

United Nations Development Programme



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Resilient nations.*

A large photograph of a rice harvest scene in Cambodia. A wooden threshing machine is in the center, with a large wooden wheel being turned by a man on the right. A thick stream of golden rice grains is falling from the machine into a wooden trough. Two other men are on the left, one using a traditional woven basket to catch the rice. The background shows a vast green rice field under a clear blue sky with some palm trees in the distance.

Cambodia Annual Report 2012



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

2012
2013

ANNUAL REPORT

SUPPORTING GLOBAL PROGRESS

REPORT SUMMARY:

In 177 countries and territories, UNDP supports actions to lift living standards, create opportunities and enable people to live fulfilling lives. Our 2012-2013 Annual Report showcases how we deliver results through programmes on poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and the environment and sustainable development. It highlights the reach of our diverse partnerships, and our globally recognized initiatives on transparency and accountability.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- UNDP has assisted the development of the Ethiopian Commodities Exchange, the first of its type in sub-Saharan Africa. We've helped 100,000 farmers adapt agricultural practices to become resilient to weather changes.
- Mobile legal services units in Sri Lanka have aided over 175,000 people to access documents—and their rights—related to marriage, property and citizenship. Streamlined one-stop assistance encourages public use and reduces corruption.
- A UNDP-backed programme in Colombia has helped around 40,000 people displaced by internal conflict resettle in new localities. The idea is simple: give people the tools they need to start over, from small plots of land to core social services.
- In Croatia, with Global Environment Facility (GEF) financing, UNDP has aided systematic energy monitoring raising efficiencies in around 11,000 public buildings in 95 out of 127 cities.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/corporate/annual-report-2013.html>

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WORKING TOGETHER



Cambodian girls return home from school in a remote village in Svay Rieng province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

All UNDP activities are done in close collaboration with the Government, other UN agencies and development partners. Partnerships with the European Union, Sweden, Spain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were instrumental for achieving results in 2012.

UNDP partnered with the Ministries of: Environment; Women's Affairs; Planning; Information; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Education, Youth and Sports. It worked with provincial governors and line departments of national ministries.

UNDP worked closely with the Supreme National Economic Council, the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, national station TVK and Council for the Development of Cambodia. It also worked

with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections, and many other local NGOs.

UNDP works with United Nations Volunteers on a wide range of activities to contribute to peace and development in countries across the world.

In 2012, 40 international and three national UN Volunteers served in 10 UN agencies, as well as within ministries in Cambodia, working in the areas of communications and advocacy, improving governance and human rights, gender issues, poverty reduction, labour rights, refugee protection, food security, social protection and social policy, climate change, aid effectiveness and volunteerism. In addition, four Cambodian nationals served as UN Volunteers in UN missions in East Timor, Rwanda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



FOSTERING CMDG

STATUS OF THE CAMBODIA MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012 suggests the country's macroeconomic situation has improved. However, certain indicators still need to be closely monitored. While the economy has bounced back after suffering from the global financial crisis, structurally it remains vulnerable to external shocks. More needs to be done to diversify the economy in order to make more gains in the country's MDGs.



Progress on several social indicators, such as child mortality, school enrolment rates at the primary level or access to safe drinking water in urban areas, has been encouraging. However, issues such as child nutrition, school dropout, water and sanitation and gender gaps, pose problems. Deforestation, saving water resources and the environment, and mine contamination could weaken the country's development momentum.

Challenges in social sectors include enrolment in education beyond primary level and raising the quality of education, especially in mathematics, analytical methods and logic.

Cambodia is transforming from a rural and agricultural society to an urbanized one built on manufacturing, tourism and construction. Consequently, people are increasingly migrating to urban areas. It is essential therefore that Cambodia braces itself for large rural-urban migration streams.

The report, however, does not propose stemming the migration tide; rather, it proposes creating conditions for cities to grow to accommodate these numbers over the coming years, and for the country to pursue inclusive and sustainable growth.

*A farmer plucks rice seedlings in a paddy field in Samlot district, Battambang province.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia*



Buyers load rice onto the truck. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Canal restoration through a UNDP-supported project allows farmers in Takeo province to plant rice three times per year for the first time. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

RESTORED CANAL BOOSTS FARMERS' RICE YIELD

Takeo – Holding US\$200 she has just received from a rice buyer, farmer Tous Sok Heang jokingly said “we are rich today.”

It was another pay day for her at the end of what was a bumper crop season. For the first time, she and her fellow farmers in Tnot Chum village in Takeo province were able to plant and harvest rice three times, tripling yield – and revenue too.

Previously, one rice cycle was the norm in this commune in southern Cambodia. That was because the canal in the paddy field was hopelessly shallow, leaving the villagers to pray for rain.

“We cannot pin much hope on the rain these days. In one year it may start early in the season but in the next it may arrive late,” commune chief Chi Chim said.

Since the 6.5-kilometer canal was dredged in mid-2012, water became plentiful, allowing the villagers to grow rice in three cycles, each lasting three months from planting to harvest. The restoration was carried out by a joint UNDP-GEF project. It was part of a broader

climate adaptation initiative to help improve living conditions of rural households in the face of harsh, unpredictable climatic events such as drought and flood.

Rice farming is the main livelihood for the majority of the rural population which makes up around 80 percent of Cambodia’s 14.5 million people. Despite a steady rise in production, farmers continue to face several constraints, including inadequate irrigation systems.

Under the project, which received financial support from Sweden and Australia, overall some 47 kilometers of canal have been dredged to feed water to over 41,100 hectares of rice fields during dry and rainy seasons in 12 provinces. This provides some 11,240 poor families across those provinces with better irrigation to boost rice output – and subsequently earnings.

But having enough water is only one part of the story.

Traditionally, Cambodian farmers use long-cycle seeds which take six months to harvest. But to make the most of the water, many have

begun instead using short-cycle seeds that take just three months to grow and collect the yield.

According to estimates by local officials in Takeo province, on average a family with one hectare of land, last year, collected 15 tonnes of rice from three cycles within a nine-month period. That is 5 tonnes per hectare in a growing cycle, which fetched approximately US\$915 in sale. At the end of each cycle a family made around US\$260 in profit after deducting the costs of operating a generator to pump water, buying fertilizer and renting a harvest machine.

