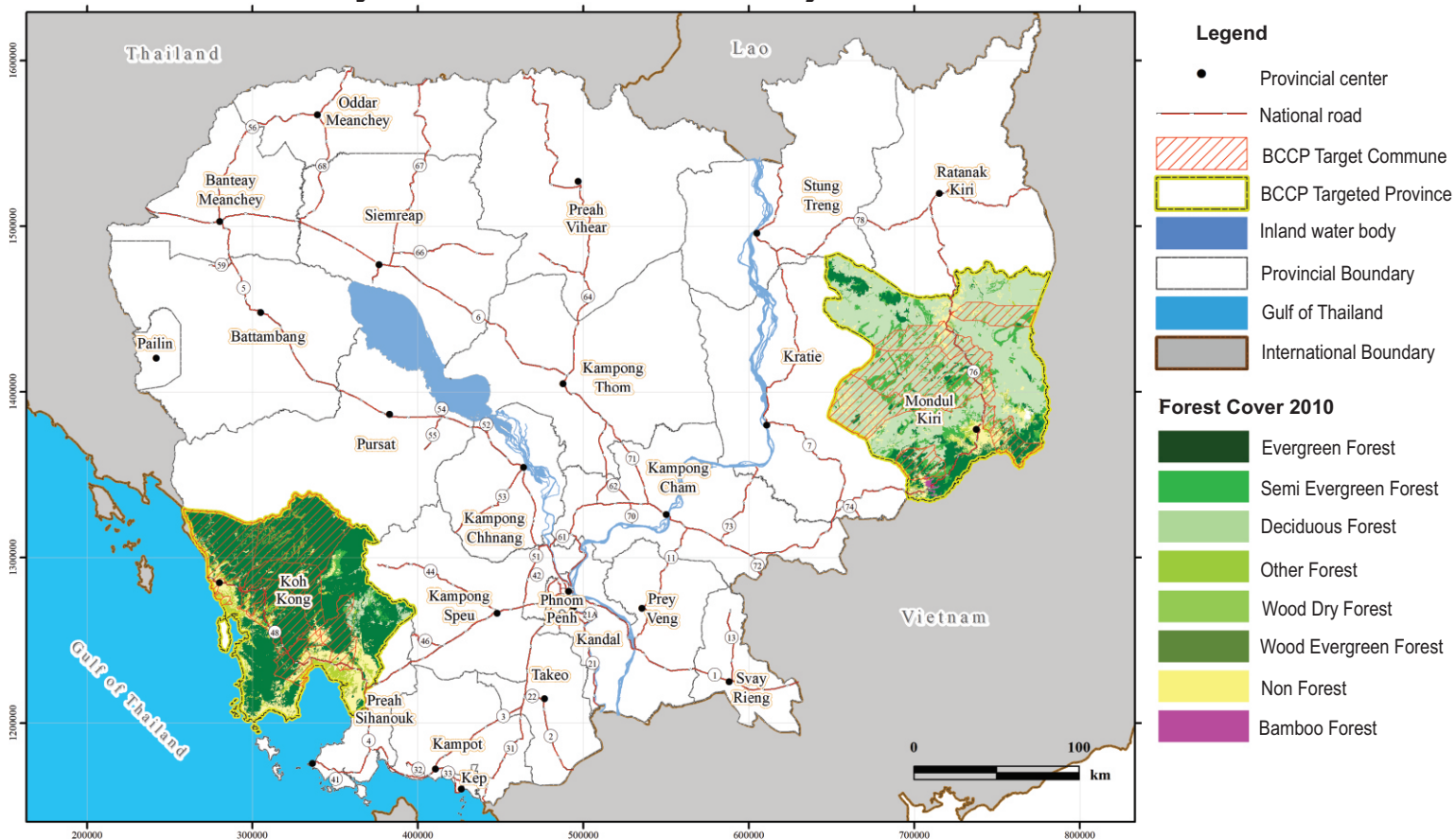


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 ប្រព័ន្ធប្រជាប្រិយភូមិសាស្ត្រ**
**PROJECT No. 40253
 ADB GRANT No. 0241-CAM (SF)
 & 0426-CAM (SCF)**
GMS BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CORRIDORS PROJECT

