

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

**May 2017
Conservation International**

Management of the Central Cardamoms Mountains National Park

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) continued to deepen its management of the Central Cardamoms National Park (CCMNP) over this reporting period. It policed two bases of criminal activities and was able to greatly curb illegal activities. The MoE also continued with training of its staff.

CI is looking into a number of possibilities for future park management together with the MoE and partner organizations. The parties are looking for sustainable alternatives to the current management methods that will enable management costs to be shared among many organizations and all-important technical support to be provided.

Trust Fund

There was no Trust Fund Committee meeting held this reporting period. However, two meetings were held to look into ways to procure more funding and to diversify the sources of funding. One idea suggested was to charge visitors to enter the CCMNP and give this money to the Trust Fund.

Patrolling and enforcement

Patrols this reporting period yielded many successes. As a result of conducting patrols 179 times and surprise inspections 62 times, 48 chainsaws were confiscated and their owners charged in local courts of law. Also confiscated were 48 plastic bag traps and seven rope traps.



Confiscated items: pangolins (a type of anteater) and chainsaws (© Peov Somanak)

The patrols also removed seven fishing lines and 10 net traps used to catch soft-shelled turtles. They protected 13 hectares from illegal land clearing and submitted records to courts of law. Also included

in the patrols' successful seizures were approximately 140,000 m² of timber, two vehicles, two tractors (including one army tractor), and two excavators.

As a result of patrolling two bases of criminal activity, patrol personnel seized three pangolins, one Sambar deer carcass, seven knives, two axes, and one hand-made gun.



Scenes of patrols; confiscated wood (© Peov Somanak/MoE)

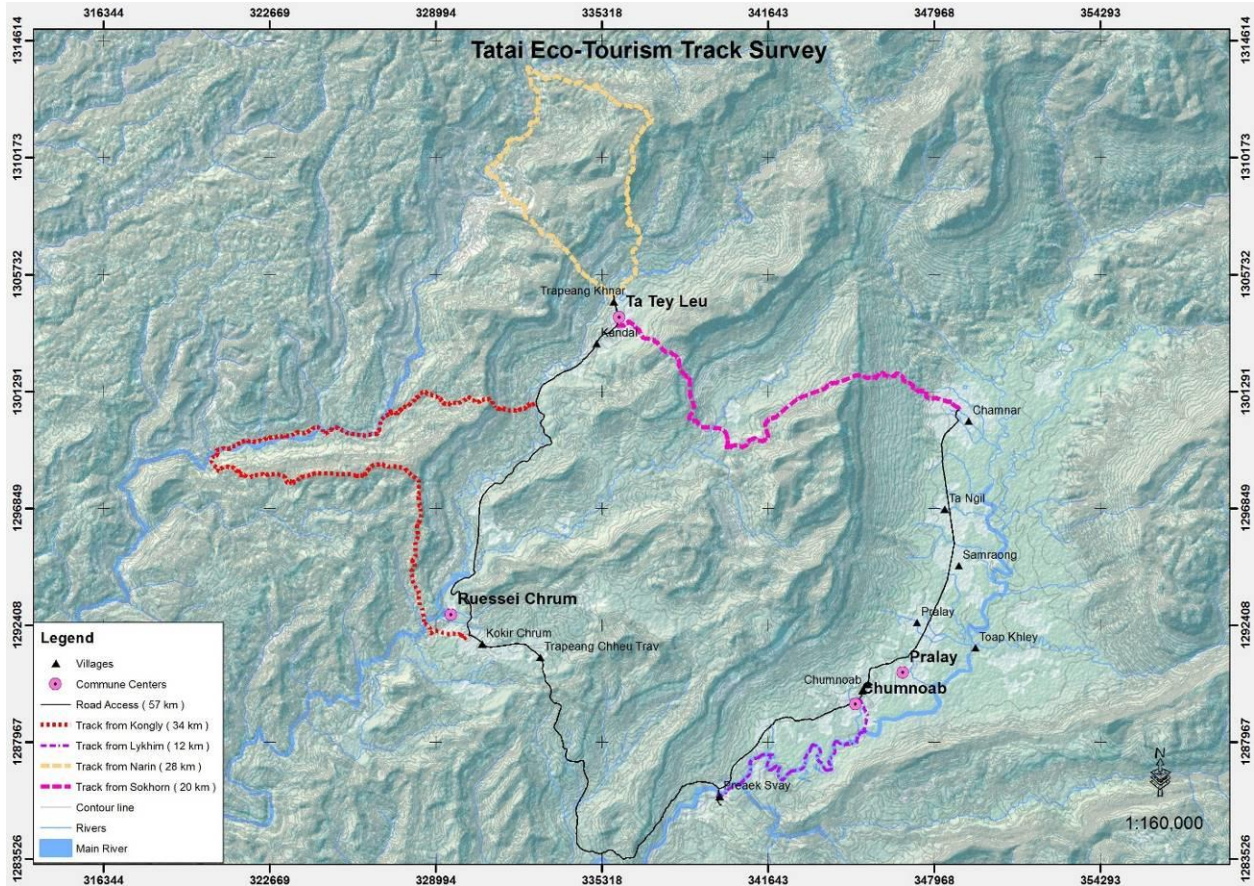
Community-based Eco-tourism

Again this reporting period, much energy was put into eco-tourism. The systems necessary to carry out tour programs were strengthened, and a new trekking course was established.

Meetings were held with numerous other NGOs to discuss ways to arrange the details of eco-tourism activities and to share information on training for community members. This process is meant to create an overall cohesiveness in the near future for eco-tourism activities in this region and will help standardize a variety of services and processes for eco-tourism.

A workshop was held in the second half of January, with participants planning 2017 eco-tourism activities and looking into ways to work most effectively with local government and government organizations.

To help the community understand the potential of eco-tourism, the project team and community members visited an eco-tourism project underway nearby.



Survey of eco-tourism routes

Note: Unauthorized copying of the images and text used here is prohibited