



Samkos REDD+ Project

Project ID: 3341

Project Description Summary

With the aim of helping the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) achieve its environmental goals for sustained social and economic growth, promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, maintain biodiversity, and create alternative livelihoods under the United Nations scheme of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Wildlife Alliance created The Samkos REDD+ Project (SRP). The Project includes three protected landscapes: Phnom Samkus Wildlife Sanctuary (PSWS), a protected landscape in northwestern Cambodia, encompassing a total area of 202,451 ha; the Phnom Kravanh Biodiversity Conservation Corridor (PKBCC) of Protected Area with 82,735 ha, and the northern zone of Southern Phnom Kravanh National Park (SPKNP) located in Pursat with 12,211 ha. The total Project Area is 297,397 ha., and the total forested area and Project Accounting Area is 282,718 ha.

The three protected areas that make up the SRP are an integral part of the Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia's Indo-Burma hotspot. The Indo-Burma hotspot is one of the most biologically important regions on Earth. According to the IUCN, it ranks among the top 10 hotspots for irreplaceability and, unfortunately, in the top five for threats, because only 5% of its natural habitat remains.

In response to the threats to PSWS and the PKBCC, Wildlife Alliance (WA) with the Ministry of Environment (MOE), decided to create the SRP. The protection of SRP will be achieved by designing and delivering an active park management system specifically for PSWS, which includes direct park ranger patrols along the Project Zone and inside the Project Accounting Area. Wildlife Alliance and MoE rangers have already been patrolling large areas within the Project Accounting Area since 2019, as the sanctuary borders the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project (VCS Project ID 1748).

The primary method for the identification of stakeholders in the SCRCP was through an SIA workshop that was held in Pursat town from 11-13 October 2022. The workshop had 60 participants, who were all identified by local experts as leaders or representatives of the Project stakeholder groups. Additionally, the expert knowledge of the Project Proponent was used to identify any project stakeholders who were not previously identified during the SIA workshop.

The Project Zone includes 26 villages across 9 communes, 4 districts and 2 provinces. These growing communities with approximately 7,953 families and 34,179 villagers, present the biggest threats to the Samkos REDD+ project. The threats manifest themselves in the form of Illegal land clearing, land encroachment, illegal logging, and poorly planned rural infrastructure.

The Project will also generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, create alternative income generating activities (IGAs) and initiatives to stimulate investment in local businesses designed to reduce pressure on the environment while significantly increasing community well-being. The programs will address food/nutritional security and infrastructure, such as water wells.

Wildlife Alliance has been assisting the government in the management of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape since 2002. Core activities of Wildlife Alliance have been patrols protecting the forest and technical assistance to the government to help it implement forest protection. Wildlife Alliance has also undertaken community development and education programs, to help local people switch to livelihoods that are compatible with the sustainable use of the region's rich natural resources.

Despite its global importance, uncontrolled small-scale land conversion of forest to agricultural land by migrants and conversion to agro-industrial plantations by the private sector make the region of the Cardamom Mountains one of most threatened forest landscapes in South East Asia. Rural communities depend on small-scale agricultural production to support their livelihood. A lack of sufficient employment opportunities for the growing rural population combined with a lack of knowledge regarding improved agricultural techniques drive the local population to clear forests for cultivating commercial crops.

The drivers of deforestation are predominantly a high demand for new agricultural and cash crop land in the SRP Project Area. The population in the province and the region around the Project Area has significantly increased over the last decade. This is from both in-migration and also an increase in child birth rates in the surrounding villages. Currently, there are low education rates in the area, due to the need for children to work on the families' farms during the day, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and therefore deforestation. Additional drivers of deforestation include illegal logging and fuel gathering. These activities are primarily undertaken by members of the local communities to provide additional sources of income.

In response to the threats to the Southern Cardamom landscape, Wildlife Alliance with the Ministry of Environment (MOE), decided to create the SRP. The protection of the SRP will be achieved by continuing and intensifying patrolling of the Project Area, as well as by providing additional project activities to the communities that are designed to mitigate the drivers of deforestation. Two important project activities are agricultural intensification and water wells. These will help create greater financial security in the communities, and therefore less need to perform unsustainable resource extraction from the Project Area.

The Project's climate benefits include the average annual avoided emission of 1,911,823 t CO₂e, for a total of 57,354,690 t CO₂e over the project's 30-year lifetime. The Project will generate substantial community and biodiversity co-benefits. New and sustainable livelihood opportunities, such as direct employment and alternative income generating activities (IGAs) will be designed to reduce pressure on the environment while significantly increasing community well-being. Additional programs will address food security, and water access as well as raise environmental awareness.

Biodiversity co-benefits will be achieved through greater protection of the ecosystem predominantly by means of increased ranger patrols and improved monitoring. The Project will protect critical habitat for significant populations of IUCN listed species, including the Asian elephant, Asiatic black bear, sun bear, large spotted civet, clouded leopard, and the dhole, as well as the critically endangered Siamese crocodile.

Please visit the Wildlife Alliance website – <https://www.wildlifealliance.org/>, Facebook page or the Project Office to view full project documentation.

Project name	Samkos REDD+ Project
Project ID	3341
Project location	Cambodia, Pursat, Battambang and Koh Kong Provinces
Project Proponent	Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Environment Contact Name: Chuop Paris Email: paris.ncg@gmail.com Phone: 017 313 366

Auditor	SCS Global Services Christie Pollet – Young CPollet-Young@scsglobalservices.com +510.993.0124
Project Start Date, GHG Accounting Period and Lifetime	Project start date: 01 September 2019 GHG accounting period: 01 September 2019 – 31 September 2049 Project lifetime: 01 September 2019 – 31 September 2049
Project Implementation Period	01 September 2019 – 31 December 2022
Validation Type	This is a full validation and verification.
History of CCB Status	This is the Project's first validation and first verification
The Edition of the CCB Standards Being Used for this Verification	This project is being validated under the 3 rd Edition of the CCB Standard.
Gold Level Criteria	Double Gold Level Criteria, Climate and Biodiversity
Date of completion and version number of this version of the PDD	Date: 15 May 2023 Version: 1.1
Project Identified Communities, Community groups and Stakeholders	<p>Project Identified Communes (Villages): (1) Ou Nonoung, (2) Ou Kroach, (3) Ou Treng, (4) Peam Ta, (5) Peam, (6) Ou Tateak, (7) Ta Taok, (8) Veal Rolueum, (9) Phnum Rai, (10) Ou Daem Chek, (11) Ou Choam Leu, (12) Prey Thom, (13) Samrong, (14) Samlanh, (15) Krapeu Pi Leu, (16) Kandal, (17) Krang Rongieng, (18) Chamka Chrey Khang Cheung, (19) Chamka Chrey Khang Tbong, (20) Dei Kraham, (21) Cheuteal Chrum, (22) Pchoek Chrum, (23) Tumpoar, (24) Ksetr Bourei, (25) Tadeh, and (26) Veal.</p> <p>Community Groups / Stakeholders: Loggers, Poachers, Timber traders, Wildlife traders, Land speculators, NTFP collectors, Microfinanciers and money lenders, Local Communities, Government and local authorities, Youth & Women, Workers /job-seekers, Borrowers and debtors</p>

