Introduction

Cambodia depends on forest resources as much as any nation on Earth, for products which people use and as part of the natural resource system on which people depend. A predominately rural nation with extremely low per capita income, almost the entire population lives in near-subsistence, highly localised economies in which forest resources are important inputs for daily life: for fuel, building materials, food, and medicine. Most of the urban population also relies primarily on forest resources for fuel and building materials, obtained through market links to rural areas. Forests play critical roles in maintaining the ecological productivity of farming areas and of fisheries, which are the economic foundations and sources of livelihood for almost all Cambodians, and possibly in protecting settlements from more extreme environmental events through modulating rainfall runoff. With a rapidly expanding population and lacking the social infrastructure for a modern economy, direct reliance on natural resources will continue to be the only option for the vast majority of Cambodians. For the foreseeable future, forest resource conditions, productivity levels, and distribution of benefits are major factors affecting the national economy and the immediate livelihood of almost all Cambodians.

Cambodia has retained until recently one of the most valuable national stocks of primary forest in Asia. While forests elsewhere in Asia were logged at accelerating rates, Cambodia's forests were largely inaccessible due to isolationist policies, war and insecurity, and lack of appropriate institutional and physical infrastructure to support forest exploitation. During the past decade, favourable policies (formal, informal de facto, and anarchic) and rapid growth of institutional and physical infrastructure to support forest exploitation, in response to huge international demand for wood and hogs-at-the-trough behaviour by the wood-consuming industry, has resulted in Cambodia now experiencing the most rapid deforestation in Asia and possibly in world history. Although substantial international pressure is being exerted on the Cambodian government to improve forest management and capture fair-market value for its wood, the small but powerful elite benefiting from the current exploitation (including many senior political, military, and business leaders, in deals with timber merchants from many other countries) are unlikely and possibly unable to stop the logging before all valuable stocks are depleted.

Irrespective of the outcome of the struggle over Cambodia's forests -- whether some areas of nondegraded forest remain or not -- the future management of forest resources will need to be based on strong participation of local communities. At present, government policies and commitment for community based forest management are mixed -- partially favourable, partially opposed - and without clarity. It is increasingly apparent, however, that Cambodia's experience with conventional forest management -- under which authority and direct management responsibility for forests are vested in a centralised government agency -- is producing the same results as in other countries: a general failure to achieve social, economic, and ecological objectives. In Cambodia as elsewhere, transforming forest management from its conventional mode to one that encourages and enables the participation of local people in forest management is a key to achieving sustainable forest management.

A number of initiatives in community-based forest management (FN 2) are underway in Cambodia, most of which emphasize developing "pilot" examples and "models" of community forestry in specific target areas. These initiatives have been highly beneficial in promoting and demonstrating community forestry, and in
encouraging favourable policy. Some of these initiatives also support institutional strengthening associated with pilot efforts. A substantial institution-level capacity building effort (FN 3) was underway from mid 1996 to mid 1997, focused in the Ministry of Environment, national Department of Forestry, some provincial governments, and promoting networking including NGOs, but was reduced significantly after July 1997 and may end altogether in mid 1998 (FN 4). There is at present no formal national authority or mechanism for coordination of community forestry efforts in the country.

Since its establishment in 1987, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) has been an important regional institution promoting and supporting forest management based on participation of local communities. Most countries in Asia have a core of RECOFTC alumni that provide an important national pool of knowledge about community forestry and a constituency in support of community forestry across government agencies, NGOs, and international and donor organisations. Over the past ten years, nearly all RECOFTC training has been on a regional basis, often based at its training center at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, with English as the common language.

With the continuing expansion of community forestry in all countries, many countries now have achieved a sufficient volume of community forestry efforts and programmes to benefit from more in-country training and information sharing for community forestry. In-country training can be better adapted to specific needs and contexts, and in-country information sharing can increase the relevancy of information. Because in-country training and information sharing can be in the national language(s), the accessibility and impact of training is greater. Many projects and organisations involved in community forestry provide training, but there is relatively little coordination. Improved information sharing and collaboration would benefit many projects and organisations by improving the quality and efficiency of training, and reducing costs.

