



# Experience from local level forest management in a REDD perspective, Cambodia



Photo: Tove Enggrob Boon





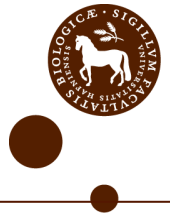
FOREST & LANDSCAPE

# Poverty, forest and climate change: Practical strategies for ensuring pro-poor approaches to REDD

Tuesday, 21 April 2009 10.00-16.00

Danish Institute for International Studies  
Copenhagen

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# 1. The “REDD perspective”



Photo: Iben Nathan





# REDD

- REDD: Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (20%)
- Core idea: Reward actors who reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from forests.
- Payments through the Voluntary Emissions Reduction (VER) markets.
- After 2012 post-Kyoto Agreement -> payments may be available through CDM markets.
- REDD: old wine on new bottles? (Addresses many of the same problems as projects aiming at maintaining biodiversity?)





# REDD and local level forest management

- “REDD has the potential to deliver large cuts in emissions at a low cost within a short time frame and, at the same time, contribute to reducing poverty and sustainable development” (Angelsen *et al.* 2007)
- Centralised forest management systems have failed in most developing countries
- Local forest management (community forestry) is one of the obvious options – but how to do it?





## REDD in Cambodia

Forests offset all emissions from energy, industry, agriculture, and waste (1994).

Forest cover down from 65 % in 1989 to 58 % in 2008 (10 mil ha)

- Annual deforestation: 2 %
- Degradation?

If Cambodia's status as net sink is to be maintained:

- Support low-emission development paths, e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology transfer (small effect).
- Enhance carbon sinks in forests and agriculture for instance through REDD

(Source: Danida's climate change screening report)





# Local level forest management in a REDD perspective, Cambodia?

“Cambodia is not in the frontline for severe adverse impacts from most natural hazards”

Widespread poverty and vulnerability even to small hazards

Climate change impacts and development/ poverty must be integrated

Strong forest poverty link:

- Nearly 1/3 of the population live within five km of a forest.
- They depend on forest products for 10-20 % of their income
- Around 85 % rural poor are forest product extractors

REDD in Cambodia: Mitigation & adaptation options





## 2. Experience with local level forest management in Cambodia



Google





## Context

### Main drivers in deforestation and degradation External to the communities

- Economic land concessions and mining concessions
  - Government authorities' illegal land grabbing, corruption
  - Military
- 
- Post conflict society, weak state, lack of good governance





## Context

### Main drivers in deforestation and degradation Internal to the communities

- Migration and population increase -> encroachment
- Conflicting land use interests between agriculture and forestry (incentive aspect)
- Swidden agriculture, forest fires



Photo: Tove Enggrob Boon

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- “No” governance of land





# Community forestry in Cambodia, Background

- Post conflict society, weak state
- Forest concession system (1990s)
- Community forestry in Cambodia (1992->)
- 250 community forest groups, less than 1 per cent forest land (2003) now 300.
- Forest law, Sub-decree, guidelines (2002-2007)
- First 11 community forestry agreements signed by the government (2007)





# Constraints in community forestry: Lack of incentives

- Community forestry in non-valuable forest
- Conservation rather than active management
- No security in terms of tenure and access
- Competing needs for forest and agricultural land
- Community forestry often perceived as a burden rather than a benefit!





# Constraints in community forestry

## Institutional aspects

- Lack of power to deal with the main drivers of deforestation
- Weak institutions, lack of experience, post conflict, poor, hunger periods, corruption, etc.
- Community forest groups as part of the forest administration (advantage and disadvantage)





# Options in community forestry

## *Present system:*

- NGOs offer protection and alternative incomes
- Experience with collaboration and participation

## *Potentially:*

- More benefits from forest (products and fees)
- Secure tenure and access
- Access to incentives through REDD-> example





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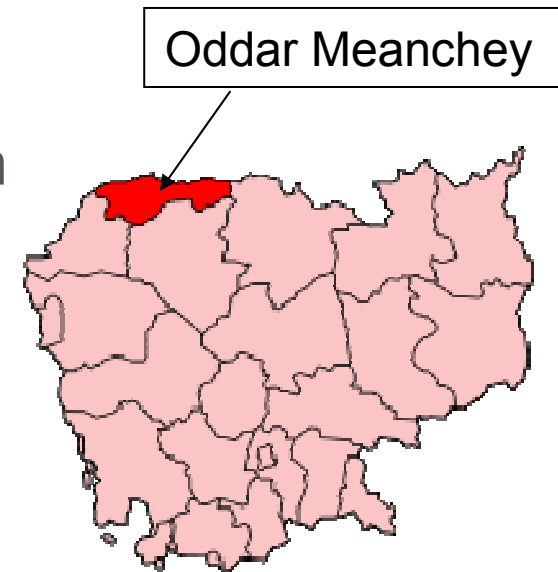




