

## Cambodia

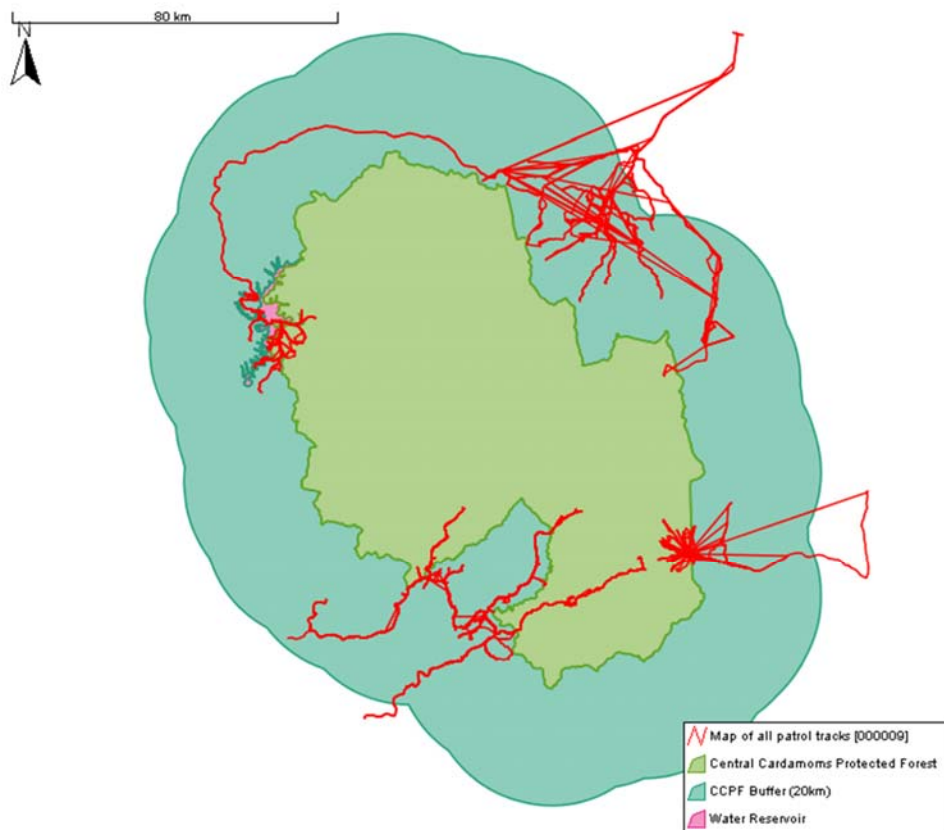
### Central Cardamom Protected Forest Project

#### News from the Field

April 2015  
Conservation International

#### Forest Patrols

The forest rangers have been extremely diligent in their patrols and this past quarter have been focused on the east side of the Central Cardamom forest.



Patrols conducted between January and March 2015

January to March is Cambodia's dry season and is the easiest time to carry out illegal logging. The rangers thus stepped up the number of monthly patrols to 110 times.

Successful patrols were behind the relatively low number of cases of illegal activity in January and February. The number rose sharply in March, to 13, but most of these were cases of poaching. The reason for this is believed to be that with the coming of the end of the dry season, there are fewer water pools around which the animals gather, making it easier for poachers to catch them. Although no arrests were made, all logging equipment was confiscated by the rangers.

In the Cardamom Forest grows a plant called Yellow Vine, which is a raw material used for cosmetics. Because of the high price it fetches, it has long been a target of illegal collection by forest intruders. This past quarter, however, no people were found collecting yellow vine, which forest rangers suspect is due to falling market prices for the plant, making it unprofitable for collection.

### **Community Support**

This past quarter, the community rangers were again extremely vigilant in patrols aimed at protecting their forest from illegal activities. Ninety-three rangers (including a number of women) carried out a total of 133 man-days of patrols. The rangers did not encounter any cases of illegal clearing of land for agriculture or other violations, something that rare for the dry season.

### **Visit by Daikin, and Launch of 'Forests for the Air' Project**

In February, CI-Cambodia received a visit from two Daikin Industries' representatives and two Daikin Industries (Thailand) Ltd. representatives. The visitors were accompanied by representatives of CI-Cambodia, JICA, and the Cambodian government on a trip to the Cardamom Protected Forest. On February 26, residents of CI-Cambodia's partner villages in Cardamom attended an event to celebrate the launch of Daikin's 'Forests for the Air' project.