Objective

The objective of this study was to explore the need and potential options for RECOFTC to initiate a programme aimed at improving community forestry training in Cambodia, possibly as part of a broader Indochina strategy and programme. This study is part of the exploratory phase of a one-year project, funded by SIDA, aimed at

- identifying community forestry training needs for which RECOFTC has a comparative advantage
- identifying key institutions and individuals in each country with which RECOFTC could establish strong working and possibly lead/counterpart relationships
- identifying candidates for attending RECOFTC training courses and internships in support of 2) above if possible
- conducting field studies in support of 1) above
- providing recommendations regarding how RECOFTC could provide improved training adapted to Indochina, including course outlines and recommendations for institutional arrangements

This report documents the research process and findings for Cambodia, regarding community forestry training capacities and needs key institutions and individuals with which RECOFTC could establish strong working and possibly lead/counterpart relationships preliminary recommendations regarding how RECOFTC could provide improved training adapted to Cambodia, while recognizing that finalisation of recommendations will require rationalisation within the context of the full study including Laos and Vietnam.

Procedure

The procedure for the study was to identify, contact, and conduct semi-structured interviews with key leaders and staff in organisations currently involved or with high potential for involvement in community forestry in Cambodia. Questions focused on: past, current, and planned community forestry-related activities and training; training capacities, needs, and priorities; training target groups, possible trainers, and training venues; and potential for cooperation in training. Interviews were conducted by Doug Henderson, consultant
to RECOFTC, during December 1997-January 1998. Individuals interviewed are listed below, by organisation (full addresses are provided in Appendix 1).

Ministry of Environment

H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Minister
Ken Serey Rotha and Lun Kimhy, Community Forestry Unit,
Department of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

MAFF Forest and Wildlife Department

Uk Sokhon, Deputy Director
Ung Sam Ath, Community Forestry Unit, Reforestation Division

Royal University of Agriculture

H.E. Chan Sarun, Rector
Lao Reasmey, Director, International Relations
Vong Monin, Vice Dean, Faculty of Forestry

FAO Participatory Natural Resources Management in the Tonle Sap Region

Patrick Evans, Community Forestry Expert

UNDP CARERE

Joel Charney, Program Director

UNDP Environment Technical Advisory Project

Paul Im

MRC Wetlands Inventory and Management

Isabelle von Oertzen

DANIDA Environmental Management of the Coastal Zone

John McEachern

IDRC Participatory Management of Mangrove Forest Resources Project

Toby Carson, Project Advisor
Kim Nong, MoE

EC Support Programme to the Environmental Sector in Cambodia

Worm Sorenson, Biodiversity and Natural Resources Specialist

CONCERN

Fiona Edwards, Natural Resources Coordinator
MCC

Larry Groff, Takeo program advisor

Oxfam/NOVIB NTFP Project

Gordon Patterson, project leader

Several other leaders/organisations were identified but interviews were not possible by the time of report preparation.

Findings

A number of government, international, and non-governmental organisations are currently involved in community forestry in Cambodia, and the volume of activity is increasing. An overview of organisations and projects engaged (or likely to be engaged) in community forestry is provided in Table 1.

Community forestry training capacities and needs

Two national Ministries -- the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry -- have recognised responsibilities for community forestry, and each has established a community forestry unit (CFU). Although national policies for community forestry remain unclear, senior officials of both the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the MAFF Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DoF) express strong support for community forestry programming and for strengthening staff and CFU capacities. Overall, skill levels in the CFUs are quite low and substantial training is needed. Most staff have received extremely limited training or no training in community forestry concepts and methods. Of the staff who have received concepts/methods training, skill levels in applying concepts/methods is low (for example, training of staff tends to be by lecturing rather than by facilitating group learning or by practical experiential learning), and skills in designing projects, preparing and submitting project proposals, cultivating donor support, and training and organising staff to undertake activities appear to be seriously lacking. Training needs for the CFUs include basic community forestry concepts and methods, training and communication skills, and organisational management skills noted above.

Training needs also exist in other government organisations, such as the MAFF Department of Fisheries (which has major forest-related responsibilities associated with fish habitats in the Tonle Sap, rivers, and the coastal zone), MAFF Office of Wildlife Protection (WPO), MoE Protected Areas Office, MoE Tonle Sap Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Womens Affairs, plus associated Provincial departments. It can be assumed that very few or no staff of these organisations have received training in community forestry, and that language skills are similar to the CFUs (a few staff are functional in English, some staff functional in Vietnamese, and very few or no staff functional in Lao).

