

**D R A F T**

**Eastern Plains Biodiversity Corridor Conservation Project**  
Mondulkiri province, Cambodia

Pilot Site - Project profile

## Eastern Plains Conservation Corridor project

### Priority GMS Biodiversity Corridor: Eastern Plains

#### 1 Project Context

Under the GMS Biodiversity Corridors Conservation Initiative (GMS – BCI) currently being implemented as ADB RETA 6213, biodiversity corridor pilot sites for the period 2005-2008 within each GMS country are to be selected based on the following criteria:

- a) Falling within GMS Economic Corridors or their zone of influence
- b) Reducing ecosystem fragmentation by linking two or more protected areas
- c) Areas of international biodiversity importance
- d) Areas of high poverty incidence and population growth
- e) Being of a transboundary nature
- f) Having institutional (state and non-state) capacity on the ground that is currently active in implementing one or more projects.

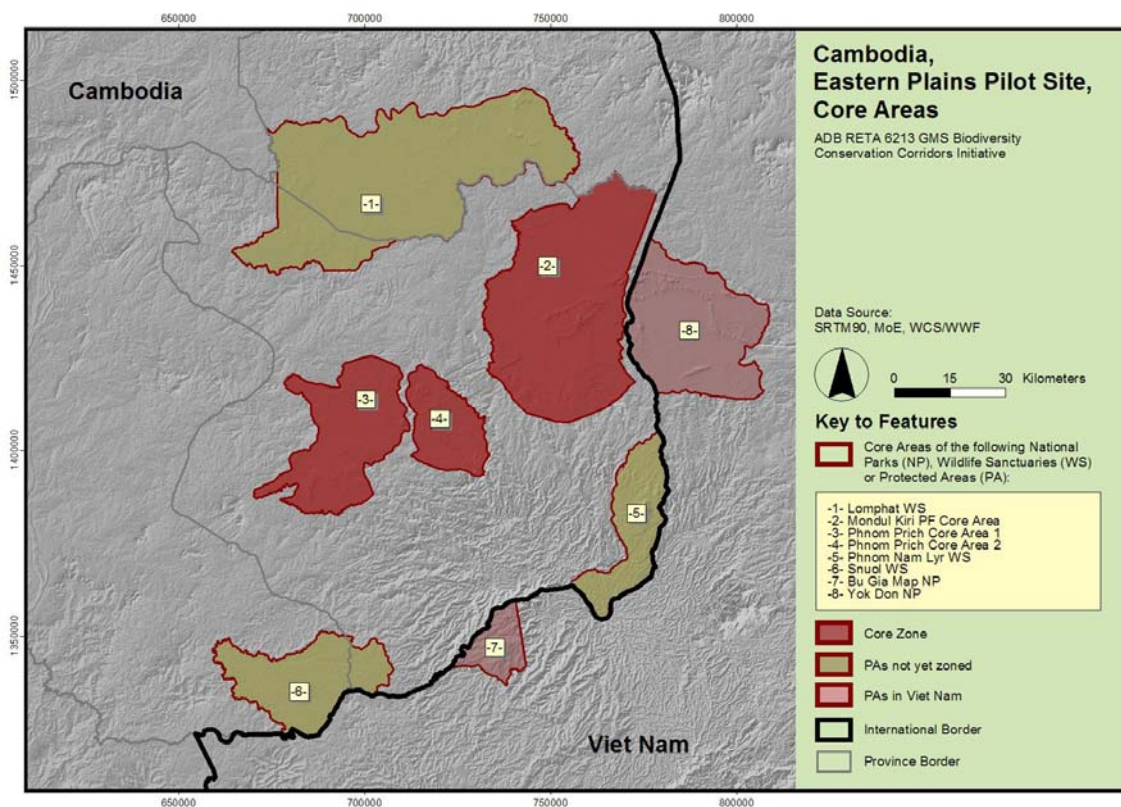
#### 2 Selection and location of pilot sites

The proposed pilot project aims to develop a sustainable use corridor linking seven protected areas in the Eastern Plains Dry Forest landscape (Map 1), Five of these are in Cambodia: Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary (Lomphat WS); Mondulkiri Protected Forest; Phnom Prich WS; Phnom Nam Lyr WS; and Snoul WS, and two in Vietnam: Yok Don National Park (NP); and Bu Gia Map NP. An eighth site, the Seima area (see Map 2) forms a key corridor between four of the other sites and is currently under production forest status. The pilot site fulfils the selection criteria mentioned above:

- a) It falls within the zone of influence of one east-west GMS Economic Corridor
- b) It would maintain habitat links between core conservation zones of many protected areas and can also be zoned to take account of a wide variety of productive uses (see Maps 1 and 2)
- c) The combined landscape has outstanding global biodiversity value (e.g. for forest and wetland types, threatened mammals and birds, and endemic plants and vertebrates)
- d) It is located in a high poverty area with a very high proportion of disadvantaged ethnic minority groups vulnerable to the effects of unplanned development
- e) The conservation network within Mondulkiri would form connections to two National Parks in Vietnam as well as several Vietnamese State Forest Enterprises proposed for protected status
- f) Strong on-the-ground capacity exists within the province to implement a project of this nature, most notably through the long-established programs of two major conservation NGOs that maintain excellent relationships between themselves and with the district, provincial and national authorities

The protected areas and other landscape units in the pilot site have a total area of over 1.3 million ha, excluding the adjoining sites in Vietnam. Sizes, management responsibility and progress with development of core areas are shown in Table 1.