GMS's Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Project in Cambodia



Target Community Forest in Mondul Kiri (10): O' Glao; Krong Puk D.A; Trapeang Ka Eum; O' Chong Nach; O Khloe; Diarotab kes kab Chong Long; Pou Les (Ping Pong Khlong Pes Tho); Sre Preah; Nglav Krach; O Pong Rong;

Target Community Forest in Koh Kong (4): Ruessie Chhrum; Ta Tayleu; Thma Dunpov; Samaki Prekchik.

Impact and Outcome

The intended impact of the Project is climate resilient, sustainable forest ecosystems that provide income and employment to project households in the biodiversity corridors of Cambodia. The intended outcome is sustainably managed biodiversity corridors in Cambodia.

Executing Agencies:



Financing by:



GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project ABD GRANT No. 0241-CAM (SF)

The Project enhances the management of forest ecosystems in the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The GMS Governments, with support from ADB, have identified the most important biodiversity conservation landscapes in the GMS that are vulnerable to increased development pressures and environmental degradation. In Cambodia, the Project will address the fragmentation of the biodiversity rich forest landscapes of Koh Kong and Monduliri provinces that may impair their ability to provide critical ecosystem services necessary for sustaining local livelihoods and investments in hydropower, transport, water and food-security enhancing sectors. The Project will promote sustainable resource use, and restore and enhance these productive landscapes. It will do so through conservation and development activities.

The Project follows on from the GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCI) pilot phase endorsed by the GMS Summit of Leaders in 2005 in Kunming and implemented between 2006-2009 in Koh Kong's Cardamom Mountains Biodiversity Landscape and the Eastern Plains Landscape of Monduliri under the ADB regional technical assistance (RETA 6289). In Koh Kong province, the Project will maintain and consolidate forest ecosystem connectivity between the Central and Southern Cardamom Protected Forests, linking Botum Sakor National Park, the Peam Kasop Wildlife Sanctuary (WS) and the Dong Peng multiple use area to the corridor. In Monduliri province, the Project will link core areas of Monduliri Protected Forest (PF) with Phnom Prich WS and Seima PF in the South and with Lomphat WS in the North West and the transboundary area to Yok Don National Park in Viet Nam to the East.

The design of the Cambodia Biodiversity Conservation Corridors (BCC)¹ Project takes a multipurpose, sustainable, biodiversity landscapes approach. The Project covers 22 communes (12 in Monduliri and 10 in Koh Kong) located across 10 districts with a total population of approximately 68,048 (2008 census) in both provinces and households numbering just over 14,000. The Project in both Koh Kong and Monduliri provinces is predominantly in mountainous areas covered with protected forests, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries. An estimated 2,600 households will benefit from the Project with diversified livelihood assets and/or income generating opportunities, of which about 25% are indigenous peoples of Monduliri largely from the Phnong group, and 50% are women.

The Project will (i) empower communities to manage their forest resources through demarcation of boundaries, forest management planning, and achieving legal approvals for Community Forests (CFs) or Community Protected Areas (CPAs); (ii) restore habitat and degraded forest lands by planting native tree species and agroforestry that incorporates improved sources of non-timber forest products; (iii) improve livelihoods and income-enhancing small scale infrastructure; and (iv) generate short-term employment to project households through project activities.



ADB Review Mission at O' Gao Community Forest, Monduliri province

Output 1: Community Empowerment for Forest and Biodiversity Management

Under this output, investments will be geared towards strengthening the capacity of the national, provincial, district and commune levels in forest planning and biodiversity management. In particular, activities under output 1 will include: (i) forest management plans in place by 2016 for CFs and CPAs that cover about 80,000 ha of forest land in 22 communes spread across Koh Kong and Mondulkiri provinces; (ii) participatory commune livelihood and investment plans are ready in 22 target communes by 2015 (iii) by 2018, all CFs and CPAs achieve legal approvals from Forestry Administration (FA) or Ministry of Environment (MoE) (iv) delineating and marking boundaries of all target CFs and CPAs by 2017; (v) by project end, 50 central level, 100 provincial, 200 commune level, and 1,000 village persons are trained in project activities. Of the trained persons, at least 40% are female with a large portion from indigenous peoples groups.