A number of international organisations (multilateral, regional, and bilateral) and NGOs are implementing projects in which community forestry is the primary strategy or a key component of an integrated strategy. All or nearly all IO/NGO projects have an implementation strategy involving close cooperation with government, and often projects use government staff as project staff. Information about training needs was obtained from a number of these projects, discussed below. Many other organisations and projects (not contacted) also are involved in or have expressed interest in undertaking community forestry and community forestry-related activities; the training needs of these organisations is estimated in broad terms.

These community forestry efforts have generated a demand for appropriate training, which will likely increase substantially in the intermediate future. There was a generally positive attitude toward regional training and RECOFTC in particular, but some criticisms and frustrations of regional training were denitified (high cost, language barrier, inadequate subject content, inappropriate context/location). Most organisations/projects have project-level plans for training staff and target groups (generally embedded within project workplans), but only a few have undertaken formal training needs' assessments. No institution-level training needs assessments have been conducted.

The largest single need is for training in Khmer language, as only a small portion of those who need training are fluent in English. There is also a strong demand for training adapted to the specific contexts in which projects operate, in terms of types of communities and environments, but there is also recognition of sufficient
commonalties in project contexts to make cooperation in training beneficial. Suggestions for training content included:

- basic community forestry concepts and methods, at a level appropriate for field staff (such as Provincial and NGO staff, and community leaders/organisers)
- participatory protected area management and joint forest management
- village-level silviculture, especially for improving degraded forests by encouraging natural regeneration
- non-timber forest products (NTFPs): role in livelihood systems, harvesting, marketing, and resource management
- community forestry in swidden systems (shifting cultivation)
- participatory research methods

Training needs are currently met almost entirely by individual organisations/projects, often on an ad hoc basis, with little information sharing, cooperation, or collaboration among organisations/projects. However, several noteworthy exceptions to this demonstrate the interest and willingness by organisations to cooperate in training, and all organisations/projects interviewed expressed support for greater training cooperation. For example, collaborative training on mangrove ecology and management has been organised and conducted by the IDRC and DANIDA coastal zone projects. A training on participatory management and zoning of protected areas is currently being planned cooperatively by MoE Department of Nature Conservation, MoE CFU, ETAP, SPEC, WWF, and IDRC; the potential for involving DoF in the training is being considered.

The only active institutional capacity for community forestry training is in the national CFUs, which during the past year have provided initial training on basic community forestry concepts and methods in approximately a half-dozen provinces. A number of organisations/projects have capacity (in terms of skilled staff and community forestry project experience) for providing community forestry training, but this capacity is not known or systematically available outside the organisation/project. Formal training institutions have little capacity for appropriate community forestry training, although RAU Faculty of Forestry has several staff with some community forestry training including two staff members who have received RECOFTC training, one of whom also emphasized community forestry in a recently completed MSc at AIT.

Possible training venues include

- classroom training: facilities are available in MoE, MAFF-DoF, provincial departments, NGOs facilities (such as PACT), Chamkar Daung (Royal University of Agriculture) Faculty of Forestry, Preak Leap Technical School, FAO supported Training Center in Siem Reap, and technical schools in various provinces
- non-classroom training: many sites associated with operating community forestry projects (see Table 1) and other rural/community development projects around the country

Key institutions and individuals

Several organisations/projects are appropriately positioned and have characteristics to play key roles for improving community forestry training in Cambodia, in terms of relevant objectives and experience, reliable commitment including institutional capacity building, and skilled staff. These include

- National Community Forestry Units in MAFF-DoF and MoE
  The two national CFUs have some staff with community forestry training and some experience as trainers, although both CFUs have very few staff with practical field experience. The CFUs have adopted a mandate to provide community forestry training and are motivated to do so, although they lack resources including funding to undertake activities (FN 5). The CFUs have a number of individuals with capabilities to become trainers, several of whom were identified by CEMP as having especially strong potential for community forestry training roles, including Lun Kimhy and Kim Sarin (MoE) and Lao Sethaphal (DoF).

