



Regional Conference on

**Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests
of the Greater Mekong Sub-region**
Siem Reap, 23-25 March 2016

Biodiversity Conservation within Cambodia's Protected Areas

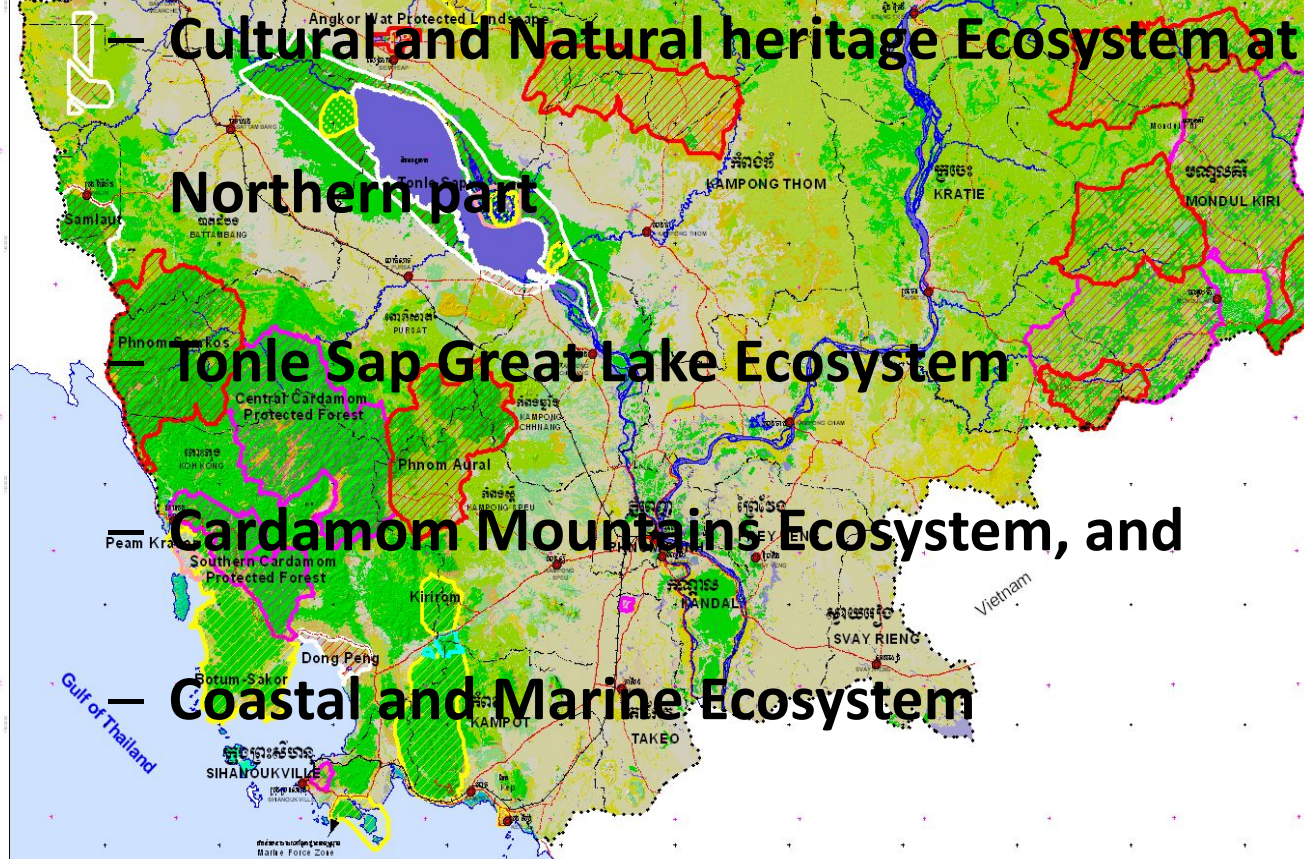
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Ministry of Environment