Obtaining legal approvals for the CFs and CPAs empowers a community to protect, manage and sustainably use the designated forest land. The legal approval of the CFs and CPAs will provide the community with management rights on the designated land, in most cases for 15 years. In addition, the project may assist minority communities to obtain communal land tenure, where this is possible.

Target communities will participate in delineating and marking the boundaries of their CFs and CPAs. The Project will pay communities to provide these services.

Provincial, district, and commune level officials, and target communities will be specifically trained in skills of patrolling, conservation, water and forest protection, and implementing new livelihoods.

The Project will promote GMS transboundary cooperation between Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam by supporting exchange visits and sharing information regarding scientific research, biodiversity database, forest cover, and management of transboundary forest ecosystems.



Training on forest enhancement & plantation of Community Forest, Koh Kong province



Activities of making fire break of Samaki Prekchik Community Forest, Koh Kong province

Output 2: Forest and Habitat Protection and Restoration

Output 2 deals with enforcement, including community patrols, and community-based forest restoration. The geographic focus of the Project encompasses two biodiversity corridor areas: (i) the Eastern Plains Landscape runs along the border Cambodia - Viet Nam international boundary in Mondulkiri province, and (ii) the Cardamom Landscape that runs from the Cambodia - Thailand international boundary eastward in Koh Kong province.

All 26 project CFs and CPAs, about 80,000 ha, will be patrolled by community patrols; focus will be strategic on critical and weak points of entry that are known to forest guards for their vulnerability. The Project will pay the communities that provide patrol teams and patrols and provide necessary field equipment. Forest restoration will cover about 3,400 ha in the form of reforestation, enrichment planting, or natural regeneration, mangrove enrichment, the planting of non-timber forest products (NTFP), and agroforestry.

Restoration activities will help in recovery of the natural forest blocks to regenerate, enhance and maintain ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, reduction in soil erosion and providing livelihoods to local communities.



Nursery of Nglav Krach Community Forestry, Mondulkiri province



Forestry restoration MKR



Community was trained on forestry restoration, MKR

Output 3: Livelihoods Improvement and Small-Scale Infrastructure

The Project will provide short-term income to target communities through a series of short-term incentives to communities to provide labour for community patrols; reforestation, including the establishment and operation of seedling nurseries; and delineating and demarcating boundaries of CFs and CPAs. The Project will agree contracts with target communities to achieve these activities.

The Project will provide assistance for livelihood improvements to Project households by establishing Commune Development Funds (CDFs) in communities. A CDF is a revolving fund, managed by the community who elects a CDF Committee. It operates on the basis of guidelines issued by the Project. The establishment and sustainability of the revolving fund concept requires capacity development and technical support and the Project has made provision for this. Examples of uses for CDF funds include improving and marketing traditional handicraft products and purchasing advanced seeds for crops that will improve production.



Presentation of VDF representative, MKR

The Project will provide assistance to communities to establish livelihoods based on value-added agriculture, agroforestry, or community-based enterprises that process food products, NTFP, or provide tourism services. The investments in value-added livelihoods will be based on community priorities, subject to the requirement that the interventions will not lead to further abuse of forests but at the same time will improve the income of the community. The Project will finalise the selection of larger-scale livelihood investments after consultation with target communities, who will identify and submit priorities for their value added livelihood investments.

Project target communities will establish forest seedling nurseries that will provide seedlings of native species, to be used in reforestation. The community nurseries may also raise and sell seedlings of commercial species, such as fruit trees and timber trees, as a new livelihood. The Project will pay communities to establish the nurseries, and for some species purchase seeds. For most native species, communities will collect seeds from their local forests.

