

# CAMBODIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTRY AND FISHERY COMMUNITIES IN CAMBODIA (PAFF) - PHASE III



Ms. Chea Sareth, member of community collecting leaf from CF for food and for sale.  
Romtom commune, Rorvieng distric, Preah Vihea Province  
Photo@RECOFTC

### BACKGROUND

Income from farming and natural resources remains fundamental to the livelihoods, nutrition, and food security of 65% of Cambodians. About 65% 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 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. NGOs play an important role as intermediaries between authorities and communities in providing capacity building and strengthening inclusive NRM.

This project forms an integral part of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25.

### OBJECTIVES

For the 2-year phase, PaFF's overall goal is to empower rural and indigenous communities and households to manage and protect their natural resources, and to 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.

**PROJECT AT A GLANCE:**

**Duration**  
Previous phases: 2014 - 2021  
Phase III: 01 Jul 2021 - 31 Jun 2023

**Budget**  
Total budget:  
USD 5,200,000  
Swiss contribution:  
CHF 2,000,000

**Implementing Agencies**  
- PaFF consortium members:  
- Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC),  
- World Wide Fund for Nature, Cambodia (WWF),  
- Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP),  
- Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)

**Other partners**  
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
- Ministry of Environment

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Capacity development of 300 representatives from 142 CBNRM groups and 70 government officials on securing 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 51 new developed/updated management plans 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 funds;
- National and provincial platforms and CBNRM networks that respond to the community groups’ priorities are supported; selected policies are advocated to reflect the communities’ rights.

knowledge of the actors on 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.

**KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS PHASES**

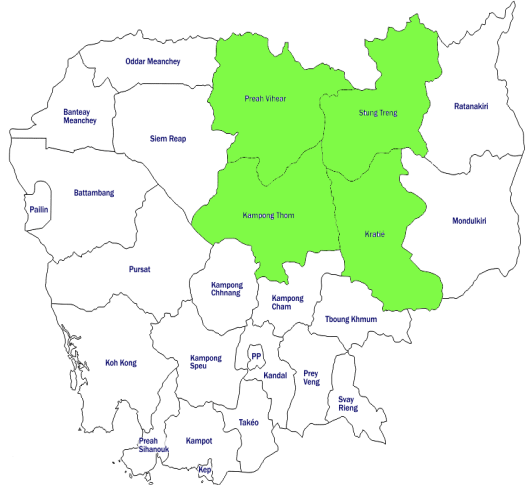
With SDC’s funding in phase 1 and 2, and in close collaboration with local authorities, PaFF successfully supported the capacity development of 370 CBNRM groups to engage in tenure formalization and sustainable NRM, reaching 50,000 households (200,000 people, 50% women and 10% indigenous people). 86 community groups have developed their NRM plans covering an area of over 100,000 ha. 36 credit groups and 14 mini-trust fund groups are supporting 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.

**APPROACH**

The third phase of PaFF is co-financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). It aims at a “balance between development and conservation” targeted by Cambodia’s National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023. 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. In doing so, PaFF combines the expertise of its four members Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC), World Wide Fund for Nature, Cambodia (WWF), and Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA) in strengthening CBNRM groups with a focus on sustainable financing mechanism, landscape and multi-stakeholder platform management, and the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (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 continues to strengthen the

**TARGET GROUPS AND PROJECT LOCATION**

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



Target provinces highlighted in green colour

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

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