

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

May 2018

Conservation International



Forty-five villagers from 3 communities in Koh Kong province in CCMNP participated in a 3-day study tour to look at bat guano production and business development in Pursat province (© CI/Photo by Narin)

From January to March 2018, the team supported the management of the Central Cardamoms Mountains National Park (CCMNP) through patrolling and law enforcement in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment (MoE). In addition, they carried out biodiversity research and, through community engagement, focused on institutional development and expansion of alternative livelihood options.

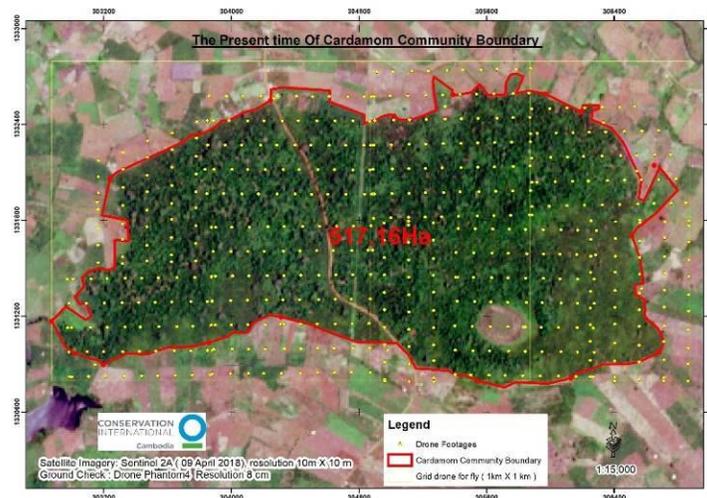
Patrolling and enforcement

The MoE ranger team conducted 106 patrols across the landscape. As a result, rangers confiscated 135 logs (40.25 m³ of timber) 2 vehicles, and 12 chainsaws, removed 90 snares, provided written warnings to 12 people, compiled 2 court cases of land clearing (amounting to 2.5 ha), and released 3 illegally poached pythons.

Nine poles demarcating the protected area (PA) boundary were installed in Koh Kong province.

The MoE rangers conducted a 3-day training on law enforcement and the compilation of court cases, one in Kampong Speu and the other in Koh Kong. Twelve CCMNP rangers attended.

CCMNP rangers worked to identify the extent of land grabbing and conversion in O'Som. This was achieved using satellite imagery (Sentinel 2A, resolution 10 m X 10 m), ground verification, and the use of a Phantom4 Drone (with a resolution of 8 cm). The study covered 517.16 ha and resulted in the MoE declaring the area to be a special zone for protection.



Drone image of the 517-ha area surveyed by the drone

Monthly and quarterly meetings joined by station managers were held twice at MoE and Rolek station. The meetings reviewed past activities and challenges, and developed plans for the next month. This is an important event as the managers can learn from one another and coordinate activities.



The PA law was explained to illegal loggers before they were given a written warning and their chainsaws confiscated; Rolek station (© CI/Photo by Narin)



CCMNP rangers participated in a training on enforcement and the compilation of court cases (© CI/Photo by Narin)