- Protected Areas Office, MoE
  The Protected Areas Office of MoE has lead responsibility for managing national parks and other protected areas, which encompass approximately 20% of Cambodia's land area. MoE recognizes the importance of participatory approaches in protected area management, through applied concepts such
as buffer zones in which community forestry is a key strategy. Technical advisors to the two IO-supported projects assisting MoE in protected area management, in consultation with MoE, identified Y Lavy as a potential lead trainer in participatory approaches in protected area management.

- **CONCERN Worldwide**

CONCERN has substantial field experience, including experienced Cambodian staff, and a high level of awareness and commitment to institutional development including capacity building for training. It has also demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively and to provide leadership among the various organisations involved in community forestry in Cambodia. CONCERN has offered to make its staff available in support of collaborative training. CONCERN is also actively considering establishing a community forestry support unit to promote community forestry and to provide technical services and training outside its own immediate needs. CONCERN has a number of staff who have experience and skills to serve as trainers, the foremost of whom is Ly Chu Beang (a seconded staff from MAFF-DoF).

- **Chamkar Daung (Royal University of Agriculture) Faculty of Forestry**

The main institution of higher education for natural resources is Chamkar Daung (the Royal University of Agriculture), located approximately 10 km south of Phnom Penh. Chamkar Daung has 9 full-time and 16 part-time lecturers in the Faculty of Forestry, and approximately 80 students studying Forestry. As noted above, several lecturers have received some community forestry training including two staff members who have received RECOFTC training, one of whom also emphasized community forestry in a recently completed MSc at AIT. The present curriculum is a standard Forestry curriculum, with community forestry-related concepts covered mainly under Forestry Extension and Rural Development. Substantial scope exists for expanding community forestry in the curriculum, both in terms of a more general forest management strategy and by incorporating participatory approaches in current subjects such as Forest Botany, Inventory, Survey, Mapping, Silviculture, Forest Management, Watershed Management, Tree Improvement, Harvesting, Utilisation (which at present includes a subsection on NTFPs), and others. The University Rector, H.E. Chan Sarun (a forester and past Director of the MAFF Department of Forestry) and the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Mr. Mong Vonin, both expressed strong support for expanding community forestry content in the Forestry curriculum and for engaging Chamkar Daung in providing short courses and other training support for community forestry.

In addition, most or all of the IOs and NGOs involved in community forestry (see Table 1) have substantial capacities and are willing to support improved community forestry training by cooperating in relevant training, hosting training at their respective sites, and sharing information and expertise. Of particular note, FAO has accumulated a substantial volume of community forestry documents and other materials, including training materials, and established a training center in conjunction with its project headquarters in Siem Reap. These materials/facilities, if made more widely known and available, could be of substantial wider benefit for community forestry training.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

Cambodia needs institutional strengthening to support and promote participatory forest management. Community forestry is recognised as important by national and provincial government, by IOs and NGOs, and by senior officials in lead training institutions. However, a shortage of appropriately skilled staff and training capacities poses a critical major constraint to rapid expansion of community forestry. Regional training, although helpful, is not sufficient or appropriate for resolving this constraint.

The timing is right for establishing and strengthening community forestry training in Cambodia, to meet the expanding need for appropriate training, especially in the national language. With the need clearly recognised, everyone interviewed expressed the view that an initiative by RECOFTC to provide leadership in such institutional strengthening would be welcomed and appreciated.

Programmatic steps can be undertaken now to initiate a combination of institutional relationships and establish practical near-term objectives which, as accomplished, will provide the foundations required for establishing longer-term objectives and an expanded effort. The SIDA grant provides the near-term financial resources required to undertake these steps.

Recognising the need and opportunity, it is recommended that RECOFTC commit to a special programme in Cambodia aimed at strengthening in-country training for participatory forest management. Steps which can be taken to launch this special programme include

1. Identifying and selecting a combination of
- priority topics for in-country training, which most broadly meet the needs of organisations involved in community forestry

- motivated individuals with strong potential for training leadership, in key organisations and institutional positions where training leadership in selected topics is possible (but not necessarily in training institutions per se); selected individuals must be Cambodian nationals who are fluent in English and able to travel internationally.

2 Strengthen the skills of the selected individuals as lead trainers in selected topics, through appropriate training and planning in-country training courses linked to key training institutions, organisations, and field projects.

