

CFI- Ratanakiri

Forest Mountain Voices

Forest Mountain Voices (FMV) is a video and media project in Ratanakiri. In March 2006 four FMV (Forest Mountain Voices) indigenous staff had a study tour in Phnom Penh for 3 days from the 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.

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).

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.

- Nong Sam Oeung and Kanuth Yoeun



CFI Videos-Ratanakiri

- CRISIS Video
- Rice Field Ceremony
- La Em Kren
- Yeak Lom-Protected Area
- Lady with a Land Issue
- Indigenous People’s Forum
- Eikapeep 1-2-3-4
- Ting Chak 1-2
- La Bank Muey
- Krowla Village
- Woman Selling Vegetables



CFI Supports the Formation of a New Indigenous NGO

Indigenous Communities in Cambodia are sustainably managing the natural resources they traditionally use so that they are able to cope in a changing world while maintaining the essential parts of their culture, their way of life, and the valuable contribution they are making to the broader society.

Mission

The mission of Indigenous Community Support Organisation (ICSO) is to support the formation and strengthening of indigenous communities and networks so that communities, elders, local authorities and network of representatives continue to serve their communities at village, commune, district, provincial and national level. This will be done in way that builds indigenous community/network ownership over development

activities implemented by ICSO and other development agencies.

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries are to be the indigenous people of Cambodia, particularly those directly or indirectly reliant upon the environment as well as those stakeholders with particular influence in addressing environmental and cultural issues, including villagers, elders, women’s groups, students and local authorities.



By assisting indigenous people with their development the remainder of the people of Cambodia are expected to be benefited by a greater cultural diversity and a strong protection of natural resources and the environment.

ICSO is currently applying for formal NGO registration in Cambodia. Initially, it will share office space with CFI in Phnom Penh. The central office will conduct needs assessment with indigenous communities throughout Cambodia and help them develop a vision and work plan. In Ratanakiri, ICSO will continue to manage the Forest Mountain Voices (FMV) media project, the Ratanakiri Network Support Project (RNSP), and the Community Organizing project as well as respond to any new issues or challenges that face the indigenous communities of Ratanakiri.



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Community Forestry & Biodiversity Conservation in Cambodia-2005-06



Project Overview

Community Forestry International initiated its project in Cambodia in Oct 2003. The project is designed to help address many of the natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and protected area management 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 currently represents only 0.7 per cent of the nation’s forest area.

A 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 small 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.

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Project Highlights

- CFI-Cambodia moves to a new office in Phnom Penh.
- CFI provides participatory CF training, facilitation skills, and financial management capacity building to local NGOs and communities.
- CFI distributes complimentary publications and videos in Khmer and English on CF law, basics of CF, financial mgmt, CF networks, role of the pagodas, CF story-books, etc.
- CFI gathers success

stories from its support project grantees.

- CFI hosts Forest Mountain Voices (FMV) a media project based in Ratanakiri that trains indigenous staff in media production.

- CFI helps develop a new indigenous NGO called the Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO).
- CFI-HQ has moved to a new office headquarters in Lake Tahoe, California surrounded by pine forests.

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Community Forestry International-Cambodia (CFI)



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- Joanna Seczkowski
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Trainings

- CFI held a 10-day training on CF participatory mapping for 28 CF facilitators. The goal was to provide participants with the skills necessary to facilitate the mapping of CF areas so that they qualify for the FA mapping requirements. Participants included CF members, villagers, commune council members, and village chiefs.
- In collaboration with Oxfam GB and CBNRM LI, CFI held a 5-day training on Facilitation Skills. The course emphasized the role of the facilitator, how to organize effective meetings, handling group dynamics, and the core elements of the participatory approach to group decision-making.
- CFI provided coaching and practical guidance on pruning and thinning to its partner NGOs and members of the CF management committee in a 2-day workshop in Pursat.
- CFI held a 2-day training on nursery development and management based on a request from monks in Kampot in collaboration with SCW. Participants included monks and community members.
- The CFI Communications Officer provided a 2-day training to CCBEN to instruct staff how to update the organization's website.
- CFI organized and hosted a Partner Review meeting with representatives from all of the CFI-supported NGOs. The meeting covered a series of topics to build stronger partnerships as well as effective strategies to handle challenges in implementation.
- CFI staff participated in meetings held by other organizations, notably:
 - CPA Network
 - CCBEN
 - Forestry & Plantation Network
 - Oddar Meanchey CF Network
 - RNSP
 - District level Land Workshops
 - Provincial level Land Workshop



