

## Policy Brief

# Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM-RFP1)

Through Development of Community Forestry and Community Protected Area Forest Management



### Introduction:

The Capacity building in Sustainable Forest Management through development of management plans for Community Forestry (CF) and Community Protected Areas (CPA) to include business plans, ratification of CPA Guidelines, trials of additional CF modalities and SFM in Commune Land Use Planning (CLUP) is funded by the UNDP-GEF and implemented by RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests in partnership with MLMUPC Baitong (MB) and close cooperation with the Forestry Administration (FA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC). The project has been implemented over a period of 44 months (April 2012 – December 2015) in four 4 target provinces (Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu and Pursat) of the Northern Cardamom Mountain Landscape (NCML) where contains forests that harbor globally important biodiversity (centered on the Cardamom Mountains Rain Forests) and at the same time act as major carbon reserves, but are subject to a range of severe threats.

The project offers an opportunity to minimize deforestation through sustainable management of the forest and alleviating poverty. The principal underlying causes of all of these threats are the *de facto* open-access nature of much of the forest resource, poorly developed governance conditions and the existence of high levels of demand for land and for forest products. The underlying problem to be addressed by the project is that forests in Cambodia are subject to degradation and deforestation, due to the limited capacities and incentives that exist for the government and local people to ensure that they are managed in a sustainable manner (SFM Project Document, 2011).

The deliverables of the Project were:

- Development of community forestry management plan (CFMP) and business plans for 30 CF sites and 10 community protected area (CPA) in four province
- Trial of three Alternative CF Modalities (ACFM): Community Conservation Forestry (CCF), Community-based Production Forestry (CBPF) and Partnership Forestry (PF)
- Implementation of four Commune Land Use Plans (CLUPs); and
- Ratification the CPA guideline

**Results against the deliverables of the project:**

The 30 CFMPs and CF business plan have been finalized by CFMP consultation committee and approved by respective Forestry Administration Cantonments. The 11 CPA management plans and CPA business plans were final drafted and endorsed from respective commune council, district governors, Provincial Department of Environment/Wildlife Sanctuary and representative of from Department of CPA of GDANCP of MoE and progressing submit to GDANCP for approval.

The drafting of the four ACFMs management plans: two Partnership Forestry, one Community Conservation Forestry and one Community-based Production Forest were completed following the developed concept note.

The CLUP development has attained remarkable achievements. Two CLUPs (in Kbal Teuk commune of Kampong Chhnang province and in Samrong commune of Pursat province) have been approved by the provincial governor and disseminated to relevant stakeholders while two others (in Takream commune of Battambang province and in Tasal commune of Kampong Speu province) have completed all required steps (11 steps).

The draft of CPA guideline have been prepared by the Department of Research and CPA Development of GDANCP, MOE, by consolidating lessons learned from the practical experiences of CPA establishment through two sub-national workshops and one national workshop participated from DOEs, WS, all level of local authority, service providers, NGOs/IOs.

## **Lessons learned and Recommendations:**

### **Community Forestry and Community Protected Areas Institutional Strengthening**

- CF/CPAMC record keeping is an important part of CF/CPAMC management. It is not enough to provide CF/CPAMC with training but it is more important to provide mentoring on CF/CPA record keeping, filling in the gaps on documentation by providing the missing documents in CF/CPAMC records and use. It is also useful to provide CF/CPAMCs with basic recordkeeping materials such as filing folders, staplers, hole punchers, etc.

*Hence, the training on record keeping, report writing and financial management should be considered as priority topic for CF and CPA management committees to strengthen their CF and CPA management and prepare action plan for prepare CF/CPAMP.*

- Checklists for record keeping system for CF and CPA is not only the tool for record keeping but also enable CF and CPA management committee to identify any missing activities and outputs from formalization/legalization process and conflict resolution before starting management planning.

*So, the minute, report writing and financial management are first priority which need to be trained for CF/CPAMC institution strengthening to ensure these activities functioning well.*

- The use of simple PRA tools and techniques, which made it easy for CF/CPAMCs to be actively involved in CF/CPA management planning and able to make use of their indigenous knowledge of their CF area. It also helped to determine which portions of the CF area need to be inventoried and farmlands inside the CF/ACP areas were discovered.

*It was suggested that Participatory CF Resource Assessment through the use of appropriate participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools should be included as a standard step in CF forest management planning*

- The development and implementation of CF and CPA for development fund (CFDF/CPADF) is a process of capacity building for CF and CPA management committee which enable them to proof their capability to manage fund from external project for their CF/CPA management activities.

*The service providers, donors or visitors should provide support through CFDF/CPADF in order to strengthen CF/CPA institution as well as improve forest of communities.*

- Direct grant to CF to support for tree planting using CFDF is an opportunity for CFMCs to apply the knowledge and skills gaining from trainings provided by the project including financial management and tree planting.

### **Community Forestry and Community Protected Areas Management Plan**

- Local FA plays critical role in coordinating with NGO partners and in facilitating the field activities including data collect and discussion management option of CFMP.

*There should be national budget to support local FA to conduct regular monitor to target CFs after project end.*

- The forest inventory process is time-consuming. The forest inventory team can typically finish only two sample plots (50 m x 50m) per day in deciduous forests – from plot establishment to measurements – and 1 sample plot (50 m x 100 m) per day in ever-green and semi-evergreen forests. In dense forests, GPS can lose satellite connection, causing delays in the establishment of sample plots. Locating the boundaries of a large sample plot to maintain accuracy takes a lot of time (up to 3 hours per plot). Determining whether a tree is inside or outside the plot is also time-consuming.

