



UNDP Brief Progress Report to the TWG-F&E January – May 2005

UNDP in partnership with GEF, UNF and international NGOs such as FFI, CI, WCS etc is assisting the Royal Government of Cambodia to protect, management and conserve Cambodia's critical ecosystems to contribute the achievement of CMDGs for sustainable development and poverty reduction. The key critical ecosystems under the support of UNDP Energy and Environment Program are:

- Cardamom Mountain Protected Forest and Wildlife Sanctuaries,
- Conservation Areas through landscape management in the Northern Plains of Cambodia.
- Biodiversity Conservation of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Areas

The most active project at present dealing forest protection and biodiversity conservation is the Cardamom Mountain Protected Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary Project, while other two are in the stage of finalization of the project document or in the project inception phase respectively. Under the Cardamom project, the FFI/MOE wildlife sanctuary component is still on going until October 2006. The fund for this component in combination with the support from EC has created an FFI managed project called Cardamom Mountain Wildlife Conservation Project (CMWCP).

UNDP is pleased to report the progress of the project component against the key relevant activities as indicated in the TGW work plan of 2005. There are 4 relevant activities for reporting as following:

- Practical implementation of forest demarcation and demarcation of protected areas.
- Develop management plans for protected areas;
- Assess and test out "partnership forestry" in pilot communes as a alternative form of forest management and a mechanism for forest revenues to contribute to local development.
- Sustainably increase forest incomes and environment services in consistent with the real forestry potentials

1. Boundaries and Demarcation

a. External Boundaries.

- With support from CMWSP, DNCP under the direction of the Director of the DNCP (Mr. Chay Samith) has conducted boundary consultations in every district according to its own procedures for PAWS and PSWS and the official boundaries have been digitised and entered on formal 1:100,000 scale maps by the GIS Department in MoE, again with project support. These final maps are being circulated for signing to provincial governors and the Senior Minister.
- Once approved the project will circulate official copies of the maps to all relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- As soon as this is done, the project will support physical marking of boundaries of both Sanctuaries; the project plans to employ local people to make the boundary markers, which will then be installed by Protected Area staff and rangers. Markers will be sited at all main access points and at regular intervals



on flat land for the entire boundaries of each Sanctuary. More detailed information boards will be placed at main road entrances.

b. Internal Boundaries and Zoning

CMWSP has undertaken a zoning process for both PSWS and PAWS as follows

1. Biophysical analysis leading to proposal map of CORE and CONSERVATION zones.
2. Mapping of known land designations e.g. community protected areas and concessions.
3. Baseline socio economic assessments of every village in PAWS and PSWS (111 villages).
4. Analysis of aerial photographs to satellite images to identify land currently used for settlement and permanent agriculture in order to identify draft COMMUNITY ZONES
5. Meetings in every village in the sanctuaries to discuss and explain the zoning process, conduct participatory mapping, identify important resource and agricultural areas, discuss village boundaries and community protected areas.
6. Digitisation of all results to produce a draft map showing the CORE ZONE, the CONSERVATION ZONE, the COMMUNITY ZONE and the SUSTAINABLE USE ZONE (SU). The SU zone has been almost entirely allocated to Community Protected Areas. We feel that it is unwise to leave land in the PA as General SU zones as this may be interpreted as an open door for unrestricted development.
7. There are in both sanctuaries areas which have been allocated as concessions or where we think major development will occur. These will have to be negotiated on a case by case basis, but this can only be done when full disclosure of all concessions and plans is completed.
8. Digitisation and publication of draft maps

This is the stage where the project is right now. The next stage is to gain MoE endorsement for the provisional zones and to support a series of final consultations with communities. Once all this is agreed, zone boundaries will be marked and a full management plan for each protected area will be developed for each Sanctuary during 2005/6.

Within the designated CPAs and community zones (agricultural areas) in the Wildlife Sanctuaries CMWSP will provide technical advice and support for establishment of CPA committees and development of livelihood activities. The project has around \$150,000 to invest directly in community works. The project will seek partnerships with specialist rural development NGOs to assist this process.

2. Develop management plans for protected areas

The following management planning activities have taken place

- Baseline biophysical surveys and mapping of habitats and key species distributions. These will result in a detailed biophysical site description.
- Baseline assessments of all local communities. This will lead to a detailed socio economic description.
- Boundary delineation (see above)
- Identification of provisional management zones (see above)
- GIS mapping of all the above by the MoE GIS lab.
- Initial discussion and consultation with local community and local stakeholders have been conducted.



These activities provide the foundation for the site management plan. These will be developed by April 2006, based on the 13 stage process identified by the BPAMP project:

1. Planning Team Selection
2. Orientation Workshop
3. Background Information Collection
4. Field Reconnaissance
5. Scoping Workshop
6. Key Stakeholder Consultation
7. Planning Workshop
8. Writing the Draft Management Plan
9. Developing a Financial Plan.
10. Public Consultation on the Draft Management Plan
11. Revision of Draft Management Plan
12. Approval of Draft Management Plan
13. Typesetting, Printing and Distribution of Management Plan

3. Sustainable increase forest incomes and environment services in consistent with the real forestry potentials

4. Assess and test out “partnership forestry” in pilot communes as an alternative form of forest management and a mechanism for forest revenues to contribute to local development

Work towards both of these objectives is focused around allocation of land for community management.

There are about 34,500 residents living inside and adjacent to the two wildlife sanctuaries. Access right of local community to sustainable use of natural resources is being promoted through the ongoing efforts of Participatory Land Use Planning and protected areas zoning planning.

Through this process, and based on the ecological considerations and community management capacity the project is proposing the following allocations to allow sustainable community livelihoods.

Tentative Zoning Allocations for Phnom Aural and Phnom Samkos WS

	Phnom Aural WS	Phnom Samkos WS
Total Area of Sanctuary	253, 800 ha	333, 800 ha
Total resident population	17,500	17,000
Area proposed for the Community Zone (for residence, community facilities and permanent agriculture).	7,431 ha (2.9%)	7,100 ha (2.1%)
Number and area of current community protected areas (land allocated for community forest management)	3 ; 5,671 ha	4; 2,942 ha
Number and total area of additional intended community protected areas	18; 10,464 ha	15; ca 8,000 ha
Total Intended CPAs	21; 16,135 ha	19; 10,942 ha



	6.3%	3.3%
Total proposed land allocated to community control	23,566 ha (9.2%) approx 1.3ha per person	18,042 ha (5.4%) Approx 1.06 ha per person

In both Sanctuaries therefore more than 1ha per resident will be allocated to community control. The larger allocation in Phnom Aural is mainly due to the poorer soils in the area.

The project is planning to invest resources into establishing management committees, training and supporting communities to manage CPAs sustainably for subsistence and, if viable, for sustainable NTFP production

4. Sustainably increase forest incomes and environment services in consistent with the real forestry potentials

The project plans to conduct economic valuation and sustainable financing mechanism assessment for the two wildlife sanctuaries before 2005. Capacity building, participatory approach and consultation are part of the process.
