

# CAMBODIA



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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTRY AND FISHERY COMMUNITY IN CAMBODIA PROJECT - PAFF



Ms. Chea Sareth, member of community collecting leaf from CF for food and for sale.  
Romtomm commune, Rorvieng district, Preah Vihea Province.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributes with a third phase of support to the Partnership for Forestry and Fishery Community in Cambodia – PaFF since 2014. The partnership consists of a consortium of four NGOs, led by the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Non-timber Forest Products Exchange Program Asia (NTFP-EP), and the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA). For this third and last phase of SDC support to the partnership is complemented by a contribution from Sweden International Development Agency (Sida). The partnership is supporting rural communities in managing their natural resources in four provinces. It aims at enhancing the communities' economic, social and cultural rights through funding opportunities that improve their livelihoods and increase resilience to natural shocks.

### BACKGROUND

Income from farming and natural resources remains fundamental to the livelihoods, nutrition and food security of 65 percent of Cambodians and about 65 percent of rural women are engaged in forestry and fisheries. Rural communities depend on the country's rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity for their

livelihoods; however, this is threatened by social and economic development, climate change and natural hazards including the recent pandemic. In response, the Government has enacted environmental policy reforms, enabled multi-stakeholder dialogue with the private sector to improve value chains for timber and non-timber forest products, fish and eco-tourism, and made international commitments to sustainably manage Cambodia's natural resources and environment. The Government has taken critical steps towards strengthening community involvement in and benefits from natural resources through Community Based Natural Resources Management Groups (CBNRM groups) such as Community Forestry (CF), Community Fishery (CFi), and Community Protected Area (CPA). In 2019, the government increased its efforts in decentralising responsibilities and authority, including in the natural resources management (NRM) sector, to the sub-national and local level with the aim to place public services and budgets closer to the people.

### APPROACH

PaFF combines each member's expertise: RECOFTC, WWF, and CEPA on strengthening CBNRM groups including sustainable financing mechanism, landscape and multi-stakeholder platform management and NTFP-EP on livelihoods improvement. The coordinated and programmatic landscape approach creates synergies, outreach and links to national and provincial platforms. They will contribute to stronger interaction between authorities, communities and the private sector in the sustainable use and conservation of forestry and fishery resources. In its third phase, PaFF will continue to strengthen the knowledge of the actors about sustainable NRM in the face of climate change, as well as their capacities to implement policies, ensure the operation of small-scale economic activities and sustainable financing mechanisms. The project further contributes to inclusive development planning and policy dialogue to ensure the rights of rural poor and meaningful participation of CBNRM groups' representatives.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Project Duration

Duration of project: 2014 until 2023  
Phase-3 (final phase): 01 July 2021  
To 30 June 2023

Budget

Total budget of Phase-3 including  
contributions of all donors:  
USD 6,235,000.00  
Sida: SEK 36,000,000.00  
(approx. USD 4,430,000.00)  
SDC: CHF 2,000,000.00  
(approx. USD 2,000,000.00)

PAFF consortium partners

Centre for People and Forests  
(RECOFTC), World Wide Fund for  
Nature, Cambodia (WWF),  
Non-Timber Forest Products  
Exchange Programme (NTEP-EP),  
Culture and Environment  
Preservation Association (CEPA)

Other partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Fisheries  
Ministry of Environment

Imprint

Swiss Cooperation Office and  
Consular Agency SDC  
50, Street 334, Boeung Keng  
Kang 1, Boeung Keng Kang,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Email: phnompenh@eda.admin.ch  
Web: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/cambodia>

Photos by WWF and RECOFTC

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STRATEGY FOCUS

The PaFF programme aligns with the National Programmes for NRM which aim at a “balance between development and conservation” also mentioned as a target in the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023. Moreover, the final phase of SDC support to PaFF will build on the results and lessons learned of the previous two phases and ensure the sustainability and functioning of CBNRM groups to engage with the relevant sub-national administrations and implementation of the community NRM plans. It further responds to the government’s commitments in the climate agenda as spelled out in the green growth initiative for securing sustainable funding sources for conservation. Key elements of the programme include: 1) development and implementation of CBNRM group management plans; and 2) extension services and coordination of authorities, and the implementation and improvement of NRM guidelines, sub-decrees, and laws.

OVERALL GOAL AND EXPECTATIONS

For the coming 2 years, PaFF has adapted the overall goal to: Rural and indigenous communities and households are empowered to manage and protect their natural resources and secure their economic, social and cultural rights by accessing long-term funding opportunities that contribute to sustained livelihoods and improved resilience to natural shocks. To achieve this, PaFF works towards two outcomes:

Outcome 1: Target communities (CBNRM groups) have dedicated investments and strengthened capacity in order to exercise their secured rights and manage their natural resources sustainably in an inclusive and participatory manner. Outcome 2: A policy and regulatory environment, from national to local levels, enables community based sustainable natural resource management and economic benefits from their use profit indigenous people and local communities-IPLC.

Expected outputs are:

- Capacity Development of 300 representative from 142 CBNRM groups and 70 government officials and NGOs staff on secure rights to natural resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Tenure of 10 CBNRM groups is secured through legal status with land registration as public state land;
- Approval of 74 new developed/updated management plan of CBNRM groups allowing the groups to exercise their rights over natural resources;

- Sustainable financing for the management plan implementation for 142 CBNRM groups is ensured by a continuation of the development and operation of 140 credit schemes and 76 mini-trust fund;
- National and provincial platforms and CBNRM networks are supported and responded to the community groups’ priorities; selected policies are advocated to reflect the community’s rights and more benefit.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND TARGET GROUP

Poor rural households and indigenous people as members of CBNRM groups, authorities at sub-national and national levels, and private sector actors. The partnership will continue to focus in four provinces (Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear, and Kampong Thom) rural households and indigenous people as members of CBNRM groups, authorities at sub-national and national levels, and private sector actors. The partnership will continue to focus in four provinces (Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear, and Kampong Thom)

KEY RESULTS OF THE LAST TWO PHASE

With SDC’s funding in phase1 and 2 and in close collaboration with local authorities, PaFF successfully supported the capacity development of 370 CBNRM groups to engage in tenure formalization and sustainable NRM, reaching 50,000 households (200,000 people, 50% female and 10% Indigenous People). 86 community groups have developed their NRM plans covering the area of over 100,000 ha. 36 credit groups and 14 mini-trust fund groups have supported the implementation of those plans. 35 Community-Based Enterprises were established and are operating under the CBNRM groups. Furthermore, PaFF supported capacity building of provincial authorities in landscape planning, management and financing, and contributed to NRM reforms.