**Map 1: North Eastern Cambodia showing conservation areas that could be linked by conservation and sustainable use corridors**



**Table 1 Key landscape units in the pilot area in Cambodia**

Landscape Unit (N to S)	Ministry/NGO	Size (ha)	Core areas
Lomphat WS	MoE	250,000	Not yet zoned
Mondulkiri Protected Forest	MAFF/WWF	430,000	Drafted
Phnom Prich WS	MoE/WWF	222,000	Drafted
Phnom Nam Lyr WS	MoE	47,000	Not yet zoned
Seima area	MAFF/WCS	305,000	Under discussion
Snoul WS	MoE	75,000	Not yet zoned
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,329,000</b>	

WS = Wildlife Sanctuary, MAFF = Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, MoE = Ministry of Environment

The landscape units of the pilot site fall largely in Mondulki Province, with limited parts in Kratie and Ratanakiri Provinces (Table 2). The key sites, and the proposed corridors, fall entirely within Mondulki Province, thus making the administration of the project and of corridor planning much simpler.

**Table 2 Administrative locations of the key landscape units**

District	Mondulki Province					Kratie Province	Ratanakiri Province
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lomphat WS	+						+
Mondulki Prot. Forest	+	+		+			
Phnom Prich WS	+	+			+		
Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area			+	+	+	+	
Phnom Nam Lyr WS		+		+			
Snoul WS					+	+	

Districts: 1. Kaoh Nheak; 2. Pech Chenda; 3. Sen Monorom; 4. O Rang; 5. Keo Seima; 6 Snoul; 7 Kon Mum and Lomphat

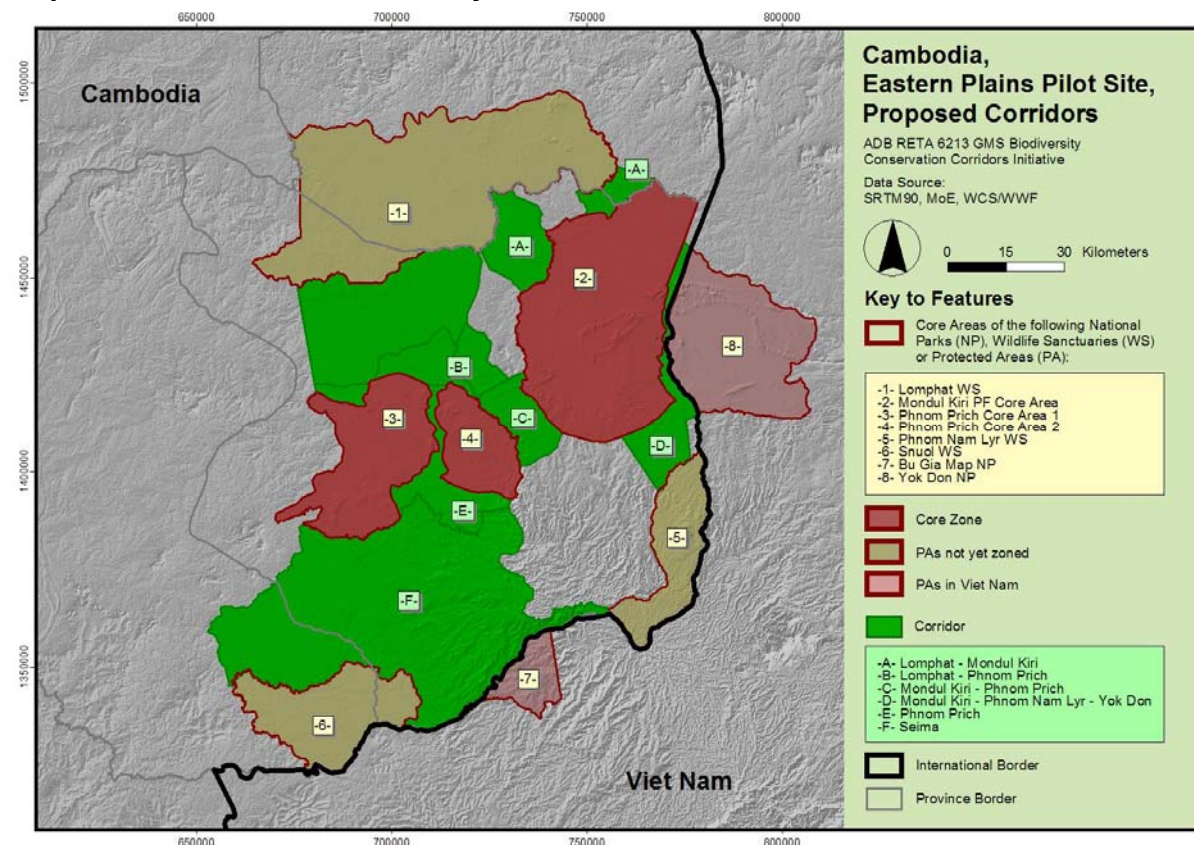
### 3 Description of Proposed Sites

Several conservation designations exist in this landscape. Most importantly, three core conservation zones (areas 2, 3 and 4 on Map 2) have been proposed in two of the protected areas, based on scientific criteria. These form the focus of current conservation activities, together with some of the blocks of habitat linking them. The three other Wildlife Sanctuaries in the pilot site have yet to be zoned in this way (areas 1, 5 and 6 on Map 2). The key threat to connectivity between sites is rapid unplanned development along transport corridors as the road network is progressively upgraded, and so most proposed corridors (green on Map 2, see Table 3) are focused on these critical sites.