Lim Savoeun, another farmer, said that, while the profit would not make her rich, it made a big difference for her family.

“In the past, we struggled to scrape by and sometimes had to loan money from others to fill the gap [in the income],” the 37-year-old woman said. *“But we can avoid that since we are now able to grow rice in more cycles than before. This will allow us to make more savings to support our children’s education.”*

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS



Despite significant improvement, access to clean water remains a major issue facing the majority of rural households in Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) promoted a 'development-effectiveness approach' across the Government and with development partners. The Government maintained its engagement in international post-Busan policy dialogue, including South-South partnerships and, as a result Cambodia

can align the global consensus with its Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy to ensure that it reflects global norms.

South-South Cooperation continued to be a feature of the CDC's work, particularly with regard to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Database, with visits from Vietnam, Laos and Zambia, and collaboration with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Tuvalu.

OWNERSHIP, EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION

In response to the 2011 international conference on aid effectiveness in Busan, Korea, UNDP and other development partners have been working together with the Government on Programme-Based Approaches (PBAs). PBAs help ensure all development resources and activities within a sector work together in harmony under one plan to maximize benefits to the Cambodian people.

The Council for Development of Cambodia is leading the country's agenda on aid effectiveness. It develops strategies and mechanisms to best manage development resources in transparent, accountable and sustainable ways, so that the development

activities of today continue to benefit Cambodians in the future. In areas that cross sectors, like gender empowerment, human capital and climate change, UNDP is helping facilitate the adoption of systems and practices by government ministries that enable them to work together and achieve better development results.

Cambodia is committed to global best practices in aid effectiveness, demonstrated through its support for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and adoption of tools that promote mutual accountability, like Joint Monitoring Indicators, national sector review arrangements, aid effectiveness reports and the ODA Database,

which enables development partners to openly share details of their projects.

In late 2012, with technical support from UNDP, the CDC drafted a series of background papers and conducted a SWOT analysis in preparation for a new Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy (2014-2018) that will build on the successes of the previous partnership agreement, and continue to strengthen coordination between development partners and the Government. NGOs and private businesses are being invited to get involved in discussing development effectiveness in Cambodia, as they will play a key role in the country's economic future.

SCORECARDS, WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

Preah Sihanouk - In Cambodia, local governments are increasingly playing an important role in drawing up plans for development to help improve the lives of local populations. In this context, the Government has introduced several new tools aimed at assisting local authorities in doing their jobs more effectively.

These tools include scorecard on Cambodia Millennium Development Goals and sectoral scorecards on economic, social, environmental and admin security aspects of local development.

First introduced in 2010 by Ministry of Planning with support from UNDP, the MDG scorecard was designed for use in tracking progress of CMDG. Since last year, commune-sangkat councils across the country are using it to set development priorities for their respective communities. This scorecard derived from the Commune Database which contains comprehensive information about socio-economic conditions and infrastructure in the rural areas. The scorecard, which comes in spider graph and chart, enables policy makers and local development planners alike to identify more easily areas where they will need to do more to speed up progressing in achieving MDGs.

Additionally there is sectoral scorecard that is used to support preparation of district 5-year development plans and 3-year rolling investment plans. This scorecard has been



Cambodian villagers attend meeting to discuss development planning with local officials. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

designed to respond specifically to needs for planning in economic, social, environmental and administrative security dimensions. Gender is cross-cutting among all four areas. Performance of indicators under each sector is measured by scores from zero to 100, with zero meaning low and the latter high. This score system allows local officials to see clearer where more efforts are needed to make meaningful difference in the lives of their residents.



Trainers explain MDG scorecard to commune officials. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

NEW POVERTY LINE FOR CAMBODIA

The Government has re-defined the country's poverty line. Like the previous one, the new poverty line is nutrition-based, which is the international norm for low and low-middle income countries. It suggests that a person is deemed to be poor if he or she has a consumption level less than 3,871 Riels per day (at 2009 prices). The earlier poverty line—drawn in the 1990s—was 3,332 Riels per day (at 2009 prices).



This exercise was done in order to align the minimum standards of living with the development progress the country has experienced in the last decade.

Underlying this poverty line is a stipulated nutrition level equivalent to 2,200 Kilocalories per person per day, uniformly applicable to the whole country. There is an allowance for non-food items however as price-levels and the need for non-food items are not the same in all the geographic regions, separate poverty lines have been calculated for Phnom Penh, other urban areas and rural areas.

Calculations based on the new poverty line suggest that the proportion of people below the poverty line in Cambodia was 22.9 percent in the year 2009, which reduced to 21.1 percent in 2010 and further to 19.8 percent in 2011.

A fisherman casts a fishing net in Siem Reap province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Farmer Prak Chrin, second from right, sows green bean to grow on a piece of land after it was cleared of land mines.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Farmer Thong Yeuy picks pineapple she grows on the land behind her house that used to be littered with land mines.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia

DE-MINING TRANSFORMS FORMER BATTLEGROUND INTO FIELD OF HOPE

Battambang - Farmer Prak Chrin spent nearly 20 years leading a risky existence in a remote region in northwestern Cambodia. The landscape around her wooden house is infested with land mines. Like many others in similar situation, she had to take chances, daring the hidden danger to clear bushes in a pocket of hillside land to grow crops to feed her family.

Now the one-hectare land is a ticket to a more stable future for the 50-year-old woman and her three sons. Rice, corn and bean can grow on the land after it was swept clean of landmines and other explosive devices in June 2012.

"I am so glad to finally be able to use the land for crops," said Prak Chrin, who lives in O Tatiek village in Samlot district, Battambang province.

Situated about 400 kilometres northwest of the capital Phnom Penh, the village is one of the country's heavily-mined regions. But years of de-mining work, with support from international community including UNDP, are gradually transforming a former battle ground into a

field of hope for the rural folks like Prak Chrin.

Since 2006, UNDP's mine action project has helped get rid of the deadly devices and free more than 5,400 hectares of land in Cambodia. Some two-thirds of that have been converted into farmland.

