



COMMUNITY FORESTRY INTERNATIONAL
1834 Crystal Air Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 USA
Tel: (530) 573-0361
Fax: (530) 573-0533
www.communityforestryinternational.org

Front cover: Buddhist Monk hanging up a sign designating the forest as a community forest.
 Back cover: Members of a women's community forest committee, Northeast India

COMMUNITY FORESTRY INTERNATIONAL



Annual Report 2006

CFI FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR END JUNE 30, 2006

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Revenue:</u>	
Foundation Grants	\$230,000.00
Government Grants	\$998,262.00
Private	\$ 2,300.00
Total	\$1,230,562.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Program Services	\$945,968.00
Admin. & Mgmt.	\$ 129,000.00
Total	\$1,074,968.00

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash	\$199,073.00
Total Assets	\$199,073.00

All information based on Community Forestry International's financial statement for the period from July 1, 2005— June 30, 2006.

CFI Mission



Board of Directors

Gary McDonald, President
David Barker, Ph.D.
Charles Dixon, CFO
Kathryn LePage, M.A.
Mark Musicant, M.D.
Shira Musicant, M.A.
Jilla Wolsey, M.A.

Ex-Officio

Mark Poffenberger, Ph.D.
Kate Smith-Hanssen, Ph.D.

Staff

Evelyn Boyle
Matt Klym
Nancy Schafer
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.

CFI Project Staff at Work...



CFI Exhibition at NGO meeting in Cambodia



CFI Cambodia staff assisting CFMCs to conduct participatory mapping exercise in Kratie, Cambodia



CFI staff assisting with boundary demarcation, Makhon, Manipur, NE



Collecting GPS way points for boundary demarcation, Cambodia



CFI staff assisting with boundary demarcation in the sacred groves of Meghalaya, NE India



CFI staff meet with Songlung villagers, Manipur, NE India

CFI GRANT PROGRAM 2006

CAMBODIA

ASSOCIATION OF BUDDHISTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (\$6,460). Production of documentary film on monk participation with CF.

BUDDHISTS FOR DEVELOPMENT, KG. THOM (\$12,788) Sustainable forestry resource management in Kg. Thom.

CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (\$17,087.35) To help support the establishment of the Romduol Vesna CF Committee.

COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LEARNING INSTITUTE (\$39,993) To help support research on CF.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ALLIANCE FOR CAMBODIA (\$166,000) To support the CFI-Cambodia project office and activities.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY OFFICE/FOREST ADMINISTRATION (\$3,000) To support the Information Management Unit of the CFO to create a community forestry database.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY OFFICE/FOREST ADMINISTRATION (\$2,000) To support the national CF network.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY OFFICE/FOREST ADMINISTRATION (\$1,000) To support the national CF programme.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (\$15,007) Promoting good governance of forestry resources.

KHMER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (\$14,516) Community forestry development project in Pursat.

MLUP BAITONG (\$18,000) Environment radio and CF field project in Kirirom National Park.

PROM VIHEAR THOR (\$3,707) To support the establishment of CF for a 100 ha. forest.

SATREY SANTEPIEP DAMBEY PAKRISTAN (\$15,000) Project to help indigenous people develop community forestry in Kratie and Mondulkiri.

SAVE CAMBODIA’S WILDLIFE (\$15,310) Project to support community outreach in Bokor National Park.

RATANAKIRI NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (\$103,325) Project to support capacity building for indigenous communities in Ratanakiri.

NE INDIA

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ALLIANCE FOR NE INDIA (\$51,452)

SEED GRANT-MEGHALAYA (\$2,200)

SEED GRANT-MANIPUR (\$450)

MICRO COMMUNITY PROJECTS-MEGHALAYA (\$2,200)

MICRO COMMUNITY PROJECT-MANIPUR (\$5,460)

RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT-MEGHALAYA (\$3,300)

RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT-MANIPUR (\$3,300)

BOSCO REACH OUT-(\$2,667)

WSDS- (\$6,889)

CFI Vision

CFI supports programs that empower local people to sustainably manage their natural resources, protect biodiversity, provide livelihood opportunities, and stabilize their cultural traditions and values.