In addition to livelihood interventions, the Project will fund selected small scale infrastructure sub-projects that support livelihood improvements. The selection of small infrastructure will be finalized during the Project in close consultations with the communities.

Target communities will submit both larger scale livelihood improvements and small scale infrastructure for inclusion in the commune investment plan. Special attention will be given to ensure that livelihood and infrastructure sub-projects provide benefits to the poor, ethnic minority groups, and women, wherever possible.

Under this output, the following achievements are targeted: (i) by 2018, at least 50% of households in 22 Project communes receive cash and technical support to improve agricultural productivity and income from agriculture production; at least 250 ha of agroforestry is established in target communes in the two provinces; (ii) by 2018, 22 communes receive financial resources through CDF, larger scale livelihood investments, and small scale infrastructure support; and (iii) at least 8 communes receive investments in value-added livelihoods.

The selection criteria for the choice of value added livelihood and small infrastructure subprojects at commune are as follows: (i) it must be one of the priorities of the beneficiaries in the commune documented through participatory, stakeholder consultations conducted by the Project; (ii) it must not lead to further degradation of forest and habitat, (iii) is affordable within the Project budget; (iv) it fulfills all social safeguard criteria as laid out in subproject eligibility section in this PAM; (v) it complies with all environmental safeguard issues as described in safeguards section in this PAM; (vi) it is in conformity with land use plans in the commune; (vii) it brings benefits in the form of income generation or cost savings in terms of money, time, and effort and benefits households in the target communes; (viii) it is technically feasible (engineering wise); (ix) arrangements satisfactory to the Project have been made for undertaking operations & maintenance (O&M) if applicable; and (x) it is not covered under any other on-going programs or projects.

The subprojects will avoid resettlement, land acquisition, and physical displacement or denial of access to resources currently under use by the beneficiaries. Small-scale infrastructure investments will only be undertaken on the basis of demand and agreement of the beneficiaries to in-kind contribution (e.g. labor, and willingness to undertake O&M etc.). The selection criteria for sample subprojects are further detailed later in this PAM.



Signing ceremony on agreement between PIU/FA and VDF group



Solar electric system is equipped to villagers of target CFs, MKR



Toilets were given to villagers, MKR

Output 4: Project Management

Output 4 provides support services for project management. Capacity building for central project coordination units (CPCUs), provincial project management units (PPMUs) and district staff is needed for project administration, procurement, financial management, progress reporting, impact monitoring, social and environmental safeguards and contract management. This output will also resource the management structures for a sector-like project that is supervised from CPCUs in MOE and MAFF/FA in Phnom Penh but implemented from provincially based PPMUs established within the provincial Governor's Office. In addition, the Project will finance the recruitment of grant implementation consultants to provide implementation support and access to technical expertise needed in implementing subprojects. This recognizes the current implementation capacity and the general lack of familiarity with ADB procedures among project staff.



Preparation of Annual Workplan and Budget-BCCP 2018, 23 Nov 2017, Siem Reap



Monthly meeting of Project Implementation Unit-FA

ADDITIONAL FINANCING FROM THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Recognizing that the effectiveness of the BCC project investment is threatened by the negative impacts of climate change on local livelihoods, particularly those affecting agriculture and food security, \$7.4 million of additional financing from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience under the ADB Strategic Climate Fund (the PPCR Additional Financing) was included in the BCC Project in Cambodia to promote climate-resilient agriculture, forestry, water supply and coastal resources in Koh Kong and Monduliri provinces. The PPCR Additional Financing will strengthen climate resilience of the communities in the ongoing BCC Project and ensure sustainability of its investments. It is included in the Country Operations Business Plan (2014-2016), ADB's Strategic Priorities for 2014-2020 as highlighted in the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020, and consistent with government priorities, including the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, the Sectoral Climate Change Strategic Plans for Agriculture and Environment, the National Social Development Plan 2009 – 2013 to return forest cover to 60% for 2025 and decrease poverty to below 19.5% of population by 2015, and the National Adaptation Program of Action to Climate Change which calls for improvement of irrigation systems, rural water supply and coastal protection infrastructure.

