**GEF-6 Project Identification Form (PIF)**

**Project Type: full-sized Project**

**Type of Trust Fund: GEF Trust Fund**

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title: | Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) in the productive, natural and forested landscape of Northern Region of Cambodia | | | |
| Country(ies): | Cambodia | GEF Project ID:[[1]](#footnote-2) | | 9781 |
| GEF Agency(ies): | UNDP | GEF Agency Project ID: | | 5770 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | Ministry of Environment | Submission Date:  1st Re-submission  2nd Re-submission  3rd Re-submission | | March 3, 2017  April 20, 2017  July 4, 2017  August 31, 2017 |
| GEF Focal Area(s): | Multi-focal Areas | Project Duration (Months) | | 60 months |
| Integrated Approach Pilot | IAP-Cities  IAP-Commodities  IAP-Food Security | | Corporate Program: SGP | |
| Name of parent program: | N/A | Agency Fee ($) | | $ 317,330 |

A. indicative [Focal Area Strategy Framework and Other Program Strategies](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF6%20Results%20Framework%20for%20GEFTF%20and%20LDCF.SCCF_.pdf)[[2]](#footnote-3)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs) | Trust Fund | (in $) | |
| GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| BD-1 Program 1 Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure | GEFTF | 2,457,078 | 5,800,000 |
| LD-1 Program 1 Agro-ecological Intensification | GEFTF | 433,242 | 1,500,000 |
| LD-3 Program 4 Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach | GEFTF | 450,000 | 2,700,000 |
| Total Project Cost |  | 3,340,320 | 10,000,000 |

B. indicative Project description summary

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Objective: To promote integrated landscape management for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity natural resources and ecosystem services in the northern region of Cambodia | | | | | | |
| Project Component | Financing Type[[3]](#footnote-4) | Project Outcomes | Project Outputs | Trust Fund | (in $) | |
| GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| **Component 1:**  Systemic and institutional capacity for integrated landscape management | TA | **Outcome 1**: Improved regulatory framework and enhanced institutional capacity as foundations for an integrated landscape approach to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and conservation of biodiversity  **Indicated by**: (i) No. of policies, legislation and procedures reviewed, amended/developed and adopted; (ii) Mainstreaming of SLM and Biodiversity conservation into land use planning process covering 1,052,500 ha and the three provincial land use master plans; (iii) PA management plans adopted and operational for 450,673 ha of protected lands; (iv) Capacity of key government ministries, local government, NGOs and communities as indicated by the capacity development scorecard. | 1.1 Relevant policies, legislation, procedures, guidance and national standards for sustainable land use, forests conservation and PA management reviewed, their adequacy assessed for an integrated landscape approach and amended as necessary.  1.2 Landscape-scale survey of the target areas in northern Cambodia conducted to identify/confirm state of ecosystem health, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural productivity, state of forests, and degraded land that merits rehabilitation/restoration. Data to be entered in EIMS (see Output 4.2 below)  1.3 Capacity of men and women from local communities (with special attention to any indigenous communities in the target areas) in the project , local government and NGOs increased to encourage participation and responsibility-sharing for participatory planning and management of natural resources (including PAs, CPAs, CFS).  1.4 Strengthen capacity of: 1) Ministry of the Environment (MoE) in PA planning, management, monitoring and enforcement; 2) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in land and forest planning, management, monitoring and enforcement.  1.5 Mechanisms, tools and guidelines developed for mainstreaming of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation (including PAs, Biodiversity Conservation Corridors and Production Forests) into regional land use master plans.  1.6 System developed for the incorporation of INRM and landscape management in area-based planning approaches of districts and provinces with effective integration and coordination with stakeholder (communities, sectoral agencies, and private sector) within and between various levels and jurisdictions.  1.7 Management plans for three selected pilot Protected Areas developed through a participatory approach with the dual aims of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods of stakeholder communities. | GEF TF | **750,000**  BD: 551,624  LD: 198,376 | **3,665,200** |
| **Component 2:** Effective management of PAs and surrounding production landscapes | TA/  INV | **Outcome 02**: Selected Protected Areas managed to ensure biodiversity conservation on a sustainable basis while safeguarding livelihoods and ecosystem services  **Indicated by** – (i) Improved management effectiveness (METT score[[4]](#footnote-5)) in the selected three PAs of global significance, covering 450,673 ha; (ii) Status of selected indicator species maintained or improved from the baseline to be confirmed during PPG; (iii) Funding gap for management of the three selected PAs measured by the UNDP PA Financial Sustainability Scorecard[[5]](#footnote-6); (iv) Gazettal of at least 1,500 ha of new Community Forests/CPA. | 2.1 The adopted management plans in the selected pilot PAs covering 450,673 ha implemented through participatory approaches according to adopted zones and their respective provisions, ecosystem health targets, status of species at risk and indicator species.  2.2 Best practice financing mechanisms for PAs (such as ecotourism and others) identified and tested to move towards financial sustainability in the three selected PAs.  2.3 Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and Community Forestry (CFs) established and managed in collaboration with communities and other stakeholders including opportunities for sustainable income generation from PAs identified; equitable sharing of benefits arising from protected resources and ecosystem services ensured.  2.4 The PA component of the monitoring system at local and sub-national levels established for ecosystems, biodiversity and forest to identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within acceptable limits | GEF TF | **1,631,257**  (BD: 1,147,064  LD: 484,193) | **4,141,200** |
|  |  | **Outcome 03**: Land across 1,052,500 ha[[6]](#footnote-7) of forest and production landscapes in the north of Cambodia managed on a sustainable basis to enhance productivity and livelihoods and protect ecosystem services  **Indicated by** – (i) The area of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) secured; (ii) Increase in forest cover and reduced fragmentation of forest in the targeted landscape; (iii) Livelihoods and incomes from sustainable use of forests and agricultural land (no. of beneficiaries and households to be confirmed during PPG); (iv) Increase in land area under sustainable agricultural management and climate smart-agriculture; (v) Land degradation index remains stable or improves in the targeted three watersheds from baseline | 3.1 Degraded farmland in 2-3 pilot sites[[7]](#footnote-8) in the upland agricultural sector (including vegetable and fruit producers, honey, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, spices, etc) rehabilitated *by farmers and others (both women and men), to restore soil fertility and move towards environmentally sound production through e.g. contour bunds, mulching, planting of riparian vegetation strips, introduction of nitrogen-fixing intercrops, conservation agriculture, integrated crop management, drip-irrigation, recycling compost and other natural fertilizer, cover crops, soil enrichment, natural pest and predator controls, bio-intensive integrated pest management and other techniques* Free technical advice from extension workers combined with hands-on training and awareness programs will be designed to promote adoption of sustainable practices by the farmers. This will be identified in consultation with the farmers and stakeholders during the PPG phase.  3.2 Sustainable productive land practices (the wildlife-friendly Ibis Rice and Sustainable Rice Platform programmes) scaled up in the targeted areas as defined in the Watershed Management Plans.  3.3 National and local authorities responsible for the implementation of enhanced land use plans (LUP)[[8]](#footnote-9) supported and advised so as to incorporate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection goals.  3.4 The agricultural and forest land component of the monitoring system at local and sub-national levels established to record state and identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within acceptable limits |  |  |  |
| **Component 3:** Knowledge management, learning and scaling-up | TA | **Outcome 04:** Replication and scaling up of the effective tools resulting from the pilot-scale application of the integrated landscape approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management at national and provincial levels  **Indicated by** – (i) The effectiveness of the protocols for accessing, storing and retrieving information from the EIMS; (ii) Extent to which survey results, information generated by pilot activities and the results of monitoring are captured by the EIMS; (iii) Extent of use of the EIMS for advice or decision-making on protected area and land management; (iv) Number of firm proposals for replication of the integrated, landscape approach to land and PA management | 4.1 Conduct a Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) on Business as usual vs sustainable ecosystem management scenarios for Tonle Sap Lake fisheries, highlighting for decision-makers the impacts of actions in surrounding watersheds. This will also include associated training of TSA to government/local instituions.  4.2 Regional cooridnation platform across the three targeted provinces strengthened to bring together government and CSOs to share lessons learnt and help establish land used planning (LUP) systems for replication. The project aims to introduce landscape planning approach based on assessment of ecosystem functions of the landscape including zoning and demarcation of the PAs.  4.3 Pilot activities and tested approaches evaluated, verified and/or amended to serve as a platform for sharing lessons, and made available in the form of manuals and other guidance, including electronic media, for building on the enabling and foundational elements and implementing the successful approaches, instruments and tools  4.4 Existing knowledge management tools assessed and an Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) developed and implemented to serve as an accessible repository of the information, experience, lessons and knowledge arising from the project, its pilots and tests. The system will be on a GIS platform, maintained centrally by the MoE with input from a broad catchment and wide accessibility. Its applicability will be broad and include national monitoring and reporting on progress towards MEAs and SDGs including the LDN target of UNCCD, Cambodia’s NDC and the NBSAP  4.5 The criteria that will be used for the selection of future PAs, forests and productive agricultural land to which the successful products of this project will be applied, developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including specifically women. | GEF TF | **800,000**  (BD: 641,370; LD: 158,630) | **1,713,600** |
| Subtotal | | | |  | **3,181,257** | **9,520,000** |
| Project Management Cost (PMC)[[9]](#footnote-10) | | | | GEF TF | **159,063** | **480,000** |
| **Total Project Cost** | | | |  | **3,340,320** | **10,0000,000** |

If Multi-Trust Fund project: PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here (     )

C. Indicative sources of [Co-financing](http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/co-financing) for the project by name and by type, if available

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing** | **Name of Co-financier** | **Type of Co-financing** | **Amount ($)** |
| Recipient Government | Ministry of Environment | Grant | 300,000 |
| Recipient Government | Ministry of Environment | In kind | 700,000 |
| Recipient Government | Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry | Grant | 150,000 |
| Recipient Government | Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry | In kind | 350,000 |
| GEF Agency | UNDP | Grant | 1,750,000 |
| CSO | Wildlife Conservation Society | Grant | 4,100,000 |
| CSO | Wildlife Conservation Society | In Kind | 300,000 |
| CSO | IUCN | Grant | 1,350,000 |
| CSO | ADF | Grant | 1,000,000 |
| **Total Co-financing** |  |  | 10,000,000 |

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies) and the Programming of Funds a)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/ Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **GEF Project Financing (a)** | **Agency Fee (b)**b) | **Total**  **(c)=a+b** |
| UNDP | GEFTF | Cambodia | Biodiversity | BD | 2,457,078 | 233,422 | 2,690,500 |
| UNDP | GEFTF | Cambodia | Land Degradation | LD+ | 883,242 | 83,908 | 967,150 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | **3,340,320** | **317,330** | **3,657,650** |

1. Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/gef-fee-policy.pdf). +includes total of US$ 219,000 of Climate Change allocation under the marginal flexibility approach.

E. Project preparation grant (ppg)[[10]](#footnote-11)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes  No  If no, skip item E.

**PPG Amount requested by agency(ies), Trust Fund, country(ies) and the Programming of funds**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Preparation Grant amount requested: $**130,000 PPG Agency Fee: $12,350 | | | | | | | |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **PPG** (a) | **Agency**  **Fee[[11]](#footnote-12)** (b) | **Total**  c = a + b |
| UNDP | GEF TF | Cambodia | Biodiversity | BD | 100,000 | 9,500 | 109,500 |
| UNDP | GEF TF | Cambodia | Land Degradation | LD | 30,000 | 2,850 | 32,850 |
| **Total PPG Amount** | | | | | **130,000** | **12,350** | **142,350** |

\*USD 219,000 of CCM funds are being programmed as LD using the marginal adjustment felixibility

F. Project’s Target Contributions to Global Environmental Benefits[[12]](#footnote-13)

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Corporate Results** | **Replenishment Targets** | **Project Targets** |
| 1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society | Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares | 450,173 ha |
| 1. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes) | 120 million hectares under sustainable land management | 845 ha[[13]](#footnote-14) |

**PART 2: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

***2.1 Project Context***

*Global environmental dimension:* Cambodia’s terrestrial, inland waters and coastal ecosystems are essential part of the country’s capital. It still has one of the highest proportions of forest cover in Southeast Asia, estimated at 50% in 2014. The country is covered by an intricate mosaic of tropical ecosystems that include 6 of the Global Eco-regions defined by WWF. It hosts an exceptionally high species diversity with at least 212 mammal species, 240 reptile species, 536 bird species, 850 freshwater fish species, 435 marine fish species and more than 2,000 plant species, many of which have not yet been taxonomized. The country’s protected areas support populations of almost 2% of the globally threatened species on the IUCN Red List, including 39 mammals, 34 birds, and 20 reptiles. Some of the most commercially productive areas of Cambodia include protected areas, such as Tonle Sap Lake and Angkor Protected Landscape. Annex 2 Summarizes the Consolidated Conservation Values (CCV) of targeted Protected Areas. Among these are a number of species that are found nowhere else, such as the Critically Endangered Giant Ibis, Cambodia’s National Bird.