"Just over a year ago this land was full of shrubs. We could use only a small portion of it because of landmines," Thong Yeuy, 42, said as she made her way through a pineapple farm behind her house. She said she made about US\$250 a year from selling the fruit to supplement income from rice farming.

Seeing that landmines and ERWs are hindering development, Cambodia has made mine clearance the 9th Millennium Development Goal. Over the past two decades, the country has grown in the know-how and capacity. The number of casualties was drastically reduced to 186 in 2012 from 4,300 in 1996. Overall, some 70,000 ha of land have been cleared so far by various mine-clearance agencies operating in the country.

Yet, given the meticulous and dangerous nature of de-mining work, keeping up with the villagers' needs for land is quite challenging. Cambodia has set a target to clear over 645 square kilometers of land by 2019, an enormous task that will depend heavily on continued financing from international donors.

Meanwhile, farmer Prak Chrin can now breathe a sigh of relief. With the hazard already removed, she said she will make the most out of her land. In the long run, she hoped to increase yields and savings from selling crop surplus to build a bigger house to replace the 15-square metre, rickety cottage she is currently sharing with her three boys.

That's her dream, but for now the absence of fear factor is the most important thing for her.

"Every morning I and my children just go out to work in the field, walk the cows without worry anymore," she said. "Things are a lot better for us."



Cambodian de-miners at work in a mine field in Battambang province in northwestern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

CMDG 9: REDUCING CASUALTIES FROM LAND MINES AND EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR (ERW)

In addition to the eight universally agreed Millennium Development Goals, Cambodia has a special ninth goal for clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war that continue to pose obstacles to development.

Beginning in 2006, UNDP's mine action project—with support from international donors, including the governments of Australia, Austria and Canada—has helped clear the deadly devices and free, by the end of 2011, more than 5,400 hectares of land in Cambodia. Some two-thirds of the cleared land has been used for agriculture.

In 2012, more than 1,500 hectares of land in the most mine affected provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin were cleared of landmines and ERW with UNDP's support. Nearly 7,000 pieces of anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and ERW were destroyed during the clearance process. Most of the land cleared was converted for use for agriculture, infrastructure development and housing.

CLEARING FOR RESULTS: FREEING LAND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Clearing for Results Phase II Project supports the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) to lead the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy, resulting in resources being allocated to national and local development priorities.

The resources are being used to support mine clearance tasks, which will free more land for communities to use for rural development and improve access to economic opportunities and growth. CMAA takes a leading role in the management of the project's resources, and as such it gains not only ownership of the project but also increased leadership in the sector.

The project adopts a three-pronged approach. First, it supports the overall coordination of the sector through empowering CMAA to promote and implement the National Mine Action Strategy (2010-2019). Second, it assists in the development of CMAA's capacity to manage, regulate, coordinate and monitor the sector efficiently and effectively. Third, the project plays an active role in surveying and clearing areas contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war.

The project will see that the mine action policy and strategic frameworks ensure all resources are effectively allocated to national priorities aimed at making more mine-free land available for local development. CMAA is also expected to gain greater technical and functional capacities to manage the sector. In this regard, 35 square kilometres of contaminated land will be mapped, cleared and released for productive use through local planning.



Villagers make their way to a crop plantation in Samlot district, a heavily mined region in Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



A villager drives past a sign for a solar-powered water pumping station in Bos Leav commune, Kratie province in northeastern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



A boy takes a shower using water distributed by a solar-powered pumping station in a village in Kratie province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

SOLAR-POWERED PUMPS BRING WATER INTO RURAL HOMES

Kratie - In rural communities of Cambodia running water is a commodity hard to come by, but that has started to change for the residents of Bos Leav commune in Kratie province.

“My house was the first to get the running water. It is just so convenient and saves a lot of time,” Chhae Sokhaeng, a 37-year-old woman, said while washing vegetable with water from a PVC pipe.

Her family is one of the 150 households – or around 1,000 people – in the commune that are now receiving, for the first time, running water through solar-powered pump.

Across the commune there are now three solar pumping stations that were installed as part of a joint initiative of United Nations Development Programme and Global Environment Facility to assist the villagers in mitigating adverse effect of climate change. It is a small but significant intervention in a country where around 56 percent of the rural households are still without access to safe drinking water sources.

In Bos Leav commune, about 315 kilometres

northeast of Phnom Penh, the new water system can help spare villages, especially women, the trouble of fetching water to spend more time on farming activities instead. The community is also no stranger to drought and flood. Previously, they relied on a nearby stream for water. In dry season, the stream ebbs, forcing people to trek 20 metres down the bank to get water. In rainy season, the stream overflows to consume the wider landscape where animal droppings are a common sight. Cases of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea were also common.

“The water from the stream is simply dirty. You have to stir white alum in it to separate the residue first before you can even use it for cooking,” said Im Li, the water distribution supervisor in Preah Konlong village. Part of his job is to manage the power switch linking a well pump to the eight solar panels – each measuring 0.6-meter wide and 1.2-meter long – that rise above a six-meter high tower.

Pig farmer In Aen recalled that in the past he had to spend 5,000 riel (US\$1.25) per day – a heavy sum in a country where the poverty

line is only 3,871 riel per day (97 US cents) – on gasoline to run the generator to pump water from the stream for storage. “It was really hard to keep up with the expense.”

Now when the power switch is on, the pump pushes the water up into storage tanks on the tower from where it drops through a pipe system and straight into people’s homes that are not even connected to power grid. The villagers say the utility is helping cut down significantly both the amount of time and money they used to spend on getting water and treating water-related illnesses. They have also drawn up water use regulation that includes imposing quota on amount of water a family can use per day and charging affordable water fee to build up a maintenance fund.

“It is a big investment so we have to maintain it to last long,” Im Li, the water distribution supervisor, said.

