as a way of life. Perhaps, for the moment, we are nudging that boulder uphill, but we hold anticipation of a downhill section. ■



Charlie feeding the elephants in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

*Ratanakiri-cont. from pg. 15*  
Concession Management Sub-decree. The government recently established a Consultation Forum on the registration of indigenous land rights, which provides an opportunity for input from indigenous people and civil society. The current network-strengthening project will operate to transfer key ideas and needs to policy makers in Phnom Penh. ■



Young Village Women, Ban Lung, Ratanakiri, Cambodia

cont. from pg. 7

In this Cambodian Village the first penalty was that the offender would undergo CF education. “What happens next if crime persists?” we asked. Well, next we will record the fact of the crime in the local town, like recording a deed; so and so is a CF poacher. The committees were always uncomfortable about this topic, and seemed a bit surprised that we were so interested. I go on about this topic of punishment, because there was a definite difference of attitude about its importance, and it is an example of cultural differences which can lead to muddled communication between villagers and NGOs, obscuring the fact that our goals and intent are the same. I thought the attitudes toward punishment were very interesting, particularly taking into account the common hesitancy of the villagers to discuss it with us.

The Chambok committee, a CF group operating on the eastern border of Kirirom National Park, had well-written and organized bylaws. Mark commented that the national effort to organize and define CF could benefit from this village’s bylaws, both as a complete document taking into account wording, size and detail and also in specific handling of different issues like punishment. The villagers were appropriately pleased with this sincere response to their effort.

But there is a greater happiness hidden here having to do with leverage. Leveraging CFI’s relatively small staff and budget to make a difference nationally. We are trying to nudge this enormous rock, Cambodian forests, in the direction of honest and effective community forestry. It’s a big boulder. It’s hard to move, it’s heavy. The wood has gravity and friction, resisting its motion. The resistance is the on-going corruption, illegal logging, and land-grabbing of communal lands versus the small scale forest resources the villagers need for cooking, building and monetary income.

CFI’s lever, our pry bar, is our ability to identify and propagate successful models between local committees and government, and between CF networks. Our pry bar is a conduit of communication, education, and training!

After talking with the CF committee, we were introduced to the leader of the “commune,” an obvious outcome of the communist influence in Cambodia. Basically, he complained about all the timber poaching that was going on in the hinterlands. He told us that the trucks drove right by the village so that everybody knew it. I asked if it would help if the villagers reported it. He was incredulous. He pointed out that the timber was eventually making its way down the main road, right past the checkpoints of various government officials.

*Timber is eventually making its way down the main road, right past the checkpoints of various government officials...It won't be long before there is no forest left.*

If the villagers reported it, they would probably just get into trouble. I pointed out that at least the local CF was protected. But, he responded dejectedly, “It won’t be long before there is no forest left.” After Mark awarded the Chambok committee with a certificate and a donation from CFI, we were off with Amanda Bradley, CFAC

Program Coordinator, for a tour of the Kirirom National Forest. She talked about the often corrupt administration of the Park by the Director and the park rangers who allow poaching and illegal timber smuggling in the Park to occur. My natural confusion was, “Why aren’t they protecting the Park from timber smugglers and poachers?”

With regards to the Director, Amanda informed us that it was a lowly job, far from the city, and poorly paid. Turning a blind eye for a price was perhaps it’s only real perk. As for the park rangers they were given homes, but they hadn’t been paid, so the morale was low and misuse of their authority was understandable.

cont. on pg. 19

CFI Vision

In Asia, several hundred million of the world’s poorest people depend almost entirely for their subsistence and their survival on forests. We support programs that empower local people to sustainably manage their natural resources, protect biodiversity, provide livelihood opportunities, and stabilize their cultural traditions and values.

President’s Message	4
Letter from the Directors	5
What Is Community Forestry?	6
CFI Scrapbook	8
Cambodia	10
NE India	12
Ratanakiri	14
What Cambodia Means to Me	16
CFI Financial Report	19

Contents



Meeting of the women leaders of the Federation of Self-Help Groups, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh, India.



