

# Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia

Project brochure



The international debate on REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) evolved rapidly during last few years. However, most discussions on REDD+ and climate change have been limited to the policy makers, international organizations, and academics, with little or no input from the diverse grassroots stakeholders.



Due to limited information on climate change and REDD+ and lack of opportunities for REDD+ field practitioners to share their experiences, the number of qualified and informed trainers tends to be low. Thus, significant gaps remain in understanding REDD+ at the sub-national and local levels. In order to fully participate in the planning and implementation of REDD+, grassroots stakeholders must have full, clear, and culturally appropriate information about REDD+ processes. In addition, the capacity needs of grassroots stakeholders must be addressed to enable them to communicate their concerns and aspirations regarding climate change and REDD+ to the policy makers.

Since 2009, RECOFTC has been implementing a regional project on Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+, through the support of Norad, with the aim of promoting the effective engagement of diverse grassroots stakeholders in the climate change and REDD+ dialogues in Asia-Pacific region.

During the past two phases (August 2009-July 2010 and August 2010-July 2013), the project has promoted knowledge and developed the skills of several grassroots stakeholders through a variety of capacity development programs in four project countries, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Vietnam. The project is now in its third phase of implementation, beginning in January 2013 and until December 2015. Myanmar is added as the fifth target country for the third phase of the project.



## Who are the grassroots stakeholders?

- Forest dependent households
- Local communities and indigenous peoples
- Women, youth, children and other ethnic minority groups
- Community based organizations
- Community forest user groups
- Local forest managers
- Government and forestry officials
- NGOs, civil society groups and local journalists

## Project Approach

Based on the knowledge gaps identified through needs assessments, the project has developed training courses on climate change and REDD+, with specialized materials and manuals, which are adapted to local contexts, and produced in the national languages. Field based case studies further inform the project implementation. The training and capacity development programs are delivered following a cascade approach at national, sub-national and local levels. Project activities are closely monitored through surveys and evaluation focusing on participants' knowledge retention and use, as well as the usefulness of materials in different contexts, both before and after trainings. Finally, the relevant materials and lessons learned are shared across five country projects to facilitate cross-cultural learning and networks.

## Partnerships

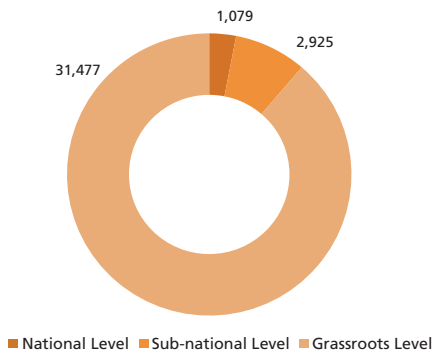
REDD+ training and capacity development in each project country is delivered through a network of 18 partner organizations, including relevant government departments, non-government organization, academic institutions, and community based organizations. We also engage with local radio, television, and newspapers to raise awareness of REDD+ and climate change. In each project country we work closely with national REDD+ working groups/taskforce in order to align the project outcomes with national policies and plans for REDD+.



## Project Achievements (2009-2013)

The project has developed a variety of training materials which are available on the project website, including manuals, flyers, booklets posters, radio programs, and short videos in national languages of the project countries. The project organized more than 700 events, such as training of trainers, awareness raising, consultation on key topics, mass rallies, and expert seminars at national, sub-national and grassroots levels in four project countries, reaching more than 35,000 stakeholders, where one third are women.

### No. of REDD+ training participants



An independent End Term Review (ETR) of Phase II of the project has reported that more than 50% of the project stakeholders have gained explicit knowledge on climate change; can explain links between forests and climate change, and the concepts of REDD+; and are aware of potential benefits from and challenges of REDD+. The local training facilitators reported that they are well equipped with materials provided to them to research and refresh their knowledge and deliver the training programs independently at the grassroots level.

### List of key training and capacity development products

1. REDD+ training manual in English, Bahasa Indonesia, Lao and Nepali.
2. Guidebook on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+ in English, Bahasa Indonesia, Lao, Nepali and Vietnamese.
3. A training manual on putting Free, Prior and Informed Consent into practice in REDD+ in English, Nepali and Vietnamese.
4. Question and answer booklet on Climate Change, Forests, and You in English, Bahasa Indonesia, Lao, Nepali and Vietnamese.
5. Gender in REDD+: A handbook for grassroots facilitators in English.
6. Climate Change and REDD+ posters for awareness raising in Nepali and Lao.
7. Leaflet on Climate Change and REDD+ and our role in Nepali.
8. Climate Change and REDD+ Glossary handbook in Lao and Vietnamese.
9. A synthesis of expert view on Forests and Climate Change after COP 17 in Lao and Nepali.
10. A number of other synthesis and review papers in English.



## Looking Ahead

The implementation of the project in Phase III is strongly founded on experience from the last two phases. The ETR of Phase II also provided recommendations to improve the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the project during Phase III. Approaching REDD+ training and capacity development through a sustainable forest management lens; strengthening grassroots capacity on social safeguards of REDD+; facilitating local level dialogues between policy makers and grassroots stakeholders; establishing feedback loop from grassroots up to the policy level; and networking and knowledge exchange between in-country project implementing partners are important additions to the project's scope in Phase III. The progress and achievements of the project will be closely monitored at different stages of the project lifecycle.

## Project Partner Organizations

1. Nepal: Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resources Management Association (HIMAWANTI) and Forest Action
2. Indonesia: Center for Forestry Education and Training (CFET), Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia Learning Community Foundation (YAKOBI), Indonesia Communication Forum for Community Forestry (FKKM) and Lembaga Alam Tropika Indonesia (LATIN)
3. Lao PDR: Department of Forest, National University of Laos, Village Focus International (VFI) and Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC)
4. Vietnam: Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and The Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountain Areas (CSDM)
5. Myanmar: Forest Department and World Conservation Society (WCS), Myanmar Program

Learn more about the project and download project publications and newsletters at <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Grassroots-Capacity-Building-for-REDD-/> or contact us via email: [REDDgrassroots@recoftc.org](mailto:REDDgrassroots@recoftc.org)



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RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 25 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity building – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

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