



The World Bank

AF Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (P172351)

Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 14-Feb-2020 | Report No: PIDISDSA28211

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Cambodia	Project ID P172351	Project Name AF Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project	Parent Project ID (if any) P165344
Parent Project Name Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project	Region EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	Estimated Appraisal Date 02-Mar-2020	Estimated Board Date 18-May-2020
Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Kingdom of Cambodia	Implementing Agency Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Rural Development
GEF Focal Area			
Biodiversity			

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The Project Development Objective is to improve protected areas management, and to promote ecotourism opportunities and non-timber forest product value chains in the Cardamom Mountains-Tonle Sap landscape.

Components

- Component 1: Strengthen Capacity for Protected Areas (PAs) Landscape Planning and Management
- Component 2. Strengthen Opportunities for Ecotourism and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Value Chains
- Component 3. Improve Access and Connectivity
- Component 4. Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Component 5:Contingent Emergency Response

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	4.42
Total Financing	4.42
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	4.42
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	4.42

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

B. Introduction and Context

Country and Sector Context

1. Cambodia has experienced remarkable economic growth and poverty reduction over the past two decades. The growth has been driven to a large extent by the country's rich and diverse natural capital. Natural capital such as cropland and forest resources, account for more than 40 percent of Cambodia's wealth and contributes significantly to its economy (World Bank, 2014). The total estimated value of ecosystem services in the Central Cardamom Mountains contributes about US\$4 billion per year to the national GDP, including US\$1.3 billion per year from biodiversity (Ou 2014).¹

2. Cambodia, which sits within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, is one of the most biodiverse countries in Southeast Asia. There are more than 2,308 vascular plant species (31 are threatened), 123 mammals (37 are threatened), 545 birds (24 are threatened), 63 amphibians (3 are threatened), and 874 fish (28 threatened) (IUCN 2010, WSC Cambodia cited in Kapos et al 2010). The Cardamom Mountain and Tonle Sap Landscape (CMTS), in particular, has a remarkable diversity of animal species, including elephants, bears, gaur (the world's largest bovine), and freshwater fish, and new species are regularly being discovered. In total, an estimated 53 percent of this biodiversity is contained in the country's protected areas (Bottrill et al., 2015). The CMTS hosts the longest wild elephant track (Koh Kong, southern Cardamom) in the world and has successfully preserved elephants from poaching over the last ten years without any known killed elephant. Wildlife camera trapping data shows that wildlife has remained stable in the core zones of the Cardamom Mountains over the last 10 years.

3. According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016), Cambodia's vision for biodiversity is that by 2050, Cambodia's biodiversity and its ecosystem services are valued, conserved, restored where necessary, wisely used and managed so as to ensure equitable economic prosperity and improved quality of life for all in the country.

¹ The value of biodiversity was based on a benefit transfer approach, derived from a study on the value of biodiversity for high quality forests.



4. At present, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) governs 49 protected areas (PAs) and a number of biodiversity corridors covering more than 7.4 million ha (41 percent of Cambodia). Cambodia's protected landscapes represent one of the highest percentages of national territory within protected areas in the world. However, the protected landscapes, including wildlife, in Cambodia, are still under heavy pressure from wildlife poaching and illegal wildlife trade, illegal timber harvesting, and land encroachment for cultivation. Cambodia has also become a transit country for illegal wildlife trade for parts from Africa going through Cambodia to Vietnam and China. Recently apprehensions of ivory, rhino horns, and other animal parts are increasing.

5. Land prices from large-scale infrastructure development in the area further fuel the pressure on land and resources. Few protected areas have been zoned, which makes them vulnerable to land speculation and degradation. This also means that there is considerable uncertainty about how to manage the areas, especially relating to decisions about which should be strictly protected (conservation and core zones) and which should be made available for sustainable use and community livelihoods (community and development zones).

6. To ensure the sustainability of the protected area systems, in 2017, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) developed the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) for 2017-2031. The NPASMP provides strategic direction and targets for improving the management of protected areas with a focus on: zoning and PA management plan development; conservation and restoration activities; law enforcement; financing PAs; and expanding livelihood opportunities for local communities.

7. Protected areas hold untapped potential for the development of ecotourism that can directly generate revenues for sustainably financing PAs and contribute more broadly to local and national economies. According to a Ministry of Tourism report, Cambodia received 6.2 million foreign tourists in 2018 and expects to get 7 million in 2020 and 11 million in 2025. Tourism represented 82 percent of Cambodia's export services in 2019. However, an overall weak business enabling environment, along with a lack of marketing and entrepreneurial skills to promote ecotourism products and services, limits the quality and range of 'nature-based' offerings in the CMTS landscape. Guidance for ecotourism development in Cambodia (e.g. on concessions and public-private partnerships) is also lacking, which reduces private sector potential. By developing and enhancing Cambodia's nature-based attractions, including biodiversity, and linking them to the regional ecotourism offerings, there is a strong potential for increasing tourism revenues, which could support protected area financing.

