

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Steung Siem Reap watershed		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Water, Agriculture, Protected areas, Cultural heritage, Conservation		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=40		

Geographical Information

Country	Cambodia		Location(s)	Siem Reap Province					
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	https://www.google.com/maps/@13.3870614,103.8481088,10z?hl=en								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>Although watershed residents rely upon agriculture for their livelihood, farming is increasingly insufficient to meet employment needs. Despite a growing tourist industry, Siem Reap province has one of the highest poverty rates in Cambodia. On agricultural lands, reliance on intensive modern agricultural practices leads to low soil fertility and crop yields. Key issues are limited rainfall, lack of water storage capacity, and low water retention. There is a shift away from farming toward other industries.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>The province is home to the archeological site Angkor Wat, which attracts international and domestic tourists. Unsustainable farming and fishing practices, illegal logging and forest conversion to agriculture are the most pressing environmental problems. Although many people in the area benefit from tourism, those employed in construction, services, and handicraft sectors capture more of these benefits than the 80 percent of families involved in agriculture.</p>									

Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
The principal environmental and social vulnerabilities in the target landscape center around unsustainable farming and fishing practices, illegal logging and forest conversion to agriculture.			
Objectives			
Restore degraded biodiversity and ecosystem services through multi-functional land use systems; Strengthen ecologically sound agricultural production systems for a sustainable increase in crop yields and productivity; Improve livelihoods through the development of ecologically sound and community-owned income-generating activities; Establish and strengthen robust governance systems for effective participatory decision making			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Rehabilitating upland and lowland (flooded) forests; Establishing tree nurseries for forest augmentation and agroforestry; Establishing management plans for community forests, community protected areas, and community fisheries; Enhancing fire protection and forest patrols; Promoting sustainable rice farming; Introducing alternative income opportunities; Supporting local organizations and improving environmental governance.			
Results			

Communities have planted more than 68,000 tree seedlings; Two tree nurseries have been constructed; Residents are in the process of developing management plans; 13 km of fire roads have been constructed; 600 ha of agricultural lands have been placed under a more sustainable production system; new income-generating activities have been introduced; Community-based organizations have been established or strengthened	
Lessons learned	
Although the landscape varies widely, land use problems follow similar themes. The project portfolio thus emphasizes steps to regularize and improve community resource management and enforcement, rehabilitate degraded areas, upgrade agricultural practices, and improve water management. The similarity of these interventions provides a basis for exchanging experiences between communities. To encourage landscape-wide thinking and interaction among different projects and communities, all grantees attend an annual workshop in which they can share experiences and lessons learned.	
Key messages	
Involving the local government has been very beneficial and has increased local skills in designing and implementing projects; When community priorities are clearly understood and rapidly translated into actions, local authorities and communities are very willing to participate; Building up local implementation capacity requires time and ample mentoring from support partners and support groups.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 280,000.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Cambodia.

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●		■	●	●	●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●			●	●		■	●		

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●	●			●	●	●		■	
		●			●				