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Indigenous staff from various organizations in Ratanakiri that CFI supports. Staff is gathered for a training provided by the CFI-Ratanakiri Coordinator.

President’s Message

Dear Friends:



It has been my pleasure to participate in the development of CFI over the past six years and to watch it grow in scope and experience. Some of my earliest experiences came from accompanying Mark Poffenberger in pre-CFI days while he was doing fieldwork in Indonesia and Nepal. I remember sitting on the floor of a school to the north of the Kathmandu Valley with a group of local NGO field staff during a lively discussion regarding forest protection and regeneration. Mark encouraged and guided the group as they mapped their forest area and talked about how they could experiment with new techniques of forest management. The ideas generated excitement among the young professionals, a combination of youthful energy and ideas. Stimulating problem solving and supporting positive social change are core elements that CFI promotes in its programs.

These innovations are evident in CFI’s Workplan for 2007 that will explore a range of new tools for partnership creation, such as environmental service contracts with indigenous communities, the building of federations and networks of rural communities, and market-oriented agreements for promoting rural livelihoods. Much of CFI’s work in the coming year will be with remote villages, many of them comprised of indigenous peoples whose survival is dependent on these threatened forest ecosystems.

CFI remains committed to its mission of enabling rural people to play a meaningful role in the management of the world’s forests. In the coming year, CFI will focus its efforts in India and Cambodia, while exploring new regions to share it’s experience and learn from those of others.

Gary McDonald
President, CFI Board

DRAMA PERFORMANCE ON CF EXTENSION IN CHRAMAS CF, KAMPONG THOM

Preah Sophea community forestry is located in Chramas village, Chhouk commune, Prasath Sambo district, Kompong Thom province. The CF site covers an area of 325 hectares and is surrounded by villages which have not yet established CF. This community faced some problems caused by neighboring villagers such as illegal cutting, forest land encroachment, forest land clearance for plantations, etc. There were often conflicts over the right to utilize and to manage the forest resources. With this concern, one proposed solution was to increase the awareness of those villagers in the surrounding area. Serendipitously, a local community drama team was interested in taking on this challenge and proposed to perform a story about community forestry to draw attention to the problems of cooperation among communities. The group had already been trained and hired by World Vision and GTZ for education extension in the area, so they had some experience already. As a result, a grant request to CFI for a “Seed Grant” was submitted for CF extension, along with a request for technical support. On 19 May, 2006, CFI approved a grant of \$392 to cover the preparation and two performances in neighboring villages.

After the funds were received, the real work started. The script was drafted in a few days by Mr. Mao Sovandy, Deputy Chief of the Provincial Department of Culture and Fine Arts with technical input from CFI, Mlup Baitong, the FA and Preah Sophear’s CFMC. The script focuses on participatory community protection of community forestry areas. The team spent 15 days for rehearsal. The play lasted about 3 hours and was performed at night starting at 8 o’clock. At this convenient time, more than 400 villagers attended from 7 surrounding villages, excited to see this very popular form of entertainment and education. Most of the viewers stayed till the end of the play. To do an evaluation, two short quiz games were arranged at the intermission and at the end of the play during which facilitators confirmed that people understood the meaning of the play through questions and answers. The replies from the audience clearly indicated that viewers understood the message of the play. Small prizes such as T-shirts were provided.



FMV MEDIA TOUR OF PHNOM PENH 27-29/2006

Written by Nong Sam Oeung and Kanuth Yoeun



In March 2006 four FMV (Forest Mountain Voices) indigenous staff had a study tour in Phnom Penh for 3 days from 27th -29th the purpose of this study tour was to learn more about work from similar organizations and to exchange experiences and stories with each other. The 4 staff were: Mr Chan Plem, Mr Nong Sam Oeung, Mr Om Hong Kiri and Mr Kanuth Yoeun

In this study tour we visited the staff from the Hanuman Center (HC), Cambodia Television Network (CTN), Cambodia Center Base Eco-tourism Network (CCBEN), Mlup Baitong Radio Studio, and the Women’s Media Center of Cambodia (WMC).