*Forest inventory should be conducted only in the CF compartment that has the potential for timber production within the planning period of the CFMP. This can be based from (i) canopy cover assessed from satellite images, aerial photos, transect walk with direct ocular observation, etc.; and (ii) general sizes of trees found in the forest assessed from a transect walk or on the basis of local knowledge*

- The introduction of simple PRA tools and techniques for CF/CPA resource assessments in CF/CPA management planning fostered better understanding and participation among CF/CPAMCs-CF/CPA members in CF/CPA management planning.

*Participatory CF Resource Assessment through the use of appropriate participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools should be included as a standard step in CF forest management planning*

- The facilitator team faced difficulties in the process to divide management block and to locate the sample point for conducting forest inventory when lack of knowledge on GPS and GIS.

*At lease the team leader of facilitators need to possess adequate GPS and GIS knowledge and skills when supporting CF/CPAMP process.*

### **Community Forestry and Community Protected Area Business Development**

- CF/CPA business plan is part of the management plan as it links the CF/CPA forest resource to business. In addition, the process of developing CF/CPA business plan is linked to the process of management planning development.  
*CF business plan should not separate from CFMP and no need to separate approval from CFMP.*
- Based on lessons from the field, there might be three types of CF/CPA business plans:
  - For CF/CPA with potential resources to supply to market should consider as “Harvesting plan”
  - For CF/CPA without potential resources should consider “investment plan”
  - For CF/CPA without potential resource but with potential service. For example: ecotourism should consider as “Service Plan”
  - But these 3 types of business plan are not technically accepted by technical departments.  
*To avoid this confusion, CF business plan should be built in CFMP as one chapter. Based on these, the term CF/CPA business plan should be defined and agreed upon by stakeholders (covering these types). Value chain analysis should be conducted at the same time or before the step of business ideas selection and business ideas should be considered more than one product/idea*

### **Alternative Community Forestry Modality**

- Based on experiences of piloting ACFM, the steps for establishment and development of management plan are similar to the generic CF as stated in the current CF guideline which is easy to incorporate all ACFM into existing CF guideline by considering to filling the gap such as:
  - Guidance on legal and technical procedure to harvest timber for commercial purpose for the CBPF and the timber harvest should be conducted whenever the resources available and communities ready without 5 years moratorium.
  - The role of commune councils to involve in CF management (CFMC) should be incorporated in the chapter 3 of current CF guideline.
  - The current CF guideline in chapter 2 stated that the CF can be established in production forest of the permanence forest estate which excludes protection forest, so to establish CCF need to consider to revise this chapter to include protection forest.  
*Also CCF management plan need to be aligned with protection forest management plan. The current CF guideline should be revised to incorporate ACFM by responding to the barrier as in the finding.*

### **Commune land use planning (CLUP)**

- CLUP is a tool to support sustainable forest management by determining compatible land uses in the commune such as CF areas, CCF, CPA and others. CLUP also helps commune council to identify priorities issues for natural resource management in the commune and include them in the commune development plan  
*CLUP action plan needs support from technical departments and other service providers e.g. the forest area identify through CLUP process need support from FA to establish CF.*

- Although CLUP process is led by DLMUPCC the support and involvement of other provincial department such as DoE, DOA and local authorities on technical and legal assurance are crucial important.

*As CLUP process involve multi-stakeholders, its implementation also needs support from multi-stakeholders.*

#### **Gender mainstreaming:**

- Women (who were CF/CPA members and committee) participated actively in the field activities after they understood their roles and responsibilities. Awareness raising on gender concept and clarifying the roles of man and woman before implementing field activities encouraged woman to participate in the field activities.

Gender awareness needs to be mainstreamed in all steps of CF/CPA development

### **Sustainability**

#### **Contribution to development of national forest policies**

- Developed concept notes to pilot ACFM and business plan development with FA in line with national forest programme. Lessons learnt will be considered in CF guideline revision.
- Lessons and experience of the project in supporting CPA formalization and management planning were shared during the process of consultation of draft CPA guideline

#### **Inclusion of project outputs into government plan at various levels**

- The 30 CFMPs and CF business plans were included in the five-year plan for target FA cantonments
- The 11 CPA management plans were aligned with management plans of the Phnom Somkos and Phnom Oral wildlife sanctuaries of MoE
- The 30 CFs, 4 ACFMs, and 11 CPAs were included as priorities for commune development planning in the respective communes (decentralization policy)
- Management plans of CFs, CPAs and ACFMs were included in the national strategic plan for wood energy of the MIME

#### **Ownership of the relevant institutions (FA, GDANCP, and MLMUPC)**

- Capacity building provided to officials from FA cantonment, DoE, PA on management planning and business plan (for CF and CPA) enabled them to carry on the tasks after the project end
- RECOFTC's approach is to work in collaboration with relevant institution such as FA cantonment, DoE and PA, DoLMUPC as well as local authorities to secure that ownership of the results stay after the project end

#### **Secure tenure for CF/CPA resources to promote livelihoods**

- Supporting CF/CPA to develop and implement their business plans provide opportunity for them to generate revenues for improving their livelihoods and supporting forest management
- Ministry Prakas and agreement for CF and CPA contribute to securing tenure for CF and CPA
- There is the CF network from commune to provincial level (and national level)