# President’s Message



Dear Friends:

I learned some years ago that the energy and impact of CFI was delivered through ideas. While funding allows the programs to move forward, it is the vision that is fundamental to providing a road map that can guide a transformation in forest management worldwide. CFI is committed to the continuing evolution of a paradigm of forest management that empowers ordinary people with the authority to act as responsible stewards for their environment. This is in contrast to the failed industrial logging practices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ideas are the fuel that drives this process of forest management reform, and CFI seeks to contribute to this effort. I remember visiting a CF field project in Nepal with Mark Poffenberger, our CFI Director in the early 1990s. The NGO field staff were eager to show us their work, and appreciated the funding their project was receiving. But, what they were most grateful for was the opportunity to share *their* ideas to improve the CF pilot project and research.

The past few years have been a critical time for securing the on-going funding that CFI requires to implement its mission. As a result of long hours of grant writing, CFI staff and consultants are now fully engaged in their work with communities and NGOs on the ground, as well as collaborating with national forestry planners and policy makers and development agencies to formulate national community forestry strategies.

CFI’s current efforts in Cambodia and Northeast India are creating new partnerships between rural people, foresters, and local government, a process that is providing a people-oriented framework to management that is helping to stabilize forest cover. From the sacred groves of highland Meghalaya to the flood forests of the Tonle Sap in Cambodia, Asian villagers are increasingly committed to protecting their forests and CFI will continue to attempt to support them.

CFI will continue its efforts in Asia in the coming year, striving to encourage innovation and capacity building within the organization and among its partners through sharing, while providing a voice for forest-dependent peoples. CFI has appreciated the support it has received over the past year from funding agencies, public donations, and the voluntary efforts of the board and associates. We look forward to further achievements in 2005.

Gary McDonald  
President, CFI Board

## Politics and the City

*Feels like I've died so many times  
as if I listened to B-I-G's  
"Life After Death" on repeat  
having my spirituality tested  
while physical conditions deplete,  
each day I awake to bustling hustles  
from the vendors selling breakfast  
to motorists driving reckless,  
between the overlooked  
and overworked,  
they share the feelings of helpless  
while nestled in secure pockets  
of exploits and lies  
politicians claim for the people  
they ride, duty they emphasize,  
while fingers stay crossed behind backs,  
a few words get said,  
flash of a smile, then comes the wave,  
politics is a pageant,  
but more than a crown is at stake.*

## Can I, May I?

*As I come to grips with a flesh-torn society  
I'm trying to sew parts back on,  
putting fallen pieces back in their places,  
but I'm having trouble putting smiles on faces,  
because I can give all my money  
till I'm broke myself,  
the poor folks need more than jobs  
'cause my dollars won't help  
the bigger problem of kids not in school,  
forced to sell papers and themselves  
as a means to buy food,  
sickening cycles of sales where  
damaged goods return,  
sex tourism is destroying the innocent,  
when will the world learn  
that living life should never  
bring upon suffering and death,  
whether it be self-inflicted  
or done to someone else.*

## Village Color

*Village life is a meaningful existence  
where muscles become sculpted from everyday  
resistance  
while sculptors make sculptures of  
religious significance.  
They are lifting water jugs, browned hands herding  
cattle on the road,  
school children walking miles to school,  
avoiding motos  
that zoom,  
cars with no room  
filled with migrant workers,  
live poultry,  
and monks in orange robes, too.*

## To Be

*Striving to be stronger than memory  
did all the things in life necessary  
to succeed and maximize potential  
because going back is a promise  
that in time things will get better  
with the ability to give more  
when the tide is more settled  
rippled now are the waves  
feeding the hungry I spend my days  
dreaming of a Cambodia  
free from chains.*



Sounun and his cousins at a waterfall in Cambodia.

## What Cambodia Means to Me: Reflections by a First-Generation American by Sounun Tek



Sounun at Angkor Wat, Cambodia.

*I just returned from the most amazing experience in Cambodia this past summer. Emotions ran high and I turned toward writing many times to keep balanced. The schedule was hectic traveling to meet relatives outside of Phnom Penh, but I did manage to stop by the CFI office during my last week. I was impressed by the space and operation. Amanda and the rest of the staff were friendly and informative.*

*I wasn't born in Philadelphia but definitely feel like a native son. It's a big city that's small enough to make you feel the political and social climate around you just from stepping outside of your house. People are pretty vocal about their likes and dislikes regarding the police, New Jersey, and definitely the city sport teams. The richness in diversity is often downplayed because it's misunderstood by the media, brought to light only in acts of violence or presented in such a way where they are separated by ethnic segments. In reality Philadelphia is intrinsically wrapped in various cultures living amongst each other, such as when you see East African immigrants shopping at the Vietnamese supermarket in South Philadelphia.*