On the first day we went to the Hanuman Center where we met many of the staff and Ms. Terri Parnell who is the general facilitator. We discussed the work of both of our projects. Afterwards two of their staff took us to see their new office and production facility. We shared information on each other’s work and objectives. We also discussed the possibility of two FMV staff to receive training at the Hanuman Media training centre. Hanuman Center took copies of our videos and will include our work in their database.

In the afternoon we went to visit the Cambodia Television Network (CTN). Here we met with the director of CTN and he told us about their work. We were then shown their work area and saw the way in which they make news and television programs.

On the second day we met with the Cambodia Community Based Ecotourism Network (CCBEN). We discussed our work and the future for communication. At the end of the meeting FMV and CCBEN decided to continue to cooperate. CCBEN said that if FMV has documentary films or indigenous traditional instruments they would be happy to promote them.

In the afternoon we went to see Mlup Baitong. Here we met with staff and shared our video projects with them. Afterwards they took us to see their Radio production studio. At the end of the meeting FMV and Mlup Baitong decided to find ways to work together, and we talked about possibly making videos together in the future.

On the third day we visited the Women’s Media Center (WMC). We met with the director and shared with her the purpose of our study tour and the work and objectives of FMV. We toured their production facility and learned about their video making techniques. As a result of this meeting, FMV staff are going to help WMC staff with a video production on indigenous people in Ratanakiri.

This tour was very useful for FMV staff; we discussed our work and developed partnerships with other organizations. This is the first time for indigenous people like us go outside of Ratanakiri province and learn about media production. It was a very important chance for us to learn about communication and cooperation with other organizations, and this is very important for the future of our FMV project.

Letter from the Directors

Dear Colleagues & Friends:



CFI is unique in the field of international environmental organizations due to its small size and specialized mission. While CFI attempts to operate on a global level to support the role of forest dependent peoples as reliable natural resource stewards, our operational assumption is that good policy and law can only be formulated through extensive field learning and experience. At a time when national forest management systems around the world are going through a historic period of change, community forest management represents a cost-effective approach to conserve threatened forest ecosystems while responding to rural livelihood needs in a socially just manner. CFI aspires not only to contribute to forest restoration and conservation; it strives to encourage the restoration of indigenous, forest-oriented cultures and societies.

CFI’s strategy is based on a belief that “Strong community institutions lead to good forest management.”

With limited resources, CFI attempts to partner with other organizations that share its concerns and goals. This not only allows for a pooling of resources, but accelerates the sharing of knowledge and learning. Program strategies are designed to explore exciting new modes of facilitating adaptive changes in policy and practice that can help transform the forestry sector, allowing financial and technical resources to address management problems in a cost-effective manner and one that is empowering for forest communities. In 2007, CFI will follow this approach in its three current programming regions including Cambodia, Northeast India, and Andhra Pradesh.

CFI is also committed to sharing its learning on a global basis. CFI has recently updated its web-site posting a range of new publications that can be easily downloaded. CFI is also working on a new film that captures learning arising from its Cambodia field projects. In November 2006, Mark has been invited to make a keynote address at a regional conference on Forestry in Asia at Kyushu University, Japan. So, we are off to Japan!

Included in this year’s Annual Report is a brief summary of our field projects. We are most grateful for all the support we have received over the past year to make the CFI vision a reality.

Best wishes!