8. In 2019, the Ministry of Tourism and the MoE developed a policy for ecotourism to unlock its potential. This policy outlines RGC's plans to develop both large and small-scale ecotourism operations, priority ecotourism areas which include the Cardamom Mountains, and for private sector participation in ecotourism. Ecotourism guidelines specifically for Protected Areas will still be needed and will be supported by this Project.

9. Protected areas also hold untapped opportunities for scaling investments in Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) to create green jobs. In the Cardamom Mountains, there are several nascent value chains, including rattan, resin, bamboo, and agarwood, which are mostly exported in raw form. Degraded areas in and around the CMTS and Community Protected Areas (CPAs) offer opportunities for the agroforestry and plantation industry to partner with community groups. Strengthening their value chains has the prospect of increased value added from possible exports and supplementing rural incomes. In a recent analysis commissioned by the World Bank, bamboo and cardamom value chains in the CMTS have been identified as having the potential for further development and scale-up.



10. As part of its PA management agenda, MoE is promoting forest restoration linked to NTFPs, covering about 6,900 ha in the sustainable use and community zones of PAs in the CMTS and the biodiversity conservation corridor (BCC). The Protected Areas Law makes provisions for NTFP use in specific zones within PAs, while the NPASMP includes development of NTFPs as part of its strategic objective for expanding livelihood opportunities for local communities. Additional government guidance and regulations on the management and trade of NTFP value chains, along with private sector engagement and local capacity building, will still be needed and will be supported by this Project

11. In addition, an enabling environment will help promote strong governance and improve the management of PA systems in Cambodia, resulting in global environmental benefits, including biodiversity conservation, unique wildlife and ecosystem service benefits such as reduction of carbon emissions, water provision, slope protection services, and freshwater and nutrients to support fisheries. An estimated 6.2 billion cubic meters of high-quality freshwater is provided by the Central Cardamoms Protected Forests (Conservation International). The project will help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG Goal 15 – Life on Land as well as the Aichi Biodiversity 2020 Targets through safeguarding key natural wildlife habitats. Specifically, the Project will directly contribute to Aichi target 11 (improving the management effectiveness of the targeted PAs) and Aichi target 12 (improving and sustaining the conservation status of known threatened species).

12. During the preparation of the parent Project, additional complementary activities expected to be financed from the GEF Grant were discussed and agreed to with the Cambodia government and the project implementing entities. These additional activities were integrated in the Project's original design and appraised under the assumption that funds from the GEF Grant would be confirmed and committed during the Negotiations in time for Board submission. Specific reference to the GEF Grant was made in the PAD of the Project (PAD Para. 60).

13. Given that the World Bank had not received the Government endorsement of the GEF grant funds before negotiation, the grant portion of the Project was removed from the Project documents, and the Project activities to be financed by the grant were removed from the procurement plan. However, the corresponding description of GEF benefits, overall activities and indicators were not similarly reduced which was an oversight during and after negotiation.

14. The GEF activities were appraised along with the rest of the operation, thus the AF will not trigger a change in the overall structure of the project. However, the AF will result in changes in components and costs (expansion of activities), change in results framework (expansion of relevant targets), and changes in disbursement arrangements (because of the addition of GEF resources). Request for Exceptional Approval for AF was granted by EAPVP on December 3, 2019.

15. The project development objective (PDO) of the parent project, Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project, is “to improve protected areas management, and to promote ecotourism opportunities and non-timber forest product value chains in the Cardamom Mountains-Tonle Sap landscape.” The PDO of this child project under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) will remain the same under the Additional Financing (AF).

16. The Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project became effective on October 17, 2019 and is scheduled to close on December 31, 2025. This will remain the same under the AF.



17. The parent project components are:

- Component 1. Strengthen Capacity for PAs Landscape Planning and Management
- Component 2: Strengthening Opportunities for Ecotourism and NTFP Value Chains
- Component 3: Improve Access and Connectivity
- Component 4: Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response

18. The parent project will support activities in Cardamom Mountains Tonle Sap Landscape (CMTS) located in the provinces of Pursat, Siem Reap, Battembang, Kampong Chhnang, Kompong thom, Kompong Speu, and Koh Kong. With the additional finance, the overall Project Area will remain the same, building on the extensive consultations undertaken in each province during project preparation, but the AF will allow the Project to expand activities under components 1 and 2. PA management plans will be developed for one additional PA in the CMTS (additional 35,232 ha) and economic activities and PA landscape management activities will not only be implemented in the largest seven PAs in the CMTS, but will also include other smaller neighboring PAs in the Project Area, adding effectively an additional 356,632 ha of PA where the same activities will be implemented.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

19. The Project Development Objective is to improve protected areas management, and to promote ecotourism opportunities and non-timber forest product value chains in the Cardamom Mountains-Tonle Sap landscape.

