

conservation agreements private partnership platform

CAMBODIA - Protecting forests and improving lives

ACTIVE
until Dec. 2019

With the world's fifth-fastest rate of deforestation, Cambodia's forest cover decreased from 72 percent in 1973 to 48 percent in 2014. In particular, Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary (PLWS) and the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park (CCMNP) face widespread land conversion and poaching driven significantly by poverty, population growth and poor law enforcement. This complexity of challenges requires a multifaceted response—one that is innovative, actionable and replicable.

Through “conservation agreements,” Conservation International Cambodia is working with three communities of CCMNP and 9 communities of PLWS to facilitate innovative private sector relationships that blend enhanced livelihoods with conservation; expanding community income opportunities through capacity and market development; deepening policy engagement; and building local partner capacity to implement and sustain conservation agreements. As of July 2018, the conservation agreement is in the design and negotiation stage and a draft has been co-developed with the communities.

What is a “conservation agreement”?

It is a deal between a community and a group or person funding a conservation project. In exchange for making specific conservation commitments, communities receive benefits from the funder.

THE COMMUNITIES AGREE TO:

- Establish an oversight committee to enable community-led resource management
- Sustainable management of key resource areas, including the riparian zone and upper catchment
- End agricultural expansion into forested areas beyond established boundaries
- No hunting or poaching for commercial trading
- No illegal logging or timber trading

IN RETURN FOR:

- Diversification of income opportunities from non-timber forest products, ecotourism and agroforestry products
- Improved market access including capacity building on packaging, business planning, marketing and linking with the private sector
- Agricultural training to increase production from existing landholdings to reduce forest encroachment
- Ecotourism investments

INVESTMENT

CAPPP: \$277,775

Asia Development Bank: \$278,894

IMPLEMENTER

Conservation International

Cambodia Conservation International Cambodia has worked to protect forests and freshwater systems since 2001 and, with a close working relationship with the Royal Government, aims to be a recognized leader in developing sustainable finance solutions to secure nature for future generations of Cambodians.

PARTNERS

Krassna Management Pvt. Ltd.

- Responsible for the marketing of non-timber forest products and focused on the Aquilaria/agarwood components

Fauna and Flora International

- Leads on livelihood components, e.g. extracting essential oils from lemongrass and poultry production

The University of Pretoria Mnisi Community Programme

- Facilitates the links between rangeland management and livestock disease as part of the market access incentive package

Save Cambodia's Wildlife

- Local NGO focused on eco-tourism and institutional development



RESULTS TO DATE

- Ecotourism committee formed and operational
- Training conducted on agarwood and development of agarwood demonstration plot
- Sub-national government involved in the design and structure of the conservation agreement
- Communities linked to the private sector for the procurement of fruit, vegetables and non-timber forest products, including cardamom, lemongrass and agarwood

MONITORING

The project's approaches to environmental and socio-economic monitoring are:

Sentinel sites: Bio-physical monitoring is built around geo-referenced sampling points in a spatially stratified, randomized design to help estimate trends in the larger geographic scope. The surveys, conducted every three months, seek information about numbers of tree and wildlife species, levels of disturbance and land cover. In Tatey Leu, nine sites were selected and thus far, two surveys have been conducted in February and May 2018.

Village- and household-level surveys: Starting in September 2018, data will be collected using tablets every six months from randomly selected households.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Several private sector partners with varying roles are engaged with this project. Krassna Management focuses on the Aquilaria/ agarwood component by providing technical training to local communities, treating the crops and marketing non-timber forest products NTFPs. Bodia and Green Garden buy other NTFPs, including vegetables. These companies also conduct products testing and provide technical recommendations for improved quality.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Based on CI Cambodia's previous experience implementing conservation agreements, a new strategy is needed to adjust to the current situation and needs, which is searching for a more sustainable agriculture approach and linking the agreement to provincial authorities. Next steps will include finalization of the conservation agreement, with inclusion of Provincial authorities and the completion of efforts to transfer the forest management institutions from Community Forestry to Community Protected areas.



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