

# I AM THE FOREST.

I have lived in the forest all my life.  
It is not only my home. It is who I am.

**#IAMTHEFOREST**



My very being is the debt that I owe this forest.

Here, I grew up in a playground of trees.  
Here, I accumulated knowledge  
from the nature surrounding me.  
Here is the birthplace of my culture,  
which taught me to co-exist with the environment.  
Here is the place where I drew my first breath,  
and to which I have devoted each one since.

No one wants to protect the forest more than me.  
This is not just my habitat.  
This is the place I call home.

Everything I do is because I care for this forest.

I manage the forest in a way that benefits  
women and men in my community.

I use sustainable harvesting methods, so my children  
may reap the same benefits in years to come.

I make sure my village understands climate change  
and ways we can help prevent and adapt to it.

I will never be the one who deforests for timber,  
urbanization, or building roads and mines.

I share my knowledge with other local people  
so we can all help look after this land.

My intimate knowledge of and devotion to my home  
is the strength that keeps the forest standing.

And there are over 450 million others like me  
who are dependent on forests across Asia.

Investing in us is for everyone's benefit.  
We can help deliver what the world wants from the  
forests, from biodiversity conservation, carbon sinks,  
forest products and timber, to scenic beauty,  
eco-tourism, culture, and spiritualism.

Because when the land falls ill, so do I.

For I am not just the keeper of the Forest.

I am the Forest.





**I AM...**  
**THE KHANTEE**  
**FOREST.**

Invest in me by including me in the process for policy and enabling regulatory framework development.

Invest in me by developing participatory processes in forest management. Local communities need mechanisms such as public hearings, consultation meetings, multi-stakeholder platforms, and participatory monitoring and implementation. Awareness-raising and information access is a pre-requisite to informed participation by local communities. Millions of rural communities live in and around forests, and we have been sustainably managing forest resources for decades. Our insights and ability can help develop and deliver on effective policies for sustainable forest management.



I AM...

# THE KHAO CHAKARN FOREST.

Invest in me through funds and resources  
for community forest implementation and  
livelihoods/enterprise development.

Invest in me, so I can develop and implement sustainable forest enterprises. Local communities need access to different kinds of capital in order to access markets, and technical skills to add value to forest products and services. When local communities are able to use forests for our livelihoods, forests are healthier.



**I AM...  
THE BA KHE  
FOREST.**

Invest in me by formalizing tenure rights and the establishment of community forests.

Invest in me, invest in processes to recognize and formalize rights in community-based forest management. This includes support from national to local government, the private sector, and others. When local communities have tenure, we can protect our forest from encroachment and illegal logging – resulting in lower deforestation rates than even protected forests.



**I AM...**  
**THE CHROUS  
SVAY FOREST.**

Invest in me by supporting capacity development, information access, networking and training on new technologies.

Invest in me, invest in effective and relevant capacity development programs on sustainable forest management that are based on local communities' needs. More effective capacity development programs for local forest managers must be developed in terms of building upon our existing capacities through training on new technologies, local communities' networking among one another and other stakeholders. When we have the capacity to comply with forest regulations and make a living from our forests, we can and will sustain our forests.

# WHY COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Community forestry (CF) is used to describe models of forest management that place local people at the center of decision-making. CF delivers sustainable forest management, meeting the growing needs of society. To maximize its potential, fundamentals such as participation processes, tenure rights, resources allocation and capacity development must be in place.

# WHAT DOES RECOFTC DO

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests works to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forest landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region.

# HOW CAN I GIVE SUPPORT

Invest in community forestry by prioritizing participatory processes in forest policy, formalizing tenure rights, allocating funds and resources for livelihoods development, and capacity development for sustainable forest management.

# JOIN THE CONVERSATION



**On Stage**  
Tuesday 8 September  
18.15-19.30, Room 11 CDE



**Website**  
[recoftc.org/events/recoftc-wfc2015](http://recoftc.org/events/recoftc-wfc2015)



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