Current PDO

20. The PDO will remain the same under the Additional Financing (AF).

Theory of Change

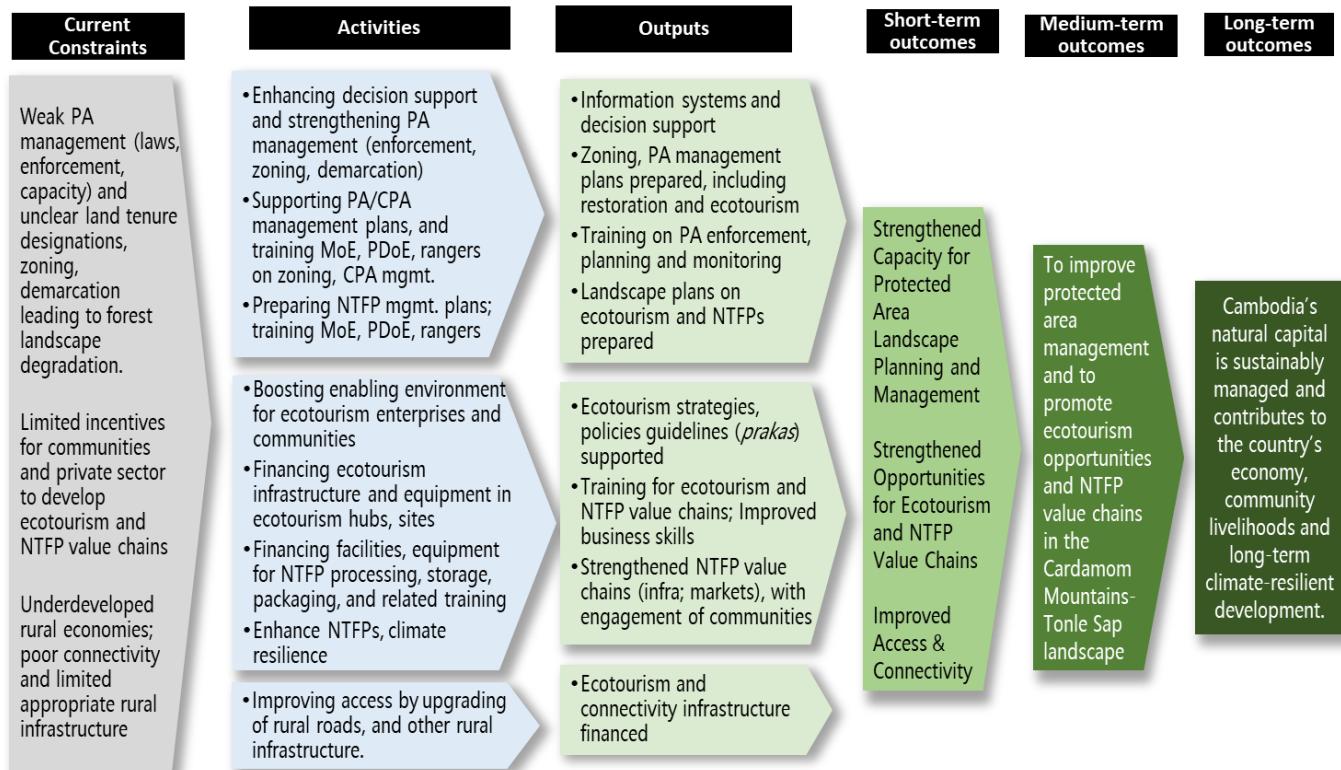
21. The project is developed along a Theory of Change (Figure 1), which serves to address a select number of challenges faced by the Government and is aligned with their natural resource management (NRM) and related development objectives. The Theory of Change rests on two critical assumptions. First, by finalizing PA zoning and demarcation and improving PA management capacity, the Government's ability to enforce the law and prevent illegal activities will be enabled and enhanced. Second, the AF will add more resources to engage on CPA development and conservation-compatible economic activities. This will create significant tenure and economic benefits for communities and income from sustainable alternative livelihoods, at the same time their reliance on unsustainable livelihoods and extraction is expected to decrease. Concrete examples in the region demonstrate that economic alternatives (ecotourism, NTFPs and other sustainable activities) can effectively reduce illegal pressure on wildlife habitats and encroachment on PAs. In addition, ecotourism and other revenues will increase the financial sustainability of PAs.

22. The GEF resources provide incremental global benefits through improving management of protected areas and its endangered wildlife and unique biodiversity, as well as enhancing opportunities to expand potential ecotourism in targeted landscapes. By increasing law enforcement effectiveness of the natural assets (wildlife and its habitats), the establishment of revenue management systems from ecotourism, REDD+ and PES, improvement of cross-sector collaboration, and building job opportunities from sustainable ecotourism and



agroforestry, the Project can ensure that the systemic challenges can be reduced to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits. The Project interventions are expected to have significant climate mitigation impacts, but also increase the climate vulnerability of agricultural landscape and urban areas depending water resources from the CMPA.

