

**Cambodia
Central Cardamoms Protected Forest Project
News from the Field**

**August 2017
Conservation International**



© Conservation International/Photo by Kheng Sokhorn

From April to July 2017, the team supported Central Cardamoms Mountains National Park (CCMNP) management through patrols and law enforcement in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), as well as through biodiversity research and community engagement.

Patrolling and Enforcement

During the quarter, CI collaborated with the MoE to conduct 158 patrols. As a result, rangers confiscated 56 m³ of timber, 61 chainsaws and three vehicles, collected 16.6 kg of dead wild animals and rescued three pangolins (later transferred to the Phnom Takmao rescue center) and removed 92 snares. These efforts led to the arrest or fining of 86 people on the grounds of transporting wildlife or grabbing land (16.419 ha). CI also helped demarcate the habitat of the Dragonfish with the placement of 30 small signboards. There are ongoing discussions regarding collaboration with the Provincial Department of Environment and international organization Wildlife Alliance to conduct joint patrols and improve the capability of MoE rangers.

Ten rangers were selected to attend training on CCMNP boundary demarcation in Koh Kong, Kampong Speu and Pursat provinces. In addition, 12 rangers were selected to attend a training course on wildlife research techniques and identification. Management and work plan meetings are held every month.

Biodiversity Research

The team contributed to a paper published in the *Cambodian Journal of Natural History* (CJNH) on the status and significance of ground-dwelling mammal conservation in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape in southwestern Cambodia.

During the reporting period, the team established protocols for the establishment of sentinel sites and conducted field trials to determine implementation modalities. A sentinel site is a fixed, long-term ecological monitoring point based on bio-physical depth data. Results will be analyzed and compared against measured changes in livelihoods/income and ultimately used to inform programs and policies affecting the target area. This is the first time in Cambodia that such a tool has been deployed.

Alternative Community Livelihoods

Community-based eco-tourism (CBET): At the beginning of July, a group of 16 Australian students visited the Areng Valley (Thmo Don Pov and Ta Tay Leu) to observe its rich biodiversity and learn about the community engagement process involved in natural resource protection.



Students visiting the Areng Valley



Students learning about wildlife habitats

© Conservation International/Photo by Kheng Sokhorn

Agroforestry: In May, 12 villagers from three communes (Tatay Leu, Russei Chrum and Thma Doun Pov) attended an exposure workshop at Agarwood in Kep Province. The villagers received training on technical aspects including treatment (inoculation) and harvesting. A field trial

(treatment and harvesting) will be conducted in the CCMNP (in these three communes) in the coming months. Three families in possession of 15 agarwood trees in Thma Doun Pov have been selected for the initial phase of the program. Two families in each commune (Tatay Leu and Russei Chrum) were selected to participate in the project as observers.



Agroforestry training

Linking community products to the private sector: Green Garden, a retailer based in Phnom Penh that sells natural produce, was introduced to local producers in Tatay Leu. With CI assistance, Green Garden and the community engaged in discussions to launch initial processes for delivering agricultural produce from the commune to Phnom Penh and payment methods were established.

Communications

CI Greater Mekong has established a [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/CIGreaterMekong/posts/?ref=page_internal) detailing achievements, issues and key conservation points. (https://www.facebook.com/CIGreaterMekong/posts/?ref=page_internal)

The MoE is revising the CCMNP quarterly newsletter. A new and improved edition will be available in the next reporting period.

Note: Unauthorized copying of the images and text used here is prohibited.