# Oddar Meanchey community forestry carbon project. One of the world's first REDD projects?

The project supports sustainable forest management and livelihood development in Oddar Meanchey province. It is financed through carbon credits generated through forest protection”

“The first project to be submitted under the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) guidelines”





# Project context

- Involves 12 existing community forestry groups from 59 villages
- Covers 62,477 hectares of forest land: One of the largest community forests in the country
- The forests under intense pressure from more or less all the factors mentioned above
- Initiated and supported by Community Forestry International (CFI), Funded by Danida/ DFID/ NZaid, and McArthur Fund





# Objectives and expected outcomes

- Sequester 8.7 million mt CO<sub>2</sub> over 30 years
- Pay communities to halt forest destruction and adopt restoration and conservation activities
  - Generate USD 30 million over 20 years in carbon payments
  - 50 per cent of the revenues flow to the groups in Oddar Meanchey
- Demonstrate how developing countries can generate income from the carbon markets and positively impact climate change





# Activities

Examples:

- Control of fire and illegal logging: patrols, forest watchers
- Active protection, eg. enrichment planting

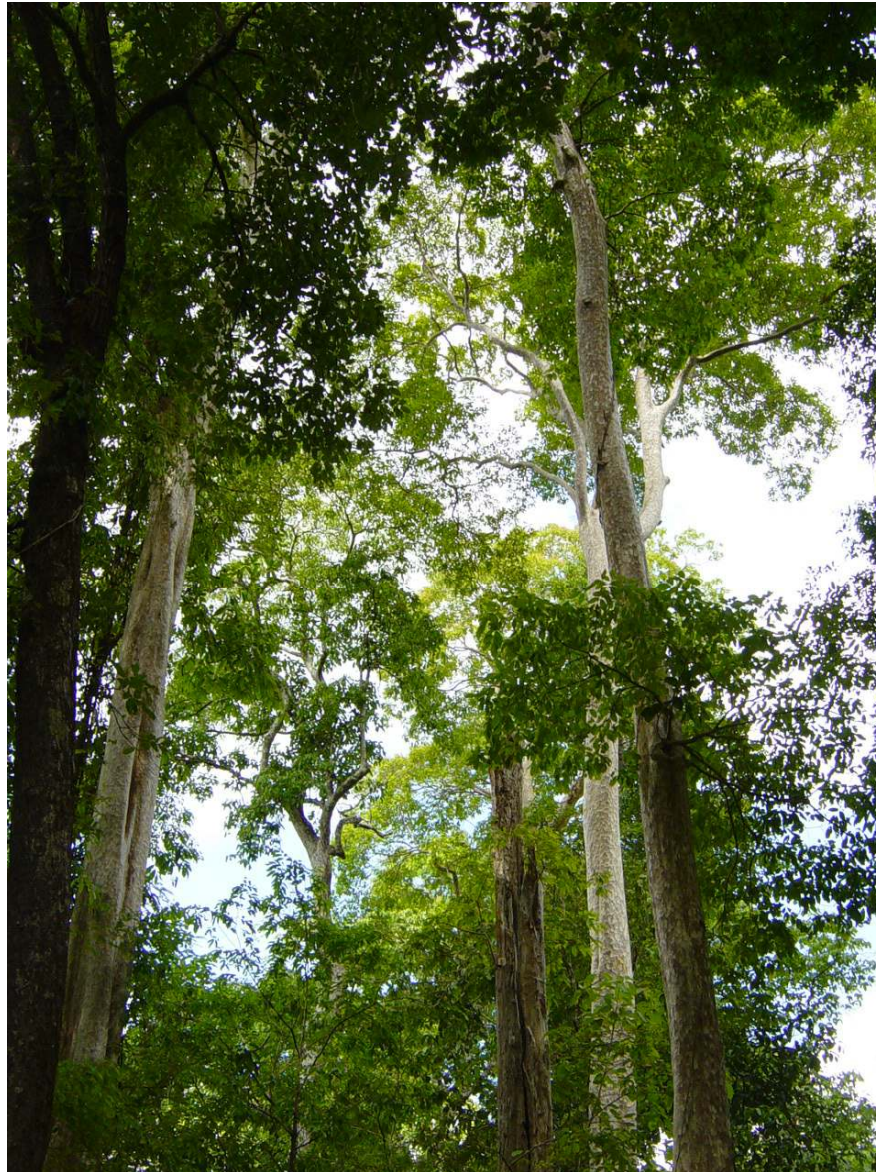
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- Mapping and boundary demarcation
- Strengthening tenural authority
- Networking with FA triage and neighbouring villages

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- Creation of financial incentives for succesful protection
- Development of annual carbon stock monitoring systems
- Woodfuel savings introduction of improved smokeless cook stoves to prevent leakages