*The human population* of Cambodia grew to 15.3 million in 2015. The average income per capita is about $950 per year. 80% of the population lives in the countryside and is highly dependent on natural resources such as timber and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for their livelihoods. 64.6% of the labour force is engaged in agriculture. Official poverty datashows that the poverty rate fell sharply from 53.2% in 2004 to 16% in 2013. Yet a large share (around 20%) of those who escaped poverty moved only slightly above the poverty line. Three-quarters of the population is living on less than $3 a day, and the majority of the population remains highly vulnerable. Provinces in the Tonle Sap region have relatively high poverty rates and large populations. For instance, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap provinces are among those that have high absolute numbers of poor. Cambodia also has a fairly strong tourism sector with 4,502,775 international visitors recorded in 2014, with an estimated income of US$ 2,700 million from these tourists.

The *Tonle Sap Lake*, the largest inland fresh water body in Southeast Asia, forms a natural floodplain reservoir in the depression of the Cambodian plain. It is drained by the Tonle Sap River into the Mekong River. A complex of 14 mountain forest watersheds regulates a system of river tributaries to Tonle Sap Lake (see Annex 1 for map). The total area of the Tonle Sap catchment is 85,790 km2. When the level of the Mekong River is high, the flow of the Tonle Sap River reverses: water is pushed into the lake, raising its level by up to 10 meters and increasing its area from 2,000 – 3,000 km2 in the dry season to 10,000 – 16,000 km2 in the rainy season. However, the 14 forest watersheds provide 40% of the lake’s annual water intake and therefore play an extremely important role for the survival of the lake’s rich biodiversity and fisheries. The Tonle Sap ecosystem is a unique ecological phenomenon believed to be one of the most productive inland waters and one of the most fish-abundant lakes in the world. Tonle Sap and its floodplains provide habitat to over 1.7 million people and about half of Cambodia’s population is estimated to benefit directly and indirectly from the lake’s ecosystem in terms of livelihood and food security. The lake and floodplains contain the largest continuous natural wetlands habitats remaining in the Mekong system that serve as migratory routes, and spawning and nursery grounds for the most productive inland fisheries in Cambodia. Due to the exceptional biodiversity value of the Tonle Sap, UNESCO nominated the Tonle Sap as a Biosphere Reserve in 1991.

*Kampong Thom Province*, in the center of Cambodia, and Cambodia’s second largest province by area, covering 15,061 km2. Much of Kampong Thom is located on the floodplain of Lake Tonle Sap. The province is a significant producer of fish through wild capture and to a lesser extent aquaculture. Kampong Thom is divided into 8 districts and has approximately 700,000 people. 89% of the total population is engaged in agriculture, with 84% conducting rice farming as primary occupation. Rice paddies (dry and wet) cover 278,227 ha (mostly situated in the lowlands), subsidiary and industrial crops 44,725.5 ha and fruit and permanent crops 76,738.2 ha. Upland farming consists of wet season rice, maize, cassava and mung bean farming. The total allocated rubber plantation area is 107,978 ha of which 40,237 ha is planted[[14]](#footnote-15). Total forest cover of the province is 543,934.8 ha, of which 237,649.1 ha is dense forest and 306,285.7 ha is mixed forest[[15]](#footnote-16).

*Preah Vihear Province:* While much of the province is extremely remote and strongly forested, and the province is one of the least populated in Cambodia, it is home to three impressive legacies from the Angkorian era: the mountain temple of Prasat Preah Vihear which is well known as a World Heritage Site, the 10th century capital of Koh Ker and the mighty Preak Khan. These legacies attract many local and international tourists every year. Preah Vihear Province also supports some of the largest populations of globally threatened bird and mammal species in Cambodia. The provincial economy is 85% on farming and the remaining 15% based on fishing and other sectors. The province covers a total area of 14,031 km2, has a total population of 208,263 persons, and annual rainfall is 1,628 mm/year. 56,084 ha of Paddy Fields (Dry and Wet – mostly in the lowlands near the Tonle Sap Lake) is cultivated. Mung bean, peanut, soybean and cashew nuts are also cultivated on 28,513 ha with production being around 47,169 tons. Bananas are cultivated on 3,148 ha and rubber on 3,148 ha[[16]](#footnote-17). Total forest cover of the province is 910,752 ha, of which 220,677 ha is dense forest and 690,075 ha is mixed forest[[17]](#footnote-18).

*Siem Reap Province* covers 10,299 km2. It is divided into 12 districts and has approximately 890,000 people. A large section of Siem Reap’s southern border is demarcated by the Tonle Sap. In modern times the province is best known as the site of Angkor and the Angkor War temple ruins. It is popular with tourists and in 2014 -2.35 million tourists visited Siem Reap. 195,440 ha of land is used for rice (dry and wet - mostly in the lowlands near the Tonle Sap Lake) cultivation. Subsidiary and industrial crops are cultivated on an additional 12,637 ha, with total production of 90,879 tons. Fruit and permanent crops are cultivated on 8,101 ha[[18]](#footnote-19). Upland farming consists mainly of wet season rice, maize, cassava, sweet potato, vegetables and mung bean farming. A total of 216,178 ha of land is under agricultural cultivation. Total forest cover of the province is 398,839.2 ha, of which 55,431.8 ha is dense forest and 343,407.4 ha is mixed forest[[19]](#footnote-20).

Forest Ecosystem Services: The forest ecosystems of the targeted northern plain of Cambodia, even though fragmented at a landscape scale, provide critical habitat for many flora and fauna, and serve as a gene pool for biodiversity conservation. The northern plain landscape is recognized by the government as the Northern Plain Dry Forest Priority Corridor. The forests in the northern harbor a unique assemblage of threatened vertebrates, including Banteng, Gaur, Eld’s Deer, Asian Elephant, Dhole, Clouded Leopard, Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Sarus Crane, Greater Adjutant, Green Peafowl and the world’s only stable populations of three Critically Endangered Vultures. The remaining populations of these species are found almost entirely within a complex of protected areas in northern Cambodia that cover the range of forested and wetland habitat types. In terms of vegetation, the northern plain has one of the few remaining evergreen and dry forest areas in Cambodia. It plays a vital role in water catchment supplying both underground and surface freshwater. Another advantage of forests value is the prevention of siltation, as a result of erosion potentially producing large volumes of sediment in the Rivers and Tonle Sap Lake. Economically, the forest ecosystem of the northern plain provides exceptional value to local residents through ecotourism development and natural resource extraction for either subsistence uses or commercial trade, for instance medicinal and aromatic plants, resin, wild fruits and other NTFPs. Cambodian forests are intimately linked to agriculture and inland fisheries and to maintaining the sustainability and productivity of both these sectors. Almost half of the rural dwellers depend on forests for 20-50% of their total income while 15% of them earn more than 50% of their income from the forests. Therefore, any decrease in access or quality of the natural resources substantially affects the poor in Cambodia[[20]](#footnote-21). Further services provided by forest ecosystems include mitigation of droughts and floods. Forest are, therefore, a key factor in national development and their sustainable use could provide considerable benefit. 40 Community Forests[[21]](#footnote-22) (35,761 ha) and 49 Community Protected Areas[[22]](#footnote-23) (88,715 ha) have been established in the project targeted areas.

Agriculture Productivity: Cambodia is considered as an agrarian country with agriculture contributing 31.6% to the GDP. The rice ecosystems are among the most important terrestrial ecosystems to the Cambodian population in terms of food security. In target area, most farms are small, with an average of 1.69 ha per farm household. Land rentals and share cropping bring cultivated land to 3 ha per household. Farm households are highly concentrated on rice production and it accounts for 93% of the value of agricultural production. Few farms own any mechanized equipment for rice cultivation or harvesting. Cambodia has achieved food security with respect to rice production and has an opportunity to pay more attention to boosting production of other crops such as soybean, mung bean, maize, sesame, peanut, chili and cowpea. Although rice remains the main crop in Cambodia, the production of other crops is undergoing rapid expansion and will be especially important for the development of those part of the Kingdom unsuited to lowland rice. In upland cropping systems, factors impeding crop production are yield performance, drought, insect problems, small land area and low market demand. For maize, the surveyed yields are less than half the potential yield of 10 ton per hectare. Surveyed soybean and mung bean yields are also less than half the potential yields, substantially so in some cases. Peanut, cowpea and sesame yields are very low compared with the potential farm yields. Farmers in upland areas of Cambodia usually engage in slash and burn agriculture.

***2.2 Threats to Biodiversity and Causes of Land Degradation***

The threats to biodiversity and to sustainable land management in the targeted Watersheds of northern Cambodia can be categorised as:

Deforestation and forest degradation: The rich biodiversity of Tonle Sap Lake is immediately threatened by the reduced water inflow into the lake due to deforestation of upstream watersheds. Biodiversity and fisheries depend on the 14 upstream forest watersheds, including Stung Stoeng, Stung Chikreng, Stung Siem Reap and Stung Sen, to supply water and oxygen during the five months of dry season (June to October). These forest watersheds regulate year-round water inflow to the lake (40 % of annual water intake), while overflow from the Mekong supplies water only during the rainy season (60% of annual water intake). Deforestation and forest degradation of these upstream forest watersheds is therefore a severe threat to the lake during the dry season, with measurable reduction in water levels since 2005, in a lake that is already relatively shallow. This presents a critical threat to the lake’s biodiversity due to oxygen reduction, eutrophication, warming of fish habitat and shrinking of annual overflow surfaces available for fish spawning. Between 1964 and 2014, Cambodia lost 20% of its forest cover. The deforestation rate increased by almost 3% annually between 2010 and 2014 which is 5 times higher than the rate for the previous 5-year period. This is one of the highest deforestation rates globally. Forest conversion and degradation have been driven by extensive land use changes for industrial agriculture, for rubber, sugar cane, cassava, and other commodities, both legal and illegal. Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) have been granted in Cambodia for agro-industrial plantations since the 1990s but the number of concessions rose steeply in the 2000s, including many granted within protected areas. Concerns surrounding ELCs include the clearing of forests outside of ELC boundaries, loss of forests for community users and the lack of transparency regarding the ELC granting process. Illegal logging, and in-migration of people to formerly remote forested areas as a result of ELCs and infrastructure development leading to increased clearance for small-holders are also key drivers of deforestation and degradation. Hydropower dam construction and development of roads and other infrastructure have also accelerated rates of habitat conversion and degradation, along with mining development and social land concessions. Loss of habitats has considerable impacts on biodiversity, on the provision of ecosystem services, and on the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. Forest degradation has reduced forest quality and its regeneration capacity which in turn reduces its ability to provide socio-economic and environmental services. Degradation of habitat and biodiversity severely diminishes the richness of our forests and reduces their future use values. The challenge is to maintain healthy forests ecosystems and conserve endangered species.

Overexploitation of biological resources: Cambodia’s biodiversity is threatened by habitat loss due to deforestation, land clearance for agriculture, settlement, infrastructure development and fuelwood consumption. Despite the government’s reform in forestry sector, forest cover has declined from 63.74% in 2000 to 50% in 2014, which is an alarming deforestation rate. In addition, the loss in forest quality is also high as logging activities concentrate on commercially valuable and large-size trees. Wildlife hunting for both the international trade and for local consumption is a significant threat to the preservation of biodiversity and to the integrity of Cambodia’s ecosystems. The commercial trade in wildlife is well organized, widespread and increasing. Increasing regional, and likely, domestic demand for wildlife is linked to economic and population growth and globalization. Species of high commercial value, such as turtles and tortoises, pangolins, bears, deer and wild cattle, are commonly targeted for international trade and probably exported to Vietnam or China. Hunting is driven by demand for these species in traditional medicinal products and a thriving and probably increasing trade in bush meat. Local (household) consumption of wildlife more likely focuses on less commercially viable species, including fish and aquatic invertebrates.

