





# CSOs/Local Community/Women/Ethnic Group Review of Draft Thailand Readiness-Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

## **Workshop Report**

7-8 March 2013 Centre Point, Wireless, Bangkok, Thailand

#### 1. CONTEXT

On March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, the USAID funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program and the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) co-hosted a workshop on "CSOs/Local Community/ Women/Ethnic Group Review of Draft Thailand Readiness-Preparation Proposal (R-PP)" at the Centre Point Wireless, in Bangkok. The workshop was attended by 30 representatives of CSOs/Local Community/Women's/Ethnic group representatives (hereafter referred to collectively as CSOs) including 11 women as well as representatives from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), LEAF and RECOFTC. The list of CSOs invited to attend was developed jointly by LEAF, the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) and DNP and all prospective participants from outside Bangkok were offered funding for travel and subsistence.

The overall objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with REDD+, present the Draft R-PP, and receive feedback and comments/input from stakeholders. Specific objectives were to:

- 1. Enable participants to review and provide input on the R-PP; and
- 2. Discuss adequacy of current arrangements for inclusion of civil society in REDD readiness and the possible creation of a REDD+ Civil Society Forum or other platform/s to facilitate the civil society engagement during the REDD+ readiness process.

The workshop concept note and agenda are included in Annex 1 although the agenda was not ultimately followed.

Many of the participants attending the meeting also attended a meeting in Bangkok on 6<sup>th</sup> March on "Improving Equity in National REDD+ Planning: Perspectives from Thailand's Civil Society." The meeting was co-hosted by LEAF and RECOFTC and analyzed Thailand's R-PP from a social perspective. Outputs from the meeting included a set of recommendations to be submitted to FCPF Participant's Committee and DNP.

This report summarizes the key viewpoints raised and discussed during the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> workshop. Points attributed to CSOs represent prominent viewpoints raised rather than a consensus.

#### 2. SUMMARY - DAY 1

A representative from LEAF opened the workshop and outlined goals and objectives. The FCPF representative then explained the role of the FCPF and purpose of the R-PP. Following introductions provided by individual participants, some CSOs expressed the opinion that criticisms of the process of R-PP development needed to be discussed and addressed before examining the contents of the R-PP. The criticisms centered on assertion that the public consultations were flawed. To accommodate this position, the workshop deviated from the original agenda. Key points raised are detailed in the following sections.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A rapporteur from the LEAF program was present for both days of the workshop, and a more detailed list of comments and views is available upon request.

#### 2.1 Summary of CSO concerns with the R-PP development process

- CSOs were not provided with sufficient information to become a part of the decision-making process;
- The latest version of the draft R-PP in Thai (205 pages) was sent to workshop participants the night before the workshop giving insufficient time for stakeholders to gain an understanding of the contents;
- Past public consultations did not reach out to some important sections of the population including some indigenous groups;
- During past consultations, the majority of time was spent on presenting the R-PP and there was insufficient time for participants to provide inputs;
- The R-PP development process did not meet the standard for information access under the
  Thai Constitution or regulation of the Prime Minister's Office on collating opinions and
  conducting public hearings, or principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC);
- The process to receive feedback through the internet excluded CSOs lacking the suitable equipment/technology.

DNP's efforts to elicit CSO inputs to the R-PP process were criticized and considered to be rendered meaningless by the alleged DNP practices including that of penalizing local communities for causing GHG emissions through forest clearance, with some lawsuits apparently already being processed. It was further argued that the flawed process has resulted in a biased R-PP which gives greater credence to DNP views while discounting views from CSOs and creating an environment of mistrust and suspicion. CSO stated that they were not confident that such a flawed process would not be extended during implementation of the R-PP. One CSO mentioned the drafting of Thailand Climate Change Master Plan 2011-2050, conducted by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, as a good example of stakeholder engagement that could be used as guidance for R-PP development. Participants from the DNP and FCPF stressed that an inclusive consultation process would occur during implementation of the R-PP, and that the R-PP document is simply meant as a roadmap detailing, amongst other things, how consultations and REDD-readiness activities will occur. DNP also stated that the R-PP process is a learning process for them and that they have time and budgetary limitations.

