



PROJECT BRIEF

Community Forestry in Cambodia: A Review of Community Forestry Contribution to Livelihoods after 25 Years of Development

COUNTRY

Cambodia

PROPONENT

Department of Forest and Community Forestry, Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

BACKGROUND

Cambodia's area covers about 18 million hectares with roughly 8.87 million ha (or 49% of the total land area) being forested as of 2016. In addition, almost 80% of the population of 14.7 million people are in rural areas. Almost half of the forest area is located within 5 km to a village where local people have been able to formally engage in the use, management, and access of benefits from the forest through community forestry (CF) establishment.

Community forestry has been viewed as a key intervention to reduce forest loss in Cambodia and promote local livelihoods. In addition, it contributed to secured tenure for villagers over forest, preventing forest conversion to other forms of land uses that would not benefit the community. It is estimated that forests contribute 20-50% to the livelihoods of rural people. Currently, there are 580 Community Forestry sites, covering about 470,970 ha with CF members of 142,941 families.

As community forestry continues to progress in the country, concern is placed on benefits that are actually reaching local community members who participate in CF management process. After several years of implementation, some studies have established that CF would contribute to secure access to forest resources if legally recognized and provide sources of household subsistence for the participating members. However, economic benefits generated from CF forests are found limited to some extent. Therefore, it is important to understand CF's contributions to local livelihoods.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims primarily to review the history of Community Forestry development and its impacts on livelihoods, to enhance stakeholder's awareness on CF impacts and challenges, and facilitate participatory analysis of strategies for advancing CF. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Draw lessons learned, including impacts and challenges, from the 25 years of CF experience with multi-stakeholders; and
2. Provide key recommendations for CF practices to ensure its advancement of local people benefits and sustainable forest management.

PROPONENT



AWG-SF STRATEGIC RESPONSE FUND (ASRF) PROJECT PARTNERS



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EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A comprehensive report on CF development in Cambodia detailing history, accomplishments, and challenges in terms of supporting local livelihoods, and way forward for promoting CF-based livelihoods;
2. Stakeholder dialogues on future CF development, building on findings and recommendation from the study conducted at sub-national and national level; and
3. Dissemination of study results as inputs for future programming and planning of key CF stakeholders and partner in Cambodia.

METHODOLOGY

The study will be participatory in nature. The Department of Forest and Community Forestry (DFC) will collaborate closely with key Community Forestry development partners (e.g., RECOFTC, NTFP-EP, Mlup Baitong, Forum Syd, among others) in implementing the project. The DFC will coordinate with sub-national and national multi-stakeholder CF coordinating bodies to generate inputs, as well as for consulting and refining the study findings.

Mix-research method and participatory approach will be employed in the project. The proponent will engage key stakeholders throughout the process from study design to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of findings. The study will be based on review of existing documents related to CF development and interviews of key informant at national and sub-national levels.

Furthermore, field data collection will be conducted in eight selected CF sites with different stages of development, and different ecological, geographical, and social characteristics. Focus group discussion using various participatory tools will be conducted with key members of selected CF. The team will employ semi-structured interview with key informant, stakeholders, and CF members to collect additional information.

The team will review the process of CF establishment and development in Cambodia as well as key lessons and challenges. Furthermore, it will analyze the impacts and outcomes of CF establishment on local livelihoods with respect to livelihood assets (i.e., natural, human, social, physical, and financial).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DURATION

One year (April 2018 – March 2019)

APPROVED BUDGET

25,000 US Dollars