



Second National Forum on Climate Change Cambodia: 3-5 October 2011

Policy Options for Protected Areas and REDD+ in Cambodia

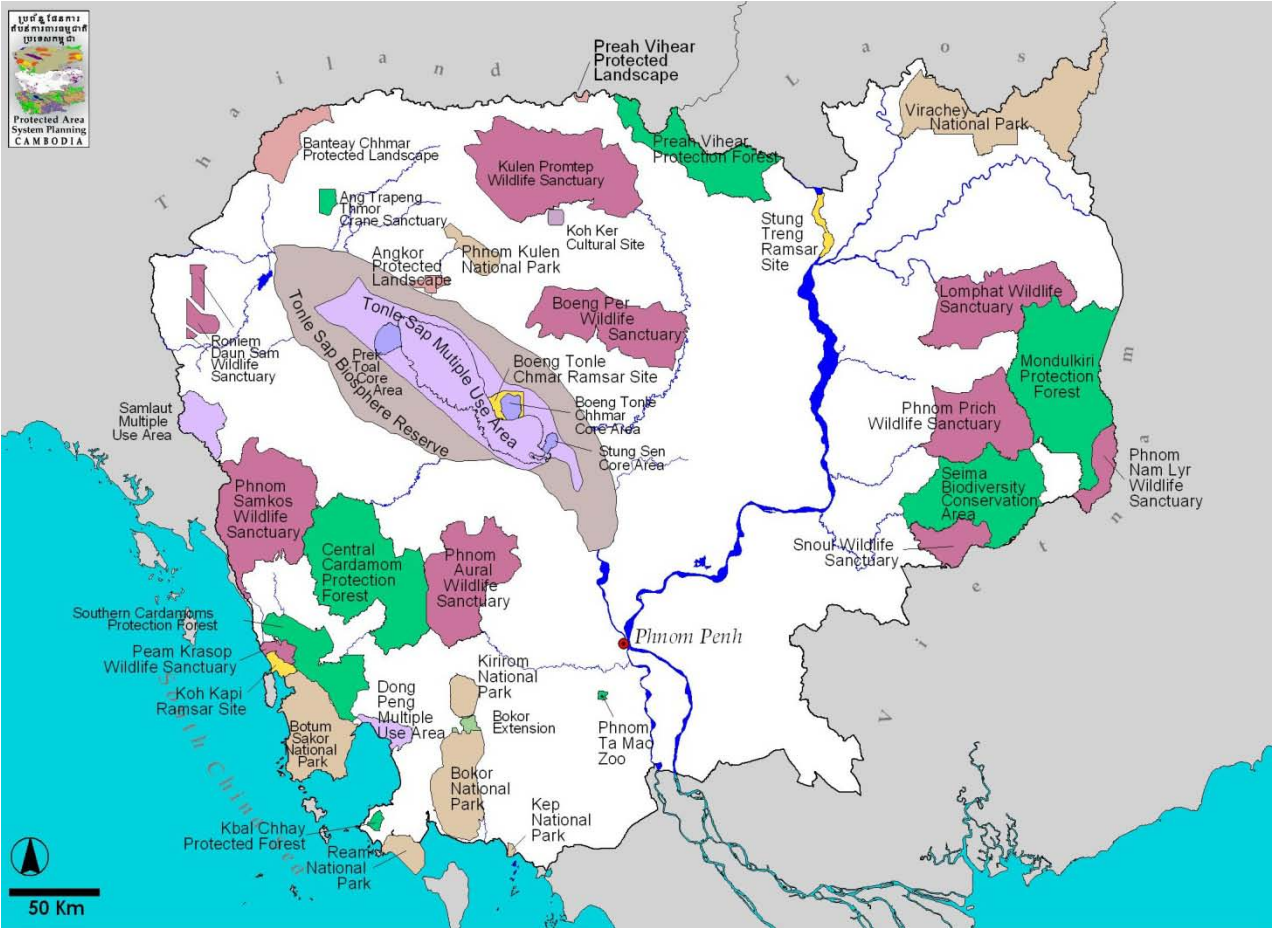
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CAMBODIA'S PROTECTED AREAS