The PPCR Additional Financing will strengthen the climate adaptation measures of the BCC Project by benefitting a further 4,300 households with diversified livelihood assets and/or income generating opportunities by 2022.

The BCC Project outputs remain the same but project beneficiaries' adaptive capacity to tackle climate change impacts is enhanced through specific interventions under output 3 "*livelihoods improved and small-scale infrastructure support provided*", including (i) rainwater harvesting ponds with climate resilient high value crop productivity; (ii) climate resilient irrigation and system of rice intensification (SRI) techniques; (iii) bio-engineered sea barriers reducing salt water intrusion; and (iv) ecosystem-based adaptation. With these proposed interventions, the PPCR Additional Financing will improve BCC project beneficiary coping capacities, reduce vulnerabilities and increase climate resilience of the communities.

The PPCR Additional Financing is consistent with the BCC project's impact and outcome, government priorities, and the current country partnership strategy for Cambodia.

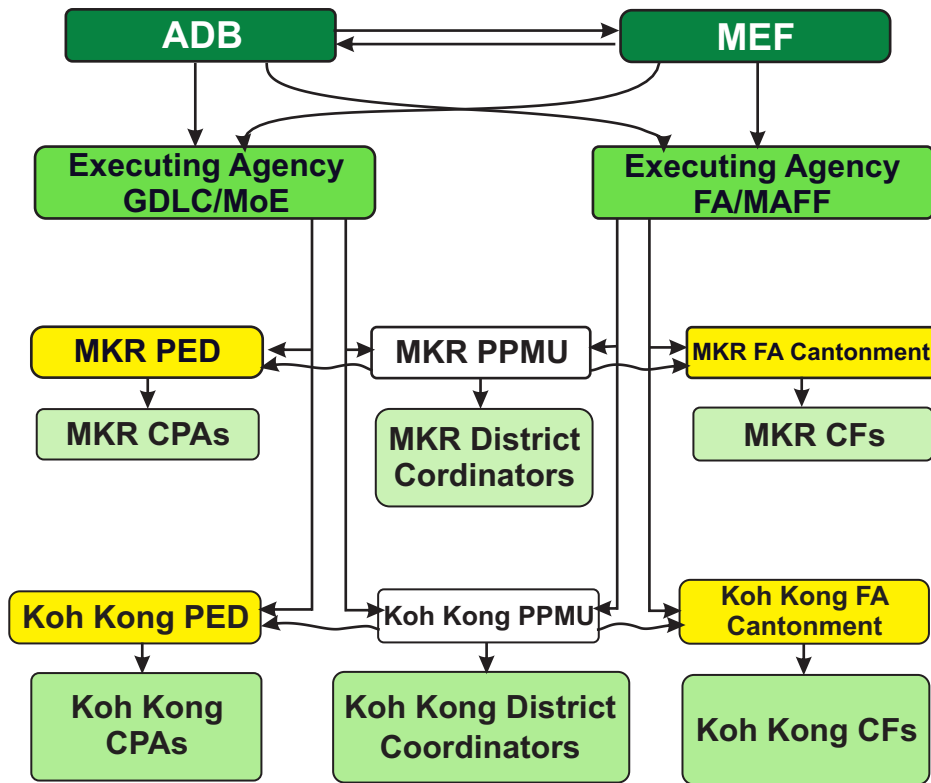


Community participatory in identifying location of rainwater harvesting pond, Koh Kong province

