



Community forestry in Asia-Pacific: Challenges and opportunities

Chandra Silori, 29 January 2021



Outline

- About RECOFTC
- The overview of community forestry
- The differences in efficiency between community forestry and government-controlled forestry
- Current situations of forest ownerships in RECOFTC member countries and other countries in Asia-Pacific region
- The factors which prevent community forestry from being achieved



An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A narrow dirt road or path runs vertically through the center of the image, dividing the forest into two halves. The trees are a mix of various shades of green, indicating a diverse ecosystem. The overall scene is a top-down view of a natural, undisturbed forest environment.

About RECOFTC

**We believe in a future
where people live
equitably and
sustainably in and
beside healthy,
resilient forests.**



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A brown river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green fields and dense forest. The fields are divided into irregular plots, some of which appear to be planted with crops. The forest is thick and green, covering the upper and lower right portions of the image. The overall scene depicts a mix of agriculture and natural forest.

**We build resilience through
community forestry**

We take a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach to help communities secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, build alternative livelihoods and achieve gender equality.





With 30 years' experience, offices in 7 countries, and trusting relationships at all levels, we are the only international non-profit of our kind in the Asia-Pacific region.

About community forestry

Community forestry is a broad term for approaches that empower people to manage, protect and benefit from local forests.

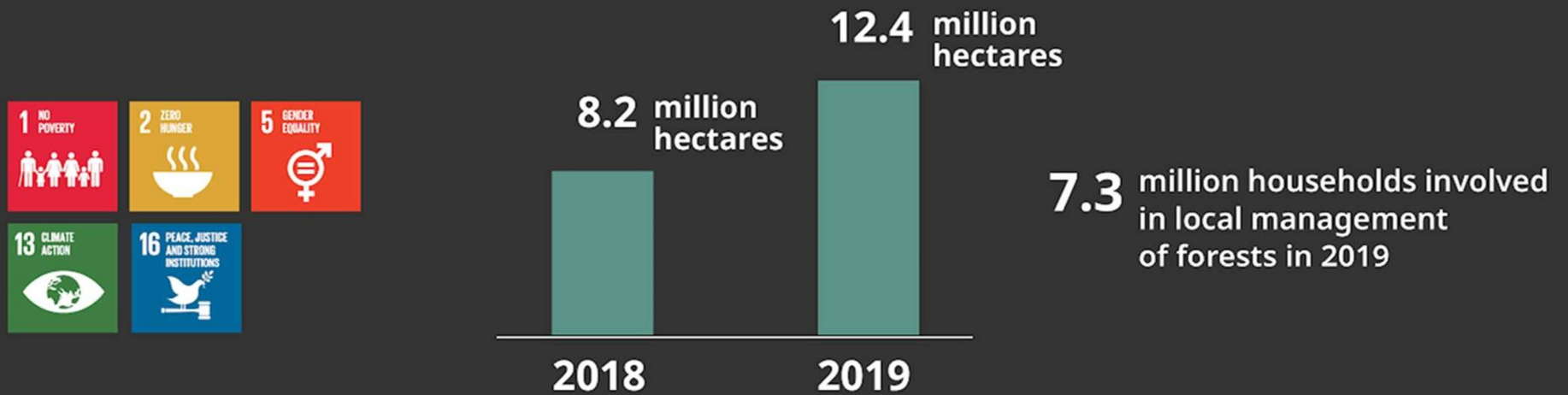


Role of community forestry

- Fosters gender equality
- Increases social inclusion
- Secures land tenure and rights
- Reduces conflict
- Increases food security and nutrition
- Reduces poverty
- Protects forest landscapes
- Conserves biodiversity
- Improves ecosystem services
- Builds landscape resilience
- Mitigates and helps to adapt to climate change



Community forest area in RECOFTC's focal countries in hectares



51.2% increase of community forest area since 2018

Source: Governments in RECOFTC focal countries, RECOFTC 2019

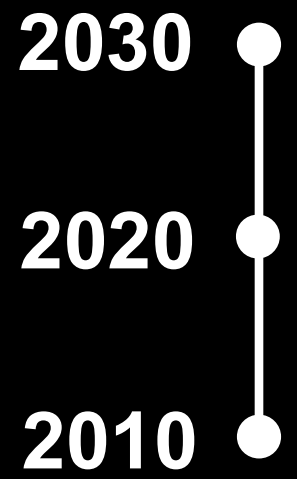


16.8 million

2020
2010



30 million





30 million

By 2030 ~500% increase

CF targets and progress

Country	CF area in 2019	Target	Year	% Achieved 2019
Cambodia	362,209	2,000,000	2029	18
Indonesia	2073676	12,700,00	2019	24
Myanmar	289,168	919,000	2030	31
Philippines	490920	9,000,000	2008	54
Thailand	1180512	1,600,00	2025	74
Vietnam	4111848	4,000,000	2020	103
Total	13,922,333	30219,000	-	46

Source: RECOFTC, 2020. Social Forestry and Climate Change in the ASEAN Region.

Government-controlled forestry

- Top down and authoritative approach
- Lack of capacity among duty bearers and front line staff
- Forest governance is dominated by technical foresters
- Lack of interdisciplinary experts
- Frequent forest conflicts

Challenges of community forestry in Asia-Pacific

- Transfer of forested land to local people moves slowly
- Deforestation continues to outpace community forestry
- Inadequate legal frameworks and complex bureaucratic procedures
- Complex and time consuming nature of land allocation
- Limited financial resources and capacities at local level
- Limited profitability of community forestry
- Forest conflicts remain a major issue



Opportunities

- Economic development and integration
- Private sector investment and partnerships with community
- Gender equity and social inclusion
- Consumer demands for sustainably sourced products
- Use of information technology
- Government policies and plans to support community forestry



Thank you



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