Extension

- 8-Steps to CF (poster with SCW)
- Rattan for Life (reprinted in Khmer)
- CF Newsletter for Public Schools
- Formalizing CF in Ratanakiri Province: Linking Indigenous Resource Systems to Government Policies & Programs
- Legal Analysis of Forest & Land Laws in Cambodia
- Financial Management Guidelines for CFMC (booklet in Khmer)
- CF: Questions & Answers (booklet in Khmer)
- Natural Resources Management Networking in Cambodia: Lessons Learned and Future Possibilities
- Land Alienation in Ratanakiri
- Our Land, Our Future: CF in Ratanakiri
- Forest Stewards of Cambodia: CFI Partner Profiles in 8 Provinces
- The Sao Family (storybook on land loss in Khmer)
- The Daun Community (storybook on CF in Khmer)

CFI Support Projects

- Association of Buddhists for the Environment
- Buddhists for Development, Kompong Thom
- Community Based Natural Resource Management Learning Institute
- Cambodian Community Based Ecotourism Network
- Children's Development Association
- Community Economic Development
- Environment Protection and Development Organization
- Environment Support and Social Development
- Khmer Association for Development of Countryside Cambodia
- Khmer Development Programme
- Mlup Baitong
- Prom Vihear Thor
- Ratanakiri Network Support Project
- Save Cambodia's Wildlife
- Satrey Santepiep Dambey Pakistan



CF Mapping Training in Kratie

Mr. Chorn Vichay from Satrey Santepheap Dermbei Pakritan (SSP), a CFI subgrantee in Kratie, was a participant in a joint CFI-RECOFTC training (May 2005) of 28 CF facilitators on Participatory Mapping for Community Forestry. CFI was delighted to learn that Vichay has been conducting mapping training for communities in several of the SSP target areas. He has been focusing on introducing the PRA tools (ranking, transect walk, sketchmapping) and on using GPS. He conducted a 3-day course at the end of October in Ksim commune. The 17 participants included CF members and village committee, commune council members and village chiefs. Vichay says that the practical skills learned in the CFI course have been useful for moving the mapping process forward and allowing communities to feel that they are part of the process.



Building Community Forestry Patrol Stations in Kompong Thom

The community in Dong Kombut, Sandan District, Kg. Thom, is highly dependent on forest resources. When Mr. In Nam, the head of the community, visited Community Forestry International in Phnom Penh to apply for a seed grant he provided a long list of forest products which villagers collect, including resin, rattan, mushrooms, fruits, and medicines.



Dong Kombut has two community forestry areas with a total area of approximately 12,000 ha. Though the area is not yet officially recognized by FA, it would be one of the largest CF areas if approved. CFI approved a seed grant of \$472.10 last April to build two patrol stations in their community forestry area. Mr. In Nam and other CF members have already marked the boundary of the CF area by putting up simple signs and clearing pathways. Some 10-15 villagers conduct regular patrols of the CF area.

Community Forestry takes off in Kampong Speu



Phum Dong in Kampong Speu province is a new community forest site supported by Mlup Baitong since January 2005. Phum Dong demonstrates how efficiently and effectively the CF establishment process can move with the right combination of grassroots initiative, capable and supportive village leaders, local authorities, and strategic technical support from NGOs and FA. Between January and September 2005, the Phum Dong community was able to complete most of the 8-steps in CF establishment, including CF formulation, election of the Community Forestry Management Committee, development of By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, border demarcation with GPS, and installation of signs. Over the course of nine months, the community accomplished what other communities had taken years to do. Interviews and discussions with the community and Mlup Baitong project staff indicate that the progress is not only swift, but the participation, understanding, and commitment of the community is very high.