Degradation of Soil Properties: With the deforestation of land, continual adding of nutrients to soil is lost. Forest microbes are extremely efficient at breaking down and recycling waste organic matter. When there is deforestation, almost no nutrients reach the forest soil and it is consequently poor. Further, farmers in upland areas of Cambodia usually chop, burn or remove crop and weed residues from their fields before ploughing. The seedbed is normally ploughed twice or three times, to a depth of 20-25 cm. This tillage practice removes all potential sources (except fertilizer) of soil nutrients and also leaves the soil bare. The average annual rainfall in Cambodia exceeds 1400 mm and this, combined with sloping and friable forest soils, results in a high risk of soil erosion. However, proper nutrition is essential for satisfactory crop growth and production and matching soil nutrient availability to crop nutrient demand is essential for optimum yields. 60% of the soils covered by Cambodia’s soil database (mainly agricultural lowland area) are very low in total N, about 88% are low on extractable P, and about 86 percent are low in organic C.

Climate Change: Another exacerbating factor is the effect of climate change primarily through the increased intensity and frequency of disasters such as floods and droughts. The country’s agriculture depends on the annual rainfall and flood recessions of the Tonle Sap Lake. Cambodia is consistently ranked within the top ten country vulnerable to climate change. According to the National Communication to the UNFCCC, vulnerabilities of communities living around Tonle Sap have increased. The Mekong flash floods during wet seasons have become increasingly problematic and poses threats to the farming community. Historically, annual flooding recessions provide beneficial impacts to farmers by bringing fertility for crops, ground and surface water recharge and hydro pattern for fisheries. In recent years, however, heavy rainfalls during the wet season combine with the annual flooding pattern from the Mekong, Cambodia’s lowland areas experience floods more often. Major flooding events occurred in 2000, 2002, 2011 and 2013. These floods are swift and last for a few day but are destructive to crops, and infrastructure around the Tonle Sap plain. It is also notable that floods coupled with droughts have resulted in significant economic losses. Cambodia’s temperature is projected to increase until 2050. In recent years the timing of the spring and fall monsoons has become more sporadic and unpredictable, making rain fed crop growing more risky due to prolonged drought periods. The most severe droughts observed were in 1995, 1996, 2002 and 2015 and 2016. Due to the effect of El Nino events, Cambodia experienced, a dry and hot weather event from December 2015-May 2016. Between April and May 2016 the temperature reached 41 degree Celsius and it was declared the hottest year ever recorded. The consequences of slow onset dry spell are that the most vulnerable populations cannot sustain their livelihood since farming and fishing are both effected. In some cases, family members turned to other options such as taking debt and migration.

***2.3 The Baseline***

The Government’s response to these threats is significant and forms the baseline for the project. It extends from land use planning to protected area management to sustainable land management and comprises the core operations of relevant ministries as well as a number of key specific interventions carried out with the assistance of development partners.

Land Use Planning: The objective of the Law on Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction is to promote the organization and embellishment of the urban and the rural areas throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia with the purpose of assuring development of Cambodia in the spirit of: (i) Respecting both common and individual interests, private rights, observing laws and regulations, and overseeing on the construction matters; (ii) assuring through the development process an equilibrium between the cities/towns and rural areas based on their geographical conditions and special characteristics; and (iii) Assuring the value of natural and cultural wealth, ensuring the development of the economy and tourism sectors and maintaining the quality of the environment. The 2001 Land Law distinguishes three immovable properties: State Public Property, State Private Property, and Private Property. Forestland is Public Property of the State. An inter-ministerial National Committee for Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction has been set up under the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC). The MLMUPC is responsible for land management in the country including delineation and demarcation of the State Public Land. For the provinces and other municipalities, a Sub-committee for Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction is/will be established. Each Sub-Committee is headed by a Governor of the province. Membership is approved by the National Committee. Each Sub-Committee respectively draws up their own development master-plans for the re-organization and development of the respective city, province and municipality. Such master-plan shall be approved by the National Committee for Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction and shall be determined by a Sub-decree. Legislation also states that each capital city, province and municipality shall establish land use master plan. Land use master plans shall comply with the development master-plans. Provincial land use master plans shall first be approved by the Sub-Committee and shall be subsequently approved by the National Committee for Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Private entities and public authorities shall strictly adhere to such master plans. Under the 2002 Forestry Law, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has primary mandate over the State Public Forest Lands except Protected Areas, which are under the Ministry of Environment. It is worth noting that the Royal Decree on Watershed Management allocates management of forest areas to the MAFF. Due to insufficient technical and financial resources, the sub-national Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction Committees are not very functional. For instance, in the case of Siem Reap, its Watershed Management Plan was supported by GIZ in 2008, but it has not been implemented.

Protected Area Management: Protected area system in Cambodia is governed under the 2008 Protected Area Law. There are currently 45 Protected Areas covering nearly 5.9 million ha (32.5% of Cambodia) under the authority of the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The protected area estate of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia now represents one of the highest percentages of national territory within protected areas in the world. Protected area system is classified according to its ecological regions and ecosystems namely, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Protected Landscapes, Multiple Use Areas, Core Areas of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar Sites, Heritage Sites and Marine Parks. Since 1993, MoE has invested considerably in protected area management in Cambodia focusing on: (i) stocktaking biodiversity information within the protected areas, (ii) strengthening capacity of technical staff especially rangers in prevention of wildlife crimes, (iii) promote participatory planning including local communities and indigenous minorities, (iv) collaboration with line ministries to maintain biodiversity in key critical watersheds to support sustainable agriculture and conservation; (v) implementation of the commitments under the MEAs (CBD, UNFCCC, World Heritage Conservation and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands). The government continues to work to promote protected areas management plans. In 2016, protected areas increased from 27% to 32.5% of the total country. In the next 15 years the government plans to strengthen protected area management by investing in preparing zoning, management plans, law enforcement, biodiversity restoration, increase local participation in the protected areas management, establish community protected areas, promote sustainable livelihood opportunities, ensure adequate staff and resources, and improving research, planning and policy actions.

Agriculture and Forest Management in KPWS and the Tonle Sap floodplain - WCS works with local farmers to incentivize good management of forests and wetland habitats through the Ibis Rice scheme. This is based around the concept that sustainable agriculture protects the natural habitats that provide other vital ecosystem services. Ibis Rice is a high quality rice product that is grown by farmers who comply with a set of pre-agreed conservation regulations. These regulations are developed through a participatory process. They typically include provisions that ban hunting of threatened species, restrict clearance of forest to pre-agreed areas, and prohibit the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The restrictions on clearance of forest are based on land-use plans, which identify areas currently under cultivation, areas which must be protected owing to their importance for biodiversity, and areas where rice fields can be expanded following an agreed process. These land-use plans are developed through a participatory process and approved by district government. Locally elected committees within each village monitor the use of the land-use plan, and make decisions about when and by whom forest can be cleared for rice cultivation in areas in which this is permitted according to the land-use plan. WCS provides support to all stages of the process, and monitor compliance to the conservation regulations. Adherence to the conservation regulations is incentivized because WCS’s partner SMP purchases rice from farmers that have kept the prices at more than 10% above market rate; selling this product to end consumers as Ibis Rice. The Ibis Rice scheme has led to reduced deforestation rates in villages where the scheme is active, against a baseline deforestation rate comprised of villages where the scheme is not in use.

In addition to the above core activities, the following baseline projects will be implemented during the project implementation period:

The Cambodia REDD+ National Programme which aims to deliver: 1. Development of National REDD+ Strategy to tackle main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; 2. Development of REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information System; 3. Establishment of a reference emission level in the forest sector (that includes Protected Areas); and 4. Establishment of National Forest Monitoring and Information system (NFMS). The total budget for implementing National REDD+ readiness Programme is estimated to be US$7.75M with the possibility of an additional US$ 5 million.

Strengthening Capacity of Fishing Communities in the Tonle Sap to manage their Natural Resources Sustainably 2013-2016 is implemented by IUCN through EU’s support. It aims to strengthen the capacity of community fisheries to sustainably and equitably manage fish resources in the Tonle Sap. The project has invested $750,000 within the Tonle Sap Lake to: 1. Improve capacity of community fisheries to negotiate, demarcate, and manage fish conservation zones is strengthened; 2. Support capacity of community fisheries to network with other community fisheries managing FCAs is enhanced; 3. To value of fish conversation zones demonstrated and management costs are included in community fisheries plans; and 4. ensure the effective project implementation, outreach, networking, and communications of the community fisheries.

Angkor Community Heritage & Economic Advancement (ACHA). The project is financed by the government of New Zealand from 2014-2019 with the total budget of US$3.75 million. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the APSARA in sustainable management of Angkor World Heritage site including improve economic development, and capacity and engagement of communities as well as natural resource management in and around the Angkor World Heritage site. Live & Learn acts as the ACHA contract manager, facilitating the implementation of activities agreed by APSARA and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

Wildlife-friendly Ibis Rice scheme. This is an on-going project supported by WCS to provide local communities in KPWS with an incentive to engage in conservation by offering farmers a premium price for their rice if they agree to abide by wildlife-friendly farming techniques. These conservation agreements are designed to protect the rare water birds and other species that use the areas where the rice is grown. WCS works with a local NGO, called Sansom Mulp Prey (SMP) to market Wildlife-Friendly Ibis Rice, which won the World Bank Development Marketplace Award in 2008. SMP is close to financial sustainability and has plans to scale up to rice-growing villages in forested areas across northern Cambodia. WCS and SMP will invest around US$1,100,000 on activities related to Ibis Rice, patrol, monitoring and community extension in community forests during this GEF project implementation.

Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP). This is a new project supported by WCS to improve sustainability of rice cultivation in the Tonle Sap floodplain. The SRP is a global initiative with government, private sector and NGO members. WCS is the only conservation organization in SRP. The SRP aims to bring environmental, social and financial sustainability to the rice sector, through implementation of a set of indicators and standards. WCS is working with local farmers and private sector partners to pilot the standards in the Stung StaungStung Staung catchment with an initial investment of $200,000. However, this is expected to grow over the next five years.

Natural Resources Management of the Northern Plain. WCS invests around USD2, 100,000 in KPWS, focusing on zoning, development and expansion of ecotourism, monitoring of forest cover, threatened species and livelihoods and law enforcement and trainings. Donors include the Margaret A Cargill Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation. WCS is also partnering with Sam Veasna Centre (SVC) working on promote wildlife conservation awareness, eco-tourism and education across different communities in the Northern plains and Tonle Sap Lake. SVC will invests around $500,000 on ecotourism during the GEF project implementation.

***2.4 Barriers that need to be addressed***

The long-term vision of the project is for Cambodia to achieve integrated landscape management for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity natural resources and ecosystem services, initially in the northern region, and ultimately on a broader scale through replication. However, there are a number of significant barriers to achieving this goal.

Barrier 1: Inadequate regulatory framework, institutional capacity and demonstrated experiences to integrate Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) approaches at the landscape level: Cambodia has no working model of land use planning and land allocation in a wider landscape (with multiple catchments). For instance, forested areas are managed by different government agencies with different management arrangements. Thus, Protected Areas (PAs) and production forests outside the PAs are under the jurisdictions of MoE and the Forestry Administration (MAFF) respectively. This often leads to fragmented efforts for the conservation of forested areas and biodiversity that extend beyond these jurisdictional boundaries, and a lack of functional connectivity between forested areas which is further exacerbated by the emerging and real threats of a rapidly changing climate.

Competitive sector planning has resulted in overlapping claims on forest land, emphasizing the need for long-term macro-level planning in collaboration with other economic sectors that have an influence on, or are influenced by, forestry activities, such as agriculture, economic land concessions, mining concessions, and infrastructure development. A general lack of effective collaboration between line ministries and institutions further hinders the use of INRM approaches at the landscape level.

There is a lack of information on the current and future economic value of ecosystem services provided by forested areas which include: water and wildlife habitat provision, erosion prevention, carbon storage potential, and ecotourism opportunities from an ever-increasing international tourism demand. Without access to know-how and proven through demonstration, government decision-makers and resource users do not have the tools and knowledge necessary to combat land degradation, habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss at a landscape level. Furthermore, this lack of economic information presents a barrier in incorporating sustainable land management into current land use practices, especially regarding upland crop production.

Currently there is a lack of national policy guidelines that would enable implementation of an effective landscape approach for natural resource management. This includes guidelines on integrating INRM into provincial land use master plans, on development of PA management and zoning plans, and Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements.

Barrier 2: There is limited capacity among key government and local/community stakeholders to develop and deliver integrated solutions for effective PA management: While PAs in Cambodia have been legally designated and mapped, most still lack clearly demarcated boundaries and approved zoning and management plans. This has resulted in encroachments and land use conflicts which continue to threaten areas of high conservation value.

