

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

**February 2016  
Conservation International**

**Central Cardamoms Protected Forest Management Plan**

Over the reporting period, CI, the Forestry Administration (FA), and Fintrac continued their collaboration to finalize the Central Cardamoms Protected Forest (CCPF) Management Plan for the next five years (2016 to 2021). Feedback has been received from the Fintrac-funded consultant recruited to develop an initial draft framework and to review progress since the last management plan. The consultant's findings are currently being reviewed and will be incorporated where relevant. The new plan will be more concise and accessible, and easier to use and implement. To develop the plan, a number of consultation meetings have been held with the private sector, rangers, provincial law courts, district governors, the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity of the FA, and village chiefs. Two additional formal consultation workshops will be held in February in order to ensure that the ideas of all relevant stakeholders are incorporated into the management plan.

**Trust Fund**

The Trust Fund launch is scheduled for January 15, 2016. Significant preparation is underway, including invitations for key invited guests, the hiring of a photographer to capture the required images and video of the launch, and the planning of a helicopter flight to take selected guests over the CCPF and other CI landscapes.

A Trust Fund board meeting was held on December 11, 2015 at the FA office to introduce the activities and achievements of the CCPF project over the past six months. A review session featured discussions on important points such as engaging the community, implementing demarcation and increasing people's awareness of the boundaries of the CCPF, and teaching appropriate methods and techniques for patrols.

The CCPF FA sub- grant workplan and budget for the next six months was also presented. Focus will be given to ensuring that ranger capabilities are increased and that patrol interventions are conducted more efficiently.

## **Patrolling and Enforcement**

The patrol strategy formulated in the previous reporting period was implemented over the past period. A key role in this process is played by CCPF FA managers in charge of the northern and southern sections of the CCPF, and the CCPF management team comprising representatives of CI and its partners. The CCPF management team meets monthly to look at day-to-day management issues, ensure the budget is in line with plans, review SMART data and ranger performance, develop short- to medium-term plans, and address outstanding issues.

Over 570 patrols were conducted over the reporting period, resulting in the confiscation of seven vehicles, 40 chainsaws, two guns, 82 kg of bush meat, and 18 monkey heads, and the destruction of six illegal camps.

Over the reporting period, Daikin support continued to make possible regular community patrols in three communities. The patrols focused on dragon fish pools and Siamese crocodile sanctuaries. Patrols conducted over 102 days involved 65 villagers, including two women. Local people continue to report an increase in the number of dragon fish.

## **Training**

Various training sessions were held both inside and outside of Cambodia. In Cambodia, rangers underwent SMART refresher training, learned new elements of the SMART system, trained in compass and map reading, and learned how to use a GIS (geographical information system). In Thailand, with the support of USAID and Daikin funding, the CCPF manager for the northern section of the CCPF received training on law enforcement policy and practice. In China, the CCPF manager for the southern section of the CCPF attended training in SMART and law enforcement.

## **Camera trap Data**

Additional camera trap data was collected over the reporting period. The amount of information on biodiversity in the region is increasing as a result of this process. Possibly one of the largest elephant herds in Cambodia was captured on film. The herd included males and females with their young. Such a healthy population of elephants was completely unexpected and is a very encouraging sign.



Images captured by the camera trap

There was also evidence that other species in the area are maintaining a stable population. The cameras have been reset and placed in the CCPF and their data will be collected in three months.

### **Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET)**

With Daikin support and at the request of the community, CI has continued its CBET initiative in the Tatai Leu community. The management unit met four times during the reporting period. By-laws are now in place, informational materials such as posters, banners, leaflets, and a website are being developed, and an awareness raising strategy to attract tourists is being formulated.

A community information centre for tourists is under construction and nearly complete.

The community has developed a number of hiking routes for tourists and plans are in place to offer specific tour packages such as bird-watching, banana wine making, jungle camping, boat tours, and fishing expeditions. In the coming months, women chosen from among the community will receive training on hygiene and cooking. This ensures that the CBET initiative offers not only a high-quality, safe experience, but also instils critical skills that benefit the community more broadly.

### **Ranger/community Engagement Strategy**

A community engagement strategy has been developed to strengthen the relationship between rangers and communities. The strategy is currently being reviewed by the FA and will be presented to ranger teams for their comments in the new Year. A needs assessment for ranger training will be carried out. A training schedule will then be developed in order to ensure the

rangers are able to effectively implement the strategy. A key component of this strategy is the establishment of a platform for regular communication between rangers and communities.

### **Communications**

The first, introductory version of the CCPF newsletter in Khmer is under preparation and will be released at the Trust Fund launch on January 15, 2016. A version in English will be released shortly afterwards. The newsletter articles will be contributed by the FA, communities, partner organizations working in the CCPF, and other interested groups.

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