Cambodia's Protected Area System



Representativeness

- Generally good
 - Major forest types are well represented
 - Species of international conservation significance are well represented
- Few Gaps:
 - Dry evergreen forests (good durable examples)
 - Limestone ecosystems
 - Floodplains of Stung Sen (Tonle Sap)
 - Island and marine ecosystems
- 15-18 % of land area would represent conservation targets ***provided they are:***
 - Allocated to core and conservation zones
 - Supported by complementary zoning of other lands (within and/or outside protected areas)
- BPAMP Gap Analysis 2007

Management Zoning

- **Core Zone:** A zone of high value for conservation of rare, endangered, vulnerable and threatened animal and plant species and a delicate ecosystem.
 - **Conservation Zone:** A zone next to the core zone, which is of conservation value for natural resources, ecosystem, slope, and natural landscape. Entry into this zone shall be by obtaining advance permission from the Natural Protection and Conservation Administration on site. Use of forest by-products for livelihood by the local community and indigenous ethnic minorities, which shall not cause harm to biodiversity, shall be under strict monitoring.
 - **Sustainable Use Zone:** A zone of high value in national economic development that directly serves the purpose of management and conservation of the protected area and contributes to promoting the standards of living of the local community and indigenous ethnic minorities.
 - **Local Community Zone:** A zone that serves the economic and social development of the local community and indigenous ethnic minorities who already have on-going activities, including housing, farming and vegetable gardening. Issuance of permit or land title or permission to use the land in this zone shall be certified by the Ministry of Environment.
- **2009 Protected Area Law**

Status: Vulnerability



- 41% of protected areas is either already impacted or vulnerable to impact
- 57% of protected areas are relatively remote

POLICY BLUEPRINT



Policy Blueprint

- Intended as a policy OPTION as to how protected areas may be developed in support of a national REDD program.
- Consists of:
 - Principles
 - Policy elements
 - Barriers and challenges
 - Guidance for implementation

Lesson Learned from Case Study on Opportunity Costs Analysis

- The total average cost of protecting the carbon stock (\$5 to \$12.5 /ton carbon) is above most prices currently available on the voluntary market
- A compliance market price is likely to yield substantial finances for the country
- Additional leverage may be gained through the enhancement of stocks through forest rehabilitation

Principles for Policy Formulation

The following principles outline the core requirements of a policy blueprint for protected areas:

- A REDD Plus program should preserve and enhance carbon and biodiversity values in protected areas and protection forests.
- REDD should prioritize natural forests in protected areas, including both mature and degraded forests which act as carbon sinks and mitigate climate change.
- Emphasis should be placed on:
 - Eliminating leakage
 - Enhancing carbon stocks through rehabilitation of degraded forests and the protection of vulnerable forest areas
- Synergies between REDD and the CBD should be harnessed to enhance PA management at national, sub-national and local scales.
- REDD should embrace the ecosystems approach that aims to ensure viable landscapes with adequate connectivity between natural areas.

Policy Elements

- National Protected Area System Plan (NPASMP)
- Rehabilitation of degraded forests
- Zoning
- Decentralization
- Fund-based structures

National Protected Areas System Plan

- Prioritize protection needs
- Identify existing and likely future threats for each protected area, and the integrity of the overall system.
- Identify threats within individual protected areas.
- Use zoning as a tool for integrating effective cluster, regional and national level planning and implementation
- Synergies with regional planning and cluster level implementation
 - Enhance institutional arrangements for implementing activities.
 - Prioritize areas, with corresponding allocation of resources and training, and institutional responsibility.

