



Community Forestry Development in Northwestern Cambodia (GCP/CMB/026/NZE)



I. Background for community forestry in northwestern areas

- The total of 2,332,453 ha (roughly 13% of the total area of the country) is counted for the northwestern Cambodia. From this area 1,362,932 ha are estimated to be forested (2005).

From which:

| | <u>Total area</u> | <u>Area forested</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Siem Reap | 1,054,442 ha | 588,598 ha (56%) |
| Oddar Meanchey | 663,167 | 558,182 (84%) |
| Banteay Meanchey | 614,844 | 216,152 (35%) |



- FAO has worked in Siem Reap in Phase III of the project “Participatory Natural Resources Management in the Tonle Sap region” (whole project cycle 1995-2005) including forestry issues. This project was first to introduce the concept of community based natural resources management and based on the knowledge gained from this project, have had impact for the whole country (regarding establishment of new community organizations and direct contribution to formulation of new policy and legislation in both fisheries and forestry sector, formulation of technical guideline, sub-decree and other proclamation related to CBNRM).
- 500,000 ha of commercial fishing grounds were released to local communities in 12 provinces. By the end of 2004, 40 community forestry sites were established comprising of 70 villages in Siem Reap province.



- By the end of year 2005, total of 44 CF sites including 83 villages have been established in Siem Reap province (extension for 13 already approved). The management area under these CF sites covers 20,000 ha of forest area. 50 new communities have requested to be included as new CF sites from FA
- Deforestation rate is high in Cambodia (primary forest cover declined from 456,000ha (2000) to 322,000ha (2005))
- Community Forestry Sub-decree established and approved in 2003; the National Community Forestry Program is being revised after the national workshop in Dec-2005
- More work needed in CFs:
 - assisting communities in development of management plans
 - silvicultural options for deforested areas
 - harvesting and marketing of wood products and NTFPs
 - account and record keeping (incl. benefit distribution) in CF
 - ME



- Strategy for the coming years (North Tonle Sap Inspectorate):
 - Involve directly CFs with national level in formulation of legal framework under community forestry sub-decree through bringing field experiences (learning by doing) from new project
 - Community forestry selection needs to be based on the request from local communities through integration planning workshop at commune, district and provincial level (workshop to be organized by provincial governor)
 - Income generation activities within CF that are classified as high priority e.g. rural credits, thinning



- Facilitation for local community in implementation of community forestry management planning which reviewed and finalized by previous projects.
- Currently 2 larger projects in Siem Reap that involve community forestry: Danida's CCBNRM/SEILA: the projects provide financial support to Siem Reap FA to implement CF activities.
- Siem Reap FA has been working with Danida Tree Seed project to empower community to protect and utilize their forest resources and seed source under community management



II. FAO project and future implementation plan

- Project funding from NZAID: total funding 350,000US\$ for the 2 years project cycle period
- New project build up on the experiences gained from the previous project (GCP/CMB/008/BEL)
- Immediate objectives for the project:

I. Strengthen CF establishment

- Output 1: Legal recognition of established CF sites
- Output 2: Implementation of management plans
- Output 3: Commercial management of community forests
- Output 4: Expansion of CF within Siem Reap province
- Output 5: Increased awareness of CF and its role in local development
- Output 6: Institutional collaboration and community forestry networks (integration of CF in Seila/decentralization project)



II. CF establishment in Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey

- Output 7: Trained FA staff
- Output 8: Establishment of CF units in each divisional forestry office (within cantonment of Siem Reap)
- Output 9: Training in community resource management provided to MoE and MAFF staff

III. Institutional strengthening and local/regional capacity building

- Output 10: Establishment division level community resource management units (within cantonment of Siem Reap)
- Output 11: Training in community resource management (staff MoE and MAFF)
- Output 12: Organizing study tours and training workshops (local authorities, CC and NGOs)



• **Upcoming project activities:**

- A1: Training & capacity building
- A2: Institutional collaboration
- A3: Extension & communication
- A4: Provision of technical support
- A5: Expansion of CF sites & facilitation of approval processes (new CF areas in Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey)
- A6: Establish and strengthen district-level CF facilitation
- A7: Preparation & implementation of CF management plans
- A8: Draft standardized guideline for development & implementation of CF
- A9: Address commercial management issues in CF
- A10: NTFPs processing and marketing
- A11: Strengthening CBNRM in protected areas with MoE
- A12: Strengthen environmental education and improved communication strategies



Issues to be addressed:

- limited capacity of trained staff (policy environment and increasing demands from communities, report writing)
- ineffective implementation of existing laws and policies due to lack of operational guidelines, trained human resources & institutional capacity (provincial FA)
- limited access of local communities to information about legal trends, activities and procedures concerning CF, lack of recognition of CF management planning

Current status of the project schedule:

- National Project Director nominated by MAFF
- selection of National Consultant this week
- work plan to be developed with FA