#### 2.2 Summary of CSO concerns with the content of the R-PP

In addition to the above points on the R-PP process, participating CSO representatives also expressed the opinion that the most recent Thailand R-PP draft is inaccurate and unjust, including points as follows:

 Definition of "forest" and referencing of "forest protection" and "forest dependent communities" in R-PP: CSO participants stated that in the R-PP, communities are viewed as forest resource users and DNP as the protector of forest. The term "forest-dependent communities" implied that community members depend on the forest. However, it was stated that everyone depends on forests and communities in or around forest area can be protectors of forests as well. The definition of forest is one proposed by the state, which is not accepted by some communities and groups;

- Indigenous groups and their rights were not mentioned in the R-PP;
- Conflict between DNP and communities is not mentioned in the R-PP;
- The context of local livelihoods (e.g. in relation to shifting cultivation) has not been taken into consideration in identifying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- One CSO representative raised concerns that the history of their organization is depicted inaccurately in the R-PP whereby the R-PP wrongfully gives credit to the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives for establishing the organization;
- The proposed REDD+ governance structures do not include an adequate number of CSO or indigenous group representatives;
- Policies and laws mentioned in the R-PP are those through which DNP can exercise control
  over forests, such as the Forest Act. However, other legal frameworks such as one stating
  that Tambol (sub-district) Administrative Organization can manage natural resources at local
  level or the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) were
  not mentioned.

Following these discussion, a representative from the DNP gave a presentation outlining the purpose of the R-PP and some of its content. This was followed by questions and answers.

Referring to concerns raised during the day, one CSO requested DNP to postpone presentation of the R-PP to the Participant Committee (PC) for at least two months so that civil society can be engaged to redraft the document such that it is acceptable to civil society. The FCPF representative stated that the date for submission of Thailand's R-PP to the PC had already been pushed back twice and that it would be unlikely that a third extension would be accepted. The DNP then stated that suggestions on both the R-PP content and process for stakeholder engagement would be integrated into the R-PP prior to the PC meeting. The FCPF representative clarified that, given time constraints and the fact that the PC has already received a draft of the R-PP for review, the CSO suggestions would probably only be included in an Annex to the R-PP at this stage rather than being incorporated into the body of the document. The FCPF representative also stated that, nonetheless, CSOs will still be able to fully engage in the process after the R-PP is presented in Washington DC on 19-22 March 2013. According to the FCPF, it is likely that even if the R-PP is approved, there would still be many adjustments to be made and suggestions from CSOs will be able to be incorporated in the next draft. The FCPF representative also offered to publish all comments on the FCPF website and ensure all PC members received comments directly before the meeting in Washington DC. Several CSO participants did not accept this offer, stated that their participation in the workshop would legitimate a flawed DNP-led R-PP process and chose not to participate in the rest of the workshop.

#### 3. SUMMARY - DAY 2

Although the CSO representatives who left the workshop on day one were not present for day two, the majority (11) did return. The original agenda was not followed on the second day but instead the workshop objectives shifted from reviewing the R-PP to designing a stakeholder engagement process accept able to the gathered CSO representatives. The session began with CSO representatives discussing principles of meaningful stakeholder engagement in the Thai context as outlined in the following section.

#### 3.1 Summary of principles for meaningful stakeholder engagement

- Openly provide information on REDD+ to all relevant sectors in society through multiple channels appropriate for all target groups;
- Information should be timely and channels for feedback should be open;
- There should be appropriate ways to access relevant target groups, for example though civil society and community networks for awareness-raising;
- Minutes of consultation workshops should be made public so that concerns or alternative views may be aired. After the consultation events are completed, there should be communication back to those who were consulted, showing the adjustments made;
- DNP should not be the sole host of public consultations and other organizations should be
  involved. As a result of holding a stake in the process, DNP may be biased. For example DNP
  views itself as the protector of forests and communities as dependent upon forest resources.
  However, the communities view the forest as a part of their way of life. They are codependent with the forest and also protect the forest;
- Government agencies should view the people as having the right to participate in decision-making. The R-PP will affect people so the state must ask for people's consensus. This could be accomplished in the form of an independent committee;
- Engagement should be multi-level, from community to regional level and include diverse sections of society including those with alternative views;
- FPIC should be practiced;
- Consensus decision-making should be used;
- There should be a committee for communicating and creating mutual understanding on R-PP related issues. The committee should be able to communicate with all stakeholders from community level to government department level;
- Adequate time should be given for stakeholders to express their views during consultation workshops.
- Debates should involve all sections of society including CSO, academia and state agencies.
- Bottom-up, people centered approaches should be used.
- Budget allocations in the R-PP should emphasize community involvement.