Rehabilitation of Forests

Substantial areas of degraded and secondary forest suitable for:

- Rehabilitation and regeneration of natural forest areas
- Semi-natural managed systems: Agro-forestry based on hybrid systems
 - Under-planting degraded forests with high value crops such as coffee
 - Enrichment planting for natural species (Crasna, Tepiru)
- Intensively managed systems: Agro-forestry, woodlots with silviculture

Matching Zoning System with REDD Plus Objectives:

- **Use zoning as a tool** for integrating effective cluster, regional and national level planning and implementation to protect and enhance carbon stocks
- **Sustainable Use Zone:** The Sustainable Use Zone includes the following sites:
 - National cultural and heritage
 - Ecotourism
 - Wildlife conservation and recreational services
 - Biological rehabilitation
 - Community protected area
 - Botanic garden
 - Infrastructure development, including irrigation, reservoir, hydro-electricity, electric networks
 - Mining
 - Environment-friendly resin exploitation in the protected area and surroundings.
- Enhanced carbon stocks can provide economic justification for land uses in the ***Sustainable Use Zone*** which support conservation values and other co-benefits

Prioritization for Investment in Rehabilitation

- Zoning scheme provides an opportunity for enhancing carbon stocks under the REDD framework;
 - Enhancement of carbon stocks in non degraded forests allocated to the Core Zone, Conservation Zones
 - Forest rehabilitation and regeneration of degraded natural forests may be focused in the Core Zone, Conservation Zone and Sustainable Use zone
 - Managed systems are to be limited to the SUZ and Local Community Zones.
- Areas which are heavily degraded and not amenable to rehabilitation should be considered for excision from PAS

Decentralization

- REDD Plus is not an EIA process. A long-term active presence at forest sites is required:
 - Sustained engagement over long inter-generational time frames required to adapt plans and measures effectively
 - Sustained and effective communications
 - Develop responses to field realities in real time - fire, land grabs, poaching etc
- Long term requirements for a presence can only be met by investment in institutional, organizational and human capacity building at the sub-national level
 - village, commune and district.
- Failures will occur without frequent tangible and visible returns to all stakeholders
- Benefit sharing requires that;
 - Gains associated with forest conservation are equitably and transparently distributed to those who do the work
 - A dual income model is required to sustain livelihoods and the investment of a community's time and resources in sustainable use activities
 - Regular receipts of carbon credits is therefore essential for all stakeholders

Fund-based Structures

- Combined conservation and REDD Plus funding
 - Ensure consistency in protected area management
 - May be implemented on basis of clusters or individual areas; but not be zone based.
- Conservation funding balances REDD funding, through local government, to ensure protected area objectives are retained as primary goals
- A national REDD strategy that incorporates various objectives (e.g., biodiversity, local development, indigenous peoples) will be more:
 - Appealing to international funders, and so more likely to obtain funding.

Barriers and Challenges



Macro Level

- Management of threats
 - Cross-sector and interagency coordination of implementation activities is limited
 - Land use objectives are not harmonized
 - *Ad hoc* and inconsistent and selective implementation of existing land use plans – E.g. prioritizing ELCs over local planning processes
 - Ongoing disregard for IP land rights under law
- National and Regional land use planning
 - Lack of coordinated land use decision making
 - Horizontal and Vertical
 - Ongoing disregard for IP land rights under law
 - Conflict of interest in being both a land use planner and a land manager
 - Inter- and intra-ministerial competition
- Boundaries
 - Inadequate delineation of boundaries
 - Lack of boundary demarcation
- Insufficient Law Enforcement

Micro Level

- Resource management at commune level is subject to a variety of shocks, which make long-term planning and implementation rather problematic.
 - Short planning horizon at local level
 - Rapid rise and fall of investment projects
 - Illegal land and resource use activities by outsiders
- Low response capability for addressing problems
 - Limited awareness raising of REDD Plus objectives and procedures
 - Inadequate incentives for concerted engagement
 - Unresolved conflicts – individuals, communities, business and authorities
- Lack of 3rd party monitor (without its own programmatic interests)
 - NCDD now piloting with NGOs