Figure 1. Theory of Change



- Critical Assumptions:**
- By improving PA management, the government's ability to enforce the law and prevent illegal activities is enhanced
 - By creating conservation-compatible economic opportunities, the illegal pressure and encroachment on PA and forest areas is reduced

Key Results

23. The AF leads to changes in the results framework. While indicators remain the same, and no indicators are dropped., some targets of the agreed indicators will be increased with the help of GEF-7 resources.
24. The achievement of the PDO will be measured through the following indicators:
 - (a) Protected areas under improved management (hectare)
 - (b) Visitors in selected community-based ecotourism sites (number)
 - (c) Community groups with an increase of one or more on index of natural resources value addition (percentage)
 - (d) Proportion of beneficiaries of business development services (BDS) that are women (percentage)



(e) Targeted community members satisfied with benefits from project (percentage)

D. Project Description

25. The Government of Cambodia joined the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) in the expectation of cooperating with other countries that face similar challenges linked to biodiversity and wildlife management, PA development and management, ecotourism, and law enforcement. The partnership with GWP will further strengthen Cambodia's engagement on illegal wildlife trade, law enforcement, and forest governance of PAs. Specifically, it will enable the Project to take a more comprehensive approach to Protected Areas management (geographically and technically) by expanding activities to additional PAs in the Project Area and go deeper in the PA outlined in the parent project.

26. The Additional Finance to the Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project using GEF-7 resources under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) will strengthen law enforcement with a focus on illegal wildlife trade, using innovative technology solutions and building close partnerships with NGOs and national institutions, and close cooperation with neighboring countries to build regional and global partnerships. It will also expand scope of support of NTFPs and will enhance partnerships between communities and private companies, creating jobs and income in the project area.

27. The AF will provide significant incremental benefits, which include but are not limited to:

- Development of PA management plan for one additional PA in the CMTS, covering additional 35,232 ha (parent project: 2,029,199 ha, with AF: 2,064,431 ha);
- The AF would expand the coverage of services (law enforcement, conservation-compatible economic activities, monitoring technology, ecotourism, CPA development) to more PAs within the Project Area, covering an additional 356,632 ha of PA (parent project: 2,029,199 ha, with AF: 2,385,831 ha);
- Doubling of targeted NTFP and other conservation-compatible value chains (parent project: three value chains, with AF: six value chains); and
- Adding more biodiversity and wildlife-specific activities within the Project Area.

28. **Component 1: Strengthen Capacity for PAs Landscape Planning and Management** (*Revised costs US\$9.68 million, of which US\$6.79 will be financed by IDA and US\$2.89 will be financed by GEF grant*)

29. *IDA Project:* Component 1 aims to provide strategic investments in information and decision support systems for PA planning and management and PA Law enforcement; strategic development, training, logistical support, and equipment for PA Law enforcement; PA zoning, boundary demarcating, and development of management plans; and a model for PA revenue management. Subcomponent 1.1 supports development of an information decision support system (ISDS) and subcomponent 1.2 supports PA landscape planning, management, and enforcement.

30. *GEF Grant:* The AF would allow the Project to further strengthen following additional activities under subcomponent 1.2 in the project area (CMTS):

- (i) Accelerate and strengthen the preparation process of more CPA Management Plans and increase the quality of existing Plans. These plans will enable communities to better map and understand their natural resources and biodiversity, identify and implement conservation compatible economic



activities, and improve community organization and management. The management plan processes will be enhanced by facilitated engagements with all communities, targeted capacity building and training, and implementation at the CPA level. The grant will provide resources for additional stakeholder consultations, targeted capacity building and training for CPA implementation, hiring of additional regional community facilitators to support the coordination of all project activities at the community level, and the development and implementation of CPA management plans in an accelerated fashion.

- (ii) The AF will allow to conduct a comprehensive biodiversity assessment that covers all PAs in the Cardamom Mountain landscape. Findings will help strengthen the preparation and implementation of zoning and forest management processes, identify and manage wildlife, identify possible entry points for ecotourism and birdwatchers, and define action to reduce illegal wildlife trade. This activity will be accompanied by additional training for rangers, communities, and ecotourism entrepreneurs as well as by the preparation of communications tools and the integration of results in the information system.
- (iii) In response to the wildlife crime and encroachment on forest areas in PAs, a more systematic approach on law enforcement will be needed. The project will support the development of a law enforcement strategy. The AF will allow to support a comprehensive participatory approach using the Law Enforcement Planning Toolkit (LEPT) to assess risks and current capacities to propose an Action Planning Framework for the Cardamom Mountain's PAs. Similar assessments are and will be undertaken in other PA landscapes in the country, leading to a national law enforcement strategy. This comprehensive approach will then also allow to support national policies on law enforcement strategies, by working closely with other PA program outside the CMTS landscape. The AF will provide additional resources to law enforcement activities, specifically to purchase and apply surveillance technology and training for rangers in applying the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) Patrolling App for PA law enforcement. This tool will allow local rangers to increase patrolling efficiency and effectiveness by enabling the detection of hotspots and providing and managing information. The aim of this activity is to deploy scarce resources more rationally to intervene in any illegal activity rather than only monitoring border crossings and major roads. In addition to focusing on the use of the SMART Patrolling App, training for rangers will also strengthen their capacity to engage with local communities.
- (iv) The AF will furthermore commit to develop one additional PA management plan for Kirirom National Park.