3 Support selected lead trainers in the preparation and implementation of training courses linked to key training institutions, organisations, and field projects.

This approach does not target/focus on training institutions per se, but seeks to engage training institutions by getting them involved as collaborators.

Drawing on the findings in this study, recommended priority topics, lead individuals, and training support are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority topics</th>
<th>Lead individuals</th>
<th>Training support (FN 6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concepts and methods in participatory forest management (introduction to community forestry)</td>
<td>Lun Kim Hy (MoE) Lao Sethaphal (DoF) Ly Chu Beang(CONCERN)</td>
<td>appropriate topical short course (recomm. EXT or PART) TOT training course design, organisation and implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts and methods in participatory management of protected areas</td>
<td>Y Lavy (MoE) Hou Kalyan (MoE) (possibly Seng Teak, with WWF support)</td>
<td>appropriate topical short course (recomm. PAS) TOT training course design, organisation and implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final selection of lead individuals should be done in consultation with key organisations, and certainly with supervisors and employing organisations.

A suggested schedule for this programme follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feb - Apr</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Sept - Nov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verify study findings; confirm selected topics and individuals; Y Lavy and Hou Kalyan attend PAS course</td>
<td>Lun Kim Hy, Lao Sethaphal, and Ly Chu Beang attend Extension course at RECOFTC</td>
<td>Short course (at RECOFTC) for selected lead trainers on training course design and planning</td>
<td>Organisation and implementation(in Cambodia) of training courses on priority topics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Organisations involved in community forestry in Cambodia

MoE and DoF Community Forestry Units

Each CFU has approximately two dozen staff, although actual numbers are not very meaningful since neither unit has sufficient budget to achieve a significant level of activity and staff availability fluctuates as staff are re-assigned to non-CFU duties. Several staff in each unit have some formal community forestry training, ranging from Masters level to RECOFTC and other short courses. Approximately 10 staff in each unit received introductory training and field visits to operating community forestry projects in Cambodia and Laos, under the Cambodia Environmental Management Program (Jan 1996 - July 1997).
Several staff have worked with NGO- or IO implemented community forestry projects for periods ranging from several months to 2-3 years.

Overall, skill levels in the CFUs are quite low and substantial training is needed. Most staff have received extremely limited training or no training in community forestry concepts and methods. Of the staff who have received concepts/methods training, skill levels in applying concepts/methods is low (for example, training of staff tends to be by lecturing rather than by facilitating group learning or by practical experiential learning), and skills in designing projects, preparing and submitting project proposals, cultivating donor support, training and organising staff to undertake activities appear to be completely lacking. In terms of language, a few staff are functional in English, some staff are functional in Vietnamese, and no staff are functional in Lao.

**Other national government**

A number of other national government agencies have responsibilities related to community development and/or natural resource management including forests, such as the MAFF-DOF Reforestation Division and Forest Management Division, MAFF Office of Wildlife Protection (WPO), MAFF Department of Fisheries (which has major forest-related responsibilities associated with fish habitats in the Tonle Sap, rivers, and the coastal zone), MoE Protected Areas Office, MoE Tonle Sap Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Womens Affairs, plus associated Provincial departments. It can be assumed that very few or no staff of these organisations have received training in community forestry, and that language skills are similar to the CFUs (a few staff are functional in English, some staff functional in Vietnamese, and very few or no staff functional in Lao).

**Provincial departments**

Training needs at the Provincial and local levels are extensive. Cambodia has 24 provinces. A few Provincial and local staff have received formal introductory training or limited exposure to community forestry concepts/methods, either by the national CFUs (with support from CEMP, IDRC, CARERE, or GTZ) or NGOs/IOs implementing community forestry projects (see analysis of NGOs/IOs, below). Provincial governments are in general highly motivated (at least superficially) to increase their operational capacities, and will respond actively to encouragement and support for community forestry. Training needs are basic, starting from little or no prior training. Very few Provincial or local staff have functional foreign language abilities.

