

COMMUNITY FORESTRY REDD PROJECT

ODDAR MEANCHEY CAMBODIA

OVERVIEW

Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), along with Pact and Terra Global Capital have recently developed the first Cambodian Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) carbon offset project. The project involves 13 community forestry (CF) groups, comprised of 58 villages, which protect 67,783 hectares of forestland in the Northwestern province of Oddar Meanchey.

The project will be one of the first to use a new methodology and be submitted under both the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) guidelines. The project is expected to sequester 7.1 million metric tons of CO₂ over 30 years.

WHO ARE THE SUPPORTING PARTNERS?

The project was initiated by Community Forestry International in November 2007, adopted by the Forestry Administration and is currently being implemented in partnership with Pact. Funding support has been provided by Danida, DFID, NZAID, and the Clinton Climate Initiative through the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment. Project partners also include Terra Global Capital, the local NGO Children's Development Association (CDA), Monks CF Association, and local authorities in Oddar Meanchey province.

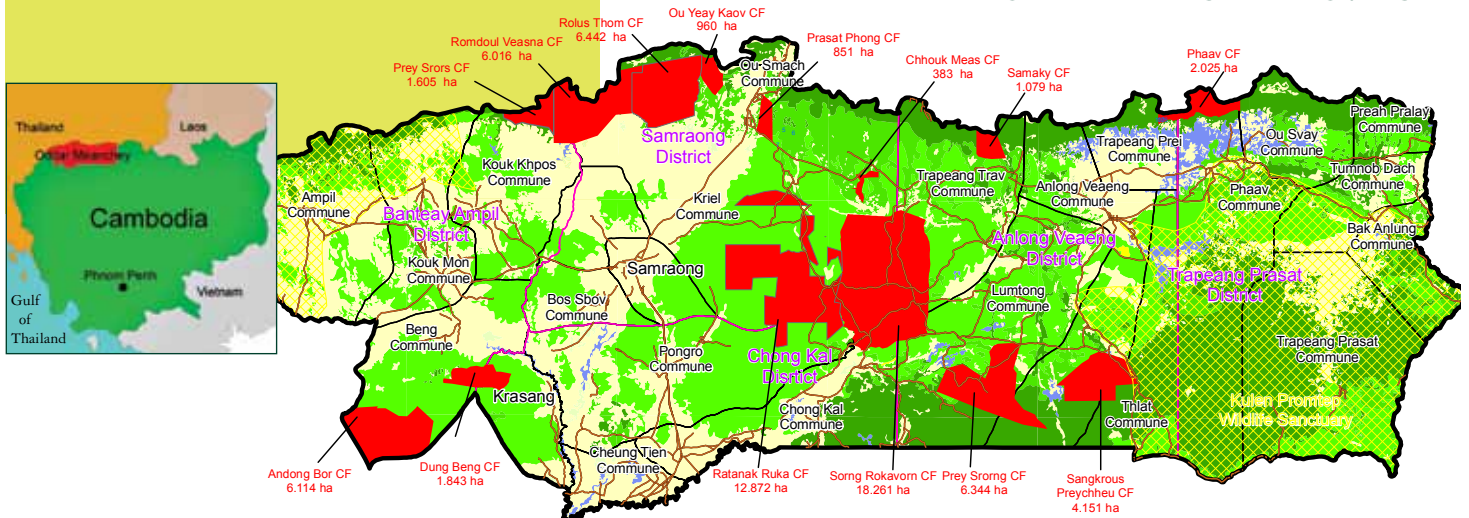


A deciduous forest in the target area of Oddar Meanchey.

WHY WAS ODDAR MEANCHEY SELECTED?

Oddar Meanchey province provides an ideal site for developing the project. The province's forests have been under intense pressure, with a deforestation rate of 2% each year from 2002-2006. A growing number of communities in the province have been protecting the remaining natural forests as community forestry areas, including some of the largest CFs in the country.

PROJECT AREA MAP IN ODDAR MEANCHEY PROVINCE



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BENEFITS?

This project supports sustainable forest management and livelihood development in Oddar Meanchey province by providing financing through carbon credits generated through forest protection. The project not only assists rural people to gain legal tenure over local forests, it creates a 30-year income stream that will significantly enhance household livelihoods and natural resource management capacity. The project seeks to retain and increase carbon stocks in these areas, enhancing the hydrology in the upland watersheds of the Tonle Sap Basin, as well as conserving endangered biodiversity. Carbon financing will be used to support rural communities to develop a range of livelihood activities including non-timber forest product enterprises, community-based ecotourism infrastructure, and water resource development. The project works with the Forestry Administration and commune, district and provincial government to formulate long term plans for sustainable natural resource management to foster economic growth.

