

CFAC Support Facility

CFI has opened an office in Phnom Penh for its Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC) project. The support facility is a resource center for local NGOs and government staff engaged in CF related activities. It provides legal and policy consultation, access to CF extension materials, as well as guidance in participatory research in community mapping techniques.

On February 3, 2004, the CFAC support facility hosted an inaugural reception for the NGO community and members of the Cambodian government's Forest Administration staff including Chea Sam Ang, the Chief of the Reforestation Office and Lao Sethapal, the head of the Community Forestry Office. Invitees also included Ms. Susan Merrill, the Acting Director of the USAID Mission in Cambodia. CFAC will be using a number of typologies to gather information and examine Cambodian experiences with community forestry and develop context appropriate strategies. These include the typology that divides Cambodia into five broad human-ecological categories:

• Northeast and Upper Mekong

• Lower Mekong

• Northern Tonle Sap

• Southern Tonle Sap

• Coastal

CFI is also considering another typology to guide community forestry extension in different forest contexts including:

- Agricultural Lands – Areas of high population, but little or no Forestry – appropriate for Farm Forestry
- Heavily Degraded Forest – Areas of low population and degraded forest resources-appropriate for

Forest Rehabilitation

- Slightly Degraded to Undisturbed Forest – Areas of low population and good forest resources – appropriate for Forest Management
- Mangroves and Inundated Forest – areas of low population in flooded forests and mangroves - appropriate for forest and fisheries management

By drawing on existing field experience from indigenous forest management and pilot projects of the past decade, a useful framework will be designed to highlight promising approaches to CF extension and implementation in many contexts across Cambodia. The CFAC Support Facility will serve as an information hub and analysis center facilitating the efforts of local NGOs, the donor community, and local and national government agencies.

Women's self-help group meeting to address livelihood issues, Chambok, Kampong Speu Province



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Community Forestry & Biodiversity Conservation in Cambodia 2004-05

Project Overview

Community Forestry International has initiated a new program in Cambodia to create an alliance of partners working together to help address many of the natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and protected area policy issues that face Cambodia today.

Competition for natural resources, especially forestlands, is intense with political leadership, the private sector, military, and local population vying for control. Since community forestry projects were launched in the mid-1990s, over 83,000 hectares has come under community authority, facilitated by NGOs, and involving 404 villages. While a great deal of learning has emerged from these initiatives, community stewardship

resulting from these efforts only represents 0.7 per cent of the nation's forest area.

A recent national review conducted by GTZ with the Forest Administration determined that the potential for community forest management could be increased over one hundred times. The assessment team noted that 8.4 million hectares of forest was utilized by and within the management range of rural villages in Cambodia, and therefore was a potential community forestry area.

Over the past ten years, with the exception of the FAO funded project in Siem Reap, most community forestry has been implemented by smaller NGOs with limited resources. With the passing of the Community

Forestry Sub-Decree in October 2003, formal government legislation now supports the role of communities in state forestlands management.

CFI has been requested by the Cambodian Forest Administration to assist in the design of a national CF implementation plan that will provide a country-wide strategy for CF management & conservation expansion over the next five years.

Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC), is supported by funding provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USAID's Mission Incentive Fund for Cambodia, and USAID's Global Development Alliance program.

support for first year projects.

- In addition to the MacArthur grant, CFI secures an additional \$1.7 million from USAID.
- CFI registers as an international NGO in Cambodia.

Community Forestry International



Villager in Karola Spirit Forest with old-growth tree, near Virachey National Park, Ratanakiri Province.

Special points of interest:

- CFI establishes the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia (CFAC) in Phnom Penh
- CFI creates a satellite office in Ratanakiri Province, NE Cambodia.
- CFI selects CF partners for first year projects
- CFI identifies CF Field Sites
- CFI leverages Co-Financing

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CFAC inaugural reception in Phnom Penh with Amanda, Rob, Hak Laong, and Mark.

CF Sub-decree

CFAC staff are assisting the CF Office of FA to design a strategy to facilitate community and stakeholder input into the development of the implementation guidelines (PRAKAS) for the CF Sub-Decree. A detailed work plan to support this process is being developed and will include the establishment of a multi-stakeholder design team of five persons. The design team will be responsible for:

- Assisting the CF Office to develop a Public Input process to guide the development of the CF Sub Decree

Implementation Guidelines including securing technical and financial support from interested international NGOs.

- Developing materials that explain the main points of the CF Sub-Decree and Implementation Guideline Prakas in standard language to facilitate understanding of the legal points and requirements.
- Organizing discussions with communities in different social and environmental contexts to gain input into

the development of the implementation Prakas.

- Organizing workshops and meetings with NGOs and CF networks to discuss the draft implementation Prakas
- Assisting the CF Office to incorporate ideas emerging from stakeholder discussions into the final draft prakas.