**FAO Participatory Natural Resources Management in the Tonle Sap Region**

includes a community forestry component linked to fisheries and rural development components. The project was initiated in 1995 and the first funding phase ended in December 1997; continued funding for 3 years has been requested but not confirmed. The community forestry component has been implemented through the national and provincial Forest Departments, ostensibly (but not actually) integrated with Fisheries, Rural Development, Environment, and other departments. The community forestry component targeted communities in three zones: uplands, riparian zone bordering flooded zone, and flooded zone of the Tonle Sap. The community forestry component was largely a failure in the first phase, achieving little capacity building for community forestry. FAO recently made substantive changes that should improve project performance and capacity building, if the project is continued. If continued, the project will have substantial training needs and offers potential for training and resources. Training needs specifically identified were farm forestry / agroforestry and locally appropriate natural regeneration/silviculture and wildlife management for sustainable forest resource use (e.g., neither pure exploitation or pure conservation).

**UNDP CARERE**

is an integrated rural development project focusing on building government capacity in 5 provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat, Siem Reap, and Ratanakiri), with current funding through 1999. CARERE operates in response to Provincial government priorities for governmental and NGO development. Requests from Provincial governments for capacity building in community forestry are currently in various stages of programme development in at least 4 provinces. CARERE recognizes that a lack of skills and experience is a major constraint to moving forward quickly on community forestry, and perceives a significant need for training at all levels, with program and Provincial department staff as priorities. In Ratanakiri, CARERE support for community forestry is linked to IDRC support for community-based resource management.
ETAP is designed to improve the capacity for sustainable natural resource management and to increase environmental awareness in Cambodia. There is a strong emphasis on capacity building and institutional strengthening at both national and provincial levels. ETAP is scheduled to end in December 1998. The project includes demonstration projects for improving wetlands protection and national parks management, with a strong emphasis on community participation. The project is focussing especially on developing a participatory approach to managing Ream National Park. The project is highly interested in training and has sent staff to RECOFTC courses, although its remaining available funding is limited.

CONCERN Worldwide

is implementing two community forestry projects. One project, in Kompong Chhnang province, started in 1991 as a reforestation project involving 5 villages in joint management of an adjacent government forest. The project recently expanded into other community forestry approaches, such as village lands (not claimed by the Forest Department), roadsides, schools, and pagodas. The other project, in Pursat province, involves both joint management of government forest and other approaches to community forestry. In Banteay Meanchey province, tree planting is promoted within an agriculture program in 30 schools. Concern has expressed strong interest in expanding its community forestry programming, both in terms of approaches and geographic targets, Future planning for community forestry programming is scheduled for February-March 1998. Concern anticipates significant need for community forestry training in its programming, but perceives out-of-country training as too expensive and having a language barrier for most of its staff and collaborators. Concern's community forestry efforts are evolving from an emphasis on planting and protection to sustainable use including harvesting, and a programmatic broadening to include non-government forests. Thus in addition to basic training, there are training needs for locally appropriate silviculture including natural regeneration and management, farm forestry and agroforestry, and forest product marketing.

MCC

initiated a community forestry in Takeo province in 1992, converting part (500ha) of a conventional government plantation to joint management involving 12 villages on the perimeter of the forest. A portion of the area was allocated as community-managed forest, emphasising natural regeneration, for which communities established and enforce rules for forest use, including fines for unattended cows and illegal wood harvesting. Other degraded and cleared areas were allocated for use on an individual family basis; up to 50% of a family allocation could be used for agriculture, on the condition that certain reforestation requirements were met. IDRC provided support to a complementary Indigenous Plant Propagation project to promote growing and planting medicinally-valuable species; however, it appears that the IPP project has not achieved a sustainable effect. MCC has gradually scaled down its assistance to the community forestry project and expects to end all support in 1998. The ability of the local village-level organisation(s) and the government to continue the project is uncertain. Improving the capacities of the local and government organisations involved in the project, through training as well as other strategies, is important for the continuation and improvement of the community forest project and to encouraging other community forest efforts.

MRC Wetlands Inventory and Management Project

is implemented through MoE, MAFF, Ministry of Rural Development, and Wetlands International. The project is currently in the early start-up of the first phase (approx. 18 months), which focuses on wetland inventory. In the second phase (expected to start approx. early 1999) the project will shift to planning and implementation of wetland management, and will include a grant mechanism for supporting local NGOs in community development that will reduce pressures on wetlands. Where wetlands involve or are closely linked to forests, the project has potential for linking to other institutional efforts in community forestry, including training; however, it is too early in the project to identify specific areas of training collaboration. A formal training needs assessment is underway by the project, to be completed in early 1998. Perceived training needs to date include basic concepts of natural resource management, participation, project planning and management, and skills in communication and analysis.

