

# Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries Communities in Cambodia (PaFF), Phase 3

## Strengthening capacity and increasing finance for community-based natural resource management

### Project factsheet

The Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries Communities in Cambodia (PaFF) is helping rural Cambodians exercise their rights to manage, protect and benefit from local natural resources in ways that sustain livelihoods, reduce poverty and increase resilience to economic and environmental shocks. PaFF also seeks to strengthen democratic processes, promote rule of law, and safeguard human rights of women, indigenous groups, and low-income community members through their engagement in community-based natural resource management.

A consortium of four organizations is implementing PaFF in Phase 3: RECOFTC, the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA).

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) fund the initiative.

### Background

Sixty-five percent of rural Cambodians depend on natural resources such as forests, rivers and lakes for their livelihoods and food security. But most are poor and lack secure land and forest rights, technical capacities and finance required to manage and use these resources sustainably. These natural resources are under threat from unsustainable and illegal natural resource extraction, as well as from economic and social land concessions, hydropower, extractive industries, and roads and other infrastructure.

Three government-mandated approaches give people rights to local natural resources: community forests, community fisheries and community protected areas. But procedures required for formal recognition of these approaches are complex, and most communities lack the knowledge, skills, finance and other resources required to manage them. Further challenges come from gaps in the policy, institutional, regulatory and oversight frameworks. Sub-national and local authorities also lack capacity to perform their respective roles.

### Approach

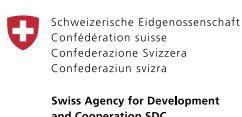
PaFF combines the expertise of four organizations: WWF on managing multi-stakeholder and landscape-scale platforms for policy dialogue; NTFP-EP on livelihood development; and RECOFTC and CEPA on strengthening community groups that manage natural resources. The coordinated landscape-based approach generates synergies and strengthens outreach and links to national and provincial platforms. PaFF is helping communities to formalize their tenure over local natural resources, manage those resources sustainably, develop small businesses and participate in policy-reform processes. It is strengthening the capacity of authorities to implement policies for sustainable natural resource management, and conduct inclusive development planning and policy dialogue. It is also developing sustainable sources of finance that support the implementation of community forests, community protected areas, and fishery management plans, while providing community members with a means of investing to improve their livelihoods.

### Focus

PaFF aligns with Cambodia's ongoing process of decentralizing authority from national to sub-national institutions. It also aligns with Cambodia's national programs for community forestry, community fisheries and community protected areas, as well as its green growth initiative for financing conservation sustainably, and its goal of restoring forest cover to 60 percent of the land area by 2030. PaFF therefore works in line with the Royal Government of Cambodia's international commitments on climate change, biodiversity and making progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

### Goal and expectations

PaFF aims to ensure that communities are empowered to exercise their rights to manage, protect and benefit from local natural resources in ways that sustain livelihoods, reduce poverty and increase the resilience of these communities to economic and environmental shocks. By the program's end in June 2023, PaFF aims





to have supported the implementation of management plans for community forests, community fisheries and community protected areas totalling 159,767 hectares, and benefitting 60,926 people in 24,647 households. It aims to have established 140 credit schemes and 76 mini trust funds.

In Phase 3, the program will continue to support community-based enterprises through investment opportunities, improved business planning and by linking producers to markets. PaFF also aims to strengthen the policy and regulatory environment, making it more inclusive, equitable, transparent and participatory, to better enable communities to manage and benefit from local resources. This will include conducting policy research and analysis to inform changes in laws, policies and administrative procedures that favour sustainable resource management and financing mechanisms. PaFF will also continue to support community representatives to participate alongside government agencies in groups working on reforms in the forest and fisheries sectors.

### Geographic area and target groups

PaFF operates in four provinces in northeastern Cambodia: Kratie, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom and

Preah Vihear. The direct beneficiaries are poor rural households, indigenous and other local communities, sub-national and national authorities, and private sector actors.

### Key results from PaFF phases 1 and 2

The first two phases of PaFF supported 44,663 people who depend on community forests and fisheries for their livelihoods. This included helping 60 communities to formalize their rights over local forests and fisheries, and supporting 134 communities in the development and implementation of management plans for these resources. It also created 14 mini trust funds and 46 credit schemes to help finance the management of community forests and fisheries while providing members access to loans to improve their livelihoods. These phases also helped to establish 35 community-based enterprises selling forest products, fish or ecotourism services. Links with private sector actors along value chains were strengthened. The program supported capacity building of provincial authorities in landscape planning, management and financing. It also promoted the participation of community forestry and community fisheries groups and their networks in relevant multi stakeholder platforms informing policy reforms.

### PaFF at a glance

#### Program duration

- Eight years, from 2014 to 2023
- Three phases

#### Phase 3

- Two years, from July 2021 to June 2023
- Total budget of Phase 3 including contributions of SDC and Sida is US\$6,235,000

#### PaFF consortium partners

- RECOFTC
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- Cambodia Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme
- Culture and Environment Preservation Association

#### Other partners

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Environment

### Contact



#### RECOFTC Cambodia

c/o Forestry Administration, 40 Norodom Boulevard, Sangkat Phsar Kandal II, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
+855 (0) 23 998 784  
cambodia@recoftc.org



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