

THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

Steering Committee Member



Tint Lwin Thuang

Title: Executive Director
Organization: RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests
Location: Thailand
Nationality: Myanmarian
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SC since: 2016

Bio: Dr. Thuang is a Myanmar-born Australian national who has more than 26 years of professional experience in forest management, forest research, and community forestry. He is currently employed as a Training and Institutional Development Advisor with The Nature Conservancy, led Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) Program and headquartered at the IUCN Regional Office for Asia in Bangkok.

Dr. Thuang has worked extensively in the region with particular focus on Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Australia, and Myanmar, where he began his career as a national park warden, moving up to become Country Program Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society and Deputy Country Coordinator for SWISSAID-Myanmar. Dr. Thuang has had a long association with RECOFTC, and community involvement in forest management has been a consistent focus in his professional practice.

His recent work with the RAFT Program has included assisting communal forestland holders participating in conservation land use planning initiatives in Papua New Guinea achieve fair trade certification for their conservation-friendly products, as well as promoting the wider use of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) analysis and planning to identify and protect areas of key social significance to communities living in and near timber concession areas. Dr. Thuang has also been the principal interlocutor between the RAFT Program and RECOFTC with the development of regional learning networks on REDD+ and participatory planning and conflict management. In addition, he has played an active role in facilitating RAFT support for the work of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), including its support for a regional Forest Deans Process to improve forestry curricula and teaching practice in Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. Thuang moved to Australia in 1998 to undertake his PhD studies with a scholarship from the World Bank and returned as a freelance researcher in 2006 to undertake research on forestry issues on the Myanmar-China border with funding from the Mac Arthur Foundation. Dr. Thuang subsequently became a policy advisor in the Australian Government's Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Dr. Thuang also served as an Asia-Pacific regional forest conservation coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's Indo-Pacific resource centre in Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Thuang's recent publications include contributions to the FAO Regional Outlook Studies on "Forest Policies, Legislation and Institutions in Asia and the Pacific: Trends and Emerging needs for 2020" and "Promoting Conservation-Compatible Enterprises in Papua New Guinea Forests Through Fair Trade."