The vision for the future of the pilot site is a fully integrated network of core areas for conservation, recognised by all stakeholders, linked by protected corridors and bordered by sustainable-use zones for NTFP harvesting, village agriculture and more intensive activities such as sustainable commercial forestry or plantations. Due to the distribution of existing settlements and uses, some of these corridors and use zones will have to be established within the current boundaries of protected units whilst others will bridge gaps between them (see Table 3). These needs for rationalisation and harmonisation are typical of other conservation landscapes across Cambodia; the pilot site is therefore valuable for identifying potential replicability.

In the south of the landscape one part of the proposed corridor network (the Seima area) is production forest managed by MAFF/WCS under a temporary order to take account of its biodiversity value. This area offers particular flexibility in designing innovative corridor, production zone and core area arrangements.

**Map 2: Eastern Plains Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Pilot Site**



The six landscape connection corridors (see Map 2) that form the proposed pilot site locations are described in Table 3.

**Table 3: Description of Proposed Corridors**

Number (Map 2)	Connecting corridors	Description	Corridor Area (approx.)
1	<b>Mondulkiri Protected Forest to Lomphat WS</b>	Lies mostly within the outer zone of Mondulkiri Protected Forest and crosses a key transport corridor	42,000 ha
2	<b>Phnom Prich WS to Lomphat WS</b>	Includes large areas in Mondulkiri province between the two protected areas; not yet designated for any form of sustainable use with the exception of draft zonation within Phnom Prich WS	141,000 ha
3	<b>Mondulkiri Protected Forest to Phnom Prich</b>	Lies mostly within the outer zone of Mondulkiri Protected Forest; contains several villages, crosses a major transport corridor and forms a key migration route for elephants and other large mammals	24,000 ha
4	<b>Mondulkiri Protected Forest to Yok Don NP and Phnom Nam Lyr WS</b>	Lies mostly in the outer zones of Mondulkiri Protected Forest and forms a crucial trans-boundary link	33,000 ha
5	<b>Within Phnom Prich WS</b>	Lies within Phnom Prich WS, joining two proposed core areas across an important transport corridor	30,000 ha
6	<b>Southern Corridor</b>	Falls mostly in production forests currently managed as Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area, plus some unclassified forest lands and numerous villages; contains core sites that merit protected area status and other forests that can form corridors to Phnom Prich WS, Snoul WS, Phnom Nam Lyr WS and sites in Vietnam; also crosses three key transport corridors.	294,000 ha
	<b>Total corridor area</b>		564,000 ha

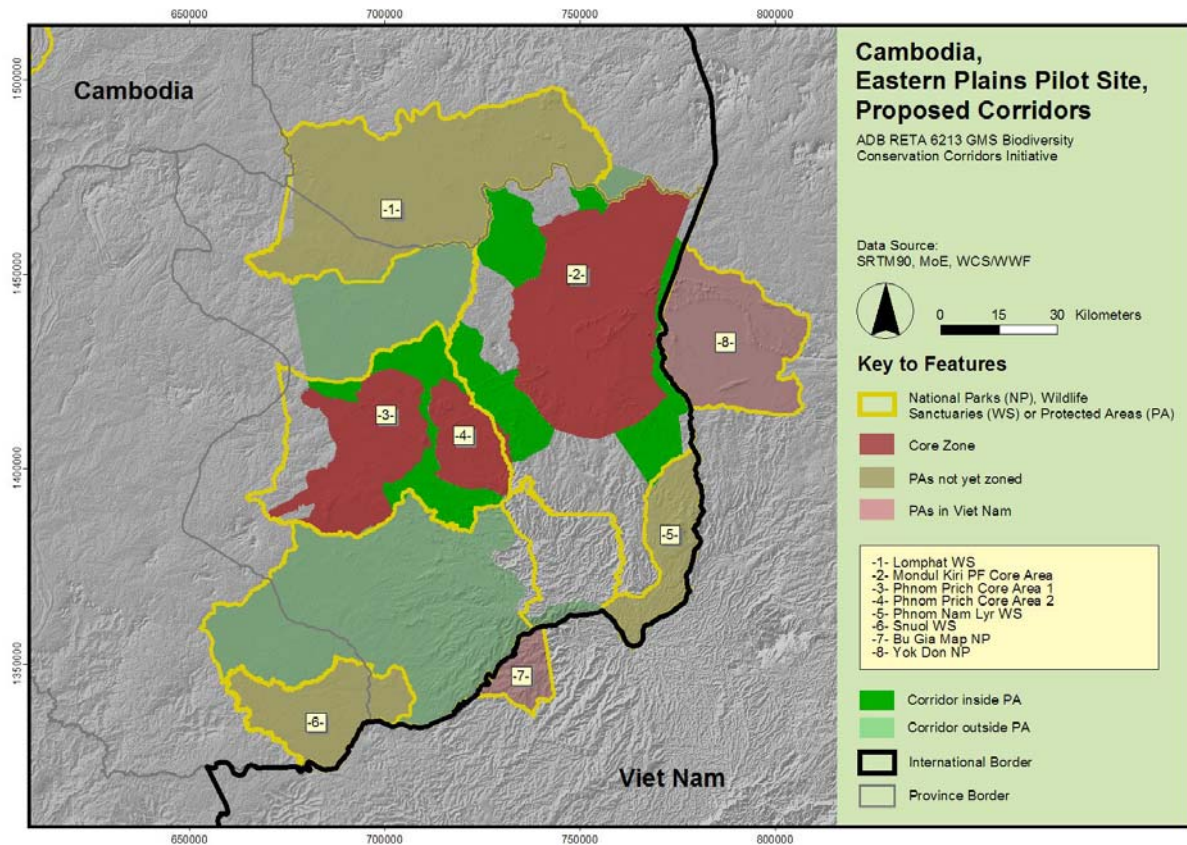
In addition, there are two important transboundary areas that may need attention. These are:

