

Cambodia
Central Cardamoms Protected Forest Project
News from the Field (July 2019–June 2020)

August 2020
Conservation International



Cardamom Mountains © Conservation International/photo by David Emmett

Patrolling and Enforcement

Cambodia is moving ahead with government decentralization, which resulted in the transfer of management of the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park (CCMNP) from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to the Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE). We worked with the MoE to help restructure the management of CCMNP following this transition. As part of this work, we performed inventory assessments of each of the six ranger stations across the three provinces in which CCMNP is located, and we worked with the MoE to equip 30 PDoE rangers with essential equipment for patrols (hammocks, GPS units, boots, first aid equipment, and helmets, etc.).

From January to June 2020, the rangers conducted a total of 330 patrols, covering a distance of 17,175 km. The patrols resulted in the arrests of five individuals, seizure of 56 chainsaws and nine guns, destruction of numerous illegal hunting and logging camps, and dismantling of two large illegal sawmills. Law enforcement continues to be effective, as our monitoring has shown that the 2019 deforestation rate (0.11%) decreased slightly from 2018 (0.17%). It is still well below the national five-year average deforestation rate of 2.9% per year.



Rangers on patrol in CCMNP
© Cambodian Ministry of Environment



Rangers destroying illegal sawmill
© Cambodian Ministry of Environment



Seized chainsaws and poaching materials (bottom two) © Cambodian Ministry of Environment

Sustainable Community Livelihoods

In the past, we have assisted community farmers in accessing the organic vegetable market and lemongrass oil market and helped them to ship their products. Today, these farmers are continue to do business in these markets and ship their products without the direct support of CI.

From August 2019 to January 2020, as part of a project implemented by Cambodia's Forest Administration (FA), CI worked with the Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center (JIFPRO) piloted a butterfly farming pilot program in Tatay Leu Commune. Butterfly farming is expected to not only provide a new source of income to villages, but also contribute to forest conservation. Five farmers took part in the training under this pilot program. Today, one of these participants continues to farm butterflies, earning income by producing and selling pupae monthly. JIFPRO will restart these activities from July 2020 with the plan to train several more farmers in butterfly farming.



Butterfly breeding enclosure © Bantei Srey Butterfly Centre



Training local farmers in butterfly farming techniques © Bantei Srey Butterfly Centre

CCMNP Trust Fund

The board meeting of the CCMNP Trust Fund board was held in December 2019. The board voted to withdraw \$180,000 from the trust fund to support law enforcement. The funding will support activities from January 2020 to December 2020.

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