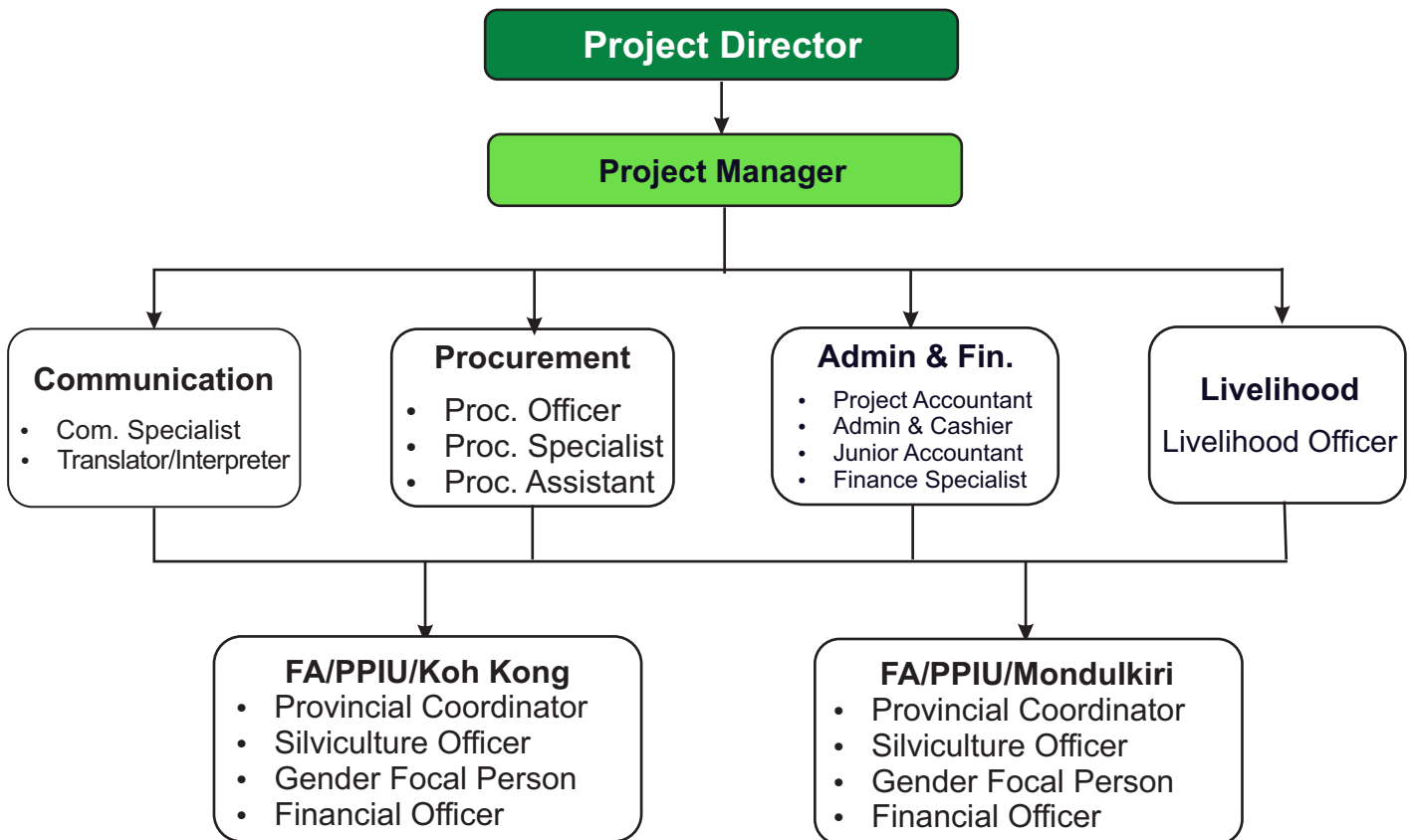


Community participatory in identifying location of rainwater harvesting pond, Monduliri province

Management Structure



Note:
 ADB: Asian Development Bank
 MEF: Ministry of Economy and Finance
 MoE: Ministry of Environment Forestry and Fisheries
 MAFF: Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
 PED: Provincial Department of Environment
 MKR: Mondulkiri
 CPAs: Community Protected Areas
 CFs: Community Forests
 GDLC: General Directorate Local Community
 FA: Forestry Administration
 PPMU: Provincial Project Management Unit



Partners:



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