**Table 4: Potential Transboundary sites**

Bu Gia Map National Park, Vietnam	23,000 ha	Several large neighbouring State Forest Enterprises are also proposed for conservation status.
Yok Don National Park, Vietnam	115,000 ha	One of Vietnam's largest protected areas, contiguous with State Forest Enterprises

Map 3 illustrates the legally designated protected area boundaries in the current conservation landscape in the Eastern Plains. Extensive work has been carried out in Phnom Prich WS and Mondulkiri PF to produce draft zonation plans, including sustainable use zones that are within the existing protected area boundaries and would fall within the proposed new corridors.

**Map 3. Eastern Plains conservation landscape showing current protected area boundaries and proposed corridors**



#### 4 Biodiversity Values

The landscape units in the pilot area cover a wide range of habitats from lowland deciduous dipterocarp forest at 100 m altitude through mixed deciduous and semi-evergreen lowland forests to montane evergreen forests above 1000 m. Wetlands include headwater streams, a major river (the Srepok) and many lakes and pools. The distribution of habitats between sites is shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: Habitats present at the pilot site<sup>1</sup>**

Site	DDF	MDF	SEF	MEF	Most notable features
a Lomphat WS and corridor to Phnom Prich WS	X	X	X		Extensive DDF, sections of the Srepok River, many pools.
b Mondulkiri Protected Forest	X	X	X		Extensive DDF, sections of the Srepok River, many pools
c Phnom Prich WS	X	X	X		Extensive DDF, many pools
d Phnom Nam Lyr WS	X	X	X	X	Mountain forests and volcanic rock exposures, scenery.
e Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area	X	X	X		Extensive lowland and hilly SEF and deciduous forests; many pools, scenery.
f Snoul WS		X	X		Extensive flat lowland SEF, many pools.
g Yok Don NP	X	X	X		Largest DDF landscape in Vietnam, many pools
h Bu Gia Map NP		X	X		Hilly SEF, scenery.

<sup>1</sup> DDF = Deciduous Dipterocarp Forest; MDF = Mixed Deciduous Forest; SEF = Semi-evergreen Forest; MEF = Montane Evergreen Forest

The large mammal fauna of the landscape is exceptional, forming the last major stronghold in Indochina for several species, including both deciduous and evergreen forest specialists. A recent review found that it is the most important area of the country for highly threatened mammal species<sup>1</sup>. Six of the species present are considered Endangered (see Table 6) and for these the populations of Wild Water Buffalo, Banteng and Black-shanked Douc Langur are particularly notable on a regional and global scale. At least twelve other Globally Threatened mammal species listed as Vulnerable are present (including Eld's Deer, Gaur, four cats and four primates), together with several Data Deficient species. Several sites, notably Snoul and Phnom Nam Lyr, have received very little survey coverage for mammals or birds and are probably richer than the tables suggest.

**Table 6: Mammals of exceptional conservation concern present at the pilot site**

	IUCN	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Tiger	EN	X	X	X		X			X
Dhole	EN	X	X	X		X			X
Black-shanked Douc Langur	EN	X	X	X		X	X		X
Asian Elephant	EN	X	X	X		X			X
Banteng	EN	X	X	X		X			X
Wild Water Buffalo	EN		X						

EN = Endangered; Site codes follow Table 5

The pilot site supports an exceptional assemblage of threatened bird species, especially those associated with rivers and pools in lowland forest. The evergreen forests near the border support several highly localised endemic species typical of the Southern Annamite Mountains. The montane habitats have been poorly studied and potentially contain additional key species. Table 6 lists Critically Endangered and Endangered birds found in each landscape unit. Many other Globally Threatened species listed as Vulnerable also occur, notably including Green Peafowl, Germain's Peacock-Pheasant, Lesser Adjutant, Sarus Crane and Masked Finfoot.

**Table 7: Birds of exceptional conservation concern present at the pilot site**

	IUCN	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Giant Ibis	CR		X	X		X		X	
White-shouldered Ibis	CR								
White-rumped Vulture	CR		X	X		X		X	
Slender-billed Vulture	CR		X	X					
Greater Adjutant	EN	X							
White-winged Duck	EN					X			
Orange-necked Partridge	EN					X			X

CR = Critically Endangered; EN = Endangered; Site codes follow Table 5

The pilot site is also notable for the presence of remnant populations of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile and several populations of the Elongated Tortoise (Endangered).