Mark Poffenberger, Ph.D.
Executive Director

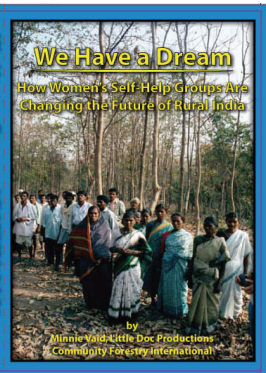
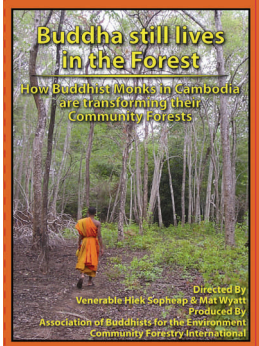
Kate Smith-Hanssen, Ph.D.
Administrative Director

CFI News & Updates...

- In 2006, CFI moved its office to South Lake Tahoe. South Lake Tahoe is located in northern California and is surrounded by dense national forests consisting of temperate evergreens such as pine, cedar, and firs. The town is situated at the south end of Lake Tahoe which is America’s largest alpine lake, 22 miles long and 12 miles wide, with 72 miles of shoreline. The deepest recorded depth of the lake is 1,645 feet.
- CFI directors, Mark and Kate, are already members of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, a networking group focused on bringing together local environmental organizations and individuals, and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. In addition, CFI directors met with the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, an international partnership founded in 1990 committed to enhancing sustainable economic development, cultural understanding, and the protection of unique watersheds throughout the world, particularly at Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia. TBI programs include environmental education training, research, and international exchanges of students, scholars, and practitioners in science, policy, economics, and other related disciplines. CFI met with its director and other staff to exchange ideas and program strategies. CFI Board Member, David Barker, was formerly associated with TBI and provided information and introductions.



- CFI hired two new consultants for its Tahoe office: Nancy Schafer is taking over as bookkeeper and Matt Klym has been helpful in “wiring” our new office setup, providing technical advice and troubleshooting our computers, and updating the CFI website.
- CFI added another documentary this year in conjunction with the Association of Buddhists for the Environment. *Buddha Still Lives in the Forest* presents three case studies of how the Buddhist monks and the local pagoda are providing assistance and training in community forestry to local Cambodian communities. The film stresses how Buddhism is an important reference point for community forestry and how the Cambodian heritage reflects this relationship. The film was produced by the Association of Buddhists for the Environment and Community Forestry International. It was filmed and directed by Mat Wyatt.



- CFI reissued a documentary film made in 2004, “We Have a Dream: How Women’s Self-Help Groups are Changing the Future of Rural India.” This film documents how direct payments to rural women’s groups after providing training, capacity building, and simple accounting is radically transforming the sustainable economic future of villagers throughout Andhra Pradesh. The film focuses on three villages and provides an in-depth view of how these women’s groups were formed and the challenges that they have overcome. The film was produced by Community Forestry International and filmed and directed by Minnie Vaid of Little Doc Productions.
- CFI Website Updated! CFI added a link to its Cambodia project on the CFI website describing many of its activities. In addition, we added many new publications. Visit us soon!

Stories from the Field...

NATIONAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY DATABASE IS LAUNCHED ON THE INTERNET

At the end of March, the Community Forestry Office of the Forestry Administration (FA) launched the Community Forestry Database onto the internet (www.forestry.gov.kh). The database is housed and managed by the Royal Government of Cambodia to provide official information and data on community forestry in Cambodia to the general public. It is groundbreaking because it not only provides recognition for 264 community forestry sites around the country, but because it is a model for transparent sharing of information between government and the civil society. CFI has been a partner with the FA and other NGOs to support the development of this database over the past year. First, CFI provided a small grant for the Community Forestry Office (using funds from the MacArthur Foundation) to implement the project. In addition, CFI staff were active members of a Task Force which helped the CF Office to design and review the database. This process included a national workshop to get feedback from many stakeholders. The database includes a comprehensive collection of data on each site in both Khmer and English languages. Data fields include size of the CF site, type of forest and dominant species, number of families benefiting and ethnicity, types and amounts of forest products harvested, maps, photos, step reached in implementation, and contact information. It is also possible to send updates of information to the CF Office for uploading.