Introduction

- A small (181,035 km², around 14 million people) least developed country in Southeast Asia with tragically history
- Constitutional monarchy: King Norodom Sihamoni, Prime-Minister – Samdech Techour Hun Sen
- Full peace and national reconciliation achieved in 2000 after the 3-decade civil war (1970-2000)
- First election held in 1993. During the same year the Ministry of environment was established
- Key economic sectors: agriculture, tourism, garment,
- Cambodia's PAs covered approximately 27% of the area of the country, which has 8 categories, some of which represent unique ecosystems



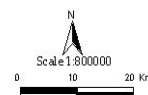
Cambodia has four important landscape ecosystems for Biodiversity Conservation and Protection :



Prepared by MIS-GIS Office,
Department of Natural Resources Assessment
and Environmental Data Management, MoE

Data Source:

- Protected Area: referring to the Royal Decree on the designation of Protected Area, 1993.
- Protected Forest: GIS&RS/DFW, MAFF.
- Land Use/Cover: JICA, 2002.
- Administrative Boundary: All boundaries information were provided by the National Geographic Department of Cambodia.



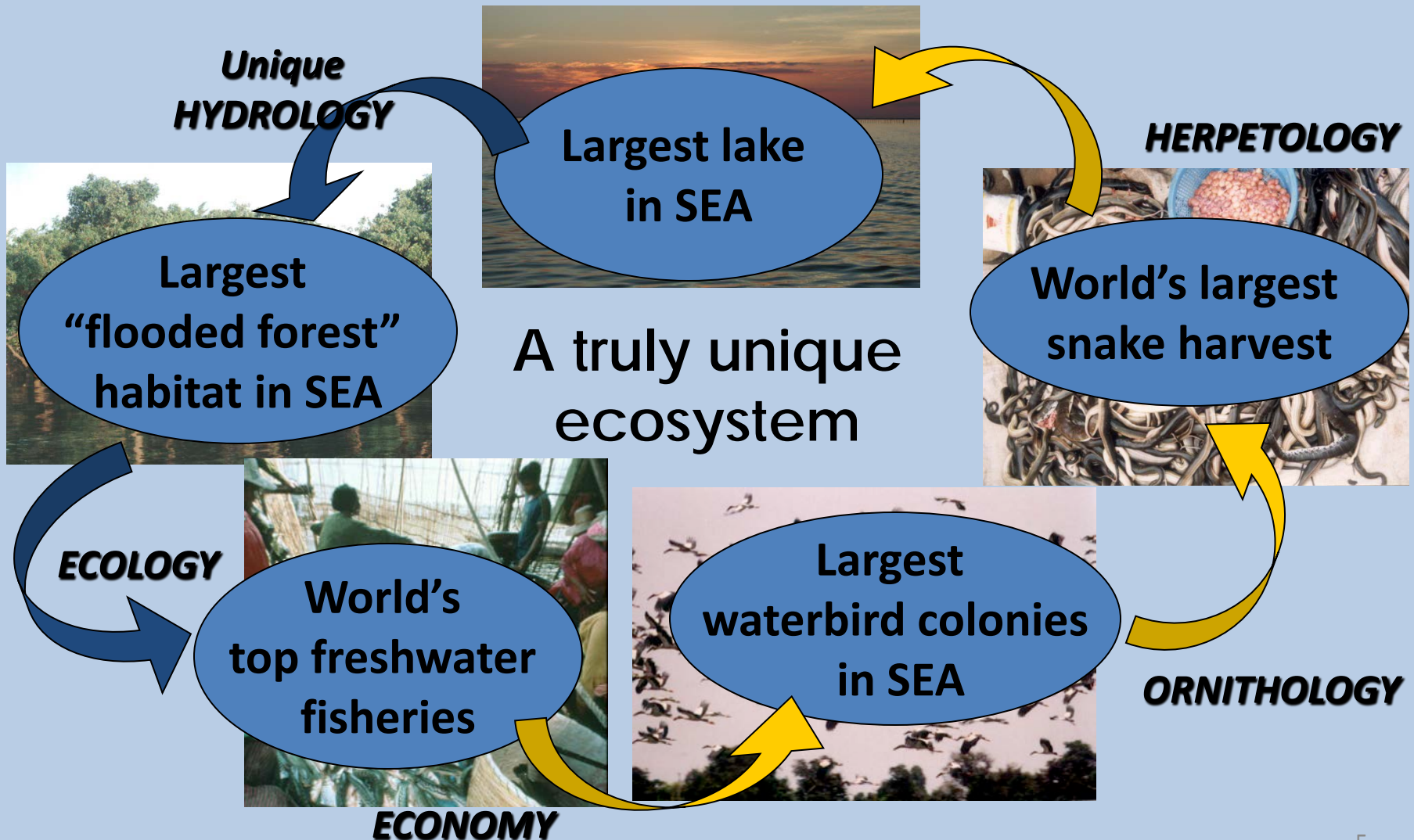
Map No. 0656 CM
Date: 17/09/07

Cultural and Natural Heritage at Northern Part Ecosystem

Birding Eco-tourism Sites Across Northern Cambodia



Tonle Sap Great Lake Ecosystem



Cardamom Mountains Ecosystem



Coastal and Marine Ecosystem

1. Mangrove

2. Seagrass

3. Coral reefs

4. Dugong, Dolphin

5. See title

6. Migratory birds

7. Other species ...



Values of Protected Areas in Each Landscape

- ✓ Contribute to livelihood security for poor and vulnerable groups of society;
 - ✓ Provide opportunities for adapting to, and mitigating, impacts of climate change;
 - ✓ Offer ecosystem services, for free (clear water and air; protein and medicines; NTFPs and other biodiversity, etc.);
- Today, Cambodia has more lands designated for biodiversity protection and conservation than any other ASEAN country, BUT this system of PAs is now under heavy pressure...