#### 3.2 Summary of concerns for DNP-led REDD+ implementation

Following the discussion of participation in the R-PP process, CSO representative raised further concerns about how REDD+ would be implemented in Thailand, particularly with the DNP as the lead agency. The following points were raised:

- Thailand's R-PP process should not be rushed but time should be taken to listen to communities and indigenous groups and support should be provided for them rather than just DNP, which has often been in conflict with communities. The FCPF representative responded by saying that Thailand has had over three years to formulate the R-PP and that FCPF does not provide a time line to countries since the R-PP is country driven.
- Communities still do not understand REDD+ and their role in mitigating climate change, i.e. if they are involved in a REDD+ project, will they be part of a mechanism that enables the developed world or companies to keep emitting GHGs?
- DNP has used national parks, watershed classifications and climate change to "manage" communities and evict people from their homes;
- Recently the DNP has been applying a "climate change" fine to punish communities for "encroaching" on forests. There have [allegedly] been fines of up to 134,000 baht per rai (\$28,000 per hectare). There is a concern that such fines could be used as an instrument in implementing REDD+ or that REDD+ would simply be used for DNP to exercise similar control;
- There are many past and current conflicts between community members and the government with army involvement - people are being convicted and killed and crops are being slashed. This is not reflected in the R-PP and these issues should be solved before moving forward;
- DNP and communities are in conflict. Giving all REDD+ responsibilities to DNP will alienate communities and other local institutions such as Tambol (sub-district) administrative organizations should be involved;
- Information should be neutral and REDD+ should not be forced upon communities.
   Information should be provided on, for example, what are the alternatives to REDD+?
- How will rights be guaranteed for indigenous groups and those who rely on forest resources?
- One representative stated the DNP involved community members (in the name of local consultation) in demarcating the forest area, then a law was passed and people were relocated.

#### 3.3 CSO Working Committee

Following the above discussion, participants proposed a CSO working committee to independently monitor the R-PP and REDD+ process in Thailand. The participants agreed on being part of the short-term committee to tackle immediate issues but in the long term, a proper membership selection process will be conducted.

The following principles, roles and responsibilities were proposed:

- Act independently (i.e. free of political or government intervention);
- Monitor development of R-PP implementation and REDD+ mechanism development together with their direct and indirect implications for communities and indigenous groups;
- Compile and disseminate news and information on REDD+ and how it affects communities;
- Consolidate views from communities and communicate back to the National REDD+ Committee;
- Study the R-PP and forest management in Thailand and propose changes;
- Propose solutions to conflict and support multi-sector collaboration in the future;
- Mediate between local, national and international REDD+ mechanisms;
- Coordinate with FCPF to propose for funding to support the establishment and activities of the committee;
- Membership should:
  - Not include government representatives for independence;
  - o Include ethnic minority group representatives;
  - o Include forest dependent communities representatives;
  - Include organizations that work on environment e.g. Treebank and other CSO representatives.

#### 4. NEXT STEPS

The short-term CSO Committee will expedite activities to be accomplished before the PC meeting in Washington DC on 19-22 March 2013. Another set of activities will then be conducted before the next PC meeting in June in Indonesia. The Committee will review various issues related to forest-dependent communities and indigenous groups and provide recommendations for the R-PP.

Activities to be undertaken before the PC meeting in Washington on 19-22 March 2013:

- Review R-PP;
- Finalize output from the 6 March 2013 meeting (organized by RECOFTC and LEAF) on equity in R-PP;
- Study the Bank Information Center's website to keep up to date with information related to REDD+ and the R-PP process;
- Draft a standpoint letter to be submitted to the PC and cc DNP;
- Contact the Bank Information Center to get the name of the CSO representative for Thailand so that s/he can be contacted in relation to inputs for and outcomes from the Washington meeting.

List of activities to be conducted before the PC meeting in Indonesia in June 2012:

- Conduct local level workshops to provide opportunities for community members to express their views, provide suggestions and analyze issues related to forest resource management.
- Conduct a national workshop for representatives from communities and CSOs to review and propose changes to the R-PP, the next draft of which will be submitted at the Indonesia meeting. Funding for these activities will be requested from FCPF and LEAF;
- Participate in public hearings to be organized by DNP.

