



Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme

Conflict Management for Natural Resource Management

At the request of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP), RECOFTC delivered a customised training on Conflict Management for Natural Resources Management to 21 participants from 13 to 19 February 2006 at Dong Thap Guest House, Dong Thap, Viet Nam. Participants included programme staff and partners.

The specific objectives were as follows, to:

- Increase participants understanding and knowledge about conflicts and why they arise;
- Provide skills, tools and processes for managing conflict in natural resource management;
- Increase the understanding of how processes and outcomes of collaborative natural resource management and conflict are related, thereby promoting the concept of local people's participation in natural resource management; and
- Provide opportunities for participants to share experiences and ideas on conflict management.

The course covered topics such as: defining conflict as a process; overview of conflict and collaboration in natural resource management (with specific reference to the MWBP field sites); conflict analysis tools; options in conflict management; broadening stakeholder engagement – moving from positions to interests; and supporting negotiations and building agreements.

The training approach was based upon the RECOFTC international training program in “Conflict Management for NRM” and supplemented from a more recent FAO publication, “Negotiation and Mediation Techniques for NRM”. The material, examples and leading discussion questions were adjusted to suit the context and requirements of the participants and the MWBP.



Overall, the training was successful. The majority of participants gained knowledge, skills and processes that can be applied in their own work. The participants also indicated that the training met the stated training objectives as well as their own expectations. The group was excellent to work with: good humored, relaxed, energetic and eager to learn. They were also very experienced and knowledgeable about the complexity of their field sites which provided an excellent base to build upon.

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