Mammals



Birds



Reptiles



Amphibians



Fish

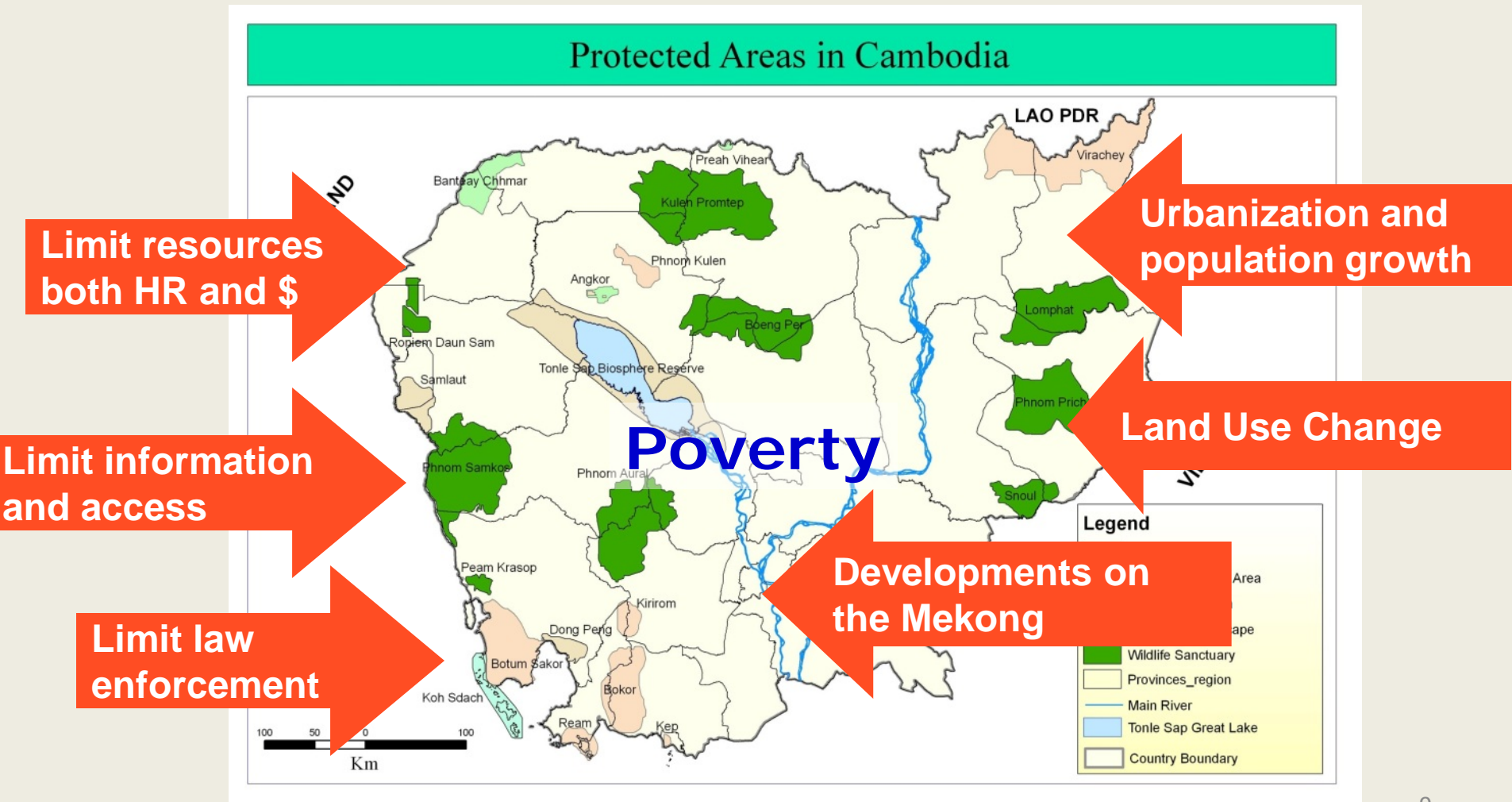


Plants



Threats and Challenge in PAs Management

Conflicts about the use of natural resources are the main cause for all major threats.