## 5 Threats

The main direct threats to biodiversity and to local livelihoods are illegal hunting for subsistence and wildlife trade, forest clearance for agriculture, logging and unsustainable non-timber forest products (NTFP) extraction. One of the key drivers for these problems is a lack of land and resource tenure or effective planning that has resulted in an uncontrolled influx of non-locals seeking to cut, clear and claim land, most notably along the roads running

<sup>1</sup> Combined total of Critically Endangered and Endangered mammals for the Eastern Plains and Southern Annamites; Smith, J. (ed) (2001) *Biodiversity, the life of Cambodia. Cambodia's Biodiversity Status Report 2001*. MoE/GEF/UNDP/FAO, Phnom Penh.

west and north from the provincial capital. There are also issues with governance, capacity of government staff and environmental awareness.

An ever-present threat at all sites is the issuance of large economic concessions for plantations or mining; these can have dramatic negative impacts yet rarely take account of biodiversity at the planning stages.

A major underlying threat in all these cases is the progressive upgrading of the road network, notably the roads from Snoul to Sen Monorom, Sen Monorom to Ban Lung, Sen Monorom to Dak Dam and Keo Seima to the Vietnamese border. These are all feeder roads for the major East-West development corridor through Ban Lung and will transmit the negative impacts on biodiversity of that development throughout the pilot site.

## **6 Demography, poverty and economic profiles**

Mondulkiri is one of the most remote and little developed provinces in Cambodia. With less than 50,000 people, and only a single major road connecting it with the rest of the country, the provincial economy relies almost entirely on forestry, agriculture and the use of forest products, including wildlife.

Mondulkiri is one of the least densely populated provinces in the country. The population density is 2 people/km<sup>2</sup>, and total population was 32,037<sup>2</sup> people (49 % female) in 1998, and 43,067 in 2003<sup>3</sup>, representing 0.33% of the total national population. Most of the inhabitants belong to the Phnong indigenous ethnic minority. A high proportion of the population lives in rural areas and the majority of household economic revenue comes from the agriculture sector. The literacy rate is less than 15%, lower in rural areas<sup>4</sup>. In Phnong families fluency in spoken Khmer, the national language is often limited. Over 97% of households used firewood as the main source of cooking fuel in 1998.

## **7 Ongoing projects**

Several government and non-governmental agencies are active in the pilot area. Recently, the Provincial governor and his senior deputies have expressed the wish to enact provincial-level laws ('deikas') to support conservation.

The most significant conservation activities in the Cambodian part of the pilot site are focused on site-based management at three sites (see below). At all of these, partnership approaches are taken between the NGOs involved and provincial and national government. Both the key Ministries (MoE and MAFF) are primary partners at different sites. Other environmental and development NGOs are active in parts of the pilot area and partnerships with them would be maintained and enhanced during the pilot project.

### **Snoul WS and Phnom Nam Lyr WS**

MoE/DNCP has built basic infrastructure including ranger stations and headquarters in Snoul WS. The Ministry supports 35 rangers in patrolling and enforcement (26 in Snoul and 9 in Phnom Nam Lyr). In addition, it has demarcated the boundary of the Snoul WS. Recently, MoE has built a ranger station and recruited ground staff and rangers for Phnom Nam Lyr WS to enforce the law. Boundary demarcating in Phnom Nam Lyr is ongoing. Funding comes from the government.

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<sup>2</sup> 1998 National Population Census

<sup>3</sup> SEILA, 2003

<sup>4</sup> International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC), 2003

### **Mondulkiri Protected Forest**

Since early 2004, support has been provided by WWF for construction of basic protected area infrastructure, including headquarters and ranger accommodation, and three other ranger posts, wildlife monitoring, patrolling, and general PA management capacity building. A management plan is under development in conjunction with local participation in zoning. WWF has a permanent field presence, and is planning to scale-up activities in mid-2005 to include development of a pilot ecotourism project, as well as expansion of enforcement capabilities. Funding comes from WWF Netherlands.

### **Phnom Prich WS**

Since 2002, WWF has supported a team of rangers in conducting wildlife monitoring and patrolling for law enforcement. Basic protected area infrastructure has been constructed and ongoing PA management training undertaken, including development of a management plan and support to a permanent team of MoE rangers in the field. The WWF MOSAIC (Management of Strategic Areas for Integrated Conservation) team has been conducting community surveys and PLUP (Participatory Land Use Planning) training activities in and around PPWS. Funding comes from WWF-US, USFWS, USAID, and private foundations.

### **Seima area**

This area has been the site of a collaborative program between WCS and MAFF (through the Forestry Administration, FA) since 2000. The four principal activities are strategic planning, law enforcement, PLUP and wildlife survey/monitoring. Field research and consultation with stakeholders to develop a long-term vision for the management of the area as a multiple-use landscape and to delineate land-use zones that enable this to be done sustainably. Technical and logistical support are provided to law enforcement teams in order to reduce illegal hunting, logging and land grabbing, with benefits both to biodiversity and local livelihood security. PLUP is undertaken with indigenous ethnic minority groups to increase their livelihood security and minimize their impacts on local resources. It should enable most villages to obtain permanent legal communal title to their lands. Wildlife survey and monitoring is used to identify critical sites and to track changes in populations and threats. This work is funded by a wide variety of donors including USFWS, the MacArthur Foundation, EAPEI, DFI, Danida, GTZ, SIDA and private foundations.