CFI played an instrumental role in helping the CF Office to collect much of the data for the database. All of CFI’s small grants and seed grants partners (supporting over 70 sites) were contacted and urged or assisted to fill out the questionnaire for the database. In addition, CFI supported the publishing of a brochure to introduce the Community Forestry Information Management System in order to make many people aware of the database and its objectives. The data collected will also be published in an annual statistics book/CD rom for wide distribution.

To access the database, first go to the site: www.forestry.gov.kh, then click on “About Us.” Proceed to “Statistics” and then click on “Community Forestry”.

Ratanakiri

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. CFI 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. 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. CFI support is assisting local indigenous communities with education and training so that they may better network and communicate issues among themselves and to the authorities and local government.

In 2006, the CFI Ratanakiri Coordinator, with additional support from CFI, helped centralize support to indigenous Cambodian communities by registering a new NGO called the Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO). ICSO is a direct result of the various groups that CFI and other international NGOs have supported in Ratanakiri. It is hoped that by having this umbrella organization, the training, education, and capacity building for indigenous communities in Cambodia will move forward even more effectively. Since indigenous communities tend to live in the more densely forested areas, this is a very important component to protecting and conserving the forests of Cambodia.

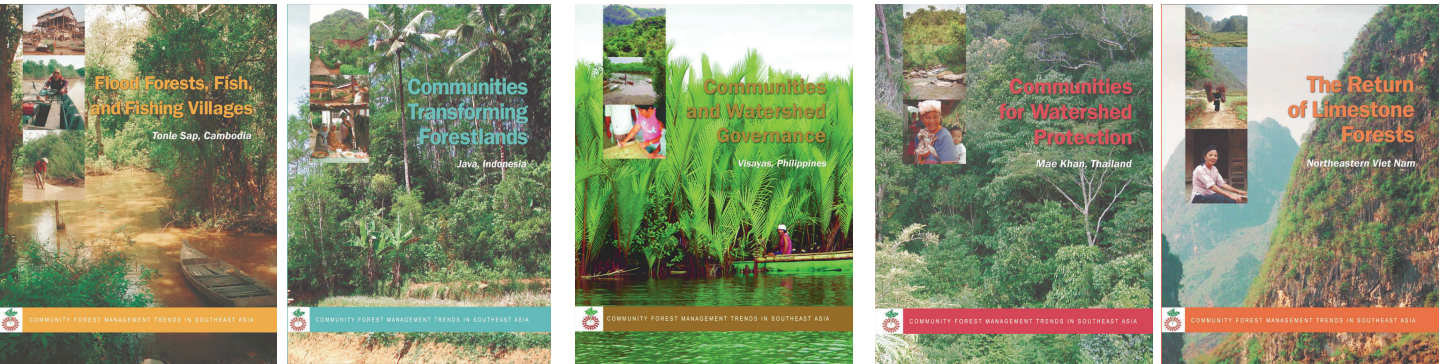


Recent CFI Publications...