CF Extension Materials

The passage of a national community forestry legislation now allows for the formal expansion of this strategy across Cambodia. It is important that local government staff, NGOs, and communities are quickly informed regarding their new rights and responsibilities. CFAC will be supporting the Community Forestry Office of the Forest Administration, Save Cambodia's Wildlife, the Center for Legal Education in Cambodia, RNRMAN, and Mlup Baitong to develop extension materials to be utilized for

training communities, NGOs, and FA field staff in the implementation of the CF Sub-Decree. Extension materials to be developed will include national radio programs, posters, games, as well as teaching materials.

Extension materials will highlight the process of steps and actions, decisions, and approvals a community must take to completed the formation and formalization of a community forest management system.

For example the implementation guidelines (*prakas*) for the CF Sub-Decree cover four major topics including:

- CF Committee
- CF Rules and Regulations
- CF Agreement
- CF Management Plan

CF Biodiversity Conservation in Ratanakiri Province

On February 2nd, CFI staff met with Governor of Ratanakiri, H.E. Kham Khoeurn, as well as the Deputy Governor, Chief of Rural Development, and other senior provincial officials who strongly endorsed the CFAC Community-based Conservation and Forest Management Program for Ratanakiri Province. The CFAC project in Ratanakiri seeks to increase the area formally under CF from 14 existing communities to 45 communities expanding the community-managed forest area from approximately 20,000 hectares to over 100,000 hectares over the next three years. As the Governor noted,

CFAC also met with tribal elders and CF committee representatives that are fostering the spread of their successful approach from Ya Poey Commune to a number of other communes on the southern border of Virachey National Park and the northern border of Lumphat National Park. CFAC feels that the commitment of both communities and the provincial government to pursue an expansion and formalization of

CF in Ratanakiri presents an extraordinary opportunity to stabilize forests and cultures under mounting pressures.

There are a wide variety of indigenous forest conservation areas in each communal territory in Ratanakiri Province. Biodiversity is high in protected forest areas that may cover 25 to 30 percent of the land area in each the commune. In addition to the protected forests, a larger proportion of the land area is under long rotation production forests that also possess a wide variety of flora and fauna. Large fauna include raindeer, barking deer, pangolin, gibbons, small leopards, wild cows, wild pigs, jungle fowl, and occasional tigers which prefer bamboo forests. Protected forests include:

- Spirit forests –no hunting or felling is permitted inside spirit forests. As such they act as *refugia* and many have old growth trees.
- Funeral forests – protected by

ancestral spirits funeral forests cover approximately 5 percent of the land area.

- Spring forests – protected for generations, large, old-growth trees are located in these areas as well as resin (*yang*) trees. The protected forest area usually extends 50 meters or more above the spring outlet and along the outlet streams. Fish swim into the forest during this period to spawn and the community protects the spawning area.
- Buffer forests –protected to maintain a cool micro-climate and protect the settlement from high winds. The forest may include several hundred hectares.
- Bamboo spirit forests– Tiger paw prints were recently spotted by villagers indicating the stability of tiger habitat in CF conservation areas.

We need to protect our forest resources before they are degraded. We can push the national government to recognize our CF effort in Ratanakiri.

–Governor H.E. Kham Khoeurn

CFAC Projects

• National Media

CFI is supporting Mlup Baitong in the preparation and broadcasting of national radio and media programs on community forestry and biodiversity conservation.

• Chambak, Kampong Speu

CFI is supporting Mlup Baitong to:

- decrease charcoal production
- decrease illegal logging
- protects & regenerate degraded forests
- expand CF areas under CF Sub-decree
- seek rezoning of area
- provide technical assistance to ecotourist site located in the buffer zone of Kirirom National Park

• Education & Networking

Through a national network, the NGO Forum, CFI is supporting training programs on the CF Sub-decree and forest livelihood strategies.

• CF Subdecree Extension Materials

In collaboration with the Forest Administration, CFI is providing support to Save

Cambodia's Wildlife to develop a poster series and discussion guide to visually illustrate key points in the CF Sub-decree Guidelines.

• Bokor National Park, Kampot

CFI is supporting Save Cambodia's Wildlife to develop formal agreements with communities inside Bokor National Park, as well as decrease illegal logging, agricultural encroachment, and swidden practices.

• Ratanakiri Province

With its satellite office in Ban Lung, near Virachey National Park, CFI is helping to support the Ratanakiri Natural Resources Management Advocacy Network to:

- implement CF in ethnic minority and indigenous communities
- develop CF strategies to address swidden area, plantationa, and spirit forest areas.
- explore ways to integrate NRM planning and Land Law implementa-

tion with CF projects.

• CF Sub-decree Guidelines Extension Team

CFI is assisting the Forest Administration team to prepare CF Sub-decree guidelines, obtain input from a variety of stakeholders, and field test the guidelines.

• Kampong Leang, Kampong Chhnang

In collaboration with the Forest Administration, CFI is supporting field project to protect and regenerate a degraded hill forest and formalize a CF agreement with 5 commune councils.

• Legal Training

CFI is providing support to the Cambodian Legal Education Center to build capacity of indigenous trainers to provide training on land and forestry law in local languages.