

# **Program on Promoting Sustainable Use of Natural Resources through Restoring and Conserving Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Cambodia**

**Institute of Environment Rehabilitation  
and Conservation (ERECON)**

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# Background

- Cambodia is a country being rich of natural resources, especially forests that cover 59.09 per cent of the country (FAO, 2010)
- The total population is 13.4 million people with 20 percent are living in urban area while the rest of 80 percent are living in rural area (2008)



# Background

- 85% of Cambodia's population relies on a fragile balance of agriculture, fisheries and forest products, mostly for subsistence (UNDP, 2010)
- The degradation of natural resources has strong influence to local people's livelihood
- However, forest resources in Cambodia are under severe threat with illegal logging, land encroachment, land concession, etc.



# Background

- Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON), under the financial support of The MITSUI & Co., Ltd. Environment Fund, conducted the **Program on Promoting Sustainable Use of Natural Resources through Restoring and Conserving Satoyama in Cambodia** from October, 2010 to September, 2013 under the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Cambodia, Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Cambodia and United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

# Background

- The program aimed to restore and conserve Satoyama landscapes for promoting sustainable use and management of natural resources under the collaboration with local communities, elementary schools, local governments and related organizations

# Extension activities



- For archiving the aims of the program, several activities included workshops, trainings, seminars, and symposium as well as reforestation activities were conducted in Kampong Cham, Battambang and Monduliri provinces during 3 years of the program period

# Workshops and Seminars



Workshops and seminars on “Restoring and Conserving Satoyama for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources” as well as “Advantages of Reforestation” were conducted at 6 villages and 6 elementary schools of program areas

# Trainings



- The leader trainings of natural resources survey at community level, seed propagation and tree nursery management was conducted at Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Cambodia
- The participants were village leaders, villagers and school teachers from three regions.

# Natural resources survey



- Investigating the natural resources existing as well as the degree of its degradation and the natural resource utilization and management of local communities
- The level of dependence on forest resources of villagers in three regions is different, but a similar point is that forest areas have been decreasing continually since the last 30 years
- Threats and degradation that occurred to forest resources is affecting their livelihood
- It was concluded that reforestation to increase bio-diversity in local communities is needed





## Local nurseries



- Materials and knowledge for making tree nurseries were provided for villagers in the program areas

## Reforestation activities



- Reforestation activities at 6 villages and 6 schools of three provinces were conducted
- Trees for reforestation activity in the three provinces were grown by villagers at local nurseries

# Outcomes

- The program helped the villagers in the program areas deepen their awareness of the importance of restoring and conserving Satoyama landscapes through the workshops and seminars
- The villagers gained more knowledge about seed propagation and nursery management through the training
- Reforestation activities in the villages and the elementary schools have succeeded in increasing the number of trees and bio-diversity in the areas
- Experiences and knowledge from this program are disseminated to raise awareness about natural resources conservation among local people in other areas



# Outcomes



- Holding **International Symposium on Restoring SATOYAMA Landscapes in Cambodia** on 14 to 15 September, 2013

- Publishing ERECON Book (No. 6) **Restoring Satoyama Landscapes in Cambodia** (ISBN 978-4-916174-13-0)



**Restoring Satoyama Landscapes  
in Cambodia**

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# Conclusion

- More activities should be implemented to restore and conserve Satoyama landscapes in Cambodia
- In Mondulkiri, agro-forestry should be introduced to prevent soil erosion as well as decrease the intensity of slash and burn farming practices
- In Battambang, low-input agricultural system should be promoted to decrease the effects of agro-chemicals on the soil and water environment
- In Kampong Cham, effective utilization of natural resources should be promoted, especially focusing on the cyclic use of farm residues

# Updating Activities

- In 2014, ERECON received the financial support from AEON Environment Foundation to conduct **Program on Promoting Sustainable Use of Natural Resources through Restoring and Conserving Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Cambodia**
- The program aims to enhance sustainable use of natural resources, to create harmony between people and nature, and to increase local awareness on environmental conservation with providing incentives to local people in Cambodia
- Program period starts from April, 2014 to March 2015.
- First year of program is focus on Mondulkiri province, and the activities will be expanded to Battambang and Khampong Cham in the next two years.

# Activities

- Promoting SEPLs conservation and restoration through sustainable use of natural resources through workshop



# Activities

Reforestation in for sustainable use of natural resources



# Further activities

- Holding network meeting for SEPL conservation
- Maintaining and management of reforested areas
- The similar activities will be expanded to Battambang and Khampong Cham provinces in 2015 and 2016



Thank you very much for your  
attention!