Community Forest Management Trends in Southeast Asia



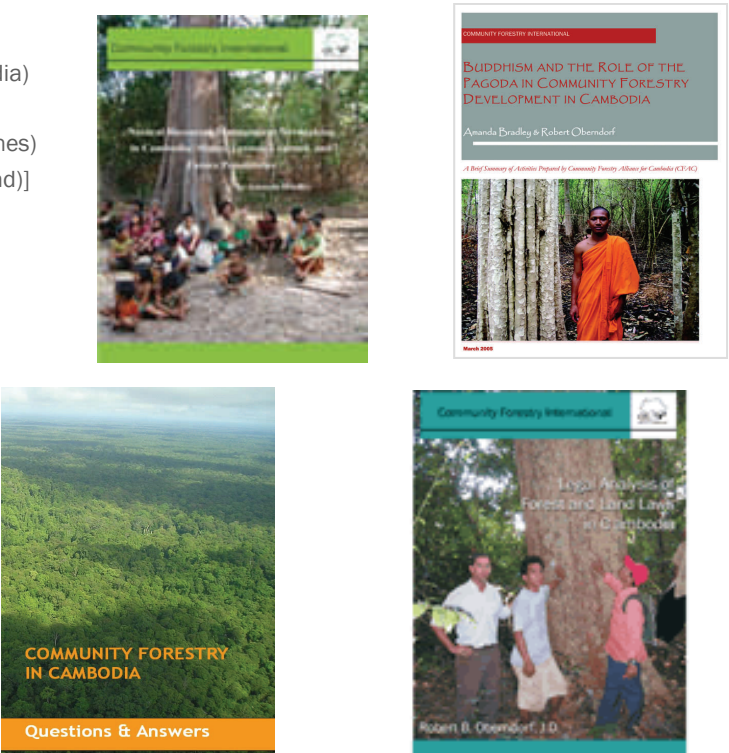
Over the last five years, a joint project between CFI and AFN examined CF management in five SE Asian countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Policy makers, community members, and field practitioners-bound together by their commitment to restore and protect the forests of their respective countries, discussed and reflected on themes covering transitional policies in CF policies, practice, partnerships and prospects in six regional meetings over the three-year project period. Have been captured in this regional synthesis report. The report was written by Mark Poffenberger (CFI), Rowena Soriaga (AFN), and Peter Walpole (AFN). The report was published in Manila, Philippines by Ateneo Press and had its official publishing launch June 16, 2006. To order this book online, go to http://www.ateneopress.org/detail_socsci.asp?ID=32.



Starting from the Left:
Flood, Forest, Fish, and Fishing Villages (Tonle Sap, Cambodia)
Communities Transforming Forestlands (Java, Indonesia)
Communities and Watershed Governance (Visayas, Philippines)
Communities and Watershed Protection (Mae Khan, Thailand)]
The Return of Limestone Forests (Northeastern Vietnam)

For the Cambodia program...

Upper Left: NRM Networking in Cambodia: Status, Lessons Learned, and Future Possibilities by Amanda Bradley
Upper Right: Buddhism and the Role of the Pagoda in Community Forestry Development in Cambodia by Amanda Bradley & Robert B. Oberndorf, J.D.
Lower Left: Community Forestry in Cambodia: Questions and Answers by Amanda Bradley
Lower Right: Legal Analysis of Forest and Land Laws in Cambodia by Robert B. Oberndorf, J.D.



CFI Scrapbook 2006



CFI-CAMBODIA

Top Left: CFI staff member facilitates a Q and A session on community forestry at a community meeting.

Middle Left: Village boys go on a hunting expedition!

Bottom Left: Amanda Bradley, CFI Country Director-Cambodia, with Ruby (CFI mascot), and Hunan, a village boy on the Mekong River.

Top Right: Buddhist monks gather to discuss the 8-Steps to community forestry development.

Bottom Right: Resin collector, Kg. Thom, Cambodia.



potential strategies for obtaining support for reducing obstacles. In addition, an exercise was conducted to analyze the market potential of the main agri-products of both villages. Other activities that have been undertaken have been: PRA activities, manual GIS training and mapping, documentation of manual GIS exercise, Community analysis of PRA and manual GIS data, digitization of 1:50,000 topographic sheets.

The villagers in both sites are enthusiastically participating in the project and the participatory approach along with the multi-stakeholder involvement is proving to be a great success.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya is located between Assam to the north and east, Bangladesh to the south, and W. Bengal to the west. Its capital is Shillong, a former British hill station during colonial times. The CFI-NE office is located in Shillong, which is also home to the Northeast Hill University.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as an autonomous state on April 2, 1970. It was declared a state of the Indian Union in 1972. The state of Meghalaya is comprised of the Khasis, Garo and Jaintia hills with thick forests and scenic beauty. 80% of the state is tribal. CFI is working in two project sites in Meghalaya: Mawphlang Lyngdohship and Umden. The Lyngdohship also manages the Mawphlang sacred grove which