31. Component 2: Strengthening Opportunities for Ecotourism and NTFP Value Chains (Revised Project cost US\$18.09 million, of which US\$16.75 will be financed by IDA and US\$ 1.34 will be financed by GEF grant)

32. IDA Project: This component aims to finance critical investments as well as to strengthen the enabling environment for expanding opportunities for ecotourism and NTFP value chains, including the private sector. Subcomponent 2.1 will support strengthening opportunities for ecotourism development, and sub-component 2.2 will support promotion of NTFP value chains.

33. GEF Grant: The AF would allow the Project to go beyond the initial scope of NTFPs under 2.2, and look at economic activities more comprehensively:

- (i) AF will provide additional TA to community producer groups in key CPAs and strengthen and



coordinate public-private partnerships (PPPs) to support livelihood and NTFP development in the Cardamom Mountains. Specifically, this TA will be used to support community-based planning, prepare value chain assessments and feasibility studies, generate and disseminate market information, and promote private/community partnerships for specific products.

- (ii) AF will provide additional TA to support entrepreneurial skills development and the creation of formal jobs. Skills training will include business and financial management, marketing, and operational management. The project will also support the establishment and development of private and group-owned enterprises through incubator programs for conservation-compatible economic activities, including priority NTFP and agricultural products.
- (iii) Support for selected conservation-compatible agricultural, agroforestry, and NTFP value chains to expand livelihood opportunities for local communities in the CPAs within the targeted PAs. Eligible activities could include sustainable cultivation, harvesting, processing, and marketing of conservation-compatible activities, including agroforestry, NTFPs, sustainable rice, and food production for ecotourism.

These sustainable value chain and enterprise activities will be carried out in the same communities that are actively implementing CPA management plans and are not illegally extracting natural resources from PAs.

34. Component 3: Improve Access and Connectivity (*\$23.9 million will be financed by IDA*)

35. *IDA Project:* This component will extend ecotourism opportunities in the CMTS by enhancing connectivity infrastructure to allow for an increase in visitor numbers from the identified gateways. These improvements are aimed at increased, sustainable visitor volume and reduced seasonality because of all-weather access. Specific investments may include the rehabilitation of rural roads and other related rural infrastructure to help in the development of ecotourism corridors and links with main markets.

36. Component 4: Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (*Revised Project cost US\$5.95 million, of which US\$3.26 million will be financed by IDA, US\$2.50 million by counterpart funding and US\$0.19 million will be financed by GEF grant*)

37. *IDA Project:* Component 4 will carry out the day-to-day implementation, coordination, and management of project activities, including (a) planning and execution, FM, procurement, environmental and social safeguards management, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and knowledge management; and (b) internal and external audits for the Project.

38. *GEF Grant:* The AF would allow the Project to further strengthen its M&E and its knowledge management, which is building on the dialogue between the World Bank, RGC, UNDP, and NGOs, and can be clustered in three main areas:

- (i) Provision of good practices to the RGC on GWP-related topics such as biodiversity and ecotourism, specifically to support the regional multi-country dialogue on IWT
- (ii) Extraction of lessons learned and systematization of knowledge on the Project, which will feed into the World Bank's upcoming regional work on forest landscapes and serve as a basis for the RGC's engagement in international and regional networks.
- (iii) Capture and dissemination of information at the community level to produce user-friendly tools and guidelines in Khmer.



39. **Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response (US\$0.0 million).** The objective of the contingent emergency response component (CERC), with a provisional zero allocation, is to allow for the reallocation of financing to provide immediate response to an eligible crisis or emergency, when/if needed.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

