

UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

1. ***Name of candidate:*** Dr Yam Malla
2. ***Name of organization:*** RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
3. ***Title:*** Executive Director
4. ***Country:*** Thailand
5. ***Languages Spoken:*** English, Nepalese, Hindi, and Punjabi
6. ***Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.***

RECOFTC aims to scale up the quality and quantity of community managed forests in the Asia-Pacific to see widespread sustainable forest management - meaning stronger local livelihoods and optimized forest environmental services, including carbon sequestration.

Functionally, the Center has spent over 20 years building the capacity of many thousands of stakeholders at all levels to establish new, and improve existing, community forestry. Our training programs focus on community forestry implementation, and topics such as governance, conflict transformation, facilitation, and recently, REDD. Training is delivered regionally, nationally, and at the project level. Complementing the training, we analyze and research current issues relating to people and forests, with a particular focus on climate change, benefits, poverty-reduction, rights, natural resource conflict, and forest governance. Our country programs are where we directly work with government, local stakeholders, and civil society groups to make effective community forestry an on-the-ground reality. The lessons learned from our training, analysis, and country programs are combined with those from our partners, and are shared throughout the region and beyond via our function as a community forestry knowledge hub.

Our primary constituency is the 450 million forest-dependent people in the Asia-Pacific region. While we do work directly with communities in-country, we multiply our reach to them via partnering/collaborating with grassroots and other civil society groups, national governments and NGOs, intergovernmental bodies, and key regional and global initiatives. Examples include Thailand's National CF Assembly, the Global Alliance of Community Forestry, ASEAN Social Forestry Network, and the Rights and Resources Initiative.

Our mandate for work is the Asia-Pacific region. Within this we focus efforts in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. We also do considerable work in Lao PDR and Nepal, and further afield in Tanzania and Ethiopia. We attract stakeholders from all over the region and beyond to our training events and other learning and sharing fora.

7. ***Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.***

We ensure community and civil society experience and viewpoints are shared regionally and internationally. It is an essential part of our mandate. A few recent examples include organizing the [First Regional Forum for People and Forests: Carbon Financing and Community Forestry](#). During the event, Indigenous People's and national civil society representatives were present and directly

shared their views with influential national climate change policy-makers, international organizations, and private sector participants. Since then, their views, and those of the other stakeholders, are being shared globally via media, international newsletters, and other networks including those of grassroots' groups. The key outputs are being translated into national languages for further reach. At COP-14 in Poznan, we led a delegation of national civil society representatives from the South so they could directly present their own views. A series of RECOFTC organized Decoding REDD Workshops in 2009 have brought together government and civil society stakeholders in the region, to share perspectives and build understanding on REDD. RECOFTC has a dedicated communications team that ensures viewpoints and knowledge are strategically shared.

8. *Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forest in response to climate change, including REDD.*

RECOFTC works closely with a number of multilateral agencies, including: World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, International Tropical Timber Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Social Forestry Network, as well as CGIAR centers such as CIFOR and ICRAF. RECOFTC was established with support from FAO and ADB, and Dr. Malla is a member of the World Bank External Advisory Group on Forests, and a member of the ITTO Civil Society Advisory Group.

All of RECOFTC's work revolves around the social and environmental issues related to forests. Poverty-reduction, governance, conflict, climate change, rights, markets, equitable benefit-sharing are among the social-environmental themes and topics that shape our entire program.

For the role of forestry in response to climate change, RECOFTC has led innovative and important regional activities including the aforementioned Forum and USAID-funded Decoding REDD Workshop series. We are developing a grassroots REDD capacity building program for local stakeholders (initially funded by SDC and now by Norad), and we coordinate Asia work for the ODI-led REDD-Net initiative which complements our existing work disseminating knowledge on carbon-financing and climate change. With observer status to the UNFCCC and other networks, we ensure the lessons from all these activities are heard loud and clear, emphasizing more than just the role of forests in climate change, but also the essential role of local people as managers of these forests.

9. *Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.*

Via funding support from Norad, Sida, and SDC, we have conducted climate change forest-related activities, including on REDD, for UN-REDD pilot countries: Indonesia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, and Tanzania.