## **8 Legal and Policy Frameworks**

The overarching policy frameworks that shape the forestry and biodiversity sectors include: Royal Decree on Protected Areas (1993); the Law on Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management (1996), that sets up the basic provision for environmental protection and preservation of natural resources within Cambodia, including important provisions on the requirement for EIAs; ; the Land Law (2001), that sets out a very comprehensive system of land classification and land ownership rights in Cambodia; the Forestry Law (2002), which outlines the general rules and regulations related to administration and management of the Permanent Forest Estate within Cambodia; the Sub-decree on the establishment and management of Protection Forests (2002); the Community Forestry Sub-decree (2004); Community Fisheries Sub-decree (in preparation); the forthcoming Protected Areas Law (in preparation); and the Sub-decree on Indigenous Land Titling (in preparation).

In addition there are cross-cutting, macro-level national strategies and frameworks including: the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) 2003-2005; and the Rectangular Strategy for National Development (2004).

## 8.1 Sector plans and programmes

A number of recent programmes and plans have been formulated in the biodiversity and forestry sectors that have specific implications for the proposed conservation corridors including:

- The National Environmental Action Plan (1998-2002)
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP - 2002)
- The National Wetlands Action Plan (under review)

## 9 Proposal

### 9.1 Goal of project

The goal of the pilot project is to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the Eastern Plains landscape through improved management of core areas for biodiversity conservation and watershed protection and development of sustainable use corridors that connect existing protected areas.

### 9.2 Objectives

The project has five objectives:

1. Poverty alleviation through sustainable use of natural resources and development of livelihoods
2. Clear definition of optimal land uses and harmonised land management regimes
3. Restoration and maintenance of ecosystem connectivity
4. Capacity building in government staff and local communities
5. Sustainable financing mechanism and structures integrated with government planning and budgeting procedures.

### 9.3 Indicative activities

#### 1. *Poverty Reduction*

- 1.1 Improve sustainable livelihood development through intensive agricultural inputs and appropriate technology support and demonstration (e.g. ecotourism, organic agriculture, and NTFP processing)
- 1.2 Community-based natural resource management and protected area co-management
- 1.3 Community-based forest enrichment with high value natural resources
- 1.4 Establishment of market links
- 1.5 Support the establishment of forestry communities, protected area communities and fisheries communities.
- 1.6 Promote exchange and learning between community development activities within the south west region.
- 1.7 Establish a village/commune advocate groups to support villagers or local communities regarding their stewardship and rights over resources
- 1.8 Conduct CBNRM activities in high priority communities, including awareness raising, zoning, and community development plans
- 1.9 Conduct feasibility studies and pilot activities for targeted livelihoods assistance, e.g. ecotourism, organic agriculture, and NTFP processing

#### 2. *Harmonised Land Management and Governance Regimes*

- 2.1 Develop a Provincial Conservation Planning Unit to improve coordination of biodiversity conservation with other large-scale development activities.
- 2.2 Integrate this unit with existing local planning mechanisms (such as the commune-based PLG/Seila system and the Provincial Land Use and Allocation Committee).

- 2.3 Develop liaison mechanism with neighbouring provinces, including those in Vietnam
- 2.4 Identify and fill data gaps through biological and socio-economic surveys
- 2.5 Conduct Participatory Land Use Planning activities at critical sites
- 2.6 Facilitate legal tenure by assisting communities to submit Land Titling applications

### **3. *Maintaining Ecosystem Connectivity***

- 3.1 Develop a Provincial Conservation Corridor Strategy that guides management and land-use planning within the conservation landscape:
  - (i) Carry out or update biological and/or socio-economic surveys with regard to maintaining viable populations of globally threatened plant and animal species, and understanding the social fabric of the landscape
  - (ii) Conduct landscape level analysis of existing and proposed major developments, (in particular industrial and infrastructure projects) including landscape-wide predictive GIS mapping of future developments and impacts
  - (iii) Conduct comprehensive zoning of the conservation landscape through full participation of communities and other key government stakeholders
- 3.2 Mitigate the negative impacts of industrial and large infrastructure developments in strategically identified key biodiversity areas (including mapping anticipated future impacts of development; such as population in-migration along upgraded roads, expansion of commercial plantations, and increased cross-border trade)
- 3.3 Reduce impacts in and between core biodiversity areas through strengthened protected area management at the site level
- 3.4 Expand existing PA management activities, e.g. wildlife and threats monitoring, ranger training, etc.

### **4. *Capacity Building***

- 4.1 Strengthen the capacity of key provincial, district and commune officials to participate in conservation planning, consultation and the analysis of impacts from development proposals
- 4.2 Strengthen the capacity of local government officials to deliver improved on-the-ground management in collaboration with local communities
- 4.3 Strengthen local community capacity in managing their own resources and in understanding their legal rights.
- 4.4 Conduct training workshops on biodiversity conservation, protected area management, land use planning, community-based approaches to NRM, analytical skills, strategy development
- 4.5 Conduct training workshops for local government in community liaison and consultation
- 4.6 Strengthen institutional capacity for corridor conservation