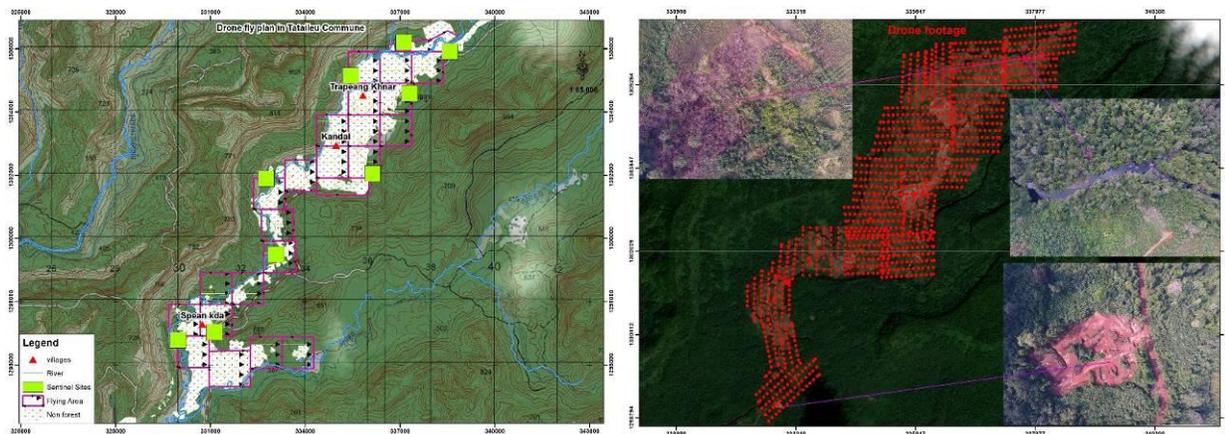
The CCMNP monthly and quarterly meetings were held at MoE and Rolek station (© CI/Photo by Narin)



Drone being prepared for flight over O'Som commune of CCMNP (© CI/Photo by Narin)

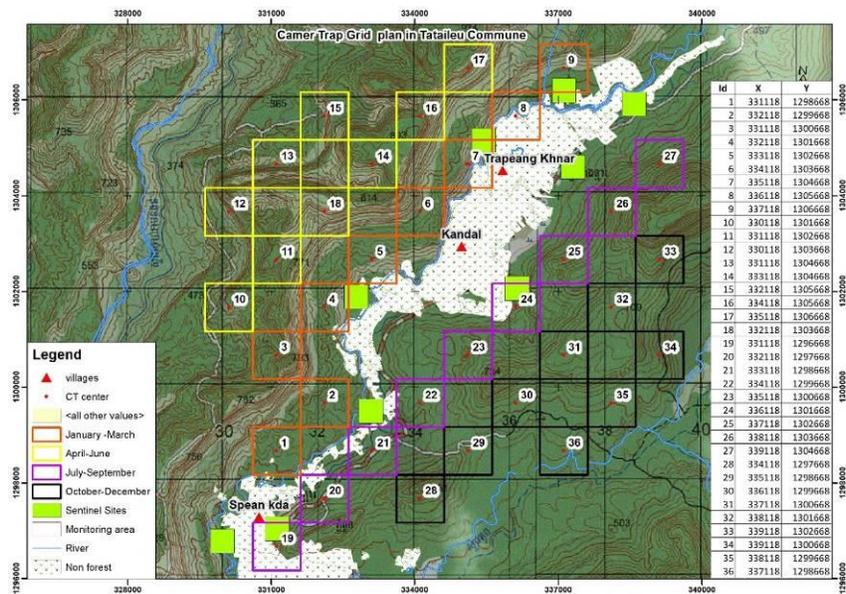
Biodiversity research

Sentinel sites: The baseline data collection from the 9 sentinel sites established in Tatay Leu continues on a routine basis in collaboration with CCMNP rangers and the local community. Camera traps have also been deployed over the reporting period. The image below on the left shows the location of the sentinel sites. The image below on the right shows the flight plan/ path of the drone.





Images taken from the drone in Tatay Leu Commune



Grid map showing location of camera traps in Tatay Leu Commune



First camera trap installed in Tatay Leu commune

Alternative community livelihoods

Agroforestry: Tatay Leu community members made visits to a bat farm in Pursat province. For more than 30 years the bat farm has been protecting bats and making fertilizer from their guano. This activity was intended to increase community awareness of the possibilities for both income generation and soil fertility improvement from bat guano. Forty-five villagers (including 22 women) joined the trips.