Land encroachment for settlement in PA

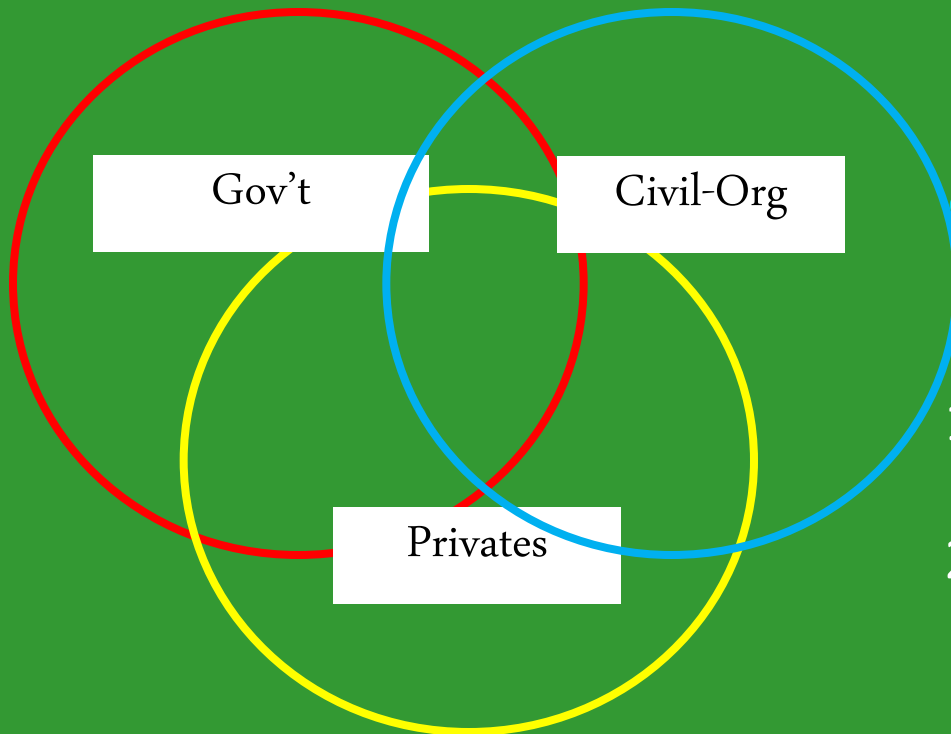


Forest Destruction for Charcoal, Construction, and Other Purposes

PAs Management Strategies

Strategic Protected Areas Management:

Stakeholders Collaboration



- Collaboration with all stakeholders are key factor to strengthen PA's management at local, national and regional levels.
- Key strategic for PA's management need to respect main 3 guidelines:
 - 1) Universal: learning, sharing and enhancing
 - 2) Diversity: Improving livelihoods, especially local communities as priority
 - 3) Dignity: Values and beliefs, the natural heritage must be respected

National Protected Areas Strategy Management Plan

Collaboration with other National Strategies, NPASMP's goals is to:

1. Maintain and enhance the ecological and cultural values of protected areas;
2. Promote participatory community engagement and support for conservation management;
3. Develop innovative approaches to conservation and development, including opportunities for sustainable ecotourism and financing mechanisms;
4. Provide accurate, timely and relevant information for effective management of protected areas; and,
5. Strengthen protected area management effectiveness and working partnerships with government organizations, local authorities, conservation NGOs, and development partners.

NPASMP Strategic Objectives (SOs)

- SO1: Prioritize and Strengthen Conservation
 - Outer boundaries demarcated, and zonation for Core and Conservation Zones
 - Law enforcement capacity
 - Conservation and restoration action plans will be developed to address species and ecosystem threats
- SO2: Enhance Sustainable Management
 - Legal requirements will be enforced, monitoring will be enhanced, and constructive dialogue with the private sector will be encouraged to facilitate greater contributions by investors to local community livelihoods;
 - To ensure PAs are “in the right places”, spatial gap analysis will be used to identify opportunities for adding areas of conservation value and changing the status of areas that have been heavily degraded;
 - Emphasis will be placed on adding Marine, Provincial and cultural Heritage Areas to the existing PA system.

NPASMP Strategic Objectives (SOs) Con't

- SO3: Expand Community Participation and Benefits
 - Promote equity, benefit sharing and collaborative management of PAs through:
 - Active and inclusive participation by indigenous ethnic groups and local communities in PA planning and management;
 - Enhanced support for Community Protected Areas (CPAs);
 - Access to additional livelihood opportunities (such as “high value – low impact” ecotourism, NTFP marketing, micro-credit initiatives, and ecosystem restoration projects).
- SO4: Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Collaboration
 - Renewed investment of government funding for capacity building and Implementing
 - Closer collaboration with relevant agencies and conservation partners

Conclusion

- Cambodia's PAs is a unique ecosystem supporting natural, cultural, and economic values, benefiting Cambodia and the region;
- Consistent institutional and legal reforms are key backbones for sustainable management of the PA system;
- The NPASMP addresses the development needs in harmony with conservation based on partnership which provides a platform for coordinated management of the PAs;
- Equitable access and resources stewardship by communities are critical for community empowerment and poverty alleviation;
- Coordination and investment required at local, national and regional level, and other support to strengthen conservation management and enforcement, expand community livelihood opportunities, and support sustainable uses of Protected Area resources is urgent needed.





សូមរក្សាបរិស្ថាន
ព្រៃក្រអូបឱ្យរស់រាន

(Please Preserve
Mangrove Ecosystem)



កុំបោះចោលសំណល់

(No Littering)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