# Conclusion I

REDD can increase the options in community forestry considerably in terms of creating incentives for local forest management

“even modest payments to communities for regenerating forests and accumulating carbon would establish substantial incentives and build local capacity”





## Conclusion II

But (I) requires that strong NGOs assist in

- Solving conflicts by mobilising support from RGC
- Getting access and tenure rights with RGC support
- Getting access to REDD funds: There is still a missing link between the local and the global

..and that NGOs emphasise livelihood aspects in REDD/biodiversity conservation



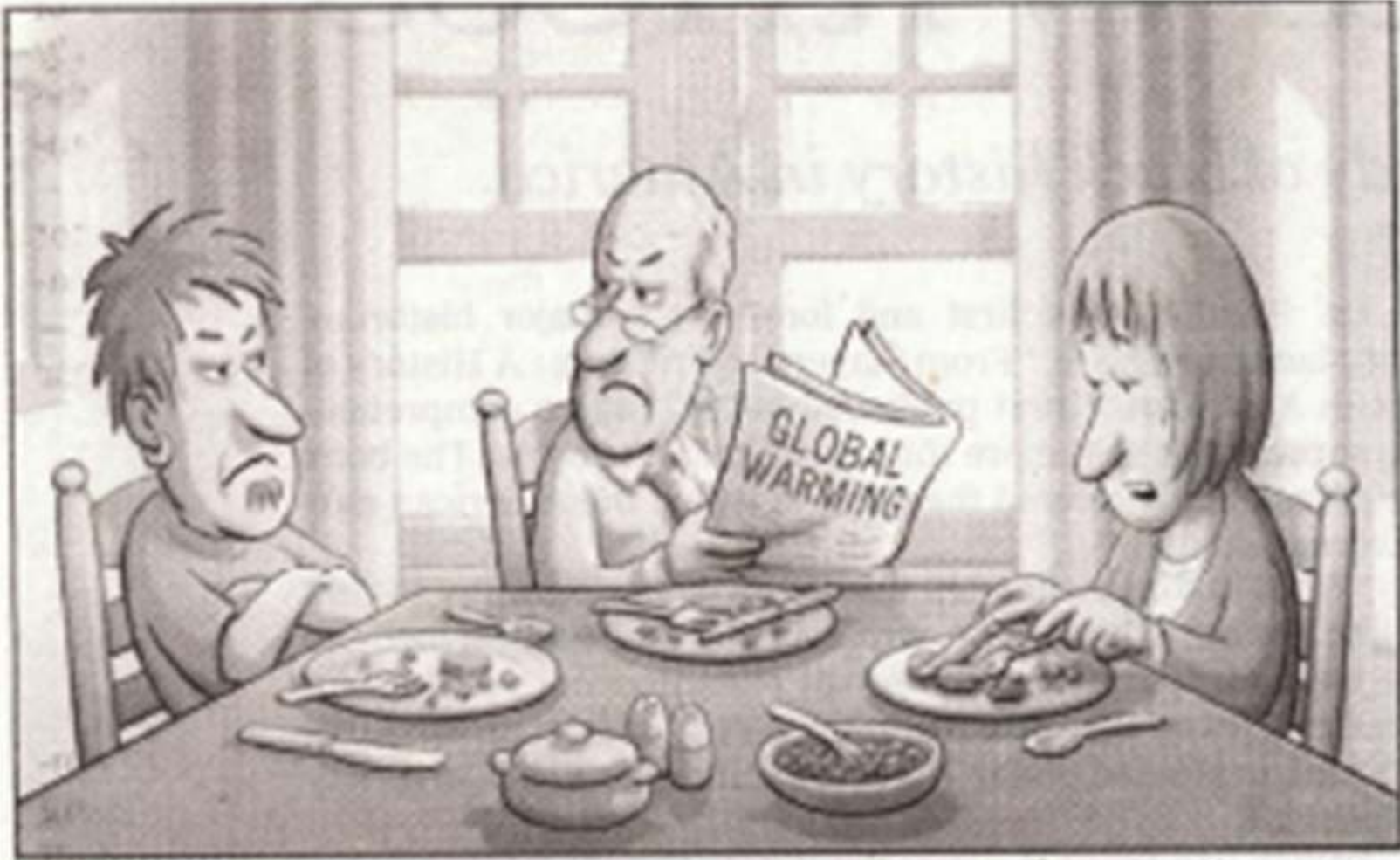


## Conclusion III

The real problems in the forest sector in Cambodia cannot be solved at the local level in isolation from the national level – and most REDD proponents already acknowledge this

(The real problems can also not be solved at the national level in isolation from the local level. Not all REDD proponents acknowledge this)





'Oh, great, now we can't talk about religion, politics OR the weather'

