

Sustainable Financing for Climate Change through Community Forestry in the Prey Lang Landscape

Implemented by The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)

Innovation Grant Facility - CCCA3



National Council for Sustainable Development
General Secretariat
Department of Climate Change



Ministry of Environment

Background

Climate impacts have severe consequences on the livelihoods of the majority rural population, which relies largely on subsistence fishing and farming, forming a critical foundation of its economic growth. Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) (2014-2023) envisions building resilience, capacity, and production, especially at the community level, to effectively overcome climate change impacts. An increase in productivity in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and forestry, are among top priorities of the CCCSP. Furthermore, enhancing GHG emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation, enhancing forest ecosystems, and encouraging conservation and management of forest resources in a sustainable manner, are all pathways to low-carbon development, and are key pillars of the CCCSP. Community Forestry (CF) or community-based forest management is a legally recognized system in Cambodia that aims to place local people at the center of decision-making processes and natural resource management. Given Cambodia's CF legal context, abundant forest resources, and existing CF decentralized structure, CF is a natural entry point for climate change mitigation and adaptation (CCMA) activities.



Overall Objective

Adapt and mitigate climate change by enhancing Cambodia's most vulnerable citizens become more resilient to climate shocks and improve the ability of landscapes

Specific Objectives

1. Facilitate target CFs to review and revise CFMP Annual Operational Plans to incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation;
2. Help communities identify indicative climate-sensitive forest conservation and restoration activities and integrate into planning;
3. Strengthen the capacity of existing CF credit groups to generate more financial resources to support forest conservation activities; and
4. Monitor and document the process and outcomes for larger national and regional level scaling.

Approach

The proposed project will work via CFs that are already established and organized, but have an inherently low adaptive capacity due to limited access to information, technology, and finances, coupled with a high dependence upon natural resources. These features are common among 3 CFs and make the people of CFs some of the most climate-vulnerable populations in Cambodia. With local Forestry Administration (FA) officers and local authorities, RECOFTC will support ten CFs in Kampong Thom and Kratie provinces. The project team will help

these CFs incorporate climate activities into Community Forest Management Plans (CFMPs), it will train them in how to implement those activities (if needed) and will then assist CFs as they establish and manage the CF credit schemes that will finance the activities outlined in the CFMPs. The target CFs cover roughly 6,059 ha of forest and include 1,434 families, for a total of 5,032 community members, of which, 2,275 are women.

Outputs and Key Activities

Result	Key Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF and government agencies, including local authorities and technical departments, are able to deploy effective climate change mitigation and adaptation activities for CF management • Sustainable financing of CF credit schemes are introduced and expanded, enabling CF communities to protect their forests and contribute to improved livelihoods • Forest cover of target CFs is increased and existing cover is well-protected, as a result of better funding, and implementation of climate-friendly plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging climate change priorities of CCCSP and existing CF structures • Adapts new paradigms in capacity building by integrating CCMA into current training programs; is fully embedded in existing government structures, saving significant time and resources; • Builds on a unique CF credit scheme that has proven successful in developing financially- and environmentally- sustainable communities and Finance and the National Council for Sustainable Development

Knowledge Products

- Case studies
- Lessons learned and recommendations
- Workshops and training manuals

Timeframe	November 2020 – April 2022	Partners	The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)
Total Budget	USD 116,774 (From CCCA US\$99,977)	Location	Kampong Thom and Kratie Provinces

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