### **5. *Sustainable Financing***

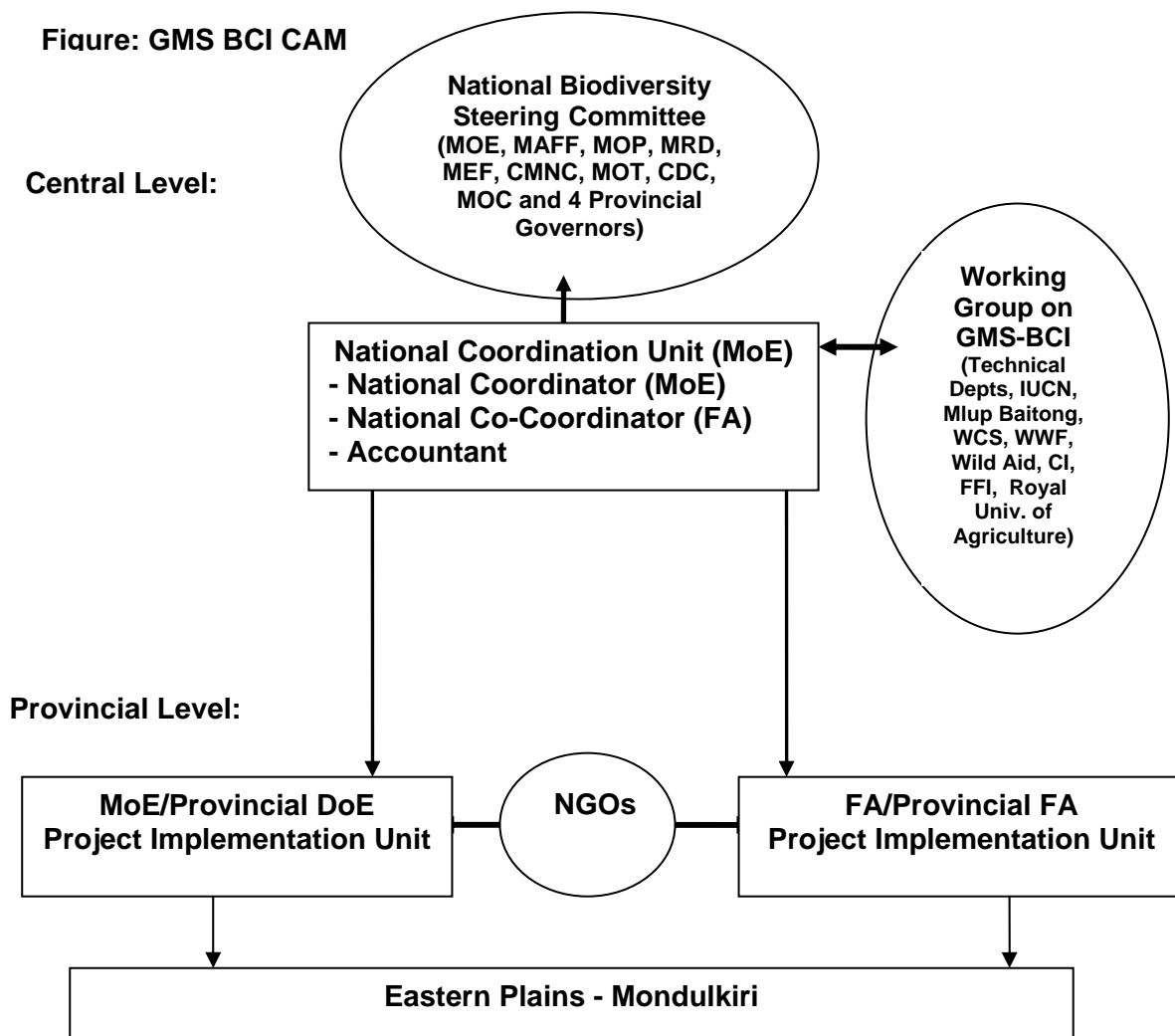
- 5.1 Develop sustainable financing strategy, including recommendations for potential site-specific sustainable financing mechanisms

## 10 Implementation arrangements

### 10.1 Project management and coordination

The institutional set up proposed for implementing the GMS BCI project in the period 2005 – 2008 is as follows:

Figure: GMS BCI CAM



A. The **National Biodiversity Steering Committee** will also be the Steering Committee for the Project. It is chaired by the Senior Minister for Environment and Vice-Chair is the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It will:

1. Meet at least once a year
2. Approve work plans and budgets
3. Review project progress and provide guidance
4. Secure collaboration of relevant ministries
5. Review proposals for additional project sites and seek Government approval.

B. The **National Coordination Unit** will be headed jointly by National Coordinators from MoE and FA. This Unit will:

1. Establish the central level Coordination Unit within MoE

2. Assist the provincial level to establish Project Implementation Units in pilot site
3. Draw up annual work plans and budgets and seek approval from National Steering Committee
4. Maintain project accounts (in USD and Riel) and produce financial reports
5. Provide funds according to approved budget to provincial PIUs
6. Recruit staff and contract national consultants and sub-contract institutions for database management
7. In collaboration with Provincial PIU acquire and update digital database of project area
8. Monitor and review progress on a half-yearly basis
9. Hold annual review workshop with all stakeholders
10. Submit progress and financial reports to National Steering Committee on a half yearly basis
11. Organize field visits as and when required
12. Conduct study tours and organize training; document evaluations and lessons learned
13. Raise awareness about the project and need for conservation within institutions and with public at large
14. Review existing technical guidelines and standardize for all corridor work areas

C. The **National Working Group on Biodiversity** will consist of representatives from DNCP, FA, DONRAEDAM, DOPLA, IUCN, Mlup Baitong, WCS, WWF, WILDAID, CI, FFI, and Royal University of Agriculture). The chair will rotate between government and non-government agencies every six months. This Working Group will:

1. Meet half yearly or as and when required
2. Review existing technical guidelines and standards and propose improvements
3. Provide advisory support to the NCU
4. Screen or organize technical screening of project proposals
5. Discuss and recommend complementary activities in support of the project
6. Promote biodiversity conservation activities at national level and feed experience into regional institutions
7. Document lessons learned from other projects for dissemination