*I grew up in the public school system through high school before it became privatized and began enforcing school uniforms and metal detectors. I never really thought my educational experience was particularly "rough" until I went to Colby College and met students who were raised in private education and who gasped at the thought of attending public school. I always believed what didn't kill you could only make you stronger. I didn't have to look past my family for that, recounting my mother's firsthand accounts of surviving the Cambodian holocaust that took place during the Pol Pot regime.*

*Being "Cambodian" was always something that I thought of in an American context; it was my ethnicity but not my nationality. However, it was always a definite part of my identity. Visiting Cambodia was always something that I wanted to do, because knowing it first-hand was always something missing in my life. In addition to all the sentimentalities, I had never known of my Cambodian relatives beyond the scope of family stories and faded memories. Also, I was deeply curious and concerned with the current sociopolitical situation of the country and the people. This past June, after graduating from Colby College with a degree in sociology, I visited Cambodia for the first time with my mother and grandmother.*

*We spent six weeks in Cambodia traveling to various provinces and visiting family. I kept to myself most of the time, listening and writing a journal of my thoughts and observations. Much of the time I was overwhelmed with what I saw around me, whether good or bad. The poems are a collection of my thoughts and experiences, and through them I've been able to express much of what Cambodia means to me.*

-Sounun

## Letter from the Directors



Dear Colleagues & Friends:

It has been another interesting and productive year for CFI. At the beginning of October 2003, CFI initiated the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC). We spent the first year developing an office and staff in Phnom Penh, doing extensive field work to assess community capacity to receive CFI support under our Small Grants Program, working with other partners to facilitate CF policies at the national level, and developing a field office in Ratanakiri province to assist local and indigenous communities threatened with extensive "land grabbing" of communal lands. In NE India, the second project year has revolved around continuing research to field sites in each of the seven states.

In addition to our work in SE Asia, in February we traveled to Rome in order to participate on a panel held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Mark presented the research we documented in the CFI publication *Empowering the Poor: Community-based Environmental and Financial Management in Adilabad District, India*. In May, we made the rounds in Washington, D. C. where Mark was asked to consult with the World Bank's forestry dept on their policies. We were also asked to present the CFI-funded film *We Have a Dream* on women's self-help groups in Adilabad, India to a bag-lunch at the World Bank. The screening was very well attended by about 50 people and a lively discussion followed. In addition, Mark and Kate presented a CFI program update to USAID representatives from the Asia and Near East Bureau.

Included in this report are brief summaries of our current programs. We discuss some of the aspects of the CFAC program in Cambodia, the field project in Ratanakiri, and give an update on the second year of our program in NE India. In addition, we have included a personal essay by Charles Dixon, member of the CFI Board, who accompanied us for three weeks to Thailand and Cambodia. We are also pleased to share with you the personal reflections by a young Cambodian-American man, Sounun Tek, who we met one day by chance in Santa Barbara. His parents had fled the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia and settled in Philadelphia, PA, where Sounun was raised. This past summer he had the opportunity to visit his ancestral home in Cambodia and reunite with long lost relatives. He kindly shared with us some of the poems he wrote as he tried to convey the depth of his experience there.

We continue to be grateful for all the support we receive to keep our vision implemented. Best wishes!

Mark Poffenberger, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Kate Smith-Hanssen, Ph.D.

Administrative Director



## What is Community Forestry?...

### With Beginner's Eyes and Ears

by Charlie Dixon

In November 2003, Charles Dixon, a member of the CFI Board of Directors accompanied Mark & Kate on a trip to Thailand and Cambodia. The following is an article he wrote of his personal impressions. His statements are his own and do not reflect the opinions of CFI or its donors.

On my trip to Thailand and Cambodia in November 2003 with Mark Poffenberger, CFI Executive Director and Kate Smith-Hanssen, CFI Administrative Director, I was able to attend a regional meeting of the Community Forest Management Support Project (CFMSP), co-directed by CFI and Asia Forest Network, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In addition, I accompanied Mark and Kate to meetings with four community forestry committees, three in Thailand and one in Cambodia.

The first stop on the CFI-SE Asia field visit was the final regional meeting of the first 3-year program of Asian Forestry Network in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Community foresters from the Philippines, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Thailand and Indonesia met. Representatives from each country gave well-organized case study reports to the group based on the three-year project.