40. The institutional arrangement will remain the same as described in the PAD and Project Implementation Manual of the Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project. However, the AF will add more opportunities in partners collaboration in addition to the considerable efforts to coordinate with relevant DPs and other public and private sector stakeholders. During the preparation of the Project Document, two independent proposals for GEF financing were prepared, involving UNDP, Wildlife Alliance, Conservation International and Fauna and Flora International. Upon request of the Government and the GEF Focal Point, all participants worked together to align their proposal with the objectives and activities of the Sustainable Landscapes and Ecotourism Project, also with the mutual understanding that the partners will play a direct role in the implementation of the GEF resources.
41. Over the last twenty years, the above-mentioned NGOs and UNDP played a crucial role in supporting the Protected Area management, biodiversity and wildlife management and livelihood development. Those organizations filled an essential technical and managerial gap. The Government is now keen to directly involve those organizations in the implementation of the Project but are now ready to step into the leadership and coordination role that the Ministry is supposed to play. This GEF grant will also provide the opportunity to build the capacity of the Government to do so; and transfer skills, experience and data to the Government. The Government will enter into individual contracts with each of the organizations, define specific activities in accordance with their comparative advantages on Protected Area management; livelihood/NTFP development; and other project relevant activities. UNDP will play a coordinating role, including planning, coordination and reporting on activities undertaken by all four entities.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The proposed project area includes Pursat, Kohkong, Battamang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom provinces, which are located across Cardamom Mountain and Tonle Sap Lake (CMTS) areas. The AF does not suppose any change in the project locations. Cardamom Mountain area: Cardamom Mountains are rich in primeval forest and intact ecosystems. In 2002, a transborder highway to Thailand was completed south of the Cardamoms, along the coast. The highway has fragmented habitats for large mammals such as elephants, big cats and monkeys. Tourism is relatively new to the Cardamom Mountains. International conservation organizations working in the area includes Wildlife Alliance, Conservation International In 2016, the southern slopes of the Cardamom Mountains were designated as a



new national park; Southern Cardamom National Park. It appears, however, that rampant illegal poaching is continuing nonetheless. In 2008, Wildlife Alliance launched a community-based ecotourism program in the village of Chi-Phat, marketed as the "gateway to the Cardamoms", with approximately 3,000 annual visitors generating more than \$US 150,000 for the local community. Tonle Sap Lake area: Tonle Sap Lake is located at the heart of the Cambodian landscape. It is the largest freshwater lake and flood forest habitat in Southeast Asia and supports its largest water bird colony. It is home to around 150 fish species and a host of invertebrates, reptiles, and birds. About 3 million people depend on this lake and its floodplain for their daily food and livelihood. Because of its rich biodiversity and its socio-economic value to so many people, the Tonle Sap Lake area and its floodplain play a very important role in the lives of Cambodians.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Bunlong Leng, Environmental Specialist

David Jorge Baringo Ezquerra, Social Specialist

Monyrath Nuth, Social Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The project triggers OP 4.01 resulting from the Additional Financing (AF) activities, which will further strengthen forest governance and add resources to community-based economic development.</p> <p>The Project location (s) are not yet identified, potential adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be minimal since the AF will not finance any construction works.</p> <p>The expected minor adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be site-specific, reversible and readily mitigatable through the sub-project management.</p> <p>MOE and MRD have prepared a project-ESMF to avoid, minimize and reduce possible temporary and site-specific impacts on the environment and</p>



		people. The ESMF provides the roadmap for screening for adverse environmental and social risks of sub-projects, and for preparing ECOP or site-specific ESMP/IEE/ESIA during implementation.
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	OP/BP 4.03 is not triggered as the project investments are implemented by government institutions; however, participating private sector (e.g. options for private sector managed ecotourism investment or ecotourism enterprises) will be required to comply with environmental and social safeguards requirements of the World Bank and the environmental and social safeguards instruments such as ESMF.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	Natural Habitats (OP / BP 4.04) is triggered as the project will involve activities in two project area corridors. Given the fact that the ecosystems in the two project areas must be protected, it should be ensured that they don't come under increased threat due to landscape planning.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	The Policy on Forests is triggered as the project will invest in technical assistance activities for landscape, and forest resource management in protected areas. The project would not cause, nor facilitate, any significant loss or damage to forest. The project-ESMF has been prepared to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the remaining forest cover by limiting interventions to land that is already under the usages of land and natural assets and preventing any encroachment in adjacent forest and community protected areas.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project is not expected to lead to increase usage of pesticides.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	The policy is triggered as a "precautionary" measure. Preliminary assessment has not brought to light any feature of archeological, or cultural importance in selected landscapes. A chance-find procedure is integrated in the ESMF.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	It is highly likely that the Project will operate in areas where Indigenous Peoples are present. This is because 6 of the 7 participating provinces have IP communities with 100 members. These include Battambang and Siem Reap (home to the Jarai, Stieng, Ja'ong communities), Kampong Speu (home to Jarai and Souy communities), Pursat (home to Jarai and Poar communities), as well as Kampong