Immediate next-steps following the workshop are:

- By 11 March, RECOFTC and LEAF will circulate draft workshop reports for the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7-8<sup>th</sup> workshops respectively;
- By 13 March, the CSO Committee will draft a letter in Thai to be sent to the PC. The letter will first be sent to RECOFTC or LEAF to be translated into English. By 15 March, the translation will be completed and returned to the committee for signature.
- Before 17 March, the CSO committee will send the letter to the PC with copy to DNP.

#### Annex 1 – Workshop concept note and agenda







#### **FCPF-LEAF Workshop:**

CSOs/Local Community/Women/Ethnic Group Review of Draft Thailand
Readiness-Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

March 7-8, 2013 · Bangkok, Thailand

#### **Background:**

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is helping build the capacity of developing countries (36) in tropical and subtropical regions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) as well as to tap into future system of financial incentives for REDD+.<sup>2</sup>

The Readiness Fund provides readiness preparation grants to REDD+ countries (up to \$3.8 million each) for the following activities:

- i. Preparing a national REDD+ strategy;
- ii. Establishing a reference level for forest emissions and forest cover;
- iii. Designing a national REDD+ monitoring system; and
- iv. Setting up national REDD+ management arrangements.
- v. Integrating environmental and social safeguards in REDD+
- vi. Ensuring broad based consultations and participation of relevant stakeholders, especially forest dependent Indigenous Peoples and other forest dwellers in decision making for REDD+.

The government of Thailand is one of the FCPF countries and has recently prepared their draft R-PP under DNP as the focal point for REDD+ in the country. Thailand will submit and present their R-PP requesting approval to the Participants Committee (consist of Donors and REDD+ Country Participants) of the FCPF in March 2013. Prior to this event, the World Bank in collaboration/partnership with the USAID funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) Program will be organizing a day and half workshop exclusively targeting representatives from CSOs and forest dependent local community groups, ethnic groups, and women and youth groups to enable them to review the draft R-PP and provide technical inputs into the relevant component of the R-PP.

LEAF is a five year USAID funded program engaging regional governments, forestry and climate mitigation specialists, and relevant stakeholders in capacity building focused on REDD+. The program's goal is to strengthen the capacity of targeted Southeast Asian countries to achieve meaningful and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry-land use sector

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more information on the FCPF, visit www.forestcarbonpartnership.org

and to allow these countries to benefit from the emerging international Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) framework.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Objectives:**

The World Bank in partnership with the USAID funded LEAF program will be hosting a one and a half day workshop to provide opportunity for CSOs and local community/ethnic groups engaged in the REDD+ process to review the Thailand R-PP draft and provide inputs into specific components of the document. The general objective is to familiarize the participants on REDD+, present the Draft R-PP, and receive feedback and comments/input from stakeholders.

Further, lessons from other REDD+ countries have shown that establishing national REDD+ civil society/indigenous peoples platforms has played an integral role in including the voices of civil society as REDD+ develops. Participants in the workshop will have the opportunity to provide feedback and advice on whether such a platform should be established in Thailand to facilitate engagement of Civil Society during the REDD+ readiness process.

Specific objectives are to:

- 1. Enable participants to review and provide input on the R-PP. Issues to be addressed include:
  - Consultation and participation
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation
  - REDD+ strategy options
  - Social and environmental issues
  - Inclusion of co-benefits and/or safeguards such as indigenous and women's rights in REDD+ monitoring systems
- 2. Discuss adequacy of current arrangements for inclusion of civil society in REDD readiness and the possible creation of a REDD+ Civil Society Forum or other platform/s to facilitate the civil society engagement during the REDD+ readiness process

#### **Workshop Methodology:**

The workshop will focus on interactive group exercises whereby participants will be divided into groups based on the components of the R-PP and discuss, review and provide comments and inputs. The recommendation from each group will be included in the R-PP.