Each solar pump unit costs US\$21,350 to build, paid for by the climate change adaptation project in water resources and agriculture, a partnership between the Cambodian government, UNDP and GEF.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND WATER: ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AT TIMES OF FLOOD AND DROUGHT



For rural families that rely on farming, climate change effects can have serious impacts on their food security. Trying to lessen such an impact and contribute to preventing food insecurity is the main objective of the 'Climate Resilience in Agriculture and Water' project. The project has raised awareness about climate change in targeted communities and demonstrated climate resilient practices in agriculture and water resource management to local residents.

It works in two contrasting agricultural districts in Kratie province and Preah Vihear province. They were selected for their high vulnerability and differences in agro-ecological and socio-economic circumstances. The district in Kratie province is flood-prone, while the district in Preah Vihear

province is frequently affected by drought.

Results have seen responses to climate change impacts in 16 target communes in the two districts. Sixteen Commune Investment Plans have incorporated climate risk management and adaptation measures, as well as two provincial development plans and two district investment plans. A total of 150 families now receive clean water through solar-powered stations. A community-based early-warning system was set up to provide information about the weather to farmers, rice seed varieties that can cope better with flood and drought have been used on 325 of the 500 planned hectares, and more than 3,000 farmers and local authorities have knowledge on climate change.

Effective management of water resources is crucial for agriculture, especially rice farming which the majority of the rural population rely on to make a living. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION PROGRAMME: GETTING READY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

The impacts of climate change on Cambodia, a least-developed country, are predicted to adversely affect food production and food security in rural areas. Reduced agricultural production could lead to hunger and malnutrition, negatively affecting Cambodia's overall economic performance and hindering the achievement of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals.

The Cambodia Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CCBAP) aims to allay some of those risks, especially for the rural population. It is designed to address the gaps identified in the Government's National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA). The focus is on trying to reduce the vulnerability of Cambodia's agricultural sector to climate-induced changes in the availability of water resources. It works through a range

of community-based agricultural initiatives, for example water canal restoration, home vegetable gardening and energy-efficient cook stoves. These improve the living conditions of people in rural areas so they can cope better with climate hazards such as flood and drought.

In 2012, adaptation and resilience measures were built in 150 vulnerable communities in flood- and drought-prone areas in the Tonle Sap region, as well as in the southern and north-east regions of Cambodia. Sixty percent of the targeted communes are now able to use information from Vulnerability Reduction Assessments in preparing commune development plans. Lessons learned with good practices have been documented and shared to influence changes in policy and programme development.



A villager cooks palm sugar on a stove with improved designed to consume less fire wood. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



MANAGING RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Cambodia has seen steady improvements of its Human Development Index over the last decade, increasing from 0.44 in 2000 to 0.54 in 2012. The Cambodian economy is among the fastest growing economies in the region and the country has made remarkable progress in economic and human development.



However, the origins of this growth are not only narrow (mainly garments and construction), they lack links between and within sectors. Cambodia still faces enormous challenges sustaining achievements and reducing poverty and inequality. The country needs to enhance the effectiveness of its institutions and expenditures by investing more in human development and economic infrastructures.

To sustain these overall gains Cambodia must ensure the benefits of growth are distributed equitably, through job creation and investment in education and health.

Students bicycle home from school in Svay Rieng province. As Cambodia is working to build human capital, improving the quality of education is a critical element to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth for all. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Photo: Ashish John, WCS



Community members get on-site training on wildlife protection in Tmatboey conservation area in Preah Vihear province, northern Cambodia. Photo: Sok Sony, WCS

COMMUNITY-LED ECOTOURISM IMPROVES VILLAGERS' LIVES

Preah Vihear - The ecotourism in Tmatboey village, Preah Vihear province, continued to prosper for seven consecutive years. Revenue earned from visit of foreign tourists reached US\$14,000 in 2012, underscoring the positive impact the enterprise has had in making better lives for many people in one of the poorest regions of Cambodia.

"I cannot predict how many guests we might receive in the new 2013-14 season, but what I can say now is that the business is so far so good," said Mr. Dib On as he led a small team of caretakers to make up guesthouse rooms ahead of the arrival of foreign tourists.

Time was late December 2012. A few days earlier he had been busy with rice harvest. But as soon as he was done with it, he wasted little time to get on the guesthouse business in his role as the ecotourism chief in Tmatboey, a nature conservation site in the northern plains of Cambodia.

Mr. Dib On, 48, said that, in 2012, the guesthouse received 128 tourists, compared to 110 in 2011. They were all foreigners who – instead of following the traditional tourist trail through the famed Angkor ruins in Siem Reap

province – chose to spend a few days at the guesthouse to get a glimpse of rare birds.

Tmatboey is situated within Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, which is home to biodiversity of global importance. It is also a refuge to many critically endangered birds, including lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black necked storks, white-shouldered ibis, giant ibis, sarus crane, darter and vulture. Previously these animals were popular hunting targets. But their number has rebounded due largely to the villagers' involvement in the Conservation Areas through Landscape Management (CALM) project with support from the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society, Global Environment Facility, and UNDP since 2006.

But it's not just a blessing for the wildlife. The villagers have also been able to improve their livelihoods by taking part in protecting the very wildlife they used to hunt down for a living.

Mr. Dib On used to be one of them, but today he is the head of the ecotourism committee in Tmatboey which operates a wooden guesthouse in the heart of the protected forest.

"Things are so different in a good way unlike previously when our village did not even have a proper paved road. I am very proud of what we have achieved for our community," he said.

"In the past, we had no idea what a bank is for, but now we pay it regular visits to deposit or withdraw money to do our work," he added.

The initiative has been such a success that, in 2008, it was awarded the Equator Prize which recognizes contribution of local actions to sustainable development. It was also later replicated in two neighboring villages – Dongphlat and Prey Veng – although in a smaller scales.

Wildlife-friendly rice – a scheme which pays farmers a premium price for their organically-grown rice as an incentive for their cooperation in protecting critically endangered Ibis – has also been quite a big hit. Due to its growing popularity, the number families taking part in the Ibis rice scheme rose to 216 in 2012 from 39 in 2008 when it began. Last year's sale fetched US\$64,700 which represented more than seven times higher the revenue that was first earned five years ago.