		<p>Thom and Kampong Chhnang (home to Jarai communities). Therefore An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework has been prepared to guide screening for IPs, consultations leading to broad community support, and preparation of IP Plans. An IPPF was chose as the appropriate instrument, as the location of sub-project and other activities will not be known until implementation. For the same reason a social assessment was not conducted during project preparation. The IPPF includes instructions for carrying out s social assessments for project financed activities once their locations are known.</p>
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	<p>The AF will not finance construction works. However, the project has prepared a Resettlement Planning Framework (RPF) in case any activity financed by the AF cause involuntary resettlement. In addition, the project will support activities to scale up community protected areas under component 2 that may result in restriction of access to NTFPs, natural resources, and sources of livelihoods of communities and IPs. These activities will not result in physical displacement. A separate Process Framework has been prepared to avoid, minimize, and mitigate this issue.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	<p>No project activities relate to any known dam by the definition of OP/BP 4.37.</p>
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	<p>This project does not rigger OP7.50 as the project investments would not involve or connect or pollute to any known international waterways such as Tonle Sap or Mekong River or its (sub)tributaries. Originally, the project design was conceived towards integrated the landscapes of the Tonle Sap and the Cardamom Mountains, which could include fisheries. After the concept stage, the project design has evolved, and it no longer involves either fisheries or irrigated-agriculture investments in the Tonle Sap.</p>
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	<p>The project would not involve any activity in any known disputed area.</p>



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

Originally, the project design was conceived as a project that integrated the landscapes of the Tonle Sap and the Cardamom Mountains, which was the basis for the RSS advice to conduct a regional environmental and social assessment. After the concept stage, the project design has evolved, and it no longer involves either fisheries or agriculture investments in the Tonle Sap. Now that the fisheries component is removed, the project will no longer support investments in linked landscapes. Therefore, a regional environmental and social assessment has not been prepared.

The current project is expected to have a highly positive environmental impact through addressing priority objectives of landscape, forest and ecotourism restoration. This project is fully consistent with the Bank's Natural Habitats and Forest policies.

The Additional Financing (AF) from GEF (proposed \$4.42 million) will further strengthen forest governance and adding resources to community-based economic development. Specifically, the client is requesting additional financing for the Project to support better outcomes from component 1.2 (PA Landscape Planning, Management and Enforcement) and component 2.2 (Promotion of NTFP Value Chains) of the Project. The implementation arrangements and indicators from the Project will remain the same.

The Project location (s) are not yet identified, potential adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be minimal since the AF will not finance any construction works.

The expected minor adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be site-specific, reversible and readily mitigatable through the sub-project management.

Based in the above-mentioned expected environmental and social impacts and risks, the following safeguard policies have been triggered: Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04), Forests (OP/BP 4.36), Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11), Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.12), and Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12). The AF does not suppose changes in the triggered safeguards policies or in the safeguards risk rating.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: Long term and future environmental and social impacts of the Project are envisaged to be highly positive and will contribute to the overall improvement of landscape and natural resource management.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

No project alternatives are required. Minor adverse environmental and social impacts are anticipated to be site-specific, reversible and localizable.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The two implementing agencies (MOE and MRD) have previous experience with Bank-funded projects such as LASED II



(on-going) and BPMAP, however, the assigned environmental safeguards persons may be new to the Bank safeguards policies. Moreover, BPAMP was quite a different project than the proposed project and only involved on the ground activities in one protected area with heavy input from international consultants and it's not certain that this experience would be very relevant for the proposed project regarding environment safeguards.

In MOE, the project owner is the Department of Community and Livelihood which is the unit in charge of collecting data and working closely with communities and IPs in establishing protected areas. This department has experience in negotiating use agreements and access restrictions with communities. The main social safeguards focal point comes from this Department and is responsible for the preparation of the IPPF, Process Framework, and the Resettlement Policy Framework. Although some staff members of the Department have been involved in projects similar to CSLEP such as ADB's Biodiversity Corridors Conservation Project and are have experience working with IP communities, knowledge specific to IFI policies on IPs and IR limited.

On the other hand, MRD, which will be in charge of land acquisition for the roads, has much experience on land acquisition under various development partners and have coordinated work on these aspects with IRC. They also have a unit in charge of IPs. There are focal persons in MRD for both land acquisition and IPs.

In sum, the implementing agencies have varying levels of capacity on social and environment safeguards. The project will provide induction/training sessions and intensive hands-on support to MRD and MoE for ensuring that there is adequate level of understanding of World Bank's safeguards policies and requirements.

MOE and MRD would determine the project locations during implementation and agreed to ensure CSLEP's technical assistance activities or individual subprojects will all be screened for compliance with environmental and social safeguards policies of the government and the Bank. Therefore, MOE and MRD have prepared necessary Environmental and Social Safeguards Instruments (i.e. an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a restriction process framework (PF), an indigenous people planning framework (IPPF), and a resettlement policy framework (RPF)).

The ESMF is designed to ensure the CSLEP's technical assistance and investment subprojects do not create or result in significant adverse impacts on local livelihoods and the environment, and that potential impacts are identified, avoided or at least minimized. The ESMF includes environmental and social screening and impact assessment guidelines aiming at:

- (a) Preventing and/or mitigating any environmental and social impact that may be resulting from the proposed activities,
- (b) Ensuring the long term environmental sustainability of benefits from proposed activities by securing the natural resource base on which they depend, and
- (c) Facilitating, in a pro-active manner, activities that can be expected to lead to increased efficiency in the use and improved management of natural resources resulting in the stabilization and/or improvements in local environmental quality and human well-being as well.