#### **Outputs:**

The inputs provided will be incorporated directly into the relevant components of the R-PP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For more information on LEAF, visit www.leafasia.org

## World Bank /LEAF Funded Workshop: CSOs/Local Community/Women/Ethnic Group Review of Draft Thailand Readiness-Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

	Day 1 – 07 March 2013	
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:15	Welcome and Introduction to workshop	
09:15-09:30	Participant introductions	
9:30-9:45	Workshop format and ground rules	LEAF Representative
09:45-10:00	Coffee/tea	
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation on Thailand's R-PP	DNP Representative
11:00 - 11:40	Q&A session and panel discussion on Thailand's R-PP	
11:40 – 13:00	Breakout into four groups based on components of R-PP. Groups will focus on the inclusion of the following activities:	Groups facilitated by LEAF/RECOFTC Representatives
	With these issues in mind, each work group will review one of the following components of the R-PP:  Component 1: Organize and Consult (1 group)  Focus areas: Institutional arrangements, consultations and stakeholder engagement	
	<ul> <li>Component 2a-2b: Prepare the REDD+ Strategy (1 groups)</li> <li>Focus areas: Drivers and underlying causes of D&amp;D, REDD+ strategy options</li> <li>Component 2b-2c: Prepare the REDD+ Strategy (1 groups)</li> </ul>	
13:00 – 14:30	<ul> <li>Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness         Preparation, REDD+ Implementation framework</li> <li>Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring         and Information on Safeguards (1 group)</li> <li>Focus areas: Designing an Information System for Multiple         Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards     </li> <li>Lunch</li> </ul>	
14:30 - 16:30	Continue Group work	Groups
16:30 - 18:00	Group presentations and plenary discussion/feedback	

	Day 2 – 08 March 2013	
09:00-10:45	Reconvene in groups and prepare presentations to DNP on key issues/areas which should be reflected in the R-PP	Groups
10:45-11:00	Coffee/tea	
11:00-13:00	Presentations to DNP	Groups
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00–15:00	Summary of workshop findings with representative from CSO and representative from DNP	
15:00	Closing	

### Venue and timing:

The workshop will be held on 07-08 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Venue is TBD, but will be hosted at the same venue as the GREEN-Mekong workshop on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Contacts:**

#### **LEAF Program**

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Luke Pritchard

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#### **World Bank**

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## **Annex 2 – Workshop Participants**







# การประชุมเชิงปฏิบัติการ การทบทวนข้อเสนอในการเตรียมความพร้อมต่อกลไกเรคค์พลัส (R-PP) สำหรับประเทศไทยโดยภาคประชาสังคม

### Sign-In Sheet

วันที่ 7 มีนาคม 2556

Name	Signature
LEAF	
Jeremy Broadhead	34
Luke Pritchard	
Kalpana Giri	Journa 4
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Prasnee Tipraqsa	
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Regan Suzuki	my-
Kyle Lemle	
Etienne Delattre	
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THE WORLD BANK	
Haddy Sey	Jameston/
Chutima Lowattanakarn	Chha
Supapohn Kanwerayotin	SK,
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วันถี ชื่นเกาะสมุย	Tree bank group	Tus
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ตระกูล สว่างอารมณ์	Eastern Community Forestry Network	-/
กิตติศักดิ์ รัตนกระจ่างศรี	Indigenous People Foundation for education and environment (I.P.F.)	AK
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บุญธิดา เกศุสมบูรณ์	Rak Thai Foundation	00
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ตือนใจ นุชดำรงค์	Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office	1
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### Sign-In Sheet

วันที่ 8 มีนาคม 2556

Name	Signature
LEAF	
Jeremy Broadhead	32
Luke Pritchard	
Kalpana Giri	Present
Rattiya Songkhramwongsakul	Prosent Rati S.
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Chanin Chiumkanokchai	Cous.
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Regan Suzuki	
Kyle Lemle	
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Chanida Bamford	the Company







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นายสุพจน์ ทองเสมียน	Tree bank group	
ตระกูล สว่างอารมณ์	Eastern Community Forestry Network	
กิตติศักดิ์ รัตนกระจ่างศรี	Indigenous People Foundation for education and environment (I.P.F.)	
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นวพล คีรีรักษ์สกุล	Karen Network for Culture and Environment (KNCE)	302
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ศักดา แสนมี	Inter Mountain Peoples' Education and Culture in Thailand Association	
ไวยิ่ง ทองบื้อ	Wisdom of Ethnic Foundation	Mr
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เตือนใจ นุชคำรงค์	Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office	
สุเมธ สิงห์ขวา	Sustainable Development Foundation	-
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