From the discussion and questions of the group, it was clear that they faced the same problems and successes. They each remarked how the group had matured in confidence and effectiveness because of the ideas that had been shared and the communications that had been established during the project. I learned what an important contribution CFI makes by holding these meetings and workshops.

In the rest of this article, I will focus on the field visits we made and, in particular, the



Charlie at meeting of women's self-help group, Chambok, Cambodia.

Cambodian experience because that is where CFI will be working for at least the next 3 years under the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC) program. I will use the Thai examples to generalize.

To begin with, community forestry is the designation of forested property near a village or a number of villages to be protected and managed by a CF committee selected by the villagers. I was surprised by the uniformity of these projects. They all had:

- Legislative-type committees with from 10-20 members.
- The committee members were exclusively villagers.
- A well mapped and researched community forest.
- A set of bylaws.
- A serious but reasonable attitude about the effort.

the number of tourists has increased 30% in the last two years. This has spawned the rise of opportunistic businesses that have started to obtain land close to possible tourism sites.

All of this is taking place in an environment where less than 10% of indigenous people are functionally literate in the national language (Khmer) and where governance is still severely lacking. Illegal and quasi-legal resource grabbing is endemic. Indigenous communities are regularly told that they have no rights to the land that they traditionally live on and that they must accept small amounts of money as "sale" or have their land taken from them..

Another strategy has been to call documents "development projects" rather than "land sale" certificates. As a result of these strategies, a number of communities are already com-

pletely landless or have had their land areas so diminished that they are experiencing severe food shortages. Indigenous people are fast becoming exploited labourers on their own lands now used for industrial agriculture by outsiders, most of whom are powerful government, business, or military people.

To combat this, community-based natural resource management has been developed with the role of protecting and conserving natural resources. Elected representatives from these committees form the Ratanakiri Natural Resource Management Network that CFAC supports.

As a result of these community-based natural resource management initiatives, laws are now coming into place that, at least in the-

*Communities are losing control over the natural resources they traditionally used.*

ory, respect the traditional rights of indigenous communities. For example, communal land ownership by indigenous communities is now possible under the 2001 Land Law. This law still needs to have a number of sub-decrees and proclamations established in order to be functional. That work is now starting to be addressed, albeit very slowly.

One major barrier to resource rights identified by Ratanakiri communities, and by the provincial government, has been that communities are not yet aware of what their rights are with regard to community use of land and forests and with regard to what represents legal

and illegal land and forest use by outsiders. This has been particularly noted with regard to forest concessions, where people have been told that many activities have been "approved" as part of land and forest concessions, but are in fact illegal ac-

tivities. Communities need to know, in detail, what is legal land acquisition and logging and how to monitor both and report illegal activity. CFAC is helping to support the work of the Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) to hold local workshops and trainings in Ratanakiri.

Another barrier has been that communities lack representation when national laws and policies are formulated, interpreted, and enforced. In 2004, such representation will be particularly relevant to the drafting of a sub-decree on the registration of indigenous lands, the implementation of the Community Forestry Sub-decree and the implementation of the Forest

cont. on pg. 19



# Ratanakiri

by Graeme Brown

CFAC maintains its own field office in Ban Lung, Ratanakiri province for the administration and technical support in that area. Ratanakiri is located in the forested uplands of northeastern Cambodia. Besides setting up an office and staff, CFAC has just completed an extensive mapping project called *Indigenous Communities and Development in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia: A Map-Based Analysis of Community Based Natural Resource Management* by Allistair Stephens and Graeme Brown. This report is a map-based analysis of the distribution of outside threats and pressures to the area. The authors also mapped efforts that have been undertaken to support or rebuild community-based natural resource management. With this data, it can clearly be demonstrated where there are problems now and where there are likely to be problems in the future.

## Securing Customary Rights for Indigenous People

The majority of Ratanakiri communities are indigenous communities from 7 different language and cultural groups. Nearly all communities and community people experience significant poverty. Many times this is related to loss of natural resources and this has been well documented.

Indigenous communities traditionally have a very strong relationship with natural resources and utilize them for construction, religious reasons, food supplies, particularly in times of shortage, and for medicines and treatments. In recent times the situation has rapidly changed. Recent analysis has shown that, “communities are losing control over the natural resources they traditionally used.” This has come about primarily due to the increase in demand of natural resources by outsiders.