The capacity and resources available for effective law enforcement in PAs are not adequate to prevent illegal logging, hunting or trade in wildlife products. There is a need for sustainable financing for the PA system. Capacity constraints are also evident in participatory planning and implementation for effective PA management that involves both local authorities and local communities. The contributions of existing PAs to the livelihoods of local communities residing in, or near, the protected area tend to be limited which precipitates unsustainable uses of natural resources and further degrading the values of the PAs.

The MoE is currently finalizing the NPASMP (2017-2031) which provides overall policy direction and strategic objectives for the future management of PAs in Cambodia. This Project is aligned with the priority actions outlined in the NPASMP.

Barrier 3: Limited capacity in increasing upland agriculture productivity and forest management: There is inadequate capacity at farm level to arrest and reverse current trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation, to increase productivity, improve cultivation and employ SLM methods in upland conditions. Little support is provided to farmers in regards to marketing of their products and one of the biggest problems to agricultural production is a basic lack of farming skills and knowledge. Furthermore, the knowledge and use of agriculture extension services among farmers is limited.

The process of establishing Community Forests is complicated and can be costly to communities. The capacity and efficiency of local forest officers to develop extension strategies and deliver extension services that actively support ongoing local forest management and reforestation activities is limited.

Financial constraints present a further barrier to upscaling SLM levels across the landscape at the level required to successfully arrest land and forest degradation and deforestation. Baseline programme resources for supporting forestry and agriculture often focus on production and technical efficiencies without weighing their negative impacts on land and forest degradation processes. In part, this is related to the lack of information on long-term costs of land degradation both in terms of loss in income and reduced ecosystem goods and services. Further, there is a disconnect between public expenditures and environmental priorities i.e. land degradation.

**2.5 Project sites**

The northern landscape proposed for this project includes: 1) 3 *Protected Areas*namely **Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuar**y (402,500 ha), **Angkor Protected Landscape** (10,800 ha), and **Phnom Kulen National Park**[[23]](#footnote-24) (37,373 ha); and 2) four watershed – i) **Stung Staung; ii) Stung Chikreng; iii) Stung Siem Reap; and iv)** part of **Stung Sen** watershed. These sites are very critical for national and global biodiversity conservation and ecological values. The sites are descrbed and presented in the map below:

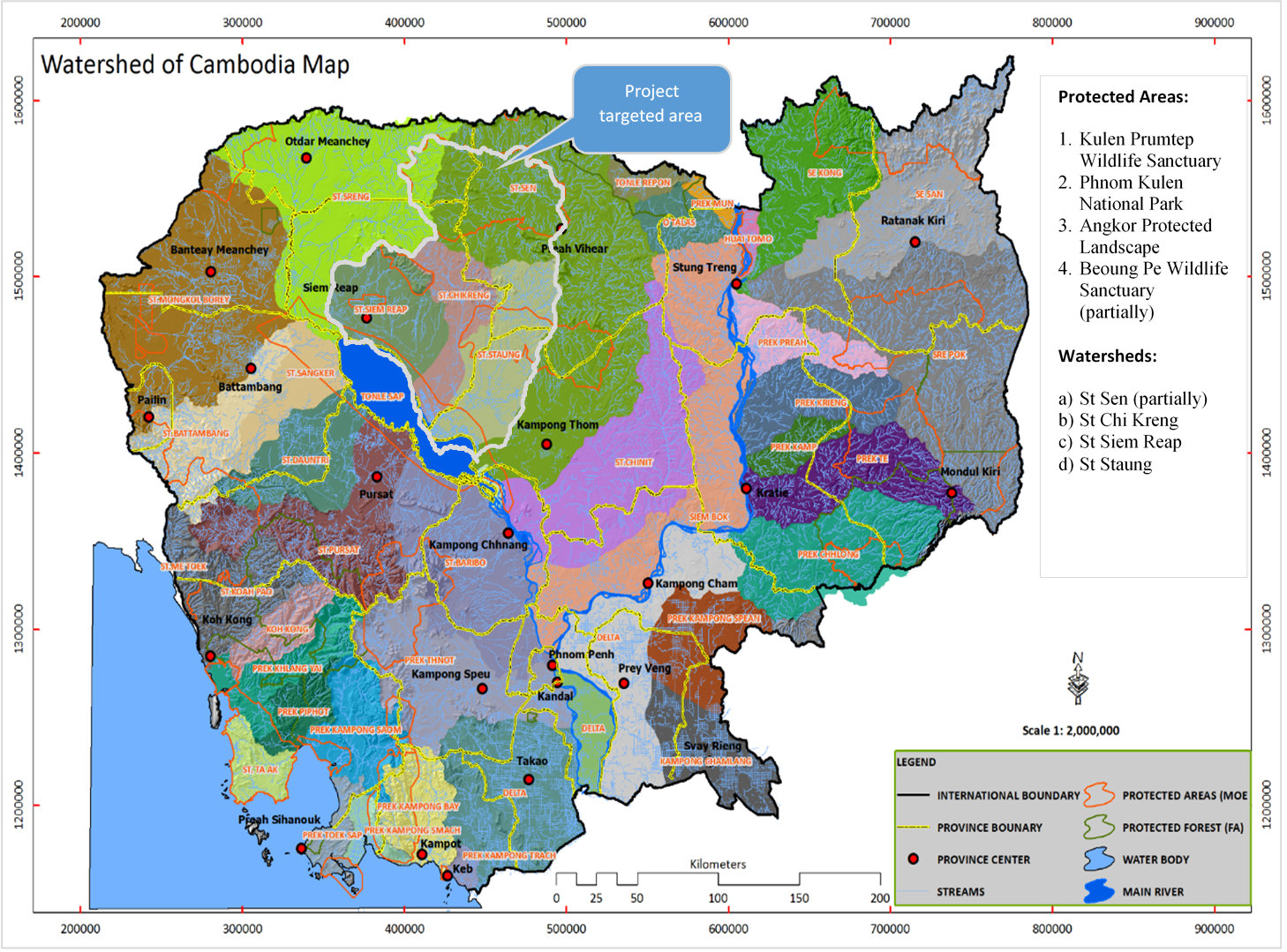
*Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS):* The Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest protected area (402,500ha) in Cambodia and was set aside to protect the critically endangered, possibly extinct [Kouprey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kouprey). It is located in the northern plains of [Cambodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia), near the border to [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand). The sanctuary contains [lowland forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lowland_forest&action=edit&redlink=1) as well as the largest [swamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swamp) in the country where is most important habitat for global endanger species such Guar, Banteng, Eld’s Deers, large carnivores mammal species, Sarus Crane, Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis and other Vulture species…etc. It is part of the [Northern Plains Dry Forest Priority Corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Northern_Plains_Dry_Forest_Priority_Corridor&action=edit&redlink=1). It’s categorized as [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category IV (habitat/species management area).

*Phnom Kulen National Park (PKNP):* Phnom Kulen National Park (PKNP) is a protected area in North-western Cambodia which designated in 1993 by a Royal Degree of King Norodom Sihanouk. The park has a total area of 37,373 ha. It is officially managed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The park with an elevation of up to c.500 m is a unique predominantly sandstone geographical feature in the largely flat lowland landscape of northern Cambodia. The park is divided into two distinct plateaus and is the source of the Siem Reap River and a critical part of the upper water shed catchment for Siem Reap Province. The majority of the forest cover in the park is made up of evergreen and semi evergreen forest, combined with small patches of deciduous dipterocarp forest. PKNP contains 10 out of 40 Cambodian threatened plant species in the IUCN Red list, which represents 25 percent of the whole country. Ten out of the 32 timber species listed in the IUCN Red List are present in the park. Seven species of those amphibians and reptiles species are at listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the most severely threatened species known to occur at PKNP being the Mekong snail-eating turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), the Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*) and the Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). Eight mammal species of international concern were confirmed for the national park, the most significant of which are Pileated Gibbon, Indochinese Silver Langur, Bengal Slow Loris and Binturong. Hunting, forest fragmentation, logging, expanding human populations and conversion of forest to agriculture land are the main threats to most of the Key Species of large mammals, amphibians, reptiles and several of the Key Species of birds.[[24]](#footnote-25)

*Angkor Protected Landscape:* is one of the most important archaeological sites in South East Asia, and was inscribed as a World Heritage site in 1992 due to its cultural landscape significance, especially monuments dating from the 9th -15th centuries. The area was declared in 1925 as the first national park in South-east Asia and expands over an area of 10,800 hectares. Angkor represents the legacy of one of southeast Asia’s largest pre-modern settlements. It represents an outstanding example of technological innovation in architecture, engineering and hydrology[[25]](#footnote-26). Angkor is a living historic site where cultural and religious traditions continue and villagers maintain special and enduring connections to the landscape. It’s categorized as [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category V (significant aesthetic, cultural and/or ecological value, and often with high Biodiversity).The protected landscape has a high level of species diversity - 168 different tree species have been recorded; four bird species regarded as key conservation species for the Indo-China bioregion have been recorded - these are the Siamese Fireback, Bar-bellied Pitta, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and Blackand-red Broadbill; and significant wildlife species at Angkor include species of monkey, snake and squirrel.

*Targeted Watersheds:* The focus of the project will be on three entire watersheds, namely **Stung Staung, Stung Chikreng** and **Stung Siem Reap**, as well as part of the watershed **Stung Sen**. All four rivers (stung) flow into the Tonle Sap Lake. The Stung Staung has a watershed area of 201,200 ha, the Stung Chickreng 187,100 ha, the Stung Siem Reap 84,200 ha and the Stung Sen a watershed area of 1,365,300 ha. The watershed area in the Stung Sen that the project will focus on will be of approximately 580,000 ha. The targeted area of the project will therefore be **1,052,500 ha**. Amongst the proposed watersheds, Stung Siem Reap and Stung Sen are identified by the draft National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation as being the most critically threatened and requiring urgent protection. In addition to their ecological values, the proposed catchment areas are believed to have a significant role in supporting foundations of the ancient monuments of Angkor Archaeological Park. Some of the important ancient hydraulic systems including Kulen, Beng Melea, Kor Ker, and Preah Khan are located in the project target watersheds. The targeted watershed provides habitat for a number of globally or near threatened bird species such as the Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), giant ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantean*), white-shouldered ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*), greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*), black-necked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) and gre-headed fish eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*). The target area falls within three provinces namely **Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear and Siem Reap**.

The project sites have been selected applying the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA[[26]](#footnote-27)) approach to identifying globally important areas for biodiversity conservation. The criteria for identifying KBAs include: (i) presence of threatened species and or encompassing threatened ecosystems; (ii) holding geographically restricted biodiversity; (iii) contributing to ecological integrity; (iv) contributing to biological processes including ecological refugia; (v) and as deemed providing for biodiversity through quantitative analysis. All the sites are home to at least one IUCN Red listed species (at thresholds of CR, EN or VU) and as such satisfy the condition to be defined as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) as presented in the table below. The project’s intervention in these KBAs include: development and implementation of the protected area management plans to ensure protection of habitats for species at risk and to serve as a gene pool for biodiversity conservation; identify best practices and test innovative financing mechanisms in the protected areas to ensure long term sustainability of Pas; in partnership with the community, identify co-management arrangement of PAs by establishing community protected areas and community forestry including identifying opportunities for sustainable income generation in the PAs; and establish monitoring system at local and sub-national levels for ecosystems, biodiversity and forest to identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within acceptable limits.

