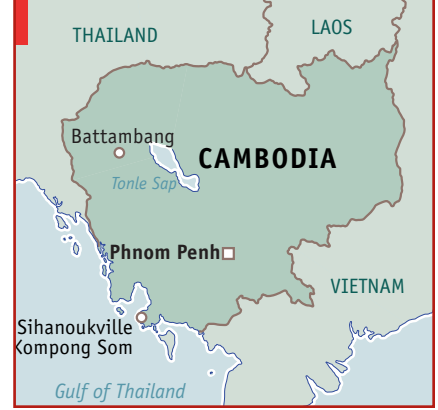


CAMBODIA



MDG7

Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Cambodia has set a number of country-specific targets to contribute to environmental sustainability. Trends indicate that much still needs to be done if Cambodia is to achieve MDG 7 by 2015. Addressing the issue of energy substitution toward greater use of environment-friendly sources, for example, is one of the requirements for more efficient use of energy. The lack of investment in alternative sources of energy has led the rural population to rely almost exclusively on wood to satisfy their energy requirements. By providing investment and better distribution of alternative and affordable energy sources to the rural population in particular, the government will reduce dependency on imported fuels.

Access to safe water supply is twice as high in urban than in rural areas. The trend is upward in both rural and urban areas, though only in the former will Cambodia meet its MDG target of 50% by 2015.

There is a dire need to strengthen state land management through integration and to register public land. Preservation, trading and concession, rent or transfer of state land for socio-economic development purposes are creating difficulties and will aggravate environmental degradation if those public lands are not properly managed.

In 1998, only 8.6% of the rural population and 49% of the urban population had access to improved sanitation. Progress has been made since then at a moderate pace, which will enable Cambodia to meet the MDG sanitation targets by 2015. At the current rate, 100% of urban dwellers and 55% of rural dwellers will have access to improved sanitation, which would exceed the envisioned targets of 74% and 30% respectively.

QUICK FACTS

CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:	\$34,199,310
Total UNDP and Co-Finance:	\$826,730
Total MPU and Bilateral:	\$647,500
Total:	\$35,673,540

Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out: 20.0 ODP tonnes

There is a wide national consensus that improved natural resource management could contribute significantly to the development process and assist not only in environmental sustainability, but also in poverty reduction, rural development, and employment generation.¹

SPOTLIGHT



Mountain Forest Mecca Rewards Sustainable Management²

Ignored for over two decades due to the conflicts, the Cardamom Mountains in southwest Cambodia is cloaked in a wide variety of natural habitats that reflect the areas topography and varying climate. Opened to the outside world in 1998, many opportunists and business dealers sought to exploit its vast array of biological diversity. Activities included illegal logging, commercial forest product harvesting, and land grabbing in advance of expected future immigrants returning from the war. This cocktail of human pressures is increasingly threatening this 2004 World Heritage Site nominee.

Initiated in 2001, the Cardamom Mountain Conservation Project was established to create two wildlife sanctuaries, the Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuary and the Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary. The two sites are located at each either of the Cardamom Mountain Range and cover over one million hectares of forests – representing 5% of the total land area in Cambodia. Expected to run until 2006, the project is funded by a US\$ 900,000 grant from the GEF with co-financing of US\$ 2.54 million, and is implemented by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia. GEF resources are being used in support of interventions in the two sanctuaries where threats are most immediate, while the Central Cardamoms Protected Forest project implemented by Conservation International (CI) conserves the intervening area to maintain continuous forest cover linking all protected sites.

FFI and CI have worked with their partner organizations to recruit and train over 100 rangers, many from local communities. Alternative livelihood programmes have been set up and local community access rights for the sustainable use of natural resources is being promoted, while enlisting the active support and participation of the communities. Conservation awareness, education programmes and local NGO support will further contribute to the long-term sustainability of the sanctuaries.

Environmental degradation is a serious issue in Cambodia, as many of the rural poor directly depend on natural resources for both food and income.³ Over 20% of the income of poor households comes from common access resources, mainly fisheries and forestry, which serve as a “safety net” when other sources fail. Effective implementation of natural resources reform is essential to alleviate poverty in Cambodia.⁴ “With so much of poverty being in rural areas, empowering the rural poor to have access to natural resources seems to be a key to any progress on improved rural livelihoods whether from land-based agriculture, fish/aquaculture, or the forests.”



Douglas Gardner, Resident Representative

PORTFOLIO

FSSD* Cambodia has several strategic initiatives focusing on the development and strengthening of national capacities for sustainable management and use of its natural resources and the environment. In addition, a National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change addresses the urgent and immediate needs of Cambodia for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change in key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, coastal zone and human health.

ENERGY Continuing its efforts to reduce GHG emissions and provide clean and affordable access to energy resources, Cambodia has been embarking on a number of programmes with the assistance of UNDP. For example, the Energy Emergency project is assisting Cambodia in defining and formulating the removal of barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation. In addition, the country is committed to conduct a self-assessment exercise aiming in preparation for the second national communication to the UNFCCC through stocktaking and stakeholder consultation process.

LAND UNDP is supporting Sustainable Land Management in Cambodia through a project that aims to assist the country in defining human and institutional capacity building needs and formulating the appropriate plan of action to address land management in a comprehensive manner.

BIODIVERSITY Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is one of the priority areas in Cambodia where several UNDP projects have been undergoing. These projects contribute to biodiversity conservation through programmes such as, the development of a biodiversity protection strategy and action plan, building national and local government capacity to manage protected areas, establishing conservation areas through landscape management, developing systems for monitoring and management of biodiversity, and promoting awareness, education, and outreach on conservation.

CHEMICALS As part of its Montreal Protocol compliance programme, Cambodia is working with UNDP in the refrigeration sector by implementing a recovery and recycling project, an important component of its refrigeration management plan. The project provides funding for an incentive programme, distribution of recovery machines and MAC recovery/ recycling units, and the establishment of a centralized recycling network.

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PARTNERS

Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Cambodia

UNF

¹Cambodia MDGR 2003 http://www.undg.org/documents/3634-Cambodian_tailored_MDG_Report.pdf; ²MSP, 'Developing an integrated protected area system for the Cardamom Mountains'; ³<http://www.un.org.kh/undp/?url=/undp/areas/environment.asp>; ⁴http://www.undg.org/documents/5582-Cambodia_UNDAF__2006_-_2010_.pdf; *Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development