



**Cambodia
Central Cardamoms Protected Forest Project**

News from the Field

**October 2015
Conservation International**

Central Cardamoms Protected Forest (CCPF)

A management plan is needed to successfully protect the forest, but after the previous management plan ended in 2014, there was none to follow. We therefore worked with the Forestry Administration (FA) and other partners and stakeholders to come up with a proposal for the next five years (2016 to 2021). In order to realize a concise, concrete plan that could be implemented smoothly, we held meetings with the private sector, rangers, provincial law courts, district governors, the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity of the FA, Cantonment and village chiefs. A draft of the management plan will be ready for review by the end of November 2015 in preparation for its launch in 2016.



Consulting with rangers about the CCPF management plan

Trust Fund Established

All necessary processes needed to put the CCPF Trust Fund into operation have been completed. The first official Trust Fund board meeting was held in early October and a Committee Chairman who will serve for two years was elected. The Trust Fund launch ceremony is scheduled for January 15, 2016.



In front of Thmar Bang Ranger Station: CI President Gary Edson (center, blue and white checked shirt); Seng Bunra, Country Director CI, Cambodia (second from left); Tracy Farrell, Regional Director-Greater Mekong Program, CI (third from left); and Mr. Manak, CCPF Programme Manager (fourth from left)



Trust Fund board meeting

Patrolling and Enforcement

Significant effort has been given to reviewing patrolling and enforcement practices in order to address changing threats and challenges. A new patrolling strategy is being developed. Emphasis will be given to community engagement, spot checks and hotspot interventions. Many of these ideas were discussed and agreed to at the quarterly ranger meeting in September, attended by over 25 FA ranger staff and senior managers.



Soft-shelled turtles rescued from poachers, and confiscated fishing lines

Daikin funding has been critical in supporting the continued efforts of the rangers. Over the reporting period, 18 chainsaws, 27 kilograms of bush meat, 707 fishing hooks, 205 snares, two motorcycles and one car have been confiscated. Four illegal camps were destroyed and 22 soft shell turtles and 18 monkeys freed. In support of this process, two trainings for rangers on using GPS and reading maps and compasses were conducted, along with a refresher SMART (spatial monitoring and reporting tool) course.



GPS training with CI's Law Enforcement Manager, Pengly La



Patrol planning, Rolek Station

Over the reporting period, Daikin support made possible community patrols involving three communes. The patrols focused on dragon fish pools and Siamese crocodile sanctuaries. Patrols were conducted over 107 days involving 77 villagers, two of whom were women. Local people have reported an increase in the number of dragon fish.



Arowana (dragon fish) fry identified by community patrols

Camera Trap Data

Camera traps employ sensors to automatically video animals that pass in front of the camera. They are useful for providing information about the health and diversity of wildlife populations. Camera traps have been set up in the Cardamoms forest and recorded a range of data over the reporting period.



Images recorded with a camera trap

Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET)

Community based eco-tourism is an important way for community members to earn a living by introducing visitors to the splendid natural resources around them. With Daikin support and at the request of the community, CI has initiated a CBET initiative in the Tatai Leu commune. A management structure has been developed and benefit-sharing procedures have been established. By-laws are currently under discussion.

Ranger/Community Engagement Strategy

A community engagement strategy has been developed in order to strengthen the relationship between rangers and communities. By working closely with community leaders, schools and other important institutions and individuals, rangers will build trust, ensure that conservation messages are broadly disseminated and that communication is improved. A recent example of this has been the provision of 65 fruit trees from the Rolek ranger station to Tang Bompong School.

Communications

CI is working with the FA to develop a CCPF newsletter. To be released every three months, with the first edition expected in January 2016, the newsletter will carry contributions from the FA, communities, partner organisations working in the CCPF and other interested groups.

Each newsletter will focus on a specific species and is expected to raise awareness of the work the FA is doing, encourage the rangers in their efforts and showcase the critical contributions that partners such as Daikin are making to the conservation of the CCPF.

Other Related Activities

Dan Polhemus from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (aquatic biodiversity) conducted a rapid fish species assessment of a number of critical streams in the CCPF. The results of this assessment will be used in the management of the CCPF.

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