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA?

The Royal Government of Cambodia has confirmed its high-level commitment to sustainable forest management by local communities. Government Decision 699 was issued in May 2008 to support the project's success.

The Forestry Administration is assigned as the agency to sell forest carbon credits in Cambodia. Carbon credits will be used to:

- a) Improve the forest quality
- b) Provide maximum benefits to local communities which participate in the project activities
- c) Study the potential area for new REDD projects in Cambodia



Children collecting firewood in the community forest area.

BACKGROUND ON REDD PROJECTS

REDD = Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

The initiative is based on a new framework called REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) also known as "Avoided Deforestation" which received international support at the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP.13-UNFCCC) in Bali, Indonesia in December, 2007. Under REDD, developed countries are willing to provide payments to compensate developing nations for forests that are sustainably managed. REDD is a new approach to climate mitigation which gives greater recognition to the importance of protecting and sustainably managing tropical forest resources in developing countries. It is estimated that 20% of global CO₂ emissions originate from the loss of forests associated with land use and land cover changes.



H.E. Ty Sokhun, Head of the Forestry Administration with CF leader Venerable Bun Saluth, during a visit to the field site.





WHAT ARE THE MAJOR PROJECT RISKS?

The major causes of deforestation in Oddar Meanchey include:

- Economic land concessions
- Migrant forest encroachment
- Forest fires
- Illegal logging

Community forestry groups can help control these forces, but only with the support of the FA, local authorities and other stakeholders. New payments through carbon credits can deliver long-term funding to ensure more sustainable and productive management of Oddar Meanchey's valuable forests.

Forest fires in Oddar Meanchey are one of the drivers of deforestation.

PROJECT STRATEGY— ENHANCING FOREST PROTECTION

Mobilizing communities to protect forests is already controlling deforestation and degradation in CF areas. Key activities to be supported under the project include:

- Awareness-raising and regular consultation among all stakeholders
- Improved coordination and communication among stakeholders
- Forest fire protection through fire break construction, fire watchers and fire brigades
- Crackdown on encroachment and illegal logging activities
- Forest enrichment through replanting and silviculture techniques
- Woodfuel savings through introduction of improved cookstoves
- Agricultural intensification and improvement of water supplies
- Development of annual carbon stock monitoring systems



ENHANCING FOREST CARBON STOCKS



The project provides regeneration contracts to all participating CF Management Committees (CFMC) to restore their degraded forests through silvicultural treatments including multiple-shoot cutting, clearing around seedlings, enrichment planting, water harvesting, and other methods. Restoration contracts are based on CFMC management plans, providing employment opportunities, materials, and funding CFMC operations. Increases in carbon stocks in regenerating forests would provide additional income into commune and community funds that could be used for livelihood and infrastructure development activities.

STAKEHOLDER ROLES & BENEFITS

Stakeholder	Tasks and Responsibilities	Benefits
CF Groups	Forest patrols, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), replanting, fire protection, forest management and livelihood plan development and implementation.	Employment – Forest restoration contracts, micro-finance institutions, water resource development, NTFP processing and marketing support, community-based ecotourism plan and activities.
Forestry Administration	Through the Government Decision No. 699 the FA has been appointed as the agency to sell forest carbon credits in Cambodia. The FA plays a leading role as the implementing agency in the development and management of the project.	Increased budget for FA operations in Oddar Meanchey, improved forest protection and timber stocks, better biodiversity conservation, reduced conflict.
Local Government & NGOs	Guarantee tenure security of CF areas, law enforcement, coordinate concessions to avoid conflicts, coordinate meetings, development planning.	Development of provincial and district resource management plans with implementation budgets, funds for workshops and meetings.
Pact	Support to project implementation and oversight; building local capacity, initial management of programs, support for carbon development.	Increased experience in REDD project development, funds to expand REDD projects in Cambodia. Building capacity of CF groups and NGO partners.
Terra Global Capital	Carbon assessment, stakeholder benefit sharing facilitation, methodology development, design Project Document, negotiate with buyers, coordinate monitoring and verification.	Promote REDD projects with credible carbon accounting by establishing a new REDD methodology under the VCS (likely the first). Demonstrate by working with the government and Pact that highly valuable community based REDD projects can be successfully brought to market.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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