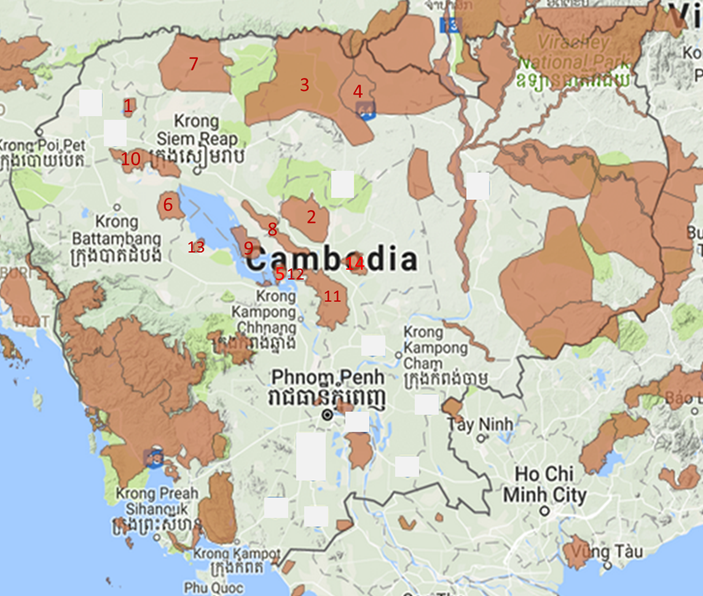


***Summary of biodiversity information of the targeted Protected Areas***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS)** | **Phnom Kulen National Park (PKNP)** | **Angkor Protected Landscape** |
| Regular occurrence of a globally threatened species at site (IUCN Red List CR; EN VU) | Critically endangered [Kouprey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kouprey) (*Bos sauveli*);  Globally endangered species such as Guar, Banteng, and Eld’s Deers.  Critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*) and Giant Ibis (*Pseudibis gigantea*) | Most severely threatened species Mekong snail-eating turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), the Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*) and the Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*).  Pileated Gibbon, Indochinese Silver Langur, Bengal Slow Loris and Binturong | Four bird species regarded as key conservation species for the Indo-China bioregion - Siamese Fireback, Bar-bellied Pitta, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and Blackand-red Broadbill. |
| Threatened ecosystem types include those assessed as globally CR, EN or  VU under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Categories and Criteria (IUCN  2015) | [Northern Plains Dry Forest Priority Corridor](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Northern_Plains_Dry_Forest_Priority_Corridor&action=edit&redlink=1). It’s categorized as [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category IV (habitat/species management area) | Source of the Siem Reap River and a critical part of the upper water shed catchment for Siem Reap Province.  It’s categorized as [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category V (significant aesthetic, cultural and/or ecological value, and often with high Biodiversity) | It’s categorized as [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category II ([national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park)) |

Besides the proposed target sites, the project will also replicate and expand its intervention to the Key Biodiversity Areas that are adjacent to the proposed sites. The following KBAs[[27]](#footnote-28) have been identified adjacent to the proposed sites. However, the KBAs will be validated and included for project intervention through a consultative process with the national and provincial government and communities and other stakeholders during the PPG phase.

| **Sl.#** | **Site** | **Site description** | **Key biodiversity** | **Area (Ha.)** | **IBA criteria[[28]](#footnote-29)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|
| 1 | Ang Troppeang Thmor | The IBA comprises of Ang Tropeang Saus Crane Conservation Area.  The IBA is centred on an artificial lake, located 70 km to the north-west of Tonle Sap Lake. | The IBA is the most important non-breeding site for Sarus Crane in Cambodia and regularly supports a significant proportion of the global population of the eastern subspecies G. a. sharpii.  186 bird species of which eight globally and six globally near threatened bird species have been recorded. Elongated Tortoise and Malayan Snail-eating Turtle; Smooth Coated Otter, Common Palm Civet, and Leopard Cat occur in the area. | 12,659 | A1, A3, A4i, A4iii (2003) |
| 2 | Stung/Prasat Balang | IBA comprises an area of deciduous dipterocarp forest, interspersed with patches of seasonally inundated grassland. | Bengal Florican, Painted Stork, Wooly-necked Stork, Asian Openbill, Lesser Adjutant. | 100,675 | A1, A3 |
| 3 | Upper Stung Sen Catchment | IBA comprises of the catchment of the upper Stung Sen river. Much of the IBA is a flood and in the wet season is inundated, while in the dry season, water is restricted to a few permanent eater courses.  Much of the IBA is located within Kulen Promtep WS. | Supports few breeding colonies of Darter, Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Greater Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Alexandrine Parakeet, Wooly-necked Stork, Great Slaty Woodpecker.  Long-tailed Macaque, Pig-tailed Macaque, slow Loris, Silvered Langur, Pileated Gibbbon, Asiatic Softshell Turtle, Gaur, Banteng, Eld’s Deerr. | 533,748 | A1, A4i |
| 4 | O Skach | Situated in the upper catchment of the Stung Sen River. Comprises of large patch of evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.  Contains a high density of freshwater wetlands. | Supports breeding population of White-winged Duck, Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, Great Hornbill.  Slow Loris, Pig-tailed Macaque, Long-tailed Macaque, Silvered Langur, Pileated Gibbon, Asian Elephant, Gaur, Banteng. | 80,426 | A1, A4i |
| 5 | Lower Stung Sen | Centered on the Stung Sen core area of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. Is located at the south-eastern end of Tonle Sap Lake. The hbitat is disturbed but has the most species-rich tall forest around Tonel Sap lake. | Support an important breeding colony of Darter, breeding concentration of Grey-headed Eagle.  Lon-tailed Macaque, Asiatic softshell Turtle, Malayan Box turtle, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle, Siamese Crocodile. | 12,390 | A1, A4i |
| 6 | Prek Toal | Most intact areas of freshwater swamp forest around Tonle Sap Lake. This unique ecosystem is adapted to withstand seasonal variation of water level of up to 10 m; dominated by Barringtonia acutangula and Diospyros cambodiana and a variety of woody lianas. | Contain some of the world's largest numbers of Spot-billed Pelican and Greater Adjutant. This is the only site in world where Milky Stork Mycteria cinerea breeds in freshwater. Other brid species that IBA support include: wet season breeding populations of Darter, grey-headed Fish Eagle, Masked Finfoot, Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Cotton Pygmy Goose, etc.  Siamese Crocodile, Long-tailed Macaque, Turtles, etc. | 39,873 | A1, A4i, A4iii |
| 7 | Central Oddar Meanchey | Located in the northwestern Cambodian province of Oddar Meanchey.  Composed of lowland evergreen, semi-evergreen, and dry deciduous forests, constituting some of the last remaining intact tracts of forest in Cambodia. | Threatened and endangered species in the IBA include: sun bear, sarus crane, northern pig-tailed macaque, and pleated gibbon sunda pangolin, green peafowl, Asian wild buffalo and banteng.  The IBA supports some of the last significant wild populations of elephants, leopards, and white rumped falcons | NA | NA |
| 8 | Stung/Chi Kreng/Kampong Svay | Comprises of the largest remnant tracts of contiguous semi-natural grassland within the Tonle Sap inundation zone. | Seasonally inundated grassland supports the higest densities of breeding Bengal Fliricans. Large waterbirds include: Painted Stork and Lesser Adjutant. Winter population of birds include: Manchurian Reed & Greater Spotted Eagle. | 53,543 | A1, A3 |
| 9 | Boeung Chhmar/ Moat Khla | Comprises of the open wetlands and swamp forest of the Boeung Chhmar Core Area of Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and teh adjacent Moat Khla area to the north. Boeung Chhmar is designated as a Ramsar site. | Important feeding sites for large waterbirds in Cambodia – Spot-billed Pelican, Indian cormorant, Painted Stork, Greater Adjutant & Masked Finfoot.  flooded swamp forest represents an impotant botanical community and is extremely important for many fish species.  Critically endangered Siamese Crocodile, Long-tailed Macaque, Silvered Langur, Asiatic Softshell Turtle, Malayan Box Turtle, Malayan snail-eating Turtle, Yellow-headed Temple Turtle. | 39,405 | A1, A4i, A4iii |
| 10 | Preah Net Preah/ Kra Lanh/ Pourk | Located in the north-western part of the Tonle Sap fllodplain, and comprises of seasonally inundated grassland and scrub. | Wild Rice, tall scrub and flooded forest.  Important dry season breeding area for Bengal Florican. Globally threatened and near threatened species include – Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork and Spot-billed Pelican. Other species include – Wolly-necked Stork and Comb Duck | 69,570 | A1, A3, A4i |
| 11 | Stung sen/ Santuk/ Baray | Located in the south of Kampong Thom town, within the inundation zone of Tonle Sap Lake. comprises one of the largest remnant tracts of seasonally inundated grassland within the Tonle Sap floodplain | The IBA is a very important breeding site for Bengal Florican. Other waterbirds include: Adjutants, Painted Stork, and Asian Openbill. The IBA further supports a substantial wintering population of Manchurian Reed as well as small numbers of wintering Greater Spotted and Imperial Eagles, and White-shouldered Ibis. | 109,081 | A1, A3, A4i |
| 12 | Veal Srongae | Located within the inundation zone of Tonle Sap Lake, along the border between Kampong Thom and Kampong Chhnang Provinces. Is an area of seasonally inundated grassland, dominated by Wild Rice. | supports a breeding population of Bengal Florican. Other waterbirds include: Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant, White-shouldered Ibis, Grey heron, Great Egret, Little Cormorant, Brahminy Kite, Asian Openbill.  Long-tailed Macaque & Silvered Langur. | 5,873 | A1, A3, A4i |
| 13 | Dei Roneat | Is situated on the western shore of Tonle Sap Lake. The vegetation of the IBA comprises of flooded swamp forest and dense shrubland with emergent large trees | The IBA supports breeding colonies of Darter, Lesser Adjutant & Greater Adjutant.  Long-tailed Macaque, Asiatic Softshell Turtle, Malayan Box Turtle, Malayan Snail-eating Turtle, ellow-headed Temple Turtle, Siamese Crocodile. | 7,251 | A1, A4i |
| 14 | Northern Santuk | Situated in northern Santuk District. | The IBA is one of the only areas in Cambodia currently known to support non-breeding Bengal Floricans. Other globally threatened and near-threatened bird species include - Painted Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Greater Adjutant.  The vegetation of the IBA comprises of degraded deciduous dipterocarp forest, interspersed with seasonal wetlands and patches of paddy rice cultivation. | 24,312 | A1, A3, A4i |
| **Total** | | | | **1,088,806** |  |



***Figure:*** *Map showing 14 KBAs in Cambodia that are located in and around the project’s target area (Source: World database of KBAsTM)*

***2.6 Proposed alternative scenario***

The Government of Cambodia is requesting GEF support through this project to remove, in an incremental manner the afore-mentioned barriers to engendering sustainable land and forest management. The Objective of the project is - **To promote integrated landscape management for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity natural resources and ecosystem services in the northern region of Cambodia** and it will comprise three components addressing the barriers as follows:

**Component 1: Systemic and institutional capacity for integrated landscape management**

This Component will aim for one outcome, namely, *Improved regulatory framework and enhanced institutional capacity as foundations for an integrated landscape approach to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and conservation of biodiversity* to deal with competition over land, and the huge volume of unplanned land use change occurring currently, and particularly the Economic Land Concessions and their knock-on effects.

It will strengthen the foundations for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management so as to safeguard natural resources and ecosystem services through stronger and more effective policies, legislation and standards. Capacity needs will be assessed and capacity will be enhanced at key government ministries as well as local government level, NGOs and communities.

Project activities will extend over 1,052,500 ha and a comprehensive ecological and land use survey will be carried out to gain a better understanding of the situation, ecological values and vulnerabilities. The results will be used to populate the Environmental Information Management System thus making them available for decision-making, awareness raising, etc.

The existing integrated land use planning approach will be enhanced and will incorporate new goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. The sub-national Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction Committees will be made functional as the cornerstone of an actualised land used planning system. Concurrently, management plans will be drawn up for selected PAs (450,673 ha) which will serve as pilots to test new approaches in PA management. These will include sustainable financing mechanisms.

More specifically, the Outputs and Activities that will be targeted so as to obtain the outcome will include:

* Relevant policies, legislation, procedures, guidance and national standards for sustainable land use, forests conservation and PA management reviewed, their adequacy assessed for an integrated landscape approach and amended as necessary.
* Landscape-scale survey of the target areas in northern Cambodia conducted to identify/confirm state of
* ecosystem health, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural productivity, state of forests, and degraded land that merits rehabilitation/restoration. Include an assessment of the economic value of the targeted ecosystems.
* Capacity of men and women from local communities, local government and NGOs increased to encourage participation and responsibility-sharing for participatory planning and management of natural resources (including PAs, CPAs, CFS).
* Strengthen capacity of: 1) Ministry of the Environment (MoE) in PA planning, management, monitoring and enforcement; 2) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in land and forest planning, management, monitoring and enforcement.
* Mechanisms, tools and guidelines developed for mainstreaming of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation (including PAs, Biodiversity Conservation Corridors and Production Forests) into regional land use master plans.
* System developed for the incorporation of INRM and landscape management in area-based planning approaches of districts and provinces with effective integration and coordination within and between various levels and jurisdictions.
* Management plans for three selected pilot Protected Areas developed through a participatory approach with the dual aims of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods of stakeholder communities.