Forests have been logged, wildlife traded, and land alienated by various means. At the moment, all these problems are escalating due to plans for infrastructure development within the province and within the country. A major road upgrade, opening of the border of Vietnam to foreign tourists, and major cross-border trade is fuelling land speculation, dispossessing indigenous communities and causing them to have to clear forests for agricultural land.

News has just come that the road will also be upgraded all the way to Phnom Penh, meaning that Ratanakiri will quickly become a major transport and business route from Vietnam to Cambodia and Thailand. In addition to this, the national government with loans from the Asian Development Bank will be building an international airport in Ratanakiri and promoting the province as a tourist destination. Already,

Community Forestry is neither a new nor nebulous concept in Cambodia. In Cambodia it is a part of national policy being implemented by the Sub-decree on Community Forestry. While listening in on the meetings I attended, the Sub-decree was referred to frequently.

During my visit, I was refreshed to observe the naturalness with which the villagers accepted the concept of CF (Community Forestry). They were proud to manage, protect and benefit from forests abutting their villages.

It was apparent that CF is not some goody-two-shoes, out-of-touch liberal idea dropped on the locals for its feel good, aesthetically sounding timbre. (I suspect that decades of previous work by CFI’s Director Mark Poffenberger is in no small way responsible for CF being a familiar concept.)

Meeting with the village CF committees held little surprise, but happily it was what I anticipated from the information I had gleaned from afar. I will describe the village we visited abutting the Cambodian Kirirom National Forest. This particular CF is supported by Mlup Baitong, one of our grantees. We met inside the stilts on the dirt patio under the elevated front room of a family home.

The house itself was built 10 feet up, this being the common architecture. Ventilation, critters, and moisture are the impetus for the barrier of air between earth and habitation. In this patio was a large low table 6 feet by 9 feet about chair height, the surface covered in straw like a grass mat, a common piece of furniture in all the villages I visited. The villagers all sat up on the table cross legged or, being chair height, it was also possible to sit with legs dangling outside the edge, touching the

ground for us western types. It was very natural and comfortable, both physically and socially. Our hosts were a translator, member of the government, the head of the CF committee, the head of the area commune and several members of the CF committee. Family members, neighbors of all ages, and various animals came and went during the meeting. We communicated through the translator. We were welcomed and given specifics of this particular CF; size, age, condition and so forth. We then went over the *Bylaws of the CF committee*. These were more formal and stricter than I would have expected. They were well laid out, they were not ambiguous, they were what one would have expected, they clearly demonstrated the community

*Community forestry is the designation of forested property near a village to be protected and managed by a CF committee selected by the villagers.*

ownership of the forest, they were similar to the bylaws of the Thai CF’s we visited. One detail I will mention is the common legislative nature of the committees. Committee members represent the village or villages proportional to population, with an executive committee which chaired the

meetings. Meetings were held at regular intervals with great transparency, no secrets. We went over the bylaws in some detail. These included rules for what was allowed and not allowed. Being interested in crime and particularly punishment we asked if anyone had been caught. “Yes” was the hesitant reply. “What was their punishment?” we asked. What followed was common at all 4 CF committees that we visited. First, no answer. Then, silence. We persisted. There was a definite reluctance to go into the matter, like it was bad manners. But, in each case, the question was asked again, usually in more precise terms and, finally, we would get an answer.

cont. on pg. 18



# CFI Scrapbook 2004

CFI Signs MOU with  
Forest Administration, Cambodia



Top right: Mark Poffenberger gives an address to honor the long-standing relationship between CFI and the FA at the MOU signing ceremony.

Top Left: Mr. Ty Sokhun, Head of the Forest Administration, Cambodia shakes hands with Mark Poffenberger. Kate Smith-Hanssen, CFI Administrative Director and Mary Melnyk from USAID, Washington look on at the right.



Left: CFAC staff from the CFI office in Phnom Penh join Mark, Kate, and Mr. Lao Sethapal, Chief of the Community Forestry Office, FA, Cambodia. On the right are Yang Phirom, CFAC National Coordinator, Rob Oberndorf, CFAC Legal & Policy Advisor, and Amanda Bradley, CFAC Program Coordinator

MacArthur Foundation Rep, David  
Hulse, joins CFI in NE India



Right: David Hulse, Program Officer from the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, joins Mark and Kate on a field trip to meet with a local environmental group in Cherrapunje, NE India, the "rainiest place on earth."

Above: Seated at a NE working group meeting at the Pinewood Hotel, Shillong are from left: Kate, Dr. Saroj Barik, Mark, David Hulse, Urmila Pingle, Minnie Vaid, Dr. Tripathi, and Dr. Dhrupad Choudhury.