PRESERVING WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY



Eld's Deer in Kulen-Prumtep Wildlife Sanctuary in Preah Vihear province. Photo: Ashish John, WCS

The Conservation Areas Through Landscape Management (CALM) project was designed to address the problem of an escalating loss of biodiversity across Cambodia's Northern Plains, caused by unsustainable use of forest.

Run over seven years (2006-2012) at three selected sites, the project used a three-pronged approach. First, the project sought the introduction of biodiversity considerations into provincial level land-use processes, focusing particularly on building the capacity of provincial departments and authorities, and integrating specific project initiatives with established provincial planning processes. Second, it demonstrated how specific interventions, namely community land-use tenure, community-based ecotourism, and community contracts and incentives for biodiversity-supportive land-use practices can be mainstreamed at the three sites. Finally, it worked to strengthen biodiversity management by government in two categories of protected areas: the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, under the remit of the Ministry of Environment, and the

Preah Vihear Protected Forest, under the remit of the Forestry Administration.

During the project, more than 5,000 government officials and local community members were trained in understanding conservation planning processes. By 2012, natural resource management committees had been created and land-use plans were completed in 12 communities in the Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, with more than 30,000 hectares of land designated.

Work was carried out in 15 villages within the Preah Vihear Protected Forest, and community protected forest plans have been established for them all. This secures land for rural communities and builds ownership over natural resources, thus increasing sustainability. The first community-managed ecotourism venture in Tmatboey was highly successful in protecting endangered birds, while also increasing local livelihoods. Two other villages in the Northern Plains have created ecotourism ventures based on the same model.

The Ibis Rice scheme was developed to pay farmers a premium price for their rice if they agreed to abide by conservation agreements designed to protect critically endangered wildlife. The number of participating families rose from 39 in 2008 to 216 in 2012, with revenue paid to local communities rising from \$8,700 in 2008 to \$64,702 in 2012. Direct payments for bird nest protection have protected nine globally threatened bird species from the threat of hunting (2,474 nests and 4,539 chicks during 2006-2012).

The amount paid for nest protection has risen from \$10,093 in 2007/08 to \$18,253 in 2011/12. Priority was given to improving available infrastructure and equipment and technical training for government staff. Site-based monitoring for patrolling, research and forest cover has improved, as has targeting illegal hunting and logging. This led to a reduction in incidents of logging by 94 percent and hunting by 76 percent within the Preah Vihear Protected Forest.



White-shouldered ibis at Tmatboey eco-tourism site in Preah Vihear province. Photo: Ashish Jonh, WCS



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

RAINY SEASON GETTING WETTER AND DRY SEASON GETTING DRYER

The impacts of climate change will be unprecedented, with increasing threats to life, livelihoods and life-supporting systems. Cambodia is ranked among the world's top 10 countries with the highest vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, although the country's net contribution to global warming is negligible. Natural hazards such as floods, droughts and storms are likely to become more prevalent and more intense. It is also expected that changes will occur in the timing, duration and intensity of the two main seasons in Cambodia – the wet season and the dry season. This implies that the dry season will be longer and drier than before, while the wet season will be shorter and wetter. Cambodia's vulnerability to climate change is widely regarded as being due to its lack of capacity to adapt.



The Ministry of Environment is leading efforts to review existing legislation and come up with recommendations for the integration of climate change considerations into existing and future legislation. The ministry's climate change technical team has been working to develop the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2013. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs have led the way in establishing technical working groups on climate change, comprising officials from various departments within the ministries.

Rice seedling is dying due to lack of rain in Battambang province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

BUDDHIST MONKS LEAD MISSION TO SAFEGUARD FOREST

Oddar Meanchey - Despite threat and pressure, forest activists comprising of Buddhist monks and villagers were steadfast in their mission to protect 13 community forestry sites in Oddar Meanchey province that is critical to the survival of the local communities. Their efforts have lately seen the sites – 64,318 in total – generating a lot of interests from investors seeking to buy verified carbon credits.

With the financial support from the United Nations Development Programme, local forest rangers conducted a survey of 100 biomass plots to measure how much carbon has been sequestered, said Amanda Bradley of Pact, an international NGO which has been assisting the villagers in the conservation. She said the activity was a follow-up to the previous survey in 2008 when the biomass plots, each measuring 2,500 square metres, were first entered into a carbon inventory.

“We need to re-measure 100 forest plots...to see how much carbon has been sequestered since the project started in February 2008,” Ms. Bradley said.

“The project is already seeking investors. Most buyers that have approached our broker – Terra Global Capital – would like to buy verified carbon credits. With the UNDP funds, we are starting this process of verifying credits,” she said.

All 13 sites represent the largest concentration of community forestry in the country. They are home to endangered wildlife and rich in non-timber products such

tree resin, medicinal herbs, and mushrooms that poor villagers rely on for food and income. Women are also among the conservation force.

“Nearly half of the members of our forest patrol are women. Why? Because, we, as women, and our lives depend on the forest for daily survival,” Moul Nen, a 55-year-old woman and conservation leader, said.

Through the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, UNDP is working with Food and Agriculture Organization and United Nations Environmental Programme to assist Cambodia in developing REDD+ implementation.

Cambodia's Forestry Administration has classified the 13 community forestry groups as a carbon offset project. The protected forest land is expected to sequester 8.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over 30 years.

“The [UN-REDD] programme is extremely important for our survival – not just in Cambodia but in the entire world,” Venerable Bun Saluth, a Buddhist monk who leads Monks' Community Forestry, said.

Spanning across 18,261 hectares, the Monks' Community Forestry is the biggest community forest in Cambodia. For the past decade, Ven. Bun Saluth has been at the forefront of his environmental crusade. His



From the ground up, a view of the trees in Monks' Community Forestry, the biggest community forest in Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Villagers take a look at posters about environmental conservation. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

dedication won him the prestigious Equator Prize from UNDP in 2010, which he later used to finance his work. This included buying food supplies, uniforms and equipment for forest patrollers, employing labor to mark the boundary of the protected forest site, and digging wells for the surrounding villagers.

“Our mission is far from over,” he said, adding “this protected site is huge and so is the threat it constantly faces.”

CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE

Climate change continues to be a key priority area, along with gender and disaster risk management, in the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018. Climate change strategic plans have been developed under the coordination of the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment.

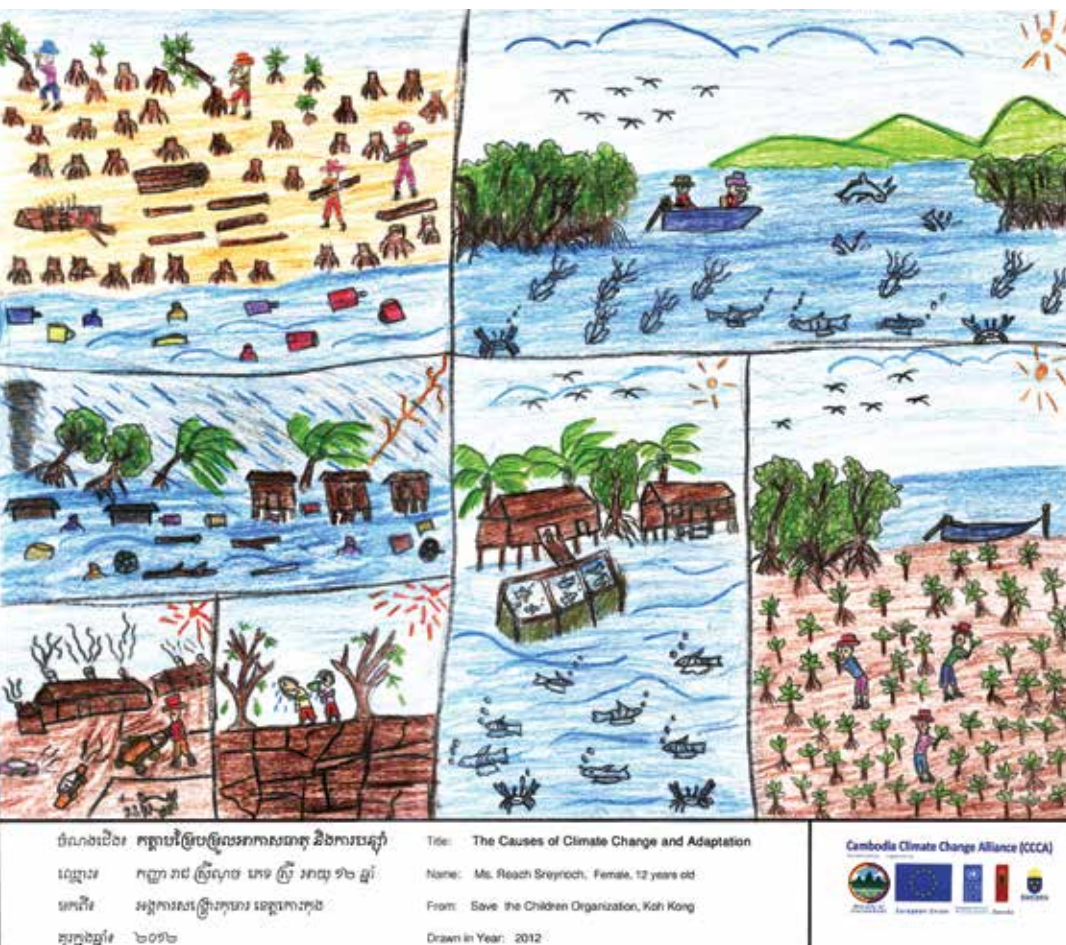
A study on climate change public expenditure provided an initial overview of climate-related budget lines in Cambodia, as well as recommendations to align them with national development priorities.

The Cambodian climate change negotiation team received continued support and

training to better position the country in international negotiations; to respond to the needs of the country and to equip the team with technical knowledge and skills in contributing to the climate change national strategy.

The Climate Change Trust Fund awarded 19 grants to various line ministries, local government and civil society organizations working to build community resilience in different priority sectors. Results from the independent evaluation of the grants found that the grant fund mechanisms and support of CCCA's Trust Fund Secretariat had functioned well. These funds have been used to enhance adaptation ability in rural communities through livelihood initiatives such as home gardens, integrated farming, biogas installation, protection of fishing zones, use of floating cages in flood-prone pond systems, and growth of forage crops.

To broaden knowledge about climate change issues, CCCA launched an online platform to share key documents and publications, as well as library corners in three universities for students to learn about environmental issues in Cambodia. This was in addition to the Climate Change Communication, Education and Awareness Guideline that was launched in 2012, together with campaigns in provinces to spread awareness about climate change impacts among the rural population.



A drawing by 12-year-old student Reach Sreynoch won a contest to raise awareness about impacts of climate change.
 Photo: UNDP Cambodia

UN-REDD

In 2012, the UN-REDD National Programme provided support to the readiness process for REDD+ implementation, including support for REDD+ pilot projects and research to allow for future implementation of REDD+, for example, in flooded forests. The readiness support in 2012 included capacity building workshops, visits to Vietnam, awareness raising of stakeholders, including developing information material and support for necessary institutions to manage REDD+, and support to participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation meetings.

A Buddhist monk leads patrol in Monks' Community Forestry in Oddar Meanchey province in northwestern Cambodia. It is the biggest protected forest in the country. Photo: UNDP Cambodia





BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

CAMBODIAN YOUTH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Just over 20 years ago, Cambodia emerged from a protracted civil war that severely affected its population, infrastructure and development. Two decades after the UN-supported transition to democratic government, Cambodia remains a young democracy in reinforcing governance reforms that are complex and challenging, where decisions are still influenced by traditional power relations.

Cambodian tradition and culture emphasize respect for elders, constraining opportunities for young people to express their views. A study in 2010 of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) on youth participation revealed around 25 percent of the 2,000 youth interviewed had never heard of the Parliament, and of those who had heard the term, the majority said they did not know what it meant.

However, on a positive demographic outlook, two out of every three people in Cambodia are under 25, and more than 30 percent are aged between 10 to 24 years. This represents the largest youth population in Southeast Asia, and as such, young people can be an enthusiastic, challenging and energetic boost to the country. They will be Cambodia's largest asset over the next decade as an economic, social and cultural driving force. They offer new perspectives, new ideas and willingness to build a bright future.