The GEF budget for Component 1 is estimated at US$750,000 and US$3,665,200 from co-financing making a total of US$4,415,200

**Component 2: Application of tools and mechanism at a pilot scale**

This Component will aim for two outcomes and will comprise the main tangible results of the project and receive the majority of the project budget. It will apply a landscape approach, using land use planning and management to maximise biodiversity-compatibility and ecosystem-functioning across a mosaic of land uses, with PAs at the core. The first of the two outcomes which has a focus on biodiversity conservation in Protected Areas is: *Selected Protected Areas managed to ensure biodiversity conservation on a sustainable basis while safeguarding livelihoods and ecosystem services* and it will apply in practical terms the foundational elements arising from the work under Outcome 1.

It will aim for improved management effectiveness in the selected three PAs of global significance, covering 450,673 ha which will be measured using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Another measure will be the status of selected indicator species in the region, as indicated by monitoring protocols that will be developed and implemented during the first year of project and conducted at regular intervals during subsequent implementation of the project. The Outcome will also target a reduced funding gap for management of the three selected PAs measured by the UNDP PA Financial Sustainability Scorecard.

The Outcome will lead to reduced degradation over 1.05 million ha of forest and production landscapes in the north of Cambodia leading to continued provision of ecosystems services and increased productivity of land measured by (i) Northern landscape Planning, based on the 4 targeted watershed plans fully integrated into the 3 provincial land use master plans; (ii) Enhanced local capacities in place for compliance and enforcement of sustainable forest and land management and mainstreaming of forest connectivity into the main production sectors as measured by the UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard.

Sustainable income generation through PAs, forests and agricultural land will be explored and shared with community stakeholders.

More specifically, the Outputs and Activities comprising this Outcome are:

* The adopted management plans in the selected pilot PAs covering 450,673 ha implemented through participatory approaches according to adopted zones and their respective provisions, ecosystem health targets, status of species at risk and indicator species.
* Best practice financing mechanisms for PAs (such as ecotourism and others) identified and tested to move towards financial sustainability in the three selected PAs.
* Community Protected Areas and community Forests established and managed in collaboration with stakeholder communities including opportunities for sustainable income generation from PAs identified; and, equitable sharing of benefits arising from protected resources and ecosystem services ensured.
* The protected areas component of the monitoring system at local and sub-national levels established for ecosystems, biodiversity and forest to identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within acceptable limits

The second of the two outcomes which will focus on productive land, is *Land across 1,052,500 ha of forest and production landscapes in the north of Cambodia managed on a sustainable basis, enhancing productivity and livelihoods and protecting ecosystem services*. Under this outcome, the land area under sustainable agricultural management and climate smart agriculture to support biodiversity corridors from Kulen Promtep to Tonle Sap will be increased. This will be measured through the percentage increase in SLM guidance delivered by extension services; the stability or improvement of the land degradation index in the targeted three watersheds, and the number (at least 500) of farming households (with priority given to women headed households and indigenous communities) who adopt sustainable agricultural practices and integrated SFM/SLM practices.

The Outcome will also ensure that ecosystem services are maintained, and this will be ascertained by the area of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) which is secured, and the increased forest cover and reduced fragmentation of forest in northern areas.

Specific Outputs and Activities that will contribute to this outcome include:

* Degraded farmland in 2-3 pilot sites in the upland agricultural sector (including vegetable and fruit producers, honey, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, spices, etc) rehabilitated by farmers and others (both women and men), to restore soil fertility and move towards environmentally sound production through e.g. contour bunds, mulching, planting of riparian vegetation strips, introduction of nitrogen-fixing intercrops, conservation agriculture, integrated crop management, drip-irrigation, recycling compost and other natural fertilizer, cover crops, soil enrichment, natural pest and predator controls, bio-intensive integrated pest management and other techniques
* Sustainable productive land practices (the wildlife-friendly Ibis Rice and Sustainable Rice Platform programmes) scaled up in the targeted areas as defined in the Watershed Management Plans.
* National and local authorities responsible for the implementation of enhanced land use plans supported and advised so as to incorporate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection goals
* The agricultural and forest land component of the monitoring system at local and sub-national levels established to record state and identify trends and ensure that any changes in biodiversity-important areas remain within acceptable limits

The GEF budget for Component 2 is estimated at US$1,831,257 and US$4,141,200 from co-financing making a total of US$5,972,457

**Component 3: Knowledge management, learning and scaling-up**

This Component comprises one outcome which is *Replication and scaling up of the effective tools resulting from the pilot-scale application of the integrated landscape approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management at national and provincial levels*. Ithas a focus on the sustainability of the project results and benefits and the replication and upscaling of activities which would have been carried out on a pilot scale by the project. These pilot activities and tested approaches will be evaluated and refined and the results recorded and made available as manuals and other guidance (including electronic media) for those who will undertake replication. Survey results, information generated by pilot activities and other knowledge will be collected, organized and stored in a new Environmental Information Management System on a GIS platform, accessible to all. Finally, in preparation for replication and scaling up of its results and benefits, the project will provide guidance for selecting new locations.

There will be three outputs and respective activities under this outcome as follows:

* Conduct a Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) on Business As usual vs Sustainable Ecosystem Management scenarios for Tonle Sap lake fisheries, highlighting for decision-makers the impacts of actions in surrounding watersheds. This will also include associated training of TSA to government/local instituions.
* Regional cooridation platform across the three targeted provinces strenthended to bring together government and CSOs to share lessons learnt and help establish LUP systems for replication.
* Pilot activities and tested approaches evaluated, verified and/or amended and made available in the form of manuals and other guidance for building on the enabling and foundational elements and implementing the successful approaches, instruments and tools
* Existing knowledge management tools assessed and an Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) developed and implemented to serve as an accessible repository of the information, experience, lessons and knowledge arising from the project, its pilots and tests. The system will be on a GIS platform, maintained centrally by the MoE with input from a broad catchment and wide accessibility.
* The criteria that will be used for the selection of future PAs, forests and productive agricultural land to which the successful products of this project will be applied, developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including specifically women

The GEF budget for Component 3 is estimated at US$600,000 and US$1,713,600 from co-financing making a total of US$2,313,600

***2.7 Incremental reasoning***

The Government’s response to the identified problems is estimated to be valued as USD75 million and comprises a substantial and significant set of plans and activities, including GEF initiatives, that are either on-going or envisaged to address the identified problems (see section 2.3 above). Of this, some USD10 million is seen as of direct relevance to the project and considered as co-financing[[29]](#footnote-30). However, in spite of this impressive portfolio of work, lands and forests continue to be degraded and lost, their ecosystem services diminished and livelihoods affected, primarily because of three barriers that have been discussed above (section 2.4) and need to be overcome, namely –

1: Weak regulatory framework and institutional capacity for INRM approaches at the landscape level

2: Weak capacity for effective PA management at government and community levels

3: Limited capacity in increasing upland agriculture productivity and forest management

The government is seeking assistance from the GEF to complement its efforts to overcome the identified barriers. The proposed project has the Objective - To promote integrated landscape management for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity natural resources and ecosystem services in the northern region of Cambodia; and it will achieve this through four incremental Outcomes. Three of these address the barriers directly and the fourth addresses knowledge management and provides for replication and upscaling. The GEF increment amounts to USD 3.34 million, making the total project cost USD13.34 million.

The following table, summarizes the directly relevant baseline in column one as the business-as-usual situation; the second column outlines the proposed incremental activities with the help of GEF; and finally, the third column discusses the global benefits that will accrue through the proposed alternative project, over and above the benefits to Cambodia. Global environmental benefits will be further quantified at the PPG phase using the GEF Tracking Tools.

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| **BASELINE** | **PROPOSED INCREMENTAL ALTERNATIVE** | **KEY GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS** |
| In response to identified threats and problems, the Government has put in place a baseline of legislation, planning procedures, a system of PAs and, in conjunction with land users, a management regime that aims for sustainable agricultural productivity and sustainable forest cover. This, together with related initiatives is estimated to be worth around USD75 million.  This significant baseline of land use planning and Protected Areas System management, will be on-going as core activities of the various ministries while the GEF project is being implemented. In addition, the MoE will continue with the implementation of the LDCF project on Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-National Climate Change Planning and with its pilot project on PES in Siem Reap province. Meanwhile, WCS will continue with its work with local farmers to incentivize good management of forests and wetland habitats through the Ibis Rice scheme which is based around the concept that sustainable agriculture protects the natural habitats that provide other vital ecosystem services.  These, and other related projects, which will run at the same time as the GEF project, are listed below and detailed in section 2.3 above.  The Cambodia REDD+ National Programme  Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction and Smallholder Development Project (TSSD)  Strengthening Capacity of Fishing Communities in the Tonle Sap to Manage their Natural Resources Sustainably 2013-2016  Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund for Indo-Burma Hotspot (CEPF)  Angkor Community Heritage & Economic Advancement (ACHA)  Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region through a Ramsar Regional Initiative  Wildlife-friendly Ibis Rice scheme  Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)  Natural Resources Management of the Northern Plain | Outcome 1 addresses Barrier 1 directly and in doing so, it will enhance the chances of success of ongoing interventions by strengthening and enhancing natural resources and ecosystem services through stronger and more effective policies, legislation and standards. Capacity needs will be assessed and capacity will be enhanced at key government ministries as well as local government level, NGOs and communities.  Project activities will extend over 1,052,500 ha and a comprehensive ecological and land use survey will be carried out to gain a better understanding of the situation, ecological values and vulnerabilities. The results will be used to populate the Environmental Information Management System thus making them available for decision-making, awareness raising, etc.  The existing integrated land use planning approach will be enhanced and will incorporate new goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management.  Management plans will be drawn up for selected PAs (450,673 ha) which will serve as pilots to test new approaches in PA management. These will include sustainable financing mechanisms.  Outcome 2 has a focus on Protected Areas management thus addressing Barrier 2, building on initiatives which are addressing PAs as well as threatened ecosystems. It will deliver improved management effectiveness in the selected three PAs of global significance, covering 450,673 ha. It will enhance the status of selected indicator species in the region. It will also target a reduced funding gap for management of the three selected PAs. The Outcome will lead to reduced degradation over 1.05 million ha of forest and production landscapes in the north of Cambodia leading to continued provision of ecosystems services and increased productivity of land. Sustainable income generation through PAs, forests and agricultural land will be explored and shared with community stakeholders.  Outcome 3 addresses Barrier 3 and complements on-going and planned initiatives for sustainable land management in upland agricultural productive land and forests. Under this outcome, land area under sustainable agricultural management and climate smart agriculture to support biodiversity corridors from Kulen Promtep to Tonle Sap will be increased. This will be measured through the percentage increase in SLM guidance delivered by extension services; the stability or improvement of the land degradation index in the targeted three watersheds, and the number (at least 500) of farming households (with priority given to women headed households) who adopt sustainable agricultural practices and integrated SFM/SLM practices.  The Outcome will also ensure that ecosystem services are maintained, through High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and the increased forest cover and reduced fragmentation of forest in northern areas.  In the recognition that the above work will be carried out at a pilot scale, testing new and innovative approaches, Outcome 4 will provide a system for securing, storing and managing the knowledge gained and making it available for replication and upscaling. Pilot activities and tested approaches will be evaluated and refined and the results recorded and made available as manuals and guidance for those who will undertake replication.  Survey results, information generated by pilot activities and other knowledge will be collected, organized and stored in a new Environmental information Management System on a GIS platform, accessible to all.  In preparation for replication and scaling up of its results and benefits, the project will provide guidance for selecting new locations. | Reduced degradation of forest and production landscapes expanding over more than 1.05 million ha in four watersheds, thereby conferring benefits to three provinces: Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear and Siem Reap (with a total area of 3.939 million ha and a population of 1.798 million people).    Developing effective management plans for three targeted protected areas, reduce encroachments and land use conflicts of high conservation value area of 450,673 ha.  Sustainable income generation through PAs, forests and agricultural land; and 500 farming households with priority given to women headed households, adopt sustainable agricultural practices and integrated SFM/SLM practices.  At least 1500 ha of new Community Forests/Protection Forests and the reforestation of 1,000 ha. |

***2.8 Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up***

The project approach targets the interrelationship between biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management to deliver multiple environmental, economic and socio cultural benefits. As such, it is the first of its kind in the country. Balancing these needs is an innovative strategy that is highly relevant to the rest of the country. Up-scaling of this approach in the management of PAs and productive land in Cambodia will be ensured through the project’s replication strategy to be developed under Outcome 3. Through the partnerships that will be strengthened at the project sites, it is expected that the project will be able to influence policies and procedures of other sectors, and develop model institutional arrangements to successfully work out similar arrangements at other locations. Specific tools such as the zoning and demarcation guidline used for the target PAs under the preject will be develop to use in other PAs in Cambodia. The project will also identify and explore alternative sources of income to reduce the level of unsustainable resource extraction activities especially at the community level. In this regard the project will review the effectiveness and sufficiency of current incentives to transform current practices in support of landscape level management objectives. These may include granting of reforestation contracts to forest occupants, as well as provision of community tenure instruments.