CFI is Officially Registered as an International Organization  
by the Royal Government of Cambodia



*" My father is a practitioner of tradi-  
tional medicine and we love nature.  
That is why it is my privilege to save  
the forest."*

-Tambor Lyndoh, President  
Mawphlang Village Forest Council

Tambor Lyndoh at the Kalawkyntang  
Sacred Forest, Meghalaya, NE India.

## CF State Profiles

The WG has completed a set of comprehensive profiles for each of the seven northeastern states describing the status of community engagement in forest stewardship. These reports include the forest area under community management, the number of communities involved in forest stewardship, important traditions of management in each state, as well as how those policies and programs can be improved by emerging community forestry movements. They review the staffing levels and capacity of state forest departments and NGOs working on forestry related issues. CFI is preparing to publish them in early 2005.

policies of the state and nation impact commu-  
nity forest conservation, and better support the  
efforts of villagers to sustainably manage local  
forests. Some of the case study sites are located  
on the periphery of protected areas with high  
biodiversity conservation values. These case  
studies will be published by CFI along with the  
state profiles in early 2005. ■

## CF Case Studies

In 2003, the WG identified 15 locations for field assessments of community forest management systems. These case studies have now been completed. Each case study represents a different ethnic community including Nagas, Mizos, Khukis, Garos, Donyi-Polo, and Kila communities. The purpose of the case studies is to document traditional forest stewardship practices, as well as contemporary management issues. Ultimately, the analysis seeks to identify how the existing forestry



Traditional house, NE India





In 2004, the NE India program continued into its second project year. In November 2004, a CF regional working group meeting was held in Shillong. The working group meeting was held to discuss the research that had been performed during the course of the year and establish deadlines for the case study publications. David Hulse, program representative from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, attended the meeting and joined CFI staff and WG members on a field trip to the sacred forests of Cherripunji and Kalawkyntang.

#### CF Working Group for the Northeast

The Community Forestry Working Group for Northeast India is located at the Northeast Hill University in Shillong, Meghalaya, the leading academic institute in the region. The WG is linked to India's Ministry of Environment and Forests through its regional branch for National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment, providing the group with a direct link into national policy formulation. Senior planners who participate in guiding the program represent all seven of the region's state forest departments. The WG also includes representatives from local NGOs and media. The CFM Working Group

met for the first time April 21-23, 2003. There was a strong consensus among the members that a regional forestry dialogue was urgently needed, as existing CF policy directions were poorly informed and program coordination was minimal between the states. Further illegal logging, deforestation, land conversion, and poaching were widespread, threatening forest ecosystems throughout the region.

The group identified a series of critical policy questions that need to be resolved by the WG. It was also agreed that recommendations for policy reform at the state and national level would be a major output of the project. The group sanctioned a legal review of all policies and laws affecting community rights and responsibilities over forest lands. *Community Forestry and Policy in Northeast India: An Historical Legal Analysis* by Sanjay Upadhyay and Suparna Jain was subsequently published by CFI and is available in hardcopy or online at the CFI website.

To inform the policy recommendations, the WG agreed that a series of diagnostic field studies and community dialogues should be initiated under the program to identify critical constraints and failures of existing policy and programs in terms of their capacity to promote community involvement in forest conservation.

#### CFI meets with the Cambodian Minister of Environment in May 2004



Above: Mark meets with Mr. Mok Marith of the Ministry of Environment to discuss collaboration with CFAC projects in Cambodia.

#### CFAC Ratanakiri Field Project is launched



Above: Graeme Brown, CFAC Ratanakiri Coordinator, meets with local indigenous representatives in Ban Lung.

Right: Mark, Graeme, and Rob meet with NTFP representatives in Ban Lung, Ratanakiri.

Left: Rob, Amanda, and Phirom at Ban Lung airport.



Above: Religious Community forest in O'Pal, Oddar Meanchey province.

Right: The Venerable Bun Salut, Samroang Pagoda, Oddar Meanchey province.

Far Right: Bleak conditions in Tumnum Tmey village, Oddar Meanchey province.



#### CFAC holds its Semi-annual Program Meeting in Phnom Penh, May 2004



Above: CFAC Team at their semi-annual program meeting. From left: Yang Phirom, Rob Oberndorf, Graeme Brown, Mark Poffenberger, Amanda Bradley, and Kate Smith-Hanssen.