Increasing the involvement of young people in local development and decision-making offers a real opportunity to provide decision-makers with genuine perspectives and first-hand experiences of young people. Based on the country's situation, and further

informed by the 2010 KAP study, UNDP began to develop a response aimed at promoting youth participation in all areas that affect their lives, and improve their opportunities to be engaged in decision-making.

Since late 2010, UNDP has been working with BBC Media Action to implement a multi-media initiative for youth civic education in Cambodia. Known as Loy9, it employs a combination of mass media formats and platforms to support the emergence of a more informed and empowered youth population in Cambodia.

In January 2012, Loy9 launched simultaneously on television, radio, online and with a series of live events supported by nearly 1,000 youth volunteers across the country. An estimated 2.4 million people watched each television episode of the first series, and many more joined in on radio, online and at live events. Radio and television public service announcements on the processes of the Commune Council elections and the registration period for the National Assembly elections further extended the reach of the initiative. The Loy9 logo was particularly popular and started to be copied and very quickly reproduced in local

markets. By the end of the first 17-episode television series, the brand was truly a household name.

Feedback from viewers and listeners showed that audiences were enjoying the programmes and events, and at the same time, learning from them, especially making them more 'brave'. The response proved that Loy9 was making a significant contribution toward changing attitudes.

Building on achievements of Series One, Loy9 launched Series Two on 5 March 2012. Series Two ran through July 2013, with two full television series, weekly radio shows, regular online content and four sets of targeted public service announcements. Now, with new funding from Sweden, Loy9 sees an opportunity for broadening its activities beyond the 2013 elections, into other new growth areas such as mobile phone technology. Future plans will also include a second KAP study on civic engagement and media consumption by Cambodian youth. This second KAP study will be designed to measure the impact of Loy9 so far, and to inform the design of a focused and strategic intervention for a second phase of the multi-media initiative in 2014-2015.



Cambodian indigenous people check their names on a voter list in Mondul Kiri province in September, 2012. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



A person with disability arrives to take part in a voter education meeting in Kratie province in September, 2012. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

HELPING DISADVANTAGED CAMBODIANS GET READY TO VOTE

Mondul Kiri - When Cambodia held local election in June 2012, Bunthoeun Tola, a member of P'ngong indigenous group in Mondul Kiri province, was turned away from the polling station. The reason was that his name on the voter list did not match the one on his ID card. He should have checked it beforehand but he did not and, as a result, he was barred from voting.

It was an unpleasant lesson learned which he did not want to repeat. In one rainy morning in September last year, he rushed to Dak Dam commune office to have his misspelled name corrected in preparation for the general election on 28 July 2013.

"This time everything is in order for me," Tola, 20, said after having his name fixed.

Early that day he joined 120 other villagers in a meeting with commune and provincial election committee officials to discuss election-related issues. The gathering was part of a voter education campaign, with support from United Nations Development Programme, to raise awareness among

indigenous people and people with disability about their right to vote and to increase their participation in the general election. Despite progress in improving opportunities for them, people with disability continue to face challenges in using their potentials to contribute to socio-economic and political development of the country.

The campaign was organized for these groups of citizens in 17 provinces: Kandal, Kampong Speu, Takeo, Kampot, Svay Rieng, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Stoeung Treng, Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin, Battambang and Pursat.

"Every vote counts," said Socheath Heng, manager of UNDP's Strengthening Democracy Programme.

"Considering the challenges they still face in their lives, it is important to assist indigenous people and people with disability to be prepared to cast their ballots so that they will not miss this chance to wait for another five years," he added.

That message was repeated over and over again by commune and election officials in Mondul Kiri province during their meeting with the villagers, who gathered under a temporary tarpaulin tent in a school's yard. After the meeting they hurried to the commune office just a cross the red-dirt road. Some crammed at a wooden wall and used their fingers to browse their names on the voter list. Others, first-time eligible voters, lined up at the nearby door with ID cards in hands as they waited to be called in to register.

When her turn arrived, Poch Trinh, an 18-year-old girl, stepped forward and handed her ID to the clerk. Two minutes later she emerged to the third registered voter in her family beside her father and mother.

"I am both happy and nervous since I never voted before," she said with a pause before adding "now I am a person who can vote to contribute to progress of the country."

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION



Villagers raise their hands to ask questions in a meeting on voter education in Mondul Kiri province in northeastern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

The Strengthening Democracy Programme (SDP) works toward promoting increased participation in democratic decision-making, as well as supporting national and sub-national institutions to be more accountable and responsive to the needs and rights of all people in Cambodia. It tries to promote citizens' interaction with elected bodies and authorities and to encourage them to participate in democratic processes and decision-making.

Apart from Loy9, SDP worked with Bandanh Chaktomuk, a network of men who have sex with men (MSM), to increase their ability to make their voices heard.

In partnership with civil society organizations, SDP conducted voter education campaigns

for vulnerable groups, particularly people with disabilities and indigenous people. Led by the Khmer Youth Association/Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association, the campaigns mobilized 2,430 indigenous people to register as new voters during the voter registration period in late 2012. Additionally, the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation assisted 1,672 people with disabilities in verifying their names on voter lists, and another 330 to register as new voters.

SDP supported Building Community Voices, a local NGO, to carry out an indigenous community radio programme in Ratanakiri province. A total of 46 indigenous people received training from Media One to produce stories about lives in their communities, to be aired on radio.

SMALL BUSINESS KEY TO LIFTING WOMEN OUT OF POVERTY

Takeo - Handicraft maker Chhel Sovann, a mother of four, wants to increase her business so that she can earn more to support her family. Having an affordable loan would be an ideal way to do that but the 38-year-old woman would only wish.

"I do not dare take the risk with borrowing money because I am afraid I won't be able to pay back the loan," said Chhel Sovann, a resident of Srae Ta Sok village, Takeo province.

Her story is one of economic deprivation that is now at the center of the Cambodian government's gender policy. The government is trying to tackle the problem by calling for greater efforts to promote women-led small and medium enterprises as a means to lift women out of extreme poverty.