The project incorporates institutional, social and financial sustainability in its design. These measures will be developed under Outcome 1, tested under Outcome 2, and evaluated and recorded for replication under Outcome 3. It will work with government agencies to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM in their current planning processes while effecting changes in practices by communities and the private sector. It will do this through a system of incentives and economically rewarding and yet BD friendly options for securing livelihoods. Families living in the target ares primiary depend on farming activites. The project will work with a number of household to pilot sustainable agriculture practices such as the existing sustainable rice programmes to showcase how sustainable rice programmes can increase productivy and income of households. The project will also enhance capacities within the government sector, partner agencies and local stakeholders including communities, farmers and fisher folk, the private sector, and local governments. The project will work with extenstion workers of MAFF to train them on SLM pratices, consequently the extension workers will transfer their knowledge to households living the target sites. Currently, UNDP and MAFF is implementing another GEF 5 SLM project in one of the watershed in southern part of Cambodia. Lessons learned from the SLM GEF 5 and SLM activities under this GEF 6 project will be documented and develop into a national guideline/tool on SLM for replication country wide. For the tourism industry, the project will forge partnerships with operators to harness the ecotourism potentials in and around PAs in accordance with established standards of good practice. Finally the project allocates resources towards formulation of a replication and sustainability strategy including securing sustainable financing towards the end of the project to ensure that project gains and approaches are supported and well-resourced beyond the life of the project.

***2.9 Stakeholders***

The project design includes the participation of a number of stakeholders from government as well as civil society. The following table lists identified stakeholders and outlines their role in the project.

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| **Stakeholder** | **Role and Involvement in the Project** |
| National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) | NCSD is an inter-ministerial body established in 2015 to promote sustainable development aimed at ensuring economic, environmental, social and cultural balance within the Kingdom of Cambodia. NCSD is supported by its secretariat in term of day-to-day work, development and implementation of the NCSD’s programmes and plans. The NCSD Secretariat comprises of five departments: Department of Administration, Planning and Finance; Department of Climate Change; Department of Green Economy; Department of Sciences and Technologies; and Department of Biodiversity.  The project will be implemented under the direct guidance of the NCSD. |
| Department of Biodiversity (DoB) of the NCSD Secretariat | DoB is designated to Coordinate legal instruments, policy, strategic plans, action plans, programmes and projects to ensure protection and conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem sustainability and biosafety and deliver M&E and reporting regularly in Cambodia. It is also the government focal point for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant protocols.  DoB will play coordination role between project components with relevant stakeholders and ensure that the project design and implementation is in line with the national and international priorities on biological diversity. |
| Ministry of Environment (MoE) | MoE is entrusted by the government to lead and manage environment protection, biodiversity conservation, and the rational and sustainable use of natural resources. At the central level, it has eight structures including two General Directorates (General Directorate of Nature Protection and Conservation; General Directorate for Local Community), which will be the key agencies in coordinating and implementing activities related to protected areas management under this project. MoE will provide overall coordination between the two above mentioned General Directorate. |
| General Directorate of Nature Protection and Conservation (GDANPC) of MoE | The Directorate of Nature Protection and Conservation has a role to manage and facilitate biodiversity protection and conservation, and rational and sustainable use of natural resources within national protected areas system. It will play a critical role in project particularly on protected area management of the targeted PAs including development and implementation of related policy and law enforcement. |
| General Directorate for Local Community (GDLC) of MoE | It has mandates in managing and coordinating the development of local communities and protected area communities to contribute to the management, protection and conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and ecology in the protected areas. It will be a key partner for the project in supporting local communities living in the targeted protected areas involve in participatory planning of protected areas management, promoting the voice of communities and ensuring communities are benefit from the PES activities. |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (MAFF) | MAFF is structured into: Department of Administrative Affairs, Forestry Administration, Fisheries Administration, Agriculture, General Directorate of Agriculture, and General Directorate of Rubber. MAFF is the governmental body to develop and implementation of agricultural policies, and land reform.  The project will collaborate with MAFF in identification and/or scaling up of sustainable agriculture to support the livelihood of the target communities. |
| General Secretariat of MAFF | General Secretariat of MAFF is the focal point of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.  It will be an important interface of the project including supporting DoB/MoE in coordination, provide relevant policy advice to MoE based on the technical outcomes of this project and ensure alignment of the project outcomes to UNCCD to which this project supports in accordance to national priority needs.  The General Secretariat will play coordination role within the project components with relevant stakeholders and ensure that the project design and implementation are in line with the national and international priorities on combating land degradation. |
| Forestry Administration (FA) of MAFF | FA has the authority to manage the forest and forest resources outside PAs. The project will work with FA in term of forest restoration in the target watersheds and strengthening target Community Forestry. |
| Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) | MLMUPC is responsible for developing policies related to land management and land use. It also supports MoE in the protection and preservation of environment, landscape, natural attractive places, and ecosystems.  Under this project, MLMUPC will provide technical inputs and supports necessary and relevant for integrated landscape management. |
| Sub-national administrations (SNA) of the targeted provinces | SNA of Cambodia is structured into three tiers: provincial, district and commune levels. Under the Decentralization and De-concentration reform of the country, SNA has role and functions to development and implementation local development activities.  The SNA in the target provinces will be engaged in the development of provincial Watershed Management Plans. |
| Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APSARA) | APSARA was formed in 1995 under the Royal Decree or the protection and management of Angkor and the region of Siem Reap.  APSARA will be the key partner in the Angkor Protected Landscape and Phnom Kulen National Park. |
| UNECSO | UNESCO’s programmes in Cambodia focus on education, culture, natural science, social and human science, and communication and information. Under its natural science programme, UNESCO works with the APSARA in management of the Angkor Heritage site. The project will ensure synergy building between the project activities and UNESCO’s activities within the Angkor Preotected Landscape. |
| Asian Development Bank (ADB) | ADB assists Cambodia on rural-urban-regional linkages, targeting human and social development, and enhancing public sector management. The GEF 6 project will work with on-going projects of ADB within the project targeted provinces to ensure best practices on sustainable agriculture can be applied within component 2 of this project. |
| Live and Learn | Live & Learn is a locally registered Cambodian non-government organization, part of an international network of organizations across eight countries: Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. Live & Learn has worked in Cambodia since 2004, conducting a range of projects with relevance to biodiversity landscape and water management, this includes work in the Angkor World Heritage site. Live & Learn is a member of the Satoyama Initiative and actively working with partners especially the APSARA to support water management in the Siem Reap Socio-ecological Production Landscape. Live and Learn will be on the ground partner for awareness raising in the Angkor Protected Landscape. |
| Archaeology and Development Foundation (ADF) | ADF is a British-registered non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit organization implementing the Phnom Kulen Program since 2008. The ADF is currently supporting different activities ranging from archaeological research, conservation of historical sites, co-ordination of demining, demarcation of Archaeological protected Areas (800 hectares up to 2016), nutrition and hygiene, development of alternative livelihood, education to environment and support to the primary schools, since 2008. ADF will be on the ground partner under this project working with communities living in PKNP. |
| Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) | WCS in a global conservation NGO that has worked in Cambodia under Memoranda of Understanding with MoE and MAFF since 1999. In the project landscape WCS supports MoE in all aspects of protected area management in KPWS and has developed ecotourism and the Ibis Rice small-scale PES scheme. WCS works with the FA of MAFF elsewhere in the catchments in the project area.  Under the current project WCS will support MoE in the implementation of the project in KPWS and will provide support to MAFF in project activities conducted outside of the named protected areas. |
| International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | In Cambodia, IUCN has since 1992 focused its work on supporting the management of protected areas, improvement of environmental governance, development of policy and best practices and sustainable finance. Under this project, IUCN will capitalize its experience in protected area management especially in zoning and development of management plans as well as national guidelines on zoning of natural protected areas which will be replicated to at least three of all proposed protected areas of the GEF 6 project. |
| Sam Veasna Centre (SVC) | SVC is a registered local Cambodian NGO that was established in 2003 in memory of late Sam Veasna, a pioneering Cambodian conservationist who discovered many of the most important sites for conservation in northern Cambodia. SVC works in northern plain. SVC will work with WCS to support communities’ activities within the KPWS. |
| Local communities | The project will work in targeted Community Forests and Community Protected Areas to strengthen the capacity of men and women in forest protection, engagement in sustainable agricultural practices and other livelihood options.  Specific targeted Community Forests and Community Protected Areas will be identified during the PPG phase. |

***2.10 Gender considerations***

Gender considerations will be fully integrated into the project strategy. It is widely known that women are particularly dependent on ecosystem goods and services for livelihoods and domestic responsibilities, and therefore impertiave that their concerns and interests are well reflected into the design and implementation of project activities. Women are also active agent when it comes to planning and decsion making in sustainble use of natural resources. In the Mekong region, women are often at the forefront of protecting forests. In Cambodia,  women are strengthening their voices in formal institutions and decision-making to better protect and manage their community forests.[[30]](#footnote-31) The project strategy will particularly consider gender aspects to ensure that women-headed households and lower income groups including special attentin to IP are given focused support to project interventions. For instance, the project will ensure that men and women in the target communities will receive equal benefit from sustainable agricultural practices and eco-tourism activities. Gender analysis will be included in the PPG stage to identify institutional structure, barrier and opportunities to promote gender equality within the project activities. The project will ensure that both women and men are offered equal capacity development opportunities supported through this investment. The project will ensure representation of both men and women in the coordination mechanisms and platforms established. The project invetention will ensure women’s voice (including IP) are heard and intergrated into the project decision making activities. Gender disaggretated targets and baselines will also be established where appropriate as part of the project monitoring plan. Gender action plan will be develped at the project inception phase to keep track of gender results withing the project implementation.

***2.11 Risks***

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| **Risks** | **Rating** | **Preventive Measures** |
| Limited capacity of sub-national authorities in the implementation of integrated landscape management | Low | Component 1 will include capacity development activities for sub-national authorities on land use planning. The project will establish database/system on watershed management plan for informing planning process of the sub-national authorities. The project will identify successful experience of sub-national authorities’ role on landscape management from in and out of the country. |
| Relevant government agencies at the national and provincial levels may be reluctant to promote conservation-oriented financial reforms for a fear of losing other short term economic development revenues | Low | The project will work closely with relevant government agencies. The project aims to influence the national development and fiscal development planning process. An assessment of ecosystem functions and its value (economic valuation) will be conducted to inform the national and sub-national authorities. Participatory planning at the local level will serve as a platform for development plans that integrate conservation priorities. It will be critical to capture the potential of ecosystem markets. The pilot project will develop necessary capacity and tools for mainstreaming biodiversity into a National Policy. |
| Delay in project implementation due to limited technical capacity in project contract management | Low | Project preparatory and inception actions will provide targeted capacity building and training to government counterparts. In order to ensure consistency at technical and administrative levels, a dedicated project manager will be engaged to work with MAFF where the project management unit will be set-up. |
| The Siem Reap Water Supply Authority may be reluctant to collaborate, fearing loss of business revenue. | Moderate | The project will work towards developing capacity of local government officials and stakeholders in different sectors integrating ecosystem services into local land-use and development planning. The emphasis will be that the interventions will be essential for achieving long-term sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, thereby making good business sense. The project will support development and application of a range of tools. Targeted ecosystem valuation work will be conducted, including targeted scenario as appropriate. The process will be done with full participation of stakeholders in government, non-government and the private sector, fostering understanding of the need for and benefit from striking the right balance between development and safeguarding the environment. An effective communication strategy and stakeholder involvement plan will be developed and implemented in view of increasing stakeholder support. |

**2.12 Coordination**

The project is designed to complement a number of on-going national initiatives and to avoid duplication of activities. This coordination will be achieved through regular communication between MoE and UNDP. Among the initiatives with which this project will work closely is the recently approved *Generating, Accessing and Using Information and Knowledge Related to the Three Rio Conventions* project, which is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and UNDP with funding support from GEF. The standardization and open access to environmental information generated by this project will provide an ideal baseline of biodiversity in the target area of the project.

The project will also coordinate with the FAO led GEF-5 project on *‘Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities using micro-watershed approaches to climate change and variability to attain sustainable food security in Cambodia*’. The project will take into account lessons learned on integrating vulnerability assessment and climate change adaption measures into watershed management plans from the FAO GEF-5 project into Component 1 of this project.