#### CFAC supports small grant to Romduol Vesna Community Forestry project in Oddar Meanchey



# Cambodia

In 2004, CFI initiated the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC) program. CFI established a project office in Phnom Penh and a field office in Ban Lung, Ratanakiri Province. In its first year, CFAC has focused on outreach and support to its Small Grants Program and the start of its Seed Grant Program. In addition, CFAC has become part of several NGO forums and networks that meet to collaborate on various community forestry issues in Cambodia.

## Community Forestry Taskforce

CFAC is partnering with Concern Worldwide, Oxfam GB, and the Community Forest Office of the Forestry Administration on a Community Forestry Taskforce (CFT). The CFT is developing the National Community Forestry Program (NCFP) and assisting with the interpretation of the *prakas* (guidelines) of the Community Forestry Sub-decree passed in 2003. CFAC is providing legal advice and guidance to the CFO and also supporting the development of extension materials to disseminate the *prakas* in simplified forms, such as posters, CF guidebooks, etc. The CFT will also assist in the distribution of the *prakas* to stakeholders as part of a public consultation proves for *praka* development.

Under NCFP, the CFT is helping to plan 4 regional workshops. The four workshops will be held in Siem Reap, Kampong Chang, Kratie, and Sihanoukville. Participants will include forestry field staff, local NGO representatives, and national community forestry planners. The findings will be used to formulate the National Community Forestry Program for implementation in 2005.



## CFAC Small Grant Program

In its first project year, CFAC developed a Small Grant Program to assist local NGO's who are actively engaged in community forestry and natural resource management and conservation activities. To date, this year's grantees range from organizations providing media and outreach education, to those training in mapping and boundary demarcation skills, and those who are directly supporting local communities to build their administrative and technical capacity to manage and conserve their natural resources. The small grants vary in amount depending on the need and capacity of the organization. CFAC staff in Phnom Penh conduct field visits to monitor and assess the activities of the grantees. Through the experience of supporting a variety of CF organizations and groups, valuable data is being gathered that can benefit Cambodia as it continues to develop its natural resource management strategy.

## CFAC Seed Grants

As CFAC staff visited various field sites around Cambodia during its first project year, it became evident that some communities required small amounts of seed money that could be directly allocated to them to improve their natural resource management capacity and to develop livelihood strategies. In response, CFAC developed a Seed Grant program to provide support directly to communities with a maximum of no more than \$1,000. We believe that by "seeding" numerous communities with small amounts of funds, we are leveraging the amount of progress and good resource stewardship that can take place. In addition, we hope to provide greater capacity building, educational opportunities, and training to improve the quality of life and the environment.

## CFAC Law & Policy

CFAC staff continue to contribute to the legal and policy issues for Cambodia when requested.. CFAC is helping with the guidelines for the CF Sub-decree as well as providing valuable assistance with the extension materials. The CFAC is also making input into the development of the communal land and forest rights laws and policies

broadly enacted under Cambodia's Land Law. This has involved monitoring the implementation of pilot projects that seek recognition of communal tenure, as well as documenting land conflicts.

## CF/CPA Network

The CF/CPA Network was formed in 1993 with the objective to share information regarding community forestry (CF) and community protected areas (CPA). Its members include representatives from government, communities, and NGOs. The CF/CPA Network organizes meetings every three months in different regions throughout the country. The organizational committee is comprised of members from the Forest Administration, Ministry of Environment, Concern Worldwide, World Wildlife Fund, Oxfam Great Britain, Mlup Baiton, the Mekong River Commission/GTZ, along with CFI. In addition to the quarterly meetings, a CF newsletter is also published in Khmer.

The objective of the meetings and the newsletter is to share information, lessons learned, and experiences regarding the development of community forestry and community protected areas in Cambodia. Usually there are about 100 participants who attend the meetings from relevant government institutions, international organizations, local NGOs, project representatives, local authorities, and local communities. The Network provides financial support for 20 participants to attend the meeting.

## CFAC Email Exchange

One of the projects that CFAC staff have initiated is an email exchange of information and learning with local donor organizations and NGOs, international organizations, government representatives, and interested individuals. Information exchanged is:

- Meetings, workshops, trainings related to CF
- Legal briefs and updates on CF policy development
- Commentary of forest sector developments
- Opportunities for CF funding
- CF media reports
- Other related CF information