"By encouraging the development of small or medium enterprises, the livelihoods of people and among them women living in the rural areas will improve," Minister of Women's Affairs, H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, said.

"Women's economic empowerment is a priority because we believe it's achievable and critical for bringing about more achievements in other Cambodia Millennium Development Goals," she added.

The minister said in a meeting where government officials and representatives of development partners discussed steps

to apply the MDG Acceleration Framework. Simply known as MAF, it is a policy approach designed to assist countries to identify and remove hurdles to eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development.

To date 39 countries have adopted MAF. Cambodia has chosen to use it to address economic empowerment of Cambodian women in a bid to make greater progress in the CMDG 3 on gender equality.

The meeting threw the spotlight on the informal sector of Cambodia's economy where women are a prominent force. Women own more than 60 percent of micro, small and medium enterprises. However, some 90 percent of them are very small, family-run type of businesses. Education, health, social protection, skills and access to decent wage employment for women were other issues that came under the microscope at the meeting.

"Cambodia is the only country that applies MAF to promote women's economic empowerment. So it is a trend-setter in this regard," said Shantanu Mukherjee, Policy Advisor on Microeconomics of UNDP.

Focus should be given to skills-job matching and creating conditions for women to benefit



Ms. Ross Hoeun, 33, makes bamboo sticky rice in Siem Reap. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Ms. Meas Savry heads the Khmer Women Handicraft Association, a small business which employs a small number of women in the village in Takeo province, southern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

in the process, he said, adding that helping Cambodian women climb up the economic ladder is the business of everyone – the government, donors, development partners, and even the private sector.

ENSURING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION



Cambodian women discuss a water management proposal in Bos Leav village, Kratie province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Cambodian indigenous villagers walk to check their names on voter lists at a commune office in Mondul Kiri province, northeastern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

The Partnership for Gender Equality (PGE) programme focused on policy and capacity building in 2012. Through consultation with government ministries and development partners, a Cambodia MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) Action Plan was developed – and later circulated – for use as a roadmap on women's economic empowerment in Cambodia.

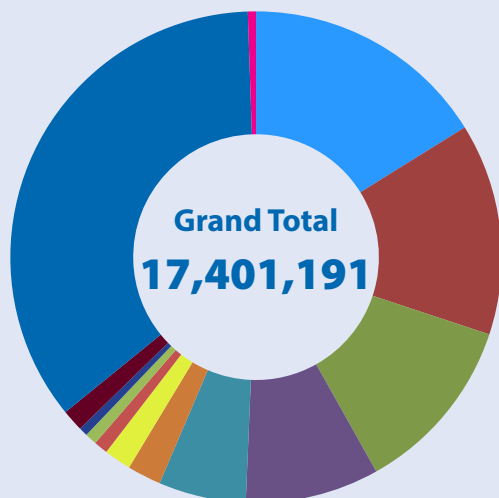
Two national forums, attended by women-led enterprises, were held to promote women's entrepreneurship. As a result, a network of women entrepreneurs was established as a way to share business practices and opportunities, and overcome challenges together. A gender-responsive budgeting guide was developed, and a series of training-of-trainers was organized for planning and budgeting officials from the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Both ministries are committed to roll out a gender-responsive budgeting initiative with three selected ministries in early 2013.

To build women's capacity in decision-making, a leadership and management training programme was completed, and a series of trainings will be delivered to 60 female senior officials and leaders across line ministries in 2013. In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs advocated for the inclusion of a gender curriculum at the Royal School of Administration. As a result of this advocacy, 231 trainees and 100 newly recruited civil servants were given training on gender-related issues within the national policies and mechanisms in Cambodia.

As part of the Promoting Gender Equality programme in addressing gender based violence, UNDP continues to advocate for and promote the rights of the MSM community and transgender population. Given the disproportionate violence faced by key HIV-affected populations, and MSM and transgender populations in Cambodia, the Ministry of Women's Affairs publicly announced in December 2012 that the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women will also address violence faced by these groups.

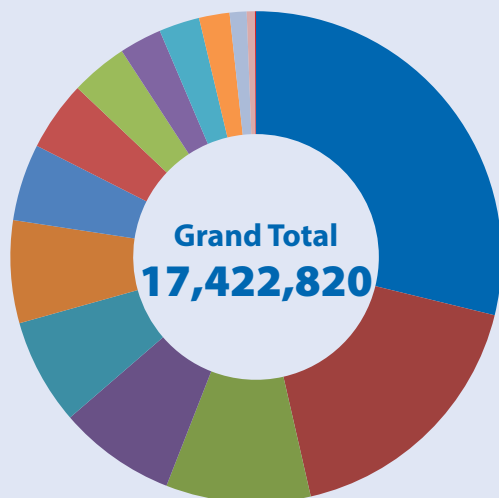
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

2012 funding by donors (US\$)



2012 FUNDING by donors (US\$)	
Sweden	2,810,057
Australia	2,425,913
Canada	2,048,896
Global Environmental Facility	1,532,053
European Union	1,000,768
Austria	387,5966
UN-REDD	311,336
DFID - United Kingdom	159,236
Norway	136,450
Thematic Trust Fund - Civic Engagement	100,000
Other Donors	248,242
UNDP (core funding)	6,147,214
UNDP (TRAC 1.1.3)	93,430

2012 project expenditure (US\$)



2012 Project expenditure (US\$)	
Clearing for Results II	5,020,419
Cambodia Climate Change Alliance	3,067,342
Strengthening Democracy Programme	1,658,410
Cambodia Community-Based Adaption Programme	1,345,967
Sustainable Forest Management	1,217,446
Climate Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices	1,175,908
Linking Policies and Practice for Accelerating MDG1	882,595
Partnership for Development Results	799,902
Partnership for Gender Equity III	652,513
UN-REDD Programme	486,337
CMDG Monitoring and Support Programme	466,141
Conservation Area Land Management	349,778
Association of Councils Enhanced Services	194,280
Flood Early Recovery Assistance	93,430
Strengthening Democratic and Decentralized Local Governance	12,352



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