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GREEN Mekong Program: Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong

Background: The forests of the Lower Mekong cover almost half of the region's area and provide vital socio-economic and environmental benefits to forest-dependent communities. However, they are increasingly under threat from multi-purpose land clearing, unsustainable logging and hunting, large-scale infrastructure development, forest fires and climate change impacts. Protecting forests has gained increased global attention as a cost-effective, long term approach for climate change mitigation. However, many failures in forest protection have occurred because local people's needs, aspirations, skills, knowledge and participation were not considered during decision making processes and implementation. In the Lower Mekong region, where millions of people remain highly dependent on forest resources, policies and strategies developed to protect forests, reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change will only succeed if actively involving local communities.

Overview: The USAID-funded Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong (GREEN Mekong) Program is implemented by RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests. The program develops the capacities of policy makers and grassroots stakeholders across the Lower Mekong region to engage effectively in national and regional multi-stakeholders processes related to forest-based climate change mitigation, while fostering regional cooperation, and promoting information sharing and networking.

Regional Approach: GREEN Mekong takes a regional approach in its capacity building, information sharing and policy related processes across the Lower Mekong countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, by sustaining regional learning and training events, and regional dialogue and communication platforms on equity in forest-based climate change mitigation.

Objectives: GREEN Mekong aims to strengthen policy makers and grassroots stakeholders' capacities to integrate and promote equity in forest-based climate change mitigation in national and regional institutions' programming, learning, policy dialogues and practices. Activities are designed to meet three specific objectives:

- Strengthening national and regional policy processes related to forest-based climate change mitigation by integrating equity;
- Strengthening capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote equity in forest-based climate change mitigation; and
- Increasing stakeholders' understanding of equity in forest-based climate change mitigation.

Duration: GREEN Mekong is a three-year program (October 2012 to September 2015).



GREEN Mekong targets the following key achievements:

- One regional learning policy platform in which grassroots stakeholders’ perspectives regarding equity in forests & climate change can be communicated, shared and understood by policy makers and implementers;
- At least two sets of policy recommendations addressing grassroots issues in forests & climate change generated and communicated in ASEAN regional policy forums and networks;
- Twenty civil society organizations from at least four countries trained on equity in forests & climate change and facilitation of grassroots stakeholders’ consultations;
- Ten civil society organizations from at least four countries directly supported to gather, formulate and communicate grassroots stakeholders’ perspectives on forests & climate change to policy makers in their respective geographies;
- At least 10,000 individuals with greater access to information on equity in forests & climate change;
- A specific emphasis on gender inclusion to achieve more equitable forests & climate change; and
- Enhanced national and regional networking to share findings and best practices in promoting equity in forests & climate change.



Contact:

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