encompasses 60% of the total land area with areas of good forest cover. Prior to the CFI project, the Lyngdohship was concerned that the communities were not educated enough about the importance of the valuable resources within their forests. But, after a series of meetings and approval of a formal network in November 2004, rules governing the management of the sacred grove have been developed. CEE, a local NGO, have been collaborating with the Lyngdohship to provide environmental education to students and young children. In addition to the management plan, the Lyngdohship is also planning to develop eco-tourism in the grove with a special trail that links the forest to a local village.

The second CFI project area is in Umden. This project is being managed by Dolan Malai, a former schoolteacher and avid environmentalist. After conducting a village-wide survey, he determined that 20 of the 32 villages he visited were interested in establishing community forestry. Umden also has a tradition of sacred groves and within this project area, three of the forests are designated as sacred.

But, without proper education and the establishment of rules and regulations, the sacred groves are slowly being plundered for their natural resources. With CFI support, the communities are starting to develop plans to protect their forests and revitalize their traditions of sacred groves. The rich historical and ancestral sites of Umden are starting to be valued once more as the villagers receive assistance for their efforts.

CF Working Group for the Northeast

In Phase II, the Community Forestry Working Group for Northeast India has been divided to focus on the two CFI project areas in Manipur and Meghalaya. Stakeholder workshops have been held in each state bringing together community leaders, NGOs, Forest Department staff, and senior government planners to discuss community environmental and development needs.



NE India

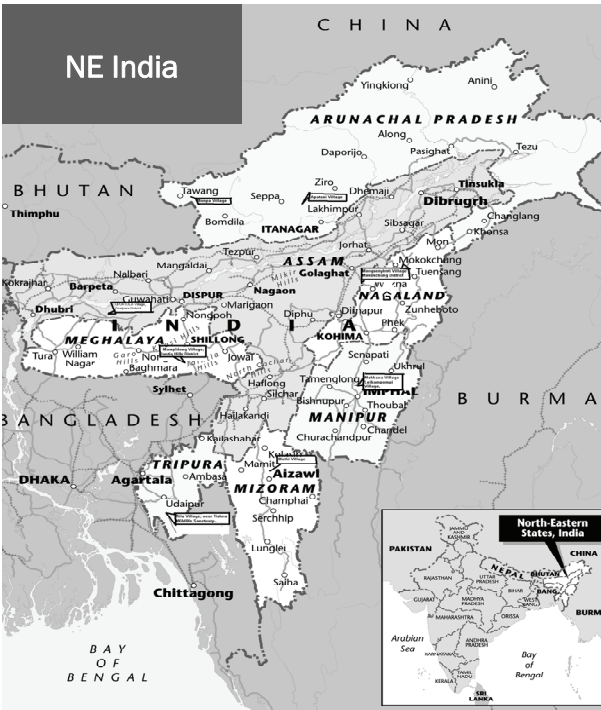
In 2006, the NE India program continued into its fourth project year. This year, the project is focusing its work in two states: Meghalaya and Manipur. The CF Working Group will continue to meet periodically for regional conferences.

Manipur

Manipur is located between the southern portion of Assam and Burma. They have a population of almost 2.5 million with a total land area of 8,621 sq. miles (22,327 sq. km.). There are 33 Scheduled Tribes (granted legitimacy under Indian Law) with the two major groups being the Nagas and the Kuki. CFI selected two project sites in Manipur for its CF work: Makhan Village (Naga) and N. Songlun village (Kuki).

Prior to establishing the goals of the project in these two areas, participatory meetings were held by the CFI-NE team: S. Palit, S. Barik, and Ivan Roy. In Makhan, the CFI meeting was attended by the village headman and members of the village, including women. In N. Songlun, the meeting was attended not only by the headman but almost the entire village as well!