Villagers participated in a 3-day training to learn about the experience gathered through over 30 years in bat conservation and the production of farming fertilizers

Aquilaria (agarwood): Routine monitoring of treated trees continues, and the second round of treatment is expected to be carried out in the next reporting period.



An agarwood expert inspected the treated trees

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

There has been continued engagement with the private sector for the supply, testing, and procurement of NTFPs over the reporting season. This process has expanded to include 3 restaurants in Phnom Penh and the Cambodian Culinary Institute, as well as a distiller of NTFPs. Site visits for 2 groups of restaurant owners/NTFP buyers have been undertaken. Products have been sent to a partner pharmaceutical laboratory in Phnom Penh for additional testing. Resin samples have been collected from the CCMNP and are being prepared for testing in Singapore by potential buyers. Samples of turmeric and galangal have been sent to three companies in India for testing. Results for the turmeric have been positive and price negotiations are currently underway.



Representatives of a Phnom Penh restaurant visited and saw the potential products of communities

Lemon Grass: There was 1,600 ml of lemon grass oil produced. This has been sold to a local company, Bodia, earning the community \$106.

Beekeeping: An assessment of beekeeping has been undertaken with very positive results.



As a partner of CI, the beekeeping specialist from Save Cambodia's Wildlife (SCW) conducted a survey for potential areas for beekeeping in Koh Kong province of CCMNP

Eco-tourism: A review of the eco-tourism management bodies in Tatay Leu was undertaken. Key individuals have received training with the full training package to be implemented in the next reporting period. Meetings have been held with a NGO, Wildlife Alliance (WA), to integrate the program and there has been considerable success in bringing the 2 programs together. CI has held discussions with them to support certain of their activities under funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Meetings at the sub-national level with provincial tourism authorities and the Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE) have been held in order to integrate them in planning and decision-making processes. This has substantially improved their understanding of and willingness to support the eco-tourism activities. Additionally, exploratory meetings have been held with the World Bank to explore ways the program can be upscaled.

A contract is currently under development with a local NGO to a) lead a farming systems assessment of the valley, b) train communities on Good Agricultural Practices, and c) undertake Geographic Indication (GI) certification of Cardamom. This multi-pronged process will strengthen general productive farming capacity as well as, through the GI certification process, potentially increase the value of a critical indigenous resource.

SCW, CI's local partner, conducted a meeting on marketing linkages and a Training Needs Assessment of Ecotourism. Additionally, a 3-day training was held on Women's Leadership & Community Based Enterprise Development (C-BED), with participation by the Community Forestry (CF) association.



Discussion meeting on market linkages and ecotourism with Tatay Leu community



Three-day training on Women Leadership & Community Based Enterprise Development in Tatay Leu Commune

Engagement with government technical departments

In meetings with MoE's technical officers in Koh Kong, the Provincial Department of Environment provided advice on livelihood and ecotourism improvement for the community in Tatay Leu. They also conducted a site visit to the area. Improvements to ecotourism infrastructure are being implemented under a grant from the ADB.





Discussion meeting and site visit on livelihood and ecotourism improvement in Tatay Leu commune, participated in by MoE's technical officers, Koh Kong-PDoE, a Tatay Leu commune leader, and the community

Partnerships

Local partnerships have been strengthened through the participatory process implemented as part of the development of the Conservation Agreement for Tatay Leu. There is now a substantially improved institutional structure in place, including a broader range of community, private sector, and sub-national actors.

In collaboration with Pennsylvania State University, a Household Income and Expenditure survey (HIES) has been developed. This will form a crucial data set for monitoring impact and directing project resources.

An oversight committee has been established. This body will oversee the implementation of a revolving fund mechanism and will ensure that communities comply with agreements not to harm the forest. Funds from ecotourism and other sources will form part of the revolving fund.



A consultation meeting on Conservation Agreement development was held in Tatay Leu commune and participated in by Koh Kong-PDoE, the Thmar Baing district officer, the Tatay Leu local authority, and the community.

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