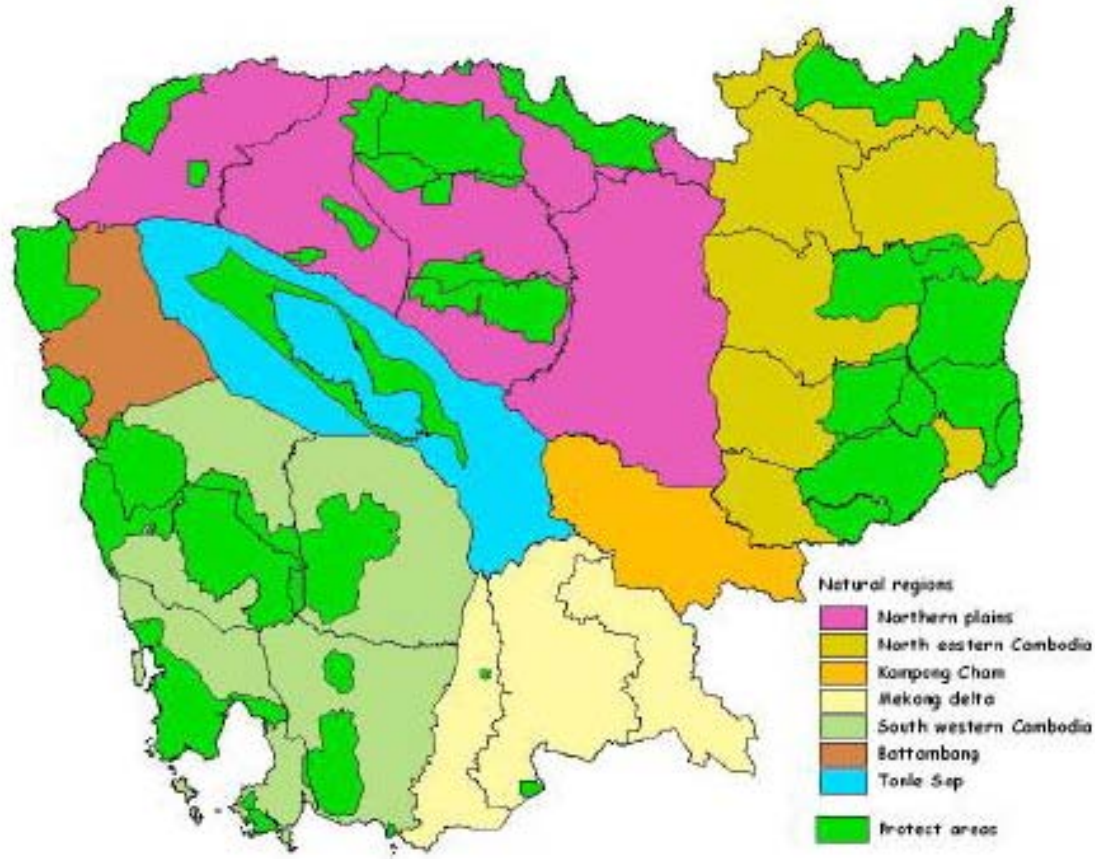
Recommendations



Policy Implementation Guidance

- Decentralized structures for implementation
 - Commune and district as basis for REDD Plus implementation
 - Can build on existing capacities - NCDD, CLUP, CPAs, CFAs, etc.
 - Use established administrative systems to ensure:
 - Inter-active engagement at the local level to address problems rapidly
 - Regular visible quarterly payments
- Third party monitoring – independent of implementation
- Cluster-based approach to planning and implementation of PAs based on bio-regions

