



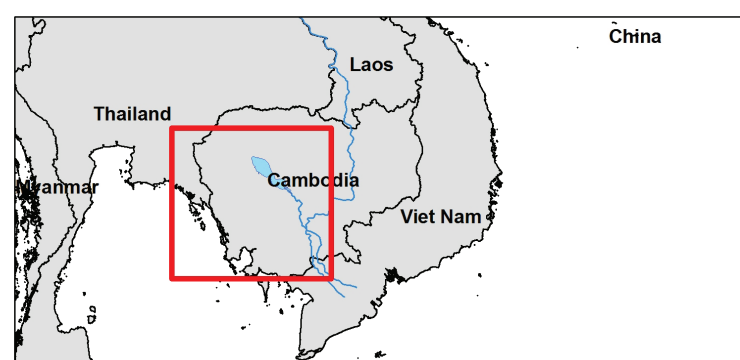
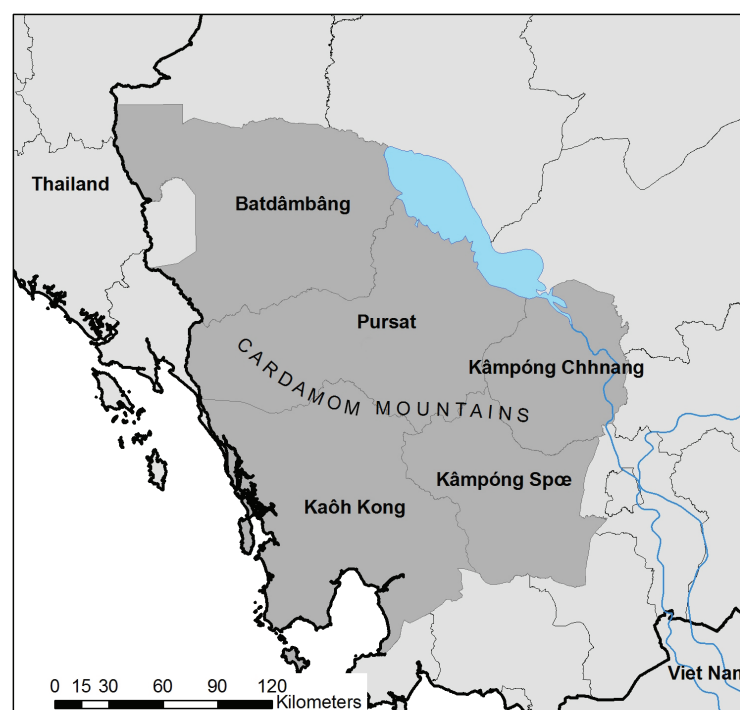
Livelihood Improvement through Generation and Ownership of Forest Information by Local People in Products and Services Markets

### BACKGROUND

Wood energy is vital to the livelihoods of rural communities in the Mekong region, where over five times more fuelwood than timber is extracted for daily use. However, the energy needs of the community are commonly not factored into the establishment of market-oriented enterprises, which can lead to supply disruptions and subsequent impact on income as well as the environment. Hence, the importance of establishing sustainable community forest (CF) management, to ensure a stable provision of wood energy and to prevent gaps in supply and demand is significant. On a global scale, most commercially focused community forestry projects fail to properly support communal fuelwood initiatives that could increase incomes on an ongoing basis. In Asia, only initial steps have been taken to encourage communities to develop commercial scale fuelwood production that takes into account human consumption needs and available resources.

ForInfo's Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) project in the Cardamom Mountains puts unique emphasis on helping forest-dependent communities manage their resources and launch commercial scale production, specifically of fuelwood, charcoal and non-forest sources of biomass energy. The project supports sound analysis to improve fuelwood management and assess commercial opportunities targeting urban markets.

With its partners, ForInfo is developing community forestry-based enterprises in five sites. These enterprises are among the 30 community forests and 10 community protected areas (CPA) that have been identified across the Cardamom landscape for potential pilot projects.



Local fuelwood transport to the market.

### APPROACH

For each of the five sites, ForInfo and its partners will carry out a supply-demand assessment based on a Geographic Information System (GIS) tool - WISDOM (woodfuel integrated supply/demand tool overview mapping) - to determine the viability of establishing sustainable commercial scale production. The analysis will cover all fuel sources within commune boundaries, including non-forest sources of biomass (agricultural residues, farm trees, invasive weeds etc).

The project will also pilot the integration of sustainable forest management in the development of four Community Land Use Plans (CLUP), using the FAO's Marketing, Analysis and Development approach to create blueprints for the community forests and community protected areas.

In-depth information on the five community forests has been collected and will be used for CF management and business plan development. Further data on incomes, change in forest cover, and achievements/progress will also be collected during the course of the project.

#### Partners

1. GERES (Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités in Cambodia)
2. RECOFTC Cambodia Program
3. Forest Administration (district to national levels)
4. Other Ministries (energy, agriculture, local administration)

#### Target Groups:

Five forest communities within the concession areas & government officials

#### Duration:

3 years (April 2011 – December 2014)

#### Location:

Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia

#### Funded by:

UNDP/GEF and RECOFTC-ForInfo



## Contact

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### About RECOFTC

RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests is an international organization with a vision of local communities actively managing forests in Asia and the Pacific to ensure optimal social, economic, and environmental benefits. Headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, RECOFTC works throughout Asia and the Pacific. Learn more at RECOFTC.org.

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

1. Forest management and business plans on biomass energy for the five communes are developed.
2. The WISDOM approach for balancing fuelwood demand and supply at commune level are tested, taking into account forest and non-forest sources of biomass energy.

Baseline	Targets
Local fuelwood demand is not taken into account in planning charcoal and fuelwood enterprises	Assessment of demand/supply on a local level will lead to sustainable extraction rates for fuelwood/charcoal enterprises

## PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Inventory methods for the WISDOM analysis have been identified and successfully tested. Community understanding of the importance of including non-forest resources in fuelwood assessment has been improved. It is very likely that WISDOM will soon become a standard tool in community forestry planning in Cambodia.



▲ Filling the community charcoal kiln



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### About ForInfo

ForInfo, a two-million-euro project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, supports communities in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam by linking them with existing and new markets, such as ecosystem services. The project helps communities maximize their profits while using their forests sustainably and efficiently. ForInfo's work generates key information to enable communities to improve their access to markets and achieve stability in their livelihoods. Learn more at <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/ForInfo/>