DANIDA Environmental Management of the Coastal Zone Project

is implemented through MoE and Wetlands International. The project is currently nearing the end of an initial planning phase, due to end in May 1998; continuation of the project has not yet been confirmed. A
substantial portion of the coastal zone is forested and inhabited by communities that depend directly or indirectly on forest resources. The project has substantial potential for collaborating with other institutional efforts in community forestry, including training.

**IDRC Participatory Management of Mangrove Forest Resources Project,** initiated in mid-1997, provides technical and funding support to build capacity for integrated, community-based planning and management of coastal resources, especially in Koh Kong province where it has pilot activities in several districts. The project will emphasize participatory action research as a method for community resource management. The project works at the national level through MoE, at the provincial level through several departments, with several NGOs, and collaborates closely with the DANIDA Environmental Management of the Coastal Zone Project and IDRC Coastal Resources Research Network. The project has 8 full-time staff on the core team, plus many other participants in national, provincial, and local government, NGOs, and target communities. The project has substantial training needs, at several levels, in participatory resource assessment (incl. IK), planning, and management, appropriate for communities utilizing coastal areas, mangroves, and near-shore marine resources.

**EC Support Programme to the Environmental (SPEC)** provides technical and operational strengthening of environmental management in a number of key areas, including biodiversity conservation of wetlands and protected areas implemented through MoE, MAFF Department of Forestry (Wildlife Protection Office), and Wetlands International. The project began implementation in 1996 and will complete in September 1998, with a possibility for follow-on. The project has implemented training in basic concepts and basic field technical skills (map reading, etc.) of protected area management. Planned training includes basic concepts of community participation in wetland management (Tonle Sap) and buffer zone management (in conjunction with ETAP, IDRC, and possibly WWF). At present the project has approximately 15 staff (5 technical, 10 non-technical) in Bokor national park plus associated national-level staff. The project recognizes a significant need for to community forestry and related community-based resource management training, related to management of wetlands and protected areas. Specific training areas suggested included buffer zone management, non-timber forest products (such as traditional medicine and rattan), low-impact logging techniques, locally-adapted silviculture (management of secondary forest), and seedling production. The project also implicitly suggested applied policy training related to addressing major problems of encroachment on protected areas involving explicit or implicit support by other government institutions such as police and military. Information on community forestry and related training comes to the project on a highly ad hoc basis. The project recognizes a strong benefit to receiving information systematically about training opportunities.

**Oxfam/NOVIB NTFP Project** is a pilot project in Ratanakiri province (northeast Cambodia) aimed at enabling villages in one commune (Poey), comprised of ethnic hill-tribe people, to develop recognized rights and management systems for sustainable production of non-timber forest products from a 4500 ha forest in which these villages have long-established customary use. Assisted by the project, villages have identified customary boundaries and forest management guidelines. Provincial authorities have expressed moderate support for recognizing customary tenure and management rights. However, opposition to customary recognition is increasing from the national Forest Department and timber interests (including senior government, military, and business leaders) because recognition of customary rights would inhibit resource exploitation and profiteering by para-colonial interests. The project has training capacity to offer, drawing on its experience in customary forest demarcation and management. The project does not have major training needs but does need policy and advocacy support.

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**Footnotes**

1. Prepared by Doug Henderson, a community forestry specialist based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2. A variety of terms of terms are used in Asia to denote forest management in which local communities have
significant and sometimes primary responsibility, including community forestry, social forestry, joint forest management, village forestry, and participatory forest management. The term 'community forestry' is used in this report because it is widely used and recognised in Cambodia.

3. The Cambodia Environmental Management Project (CEMP), implemented by CARE, IDRC, PACT, WWF, and WRI, funded by USAID and the implementing organisations.

4. Only IDRC continued funding to community forestry committed under CEMP after July 1997.

5. Beyond small-scale and limited-term bridging funds provided by IDRC, as noted in the previous footnote.

6. EXT = Extension short course; PAS = Participatory Management of Protected Areas short course; PART = Participatory Approaches short course, in Nepal