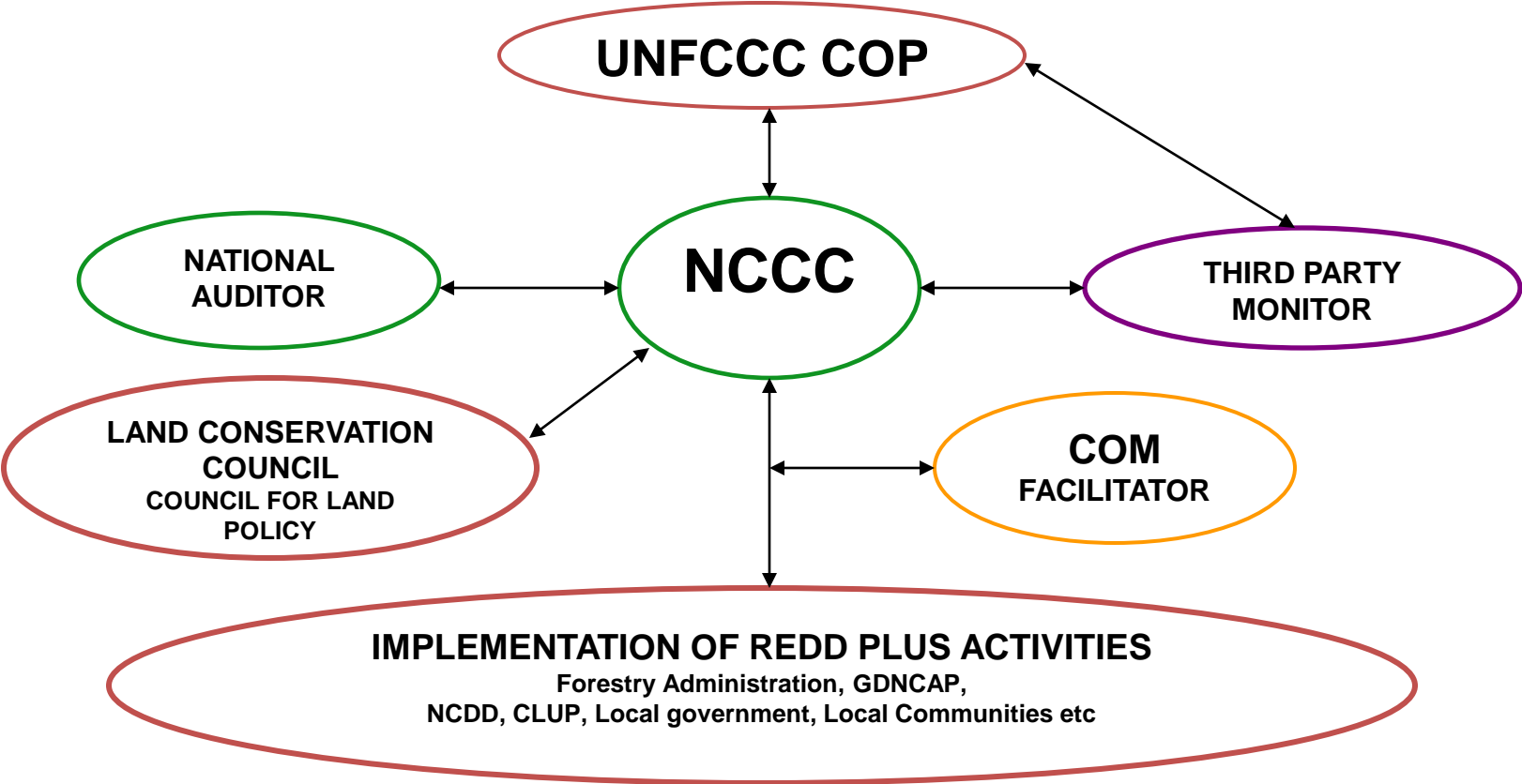
Regional Frameworks



Technical Guidance

- Develop an ecological framework for a forest typology based on a dynamic concept of plant communities as a basis for identifying;
 - Floristic, physiognomic and environmental patterns
 - Conservation priorities
 - Improve measurement of forest degradation
 - Rehabilitation priorities and pathways
- Improve GIS capacity
 - Use of remote sensing data for measurement of forest carbon stocks and flows
 - Inventory of plant communities – needs plant ecologists
- Rationalize boundaries of protected areas and management zones
 - Recognizable and enforceable
- Develop zoning system for protected forests on a regional basis rather than on individual protected area basis

Functions: Pathways to Protection



THANK YOU !

For more information:
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