



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land Use

## Community Forest REDD+ Project, Cambodia

*Community-designed carbon project reduces deforestation and generates alternative income streams that improve livelihoods and protects one of the world's most threatened forest ecosystems*

### Project

The project protects 63,831 hectares of forest threatened by illegal logging, forest fire and unsustainable agricultural expansion. These issues, coupled with rapid economic growth, population expansion, migration, and land speculation accelerated deforestation throughout the province. Between 2002 and 2006, Oddar Meanchey lost 2% of its forests annually.

The project has worked directly with local communities to establish Community Forest groups to implement project activities that reduce deforestation, improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity.

This community-led project demonstrates how developing countries can generate income from carbon markets while positively impacting climate change and community livelihoods. Carbon credit sales from the project will enable the on-going implementation of project activities and ensure that benefits continue to flow to local communities.

The project area consists of 13 discrete community forest areas that are managed by 58 villages over a total project area of 64,831 ha. Project actions include strengthening and clarifying land tenure, community forestry patrols and fire control, community based water resource development projects, sustainable farming systems, agricultural intensification, fuel efficient stove distribution, and assisted natural regeneration.

| Checklist       | Additionality and permanence               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> party verified | Transparency                              | Annual CO <sub>2</sub> -reduction | Social and environmental benefits | Marketing material                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project 301 163 | According to the rules of the VCS and CCBS | By SCS Global Services         | Provided by Markit Environmental Registry | 205,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e        | As documented in our database     | High resolution pictures available |



## Location

The project is located in the northwest Cambodian province of Oddar Meanchey. In recent years, the province's forests have been under constant and intense pressure from commercial and illegal logging, forest fires, economic land concessions, and encroachment.

## Project achievements

### Socio-economic impact

- 7,500 fuel efficient stoves were provided to local households.
- Investments in desilting tanks, tube well drilling, drinking water system development, and installation of purification technologies of local villages.
- Enhancing production, processing, and marketing of non timber forest products including honey, rattan, and bamboo and resin oil, providing extra livelihood earnings to locals.
- 260 patrollers are employed from the 13 Community Forests along with 65 local community members undertaking Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) activities and 30 locals members agricultural intensification operations.

### Environmental impact

- Technical and financial support provided to local farmers to develop sustainable techniques to increase land productivity, thereby reducing pressure on forests.
- Secure forest management rights for project communities through legally binding forest management agreements with them.
- Support communities to develop sustainable forest and land use management plans
- Assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting of indigenous trees of more than 10,000 ha.
- Forest protection and regeneration will increase biodiversity in the forests, especially the number of birds, reptiles and amphibians, and the risks of farm pests are reduced.
- A number of globally threatened mammal species rely on the forests of the area, including Indochinese tigers, leopards, elephants, white-rumped falcon, Asian wild buffalo and sun bears.
- A total of 174 bird species reside within the project area, including the endangered green peafowl.

