

Cambodia
Central Cardamoms Protected Forest Project
News from the Field (July 2018–June 2019)

August 2019
Conservation International

Patrolling and enforcement

During this period, CI supported 42 rangers in conducting 202 patrols in total within the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park (CCMNP). Rangers confiscated 47 chainsaws, one gun, one truck, two excavators, and 12 animal traps. Ministry of Environment officials submitted two cases to the Pursat provincial court related to land clearing by the excavators. Law enforcement continues to be effective: monitoring of forest cover has shown that the 2018 deforestation rate, 0.17%, was down slightly from the 2017 figure of 0.2% and is well below the national five-year average rate of 2.9% forest loss per year.



Confiscated excavators in CCMNP (Photo courtesy of Cambodian Ministry of Environment)



Sustainable community livelihoods

This year we continued to support the diversification and sustainability of community livelihoods within three communes in CCMNP. CI facilitated the link with the Green Garden shop in Phnom Penh, which now directly buys organic fruits and vegetables supplied by more than 30 local farmers. Under our continuing agarwood (*Aquilaria crassna*) pilot, we distilled 57ml of oil from six trees of three farmers. Pending a permit under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the oil will be sent out for testing and links will be made to interested buyers. We also continued our support of the lemongrass oil production group, which purchased lemongrass from 32 families. The group of 10 women distilled and sold a total of 12.5 kg of oil to Bodia Spa in Phnom Penh for approximately \$1,500. We also provided training and equipment (mountain bikes, tents, and homestay equipment) to two community-based ecotourism groups. Although these groups only saw about \$1,000 in tourist revenue this year, we are working to secure connections to local tour operators to increase tourist numbers to the area.



Lemongrass oil distillation unit in Tatai Leu (© Sron Chantorn/CI)



Agarwood with inoculation induced resinous wood (© Peng Narin/CI)



Agarwood oil distillation (© Jackson Frechette/CI)

CCMNP Trust Fund

We held a CCMNP Trust Fund board meeting in January 2019. Unfortunately, the market crash in December meant that there was no interest available to draw on to support activities on the ground. Fortunately, subsequent market recovery indicates that we will be able to use earned interest later this year to further support conservation of the CCMNP.

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