A tree-planting ceremony at a local elementary school symbolized the hopes for a successful and growing collaboration with the local community to protect the precious forests. 'Forests for the Air' will make a significant contribution to preservation of the Cardamom Protected Forest, which is not only Cambodia's largest remaining forest but also home to Tonle Sap Lake, a body of water economically and nutritionally crucial to the region. After the tree-planting, the visiting group toured the Cardamom area, where they spoke with community members about their daily lives, local innovations, and ways to achieve further sustainability. The trip proved to be a wonderful opportunity for all parties to better understand the context and objectives of what is sure to be a significant project.



### **Trust Fund Established**

A significant milestone was reached recently as Cambodia's Ministry of Economics and Finance gave CI-Cambodia approval to establish the Central Cardamom Protected Forest Trust Fund! Organizations that have been asked to nominate board members have been identified, and the focus is now on finalizing governance guidelines for the fund and soliciting further donations to get the fund operational.

We have created a two-page pamphlet aimed at soliciting donations to the fund.



## THE CENTRAL CARDAMOMS PROTECTED FOREST AN ECOLOGICAL TREASURE TROVE

**Established in 2002, the more than 400,000 hectare Central Cardamom Protected Forest is one of the largest protected areas in Asia.**

One of Southeast Asia's last intact forest wilderness, this protected area played a joint effort of Conservation International (CI) and the Royal Government of Cambodia, to conserve numerous globally threatened endangered and endemic species and their habitat, including Asian elephants, Sumatran rhinoceros, Asian sturgeon, dragon fish, sun bears, quora, gibbons, pangolins and many more. The project also aims to preserve various ecosystem services essential to human wellbeing locally and beyond, including the forest's vital role as the primary watershed for one third of Cambodia.

The Central Cardamom Protected Forest is managed collaboratively by Cambodia's Forestry Administration and CI in close partnership with the local communities. Management primarily entails patrolling for illegal logging and poaching and law enforcement and working with communities both in the core and buffer zones of the protected area to establish sustainable livelihoods.

These collaborative efforts have been successful in protecting the core values of the forest. A 2012 independent review of the program found the protected area to have the lowest deforestation rate of the forests in the Northern Cardamom region, despite the enormous and increasing pressure it faces. Just last month camera trap photos showed a range of important wildlife species finding refuge in the area.



As long as demand from international markets for luxury timber and exotic wildlife grow, the pressure on poor communities to participate in lucrative illegal logging and poaching increases, and there will be a need for active engagement and management in the Central Cardamoms. Similarly there is a long way to go to help communities move from slash and burn, to less land-hungry forms of agriculture.

Up until now, CI has sourced the majority of the funds for this management from donors on a grant-by-grant basis. Management costs \$300,000 per year. The Forest Administration contributes \$60,000 of this, but grant-by-grant funding for the remainder is unsustainable and inefficient.

PHOTO: MARK HILLMAN/CI, 2007. COURTESY OF THE FORESTRY ADMINISTRATION OF CAMBODIA



### HELP US MAKE HISTORY!

A new initiative of CI, the Central Cardamom Protected Forest Trust Fund is a first for Cambodia. Recently founded with endorsement from the Cambodian government, and housed in Singapore, the Fund will be managed by a Fund Committee who have been selected from both inside and outside the government. To have come this far is a remarkable and exciting accomplishment of which CI is exceptionally proud. Finally the infrastructure to fund protection of the critical ecological asset for Cambodia is in place.

CI have already secured \$2.5 million in contributions to the Trust Fund, from the Global Conservation Fund and Osaka Industries, Japan. We urgently need to secure a further \$1.5 million to get the Fund operational.

### WE URGE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE.

This is your opportunity to be a part of a landmark, milestone and important history in Cambodia, and to help secure this key asset within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.

Please contact Contact Tracy Farrell, CI Senior Technical Director of the Greater Mekong Program ([tfarrell@conservation.org](mailto:tfarrell@conservation.org)) to be part of the solution.

**OUR VISION**  
We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

**OUR MISSION**  
Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

WWW.CONSERVATION.ORG

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL Cambodia  
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