It was determined that CFI would collaborate with the Forest Department to assist the villagers to strengthen their institutional framework within the villages that would be capable of making comprehensive natural resource management plans, apply to development schemes for financial and technical assistance, and implement the plan.



- The broad goals in Manipur are:
- 1) Sustainably manage the natural resources including: sacred groves, clan, private, and government forests, water, and *jhum* lands.
 - 2) A landscape approach will be utilized to manage the broad area rather than small, site specific approaches.
 - 3) In order to insure effective participation of the villagers in the planning project, survey and demarcation, 3-D modeling, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises will be used.

In January 2005, CFI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Manipur Forest Department to assist with the project. The Forest Department are enthusiastic about community forestry in Manipur and have pledged support through their forest development agencies to at least partially fund a joint venture with the villagers.

A local NGO, the Weaker Sections Development Society (WSDS) is collaborating with the project to assist with community-based landscape management planning and needs identification. Together with the Forest Department and WSDS, CFI hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting to ascertain what areas of interest, an assessment of impact, and the



NE INDIA

Top Left: Tom Poffenberger (Mark's Dad) and Dolan Malai, Cf Coordinator for Umden, Meghalaya, NE India.
Middle Left: Village boy carrying a head load of broom grass, NE India.
Bottom Left: Tambor Lyndoh on hillside overlooking sacred forest, Meghalaya, NE India.
Top Right: NE India village woman with baby.
Bottom Right: Meghaliths standing nearby the Sacred Forests of Meghalaya.



Cambodia

In 2003, CFI initiated the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC) project. CFI established a project office in Phnom Penh and a field office in Ban Lung, Ratanakiri Province. Since then, CFI has continued to expand its support through its Small Grant and Seed Grant Program. In addition, CFI continues to be an active participant in various NGO forums and networks that meet to collaborate on various community forestry issues in Cambodia.

Small Grants/Subawards

In its first project year, CFI 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, to those who are directly supporting local communities to build their administrative and technical capacity to manage and conserve their natural resources, and to those training young Buddhist monks in forest protection and management through their local pagodas.

The small grants vary in amount depending on the need and capacity of the organization. CFI 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.

In 2006, conducted a training and capacity building workshop for the NGOs that receive CFI support.



Seed Grants

As CFI 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, CFI 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.

In 2006, CFI expanded its Seed Grant program as requests for small funding continued to grow. The success of providing seed money for discrete, one-time projects has demonstrated the need for this type of support.

Community Forestry Database

In 2006, CFI provided support to the Information Management Unit of the Community Forestry Office/ Forestry Administration to complete data collection and the creation of a database on community forestry. This national database now comprises information on over 400 sites, not only representing the most comprehensive information on community forestry activities in Cambodia, but also a system that is managed by the Royal Government of Cambodia, thus giving this data formal recognition and credibility.

Law & Policy

In 2006, CFI compiled a series of law and policy documents written by Rob Oberndorf, former Legal and Policy Advisor for CFI-Cambodia. The report has recently been published and is available in hard copy from CFI and can also be downloaded from the CFI website.

Q and A Booklet

In response to requests from local communities, Amanda Bradley, CFI Program Coordinator, produced a simple, easy to read, question and answer booklet on community forestry. After a first publishing edition of 5,000 there was such a demand that CFI is going to publish an additional 5,000. The booklets are published in Khmer with a few in English and are disseminated to our NGO partners, community members, and community forestry leaders.

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 includes:

- 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

New CFI Documentary Film

In 2006, CFI and the Association for Buddhism and the Environment, a local Cambodian NGO, to produced a 30-minute documentary film, "Community Forestry, Buddhism, and Cambodian Heritage."

The film presents the support that ABE and local Buddhist monks are providing to communities for capacity building, training, and networking for community forestry activities and livelihood. The film provides brief visits to three different locations in order to provide an overview of the work they are doing. In addition, the film stresses the connection that all Cambodians should have in protecting and sustainably managing their natural resources as part of the essential teachings of the Buddha.