



Background

Conflict is a part of natural resource management! Frequently local communities, NGOs, governments and companies have very different views as to how resources should be managed and utilized. Conflict in its many forms is therefore often inevitable and unavoidable. Forestry and natural resource professionals are increasingly called upon to mediate among various stakeholders in these challenging situations.

This training course will provide participants with an understanding of the basic principles, skills and techniques used in analyzing and mediating conflict. Participants will increase their knowledge and skills in analyzing conflict, assessing management options and developing strategies to manage conflict, learn a variety of conflict management techniques in order to negotiate and build agreements, and learn how to plan for and support collaborative conflict management approaches. Importantly participants will learn to take a proactive role in anticipating and addressing conflict in its early phases.

Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- Increase participants' understanding and knowledge about conflicts and why they arise;
- Provide skills, tools and processes for analyzing conflict in natural resource management, thereby leading to better management outcomes;
- Examine different conflict management approaches to enable participants to make an informed decision regarding which approach can be used to the best advantage;
- Provide negotiation and mediating skills so that participants are better able to build agreement between conflicting parties;
- Increase the understanding of how processes and outcomes of collaborative natural resource management, sustainable livelihood approaches and conflict are related, thereby promoting the concept of local people's participation in natural resource management;
- Prepare participants for their role as future mediators when they will apply conflict management knowledge and skills in their work; and
- To provide opportunities for participants to share experiences and ideas on conflict management.

Course Design and Process

The course will incorporate lectures from experienced RECOFTC and FAO trainers and invited specialists in the field of conflict management combined with a range of participatory activities, specific case study materials and participants' own experiences. Central to the learning outcomes of the course is a five-day field visit to a 'live' conflict where participants will have the unique opportunity to observe and explore the many dimensions of natural resource conflict and assess strategies for managing it. The design of the course will involve participants in a process of ongoing critical reflection, allowing them to link the course contents with their own experiences and apply conflict management techniques in their daily work. The development of a personalized 'action plan' is an important part of integrating the conflict training into the participants work environment and providing direction for the participant to achieve their desired outcomes.





Course Contents

The course contents cover the following 7 modules:

1. Understanding Conflicts Over Natural Resources

- Sustainable livelihoods and collaborative natural resource management
- What are conflicts over natural resources
- Policy environment and its influence on natural resource conflicts

2. Defining Conflict and Basic Principles in Managing Conflict

- Characteristics, dynamics and processes for conflict management
- The value of conflict in social change
- Conflict management as a collaborative process

3. Options and Strategies in Conflict Management

- Examining the causes, stages and impact of conflict
- The different approaches and strategies for addressing and managing conflict
- The role of a third party in conflict management

4. Analyzing Conflict

- The importance of good analysis and tools to improve conflict management
- Conflict issue analysis and root causes analysis
- Identifying who the stakeholders are and their interests
- Exploring stakeholder power and relationships

5. Developing Strategies for Managing Conflict

- Broadening stakeholder engagement and finding common ground
- Generating and assessing settlement options through consensus building
- Incentives and methods in enabling stakeholders to collaborate

6. Communication, Mediation and Negotiation to Build Long-Lasting Agreements

- Planning and preparing for negotiations
- Improving negotiation skills to enhance negotiated outcomes
- Designing and building agreements through collaborative efforts
- Conflict anticipation and prevention through facilitation

7. Exploring history, values and outcomes of a 'live' conflict

- Incorporation of skills and knowledge learnt during the training into field practice through the exploration of a live conflict over natural resources in Thailand

Who Should Attend

The course is designed for forestry and natural resource management professionals who work on participatory/collaborative natural resource management and rural livelihood projects. Past participants have come from NGOs, Government agencies, universities and research institutions.

- The course is taught in English, so proficiency in spoken and written English is essential.
- Women are strongly encouraged to participate.

Venue: RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand.

Date: May 15 – 31, 2006

Deadline for submitting applications is: Monday, May 1, 2006

Costs: The tuition fee is **US\$2000** per participant. This covers all course materials and training expenses, health insurance while in Thailand and all costs incurred during the field visit (meals, accommodation and transport).

An additional expense of **US\$180** per participant will be charged for accommodation at RECOFTC (standard room with air-conditioning) for the duration of the course. FAO/RECOFTC recommends that participants budget **US\$12** per day while in Thailand to cover meals and incidentals

Note: Costs of visas and transportation to and from Bangkok are not included.

To Apply: Please fill-in the on-line application form or download and complete the application form available from the RECOFTC website. For further information or an application form please contact:

Peter Stephen
at RECOFTC on contact@recoftc.org
or Tel: **(66-2) 940-5700 Ext. 1234**

RECOFTC and FAO have been collaborating for many years, in particular in the field of conflict management. Between 2000 and 2002, they have jointly developed a comprehensive training package on Community-Based Forest Resource Conflict Management. This training course is based on the further development of this training package and is another joint initiative of both organizations to contribute to capacity building in managing conflicts.

International
Training &
Study Tours
in Community
Based NRM



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

The FAO Livelihood Support Programme is developing and field-testing training material on natural resource conflict management. FAO is reviewing the applicability of conflict management tools and concepts, documenting lessons learnt and supporting the adaptation as well as the application of these tools and concepts in training and in the field. For more information please visit www.fao.org/forestry/index.jsp or contact **Ms. Antonia Engel** at antonia.engel@fao.org



The Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)

RECOFTC actively supports community forestry and community-based natural resource management development in the region. RECOFTC designs and facilitates learning processes and systems that support the capacity development of institutions, organizations and individuals in the natural resource sector. For more information please visit www.recoftc.org or contact **Ms. Leela Wuttikraibundit** at contact@recoftc.org