

Conservation Area Landscape Management

Establishing conservation areas through landscape management
in the northern plains of Cambodia (CALM)



Background

There is a great sense of urgency for actions to address Cambodia's environment and energy challenges. Deforestation and soil degradation are serious issues which erode productivity of the landscape, while land grabbing and open access to natural resources are further depleting natural capital.

More than 84 percent of primary energy in Cambodia is provided by fuel wood. Less than 9 percent of rural households have access to grid quality electricity. Almost all people in rural areas use firewood for cooking, kerosene for lighting, and lead-acid rechargeable batteries for household appliances. In general, energy use is inefficient, inconvenient, costly and environmentally unsustainable.

Sustainable land use, access to natural resources, forest and fishery conservation in critical landscapes such as the Tonle Sap, Cardamom Mountain Range, the Upper Mekong and the Northern and Eastern Plains are critical to rural poverty reduction. The promotion of rural energy and energy efficiency are also crucial to rural poverty reduction and sustaining the economic growth of the country.

Purpose of project

The project is working toward the effective conservation of the key components of the biodiversity of Cambodia's Northern Plains landscape by enhancing national and local capacities to conserve an area of approximately 400,000 hectares of dry forest in the Northern Plains of Cambodia. The Northern Plains of Cambodia are the largest remaining extensive block of a unique landscape of exceptional global importance for biodiversity conservation. The area is a refuge for key populations of 36 species on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List, including six listed as critically endangered.

Key results and reports

- 70 families experienced a sustained improvement in cash income as a direct consequence of the project's initiatives in 2007
- Two Commune Development Plans have included conservation activities, one Environmental and Social Impact Assessments has been completed, two village land-use plans (including conservation priorities) have been completed in 2007
- Two villages have received community tenure or title over agricultural and residential land in 2007
- Incentive scheme contracts have been established with one village and 50 families in 2006

Main activities

- Social and ecological research and assessment
- Land use zoning, participatory land use planning, land use mapping, and development of protected areas management plans
- Setting up management structures for site conservation areas and equipping them with adequate staff and conservation facilities
- Training and public awareness raising
- Field forest and wildlife monitoring and forest and protected areas law enforcement
- Community engagement through incentive schemes and village agreements in forest protection and wildlife conservation and protected areas management
- Development of financial mechanisms for long-term conservation of the areas

Contributing donor(s)

- **UNDP:** US\$460,000
- **Global Environment Fund (GEF):** US\$2,510,000
- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS):** US\$1,360,000

Duration

2006-2012 (this project is under implementation)

Total budget

US\$4,330,000

Project Partners

Executing agency: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - NGO Implementation

Co-operating agencies: Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Administration)
Ministry of Environment (Department of Nature Conservation and Protection)

Project delivery

2006: US\$423,913

2007: US\$499,490

Location

Approximately 400,000 ha of dry forest in the Northern Plains of Cambodia, covering parts of the provinces of Steung Treng, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Energy and Environment

UN Country Programme Outcome: 3.5: Governments and local communities empowered to better manage biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides

Millennium Development Goal

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Contact

UNDP Programme Officer: Dr. Michael Quinn, Biodiversity Specialist
UNDP, No. 53, Street 51, Phnom Penh, + (855) 23 216 167
michael.quinn@undp.org
www.un.org.kh/undp/