The MOE also took the lead in preparing an access restriction process framework (PF), an indigenous peoples planning framework (IPPF), and a resettlement policy framework (RPF). As mentioned above, the safeguards focal person from MOE's department of community and livelihoods took primary responsibility for the preparation of the PF and IPPF, drawing on their experience in working with communities (indigenous and Khmer) across Cambodia on issues related to access and use of protected areas, as well as international experience. The resettlement policy framework was



prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development, who have significant experience in applying IFI policies on IR, and draw on their experiences in preparing and implementing such instruments for other IFI financed operations, as well as guidance provided by the Ministry of Economy and Finance's general department of resettlement. A social assessment was not prepared for this operation, as it was not possible to determine sub-project locations or technical assistance activities during preparation. MOE's department of Community and Livelihoods indicated that undertaking such an assessment prior to identifying sub-project location, posed the risk of raising community expectations of benefiting from the project, and that it was therefore better to wait until the locations were known until implementation. Each of the frameworks prepared include screening mechanisms for social impacts, as well as instructions on conducting site specific participatory social assessments once the locations of activities are known.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

Consultation of ESMF/environmental safeguards instrument: MOE and MRD organized a public consultation of their draft ESMF at Himawari Hotel on 21 December 2018. The ESMF includes key comments collected and a list of the consultation participants from line ministries, private sector, CSOs and development partners. The key comments raised during this consultation are to encourage the sub-owners to continue meaning public consultations and promote good agriculture practice during the project implementation and supervision. The comments were addressed in the updated ESMF. The public consultation covered country laws and regulations relevant to the consultation and disclosure process and was used to inform and involve stakeholders in the environmental and social process. Thus, public consultations will be further conducted during each subproject design and implementation. The public consultation is specifically required by the World Bank' s environmental and social safeguard policies and the government's sub-decree No 72 ANRK.BK on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/EMP Process.

Consultation of social safeguards instruments: a separate consultation for the three social safeguards instruments (RPF, IPPF, and Process Framework) was conducted on 23 January 2019 in Phnom Penh. It was attended by more than 30 participants from line ministries, private sector, and CSOs. There was a general awareness of social safeguards among the participants including MOE, with some line ministries who have had previous experience with ADB or World Bank-assisted projects providing suggestions including (i) making sure that relocation budget is covered by Government funds and included in the loan agreement, (ii) for involuntary resettlement impacts, IAs to do inventory of losses then send this to IRC for valuation and compensation, and (iii) accounting for all possible involuntary losses including little huts as not doing so hinders project implementation. Participants also enumerated other relevant RGC laws that were not listed in the presentations. Many participants expressed concerns about impacts on Indigenous Peoples including potential losses of livelihood and dilution of their culture and identity with ecotourism activities, and asked if the project can instead promote IPs, their culture, and their products through ecotourism. Throughout the consultation, MOE emphasized avoidance of adverse social impacts especially land acquisition, relocation, and displacement of Indigenous Peoples.

**B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)****Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other**

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
26-Dec-2019	26-Dec-2019	

"In country" Disclosure

Cambodia

26-Dec-2019

Comments

Disclosed on MRD website at <https://www.mrd.gov.kh/en/2019/12/16/2197/> and on MoE website at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1568811586591290&id=314699302002531

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
26-Dec-2019	26-Dec-2019

"In country" Disclosure

Cambodia

26-Dec-2019

Comments

Disclosed on MoE website at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1568811586591290&id=314699302002531

Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
26-Dec-2019	26-Dec-2019

"In country" Disclosure

Cambodia

26-Dec-2019

Comments

Disclosed on MoE website at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1568811586591290&id=314699302002531



If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

OP/BP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?

Yes

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?

Yes

OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?

No

If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?

NA

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples

Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?

Yes

**OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement**

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

Is physical displacement/relocation expected?

No

Is economic displacement expected? (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods)

No

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests

Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?

Yes

Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?

Yes

Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?

No

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes



All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Werner L. Kornexl
Sr Natural Resources Mgmt. Spec.

Maurice Andres Rawlins
Natural Resources Mgmt. Spec.

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Kingdom of Cambodia

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Environment
Sao Sopheap
Secretary of State
saosopheap@yahoo.com

Ministry of Rural Development
Chreay Pom
Director General for Technical Affairs
chreaypom@gmail.com

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Werner L. Kornexl Maurice Andres Rawlins
----------------------	---

Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Peter Leonard	14-Feb-2020
Practice Manager/Manager:	Christophe Crepin	14-Feb-2020
Country Director:	Inguna Dobroja	18-Feb-2020