With support of US$ 4.5 million from the Adaptation Fund, UNEP and MoE are supporting climate resilience of communities living around Community Protected Areas (CPAs) in Kulen Prumtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Phnom Kulen National Park. The proposed GEF project will benefit from activities being implemented by the Adaptation Fund especially on pilot eco-agriculture interventions, which can be applied in the project component 2.

Currently UNDP is supporting the government’s environmental governance reform which will end in 2018. This policy initiative is funded by USAID and implemented by UNDP. Its overall budget is US$ 2.8 million. It aims to fully implement the ongoing government’s environmental governance reforms in order to create an enabling policy environment for achieving sustainable development and effectively conserving and protecting environmental resources that are currently at risk. It consists of three pillars: 1) MoE modernization, 2) Strengthening of the National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD) and, 3) Development of an Environment and Natural Resource Code. The objective of MoE strengthening is full operationalization of the new MoE organizational structure including the protected areas management system so as to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of their environmental protection and conservation activities. This pillar will provide enabling environment for strengthening MoE capacity in effective management of PA sites. It will contribute to component 2 of the proposed GEF project. The NCSD is an inter-ministerial body that was recently established. The NCSD has a mandate to coordinate with line ministries to promote sustainable development including environmental management. The strengthening of NCSD pillar under the Environmental Governance Reform will provide technical assistance and organize capacity building activities for the NCSD general secretariat and departments to draft and implement short and long term strategies and action plans. With assistance from the GEF project, it is envisaged that mechanism for NCSD to coordinate line ministries such as MoE, MAFF and MLUPC in landscape approach will be tested. An environmental code is envisaged to offer ground-breaking legal solutions for statutory challenges that presently impede effective management and conservation of environmental capital. More specifically, contributions to the Environment and Natural Resource Code include establishing an overarching principles and legal framework that would guide implementation of existing laws including those currently outside of the MoE’s jurisdictions, will support component 1 of the project in supporting a larger landscape of MoE (Protected Areas) and MAFF (watersheds).

With funding support from the German Development Bank (KfW), WCS is implementing a project so called *Technical Support for Prek Toal (2016-2020)*. The technical support will invest $600,000 in the Prek Toal Ramsar site of the Tonle Sap Lake to protect the flooded forest habitat as well as implementing sustainable conservation financing modes (i.e. eco-tourism). The proposed project will work to ensure synergies between technical assistance provided by KfW/WCS and the conservation financing implemented under component 2 of the project.

***2.13 Consistency with national priorities***

The project is aligned to the following objectives of “Rectangular Strategy” for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency (Phase II): (i) ensuring an average annual economic growth of 7%. The project is in line with one of the strategies namely, promotion of Agriculture Sector, which includes (i) improved productivity, diversification and commercialization and, (ii) sustainable management of natural resources.

In addition, the project is in line with the National Strategic Development Plan 2013-2018 in ensuring a “balance between development and conservation”, in particular, increase the contribution of natural resources to the development of agriculture sector by ensuring: (1) green cover, forest and wildlife conservation; (2) the sustainability of fisheries resources; and (3) the sustainability of the ecosystem.

The project is designed to support the Forestry Law by striving to ensure the sustainable management of forests for social, economic and environmental benefits, including conservation of biological diversity and cultural heritage. It also promotes the objective of the Protected Area Law in ensuring the management, conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of the natural resources in the protected areas.

The project also corresponds with the National Forestry Programme’s approach (2010-2029) in promoting holistic and cross-sectoral approaches: using landscape planning approach through collaboration with relevant government agencies, local governments, and civil society.

The project is designed in line with the draft National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans which aims to use, protect and manage biodiversity for sustainable development in Cambodia.

It is also fully aligned with the draft National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation in terms of increasing national agriculture productivity and poverty alleviation through adoption of Sustainable Land Management practices and improved adaptation to climate change. According to the draft NAP, there are ten critical watersheds in Cambodia. The project will cover 2 of the critical watersheds. To achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality under the UNCCD, Cambodia’s NAP has identified five Strategic Objectives (SO), and the project will particularly contribute to SO#2: implementation of SLM in the critical watershed of Cambodia; SO#4: skill training on watershed management to local authorities; and SO#5: generating financial mechanism for innovative financing such as PES. Cambodia is currently in the process of setting up the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) baselines, targets and the progress indicators, which is expected to conclude by end of 2017. By deploying landscape planning approach, the project will support landscape survey to understand current state and trends of land degradation in the northern region. The findings of the survey will guide stakeholders to identify, set baselines and design/implement measures to avoid, restore, halt and reverse land degradation to achieve ‘Neutrality’ or no net degradation. Although, the project will focus on landscape level planning, the intervention will support 2-3 degradated plot sites to restore its productivity aiming to reverse degradation rate. The LDN monitoring system will be integrated with the EMIS proposed under component 3 of the project to synergize national information portal for land degradation monitoring and evaluation.

The project will further contribute to the strategic objective of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023) by increasing capacity of local government and communities to identify climate induced opportunities in agriculture production systems, ecosystem and nature protected areas.

The project’s priority is in alignment with the Sub-decree on Watershed Management 1999 – which is a brief legal paper that spells out a general basis and directive for watershed management as it relates to forested areas of the country. It provides management authority over forested areas within watersheds to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in cooperation with other Ministries, International Organizations and Civil Society.

The national REDD+ strategy aims to arrest the current alarming rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the country to reduce GHG emissions from the forest sector. The project’s activities to effectively conserve PAs and forested areas will directly contribute to the REDD+ efforts for reducing GHG emissions.

The project corresponds with the priority actions identified by the National Protected Areas Strategy and Management Plan. The project offers a unique opportunity to implement and learn from these actions for instance, through testing a landscape approach and various sustainable financing options for conservation and to scale-up these lessons to the national level PA management.

The Environment and Natural Resources Code is currently under preparation and is to be developed by the end of 2017. The code will develop overarching principles to guide existing laws and policies towards sustainable development including issues of integrated ecosystem management. The code will also clarify the jurisdictions of line ministries in order to specify the roles and mandates of different ministries in relation to particular resources. The purpose of this clarification is to ensure maximal efficiency and effectiveness of environmental governance. Importantly, the code will develop an enabling legal framework for sustainable financing of the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity which are increasingly at risk. The project will address priority actions through providing scientific knowledge base that would form a basis for effective and efficient governance of natural resources and through exploring conservation financing options.

Importantly, the project will also link up with Cambodia’s SDGs 1, 2 and 15 as follows:

**Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

* Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

* Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

**Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

* Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
* Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
* Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
* Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

***2.14 Knowledge Management***

The project recognizes that efficient knowledge management is the key to sustainability and replication, and this is addressed fully under Outcome 3. The prime tool for knowledge management will be the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) which will be developed on a GIS platform and will serve as the repository of the data and knowledge generated by the project and acquired through parallel and relevant initiatives. This source of knowledge will support decision-making as well as awareness and understanding. It will also provide a framework for distilling lessons and documenting experiences, in particular the tools, guidelines, manuals and methods which will be developed and tested by the project. Sufficient resources will be dedicated to ensure that the EIMS is robust and reliable and designed in a user-friendly manner. In addition, the project will disseminate through its communication and advocacy activities, the project’s key messages for example, participation in legislative dialogues, providing technical inputs to broader policy debates, involving the youth in research and vital campaigns, and sharing its experiences at the national, regional and global level as appropriate. KM strategies will be developed during project preparation, and a communication and knowledge management plan will be developed at the commencement of implementation.

**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY**

1. Record of Endorsement[[31]](#footnote-32) of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/webpage_attached/OFP%20Endorsement%20Letter%20Template-Dec2014.doc)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/webpage_attached/OFP%20Endorsement%20of%20STAR%20for%20SGP%20Dec2014.docx)).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** | **Ministry** | **Date** *(MM/dd/yyyy)* |
| Dr. Lonh Heal | Adviser to the Ministry of Environment and GEF Operational Focal Point | Ministry of Environment | 03/01/2017 |

B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification

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| **This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[[32]](#footnote-33) and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Coordinator, Agency name** | **Signature** | **Date**  *(MM/dd/yyyy)* | **Project Contact Person** | **Telephone** | **Email** |
| Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator | Adriana_signature.png | 03/01/2017 | Tashi Dorji,  Regional Technical Specialist, Bangkok regional Hub | +66 2 304 9100 ext. 5360 | [tashi.dorji@undp.org](mailto:tashi.dorji@undp.org) |

1. Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [*GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF6%20Results%20Framework%20for%20GEFTF%20and%20LDCF.SCCF_.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. METT to be applied in PPG to establish baseline scores and targets to be set [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Baselines and targets to be determined during PPG [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Stung Staung (201,200 ha), Stung Chickreng (187,100 ha), the Stung Siem Reap 84,200 ha and partial of the Stung Sen (approximately 580,000 ha) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. will be identified during the PPG stage. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Is a system of designating different zones for different usage (settlement, conservation, tourism, etc.). Due to the lack of zoning and demarcation guidelines (particularly for the PAs), land conflicts are widespread in Cambodia. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to $100k for PF up to $3 mil; $150k for PF up to $6 mil; $200k for PF up to $10 mil; and $300k for PF above $10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [*GEF-6 Programming Directions*](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.C.46.07.Rev_.01_Summary_of_the_Negotiations_of_the_Sixth_Replenishment_of_the_GEF_Trust_Fund_May_22_2014.pdf)*,* will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Calculated on the basis that in the target area, landholdings are small with an average of 1.69 ha per farm household, and that the project will target 500 households [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. 2014 figures as from <http://www.cambodiainvestment.gov.kh/content/uploads/2014/03/Kampong-Thom-Province_eng.pdf> accessed on 18/09/2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. 2014 figures as from <https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/dataset/hectare-forest-cover-by-province-in-cambodia-1973-2014> access on 18/09/2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. 2014 figures as from <http://www.cambodiainvestment.gov.kh/content/uploads/2014/03/Preah-Vihear-Province_eng.pdf> accessed on 19/09/2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. 2014 figures as from <https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/dataset/hectare-forest-cover-by-province-in-cambodia-1973-2014> accessed on 18/09/2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. 2014 figures as from <http://www.cambodiainvestment.gov.kh/siem-reap-province.html> as accesses on 9/09/2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. 2014 figures as from <https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/dataset/hectare-forest-cover-by-province-in-cambodia-1973-2014> accessed on 18/09/2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. University of Gotherburg, 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. Community Forestry is a state public property, under the FA/MAFF, given to local communities to access, use, manage, protect and benefit from forest resources in a sustainable manner. The Community Forestry. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. Community Protected Areas are those located in Protected Areas under the jurisdiction of MoE. MoE has authority to designate/allocate parts of sustainable use zone communities for Community Protected Areas for the balancing biodiversity conservation, livelihood subsistence and maintenance of cultural and spiritual values of the local communities and indigenous people. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. As per 2008 PA Law, the objectives of National Parks are: (i) Protect the natural area and landscape that are of national and international importance for the purposes of psychology, science, education, recreation and tourism; (ii) Maintain priority for physio-geographical samples for areas, living resources, community genetic resources and species to offer stability and ecological variations; (iii) Manage the use of tourists for the psychological educational, cultural, and recreational purposes to the extent that can ensure limited to no disturbances to the area; (iv) Eliminate and prevent illegal use and occupation of any part of the area; (v) Maintain the respect for ecological privileges, land shape, sacredness, or beauty, which are the causes for the establishment of such PAs; (vi) Meet the needs of indigenous groups, including the use of alternative resources, at a level can meet other objectives of management. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. A biodiversity assessment of Phnom Kulen National Park, with recommendations for management, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. Natural and cultural heritage values of the Angkor World Heritage Area (n.d) [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. IUCN (March 2016). A global standard for Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (version 1) [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/mapsearch> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Global IBA Criteria: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/ibacritglob> [Note: A1-Globally threatened species; A2 – Restricted-range species; A3- Biome-restricted species; A4-Congregations; [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. Co-financing amounts will be confirmed at the PPG phase [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. Women’s Inclusion in REDD+ in Cambodia Lessons from Good Practices in Forest, Agriculture and Other Natural Resources Management Sectors: Joint Regional Initiative for Women’s Inclusion in REDD+, 2013.

    http://redd.unfccc.int/uploads/2234\_23\_final\_draft\_cambodia\_gender\_and\_redd\_report\_dec\_2013\_-\_copy.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required   
     even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF [↑](#footnote-ref-33)