D. The **Project Implementation Units (PIU)** at provincial level will be headed by Provincial Departments of Environment and Forest Administration. The PIUs will:

1. Establish Project Implementation Unit comprising of Chief, project administrative assistant, and support staff
2. Prepare annual work plans and budgets and submit to NCU for approval
3. Maintain account and prepare financial statements
4. Request for consultant support from central NCU
5. Liaise with other relevant departments at Provincial Level
6. Implement project activities in collaboration with NGOs
7. Inform Governor's Office about project progress
8. Write progress reports and submit on a half yearly basis to NCU

## **10.2 Project implementation partners**

Building on existing efforts and investments on the ground, site specific activities in the Eastern Plains corridor will be carried out by MoE and MAFF/FA with technical support from existing non-state partners such as WWF and WCS. In addition, local or national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be brought into various stages of implementation as the need arises.

It is imperative that the government institutions (MoE and MAFF) at provincial level, the Governor's Office in Mondulkiri, and two above mentioned international NGOs draw up a joint

strategy for project implementation stipulating clear responsibilities in the form of an integrated plan of operations (see section below) that enables targeted and smooth implementation of activities in the pilot sites.

### **10.3 Operationalizing pilot site activities**

Following adoption of the resolution on the BCI program at the GMS Summit in Kunming in July 2005, ADB will formulate a regional technical assistance (RETA), detailing the program for Phase I (2005–2008) and for securing funding commitments, which will be described in the RETA paper. The RETA paper will be sent to the GMS countries for concurrence (no objection).

On receiving concurrence from GMS governments and securing program funding, ADB, in its capacity as the GMS secretariat, will call on the coordinators of the Working group on the Environment to send official nominations of GMS country representatives, who will sit in the BCI Regional Coordination Committee with the BCI national coordinators. ADB will also follow standard procedures to put in place the regional program coordination unit (PCU).

Once the regional PCU is in place, it will request the BCI national coordinators to call on nongovernment collaborative partners and provincial authorities to work out a draft plan of operation for the first year of implementation. At this stage, any institutions (government and nongovernment) that have regional or cross-cutting activity proposals can submit these to the regional PCU. The PCU will also activate a technical advisory panel (TAP) with terms of reference laid down in the RETA paper and work with the TAP secretariat to get the regional or cross-cutting activity proposals screened prior to the inception workshop for Phase I.

Each BCI national coordinator will submit to the regional PCU a draft plan of operations that must contain: a) work plan (activities with timeline, responsibility, and milestones); b) budget with costs related to activities; c) monitoring plan with indicators of expected achievements by end of year one and those by year three; and d) a logframe for the pilot site project. In detailing the work plan, the national coordinator and implementation team will select priority activities from the indicative list suggested in the pilot project profiles. In particular, the plan of operations should indicate under which functions the land-use and corridor configuration is being undertaken: a) protection—where focal species are sensitive to habitat change; b) low-intensity land use—where focal species can withstand some disturbance; c) mitigation—where ecological processes should be conserved (e.g., watershed or hydrology: ensure steeper slopes, riparian zones forested); d) land-use patterns and configuration for dispersal ability (continuous vs. patchy/stepping stone habitats). A priority activity in the workplan will also be the provincial land use and zoning exercise at provincial level. In Mondulkiri, this activity will be taken up in Phase I (2005 – 2008) as a preparatory step towards full implementation in Phase II. If necessary, the BCI national coordinators can request the regional PCU to provide technical assistance in drafting the plan of operations.

The plan of operations will be the main instrument of implementation and reporting project progress and any external supervision, monitoring or field visits by ADB or development partners and government will be guided by the plan of operations.

The BCI national coordinator office will also enter into a standard memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the NGO(s) for that particular project site, which can later be extended to other sites if mutually agreed. The text of the MoU will be supplied by the regional PCU and will form the basis for project site implementation responsibilities of the parties concerned.

On receiving the draft plan of operations from the BCI national coordinators, the regional PCU will circulate these to the TAP to get feedback. The TAP will scrutinize the draft plan of operations for plausibility, realistic targets, and approaches as per details contained in the

pilot site proposals. Any adjustments or modifications of the pilot site proposals suggested in the draft plan of operations will also be scrutinized.

Representatives from implementing (government, nongovernment, and potential national consultant) institutions in the GMS will be invited to participate in the inception workshop to finalize the work plans and budgets. Once these have been finalized, the first regional coordination committee (RCC) will be convened, which will deliberate over submissions and give its approvals and decisions. Probably, the first RCC could be held back-to-back with the inception workshop. The BCI national coordinators will attend the RCC meetings as observers. The proceeding of the RCC will be recorded by the regional PCU and distributed to all RCC participants. Once approvals are given, disbursement instructions will be issued by the regional PCU as per minutes of the RCC meeting and funds will be provided to the BCI national coordinator office and the NGOs as per approved plan of operations. For regional activities, funds will be disbursed directly by the regional PCU to the implementers (these could be international/national consultants or institutions).

On receiving funds from the BCI program, the national coordinators will convene a meeting of the national steering committee as well as hold a program orientation workshop to launch pilot site activities. Six monthly progress reports will be collected and collated by the national coordinators and submitted to the regional PCU. Standard reporting formats and deadlines will be provided by the regional PCU.