

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report
(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO030
Project Title	“Scaling-up sustainable conservation through ecotourism and community-based monitoring”
Country(ies)	Cambodia
UK Organisation	IIED
Collaborator(s)	WWF Cambodia
Project Leader	Craig Bruce
Report date	October 31, 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Activity	Timetable Year 1				Project Progress
	1	2	3	4	
1.1 Review the initial implementation of MOMs at community level as basis for developing annual work plan for the MOMS team					The (Community Extension Team) CET reviewed the challenges in implementing MOMS at community level and found that there is a need to have closer mentoring of the community MOMS team especially the members who are not regularly providing reports. The assigned CET staff for each village also need to be familiar with the forms so they will be more effective in coaching the MOMS teams. A refresher course for CET was conducted for this. They also reviewed the existing MOMS books and improved some to make them more user- friendly.
1.2 MOMS champions identified, trained and supported					The CET staff assigned as overall coordinator of the MOMS at community level resigned. The staff who took over the assignment is just getting familiarised with the work.
1.3 Train MOMS team on monitoring natural resource use including NTFPs					Part of the MOMS refresher course for the CET is the orientation on how to use the newly developed NTFP MOMS form (see attached sample form). Next step is to train the MOMS at community how to use the newly developed forms.
1.4 Update MOMS books to include additional natural resource uses					The old MOMS books focused only on key species. The community suggested to include other wildlife that are more commonly seen in the forest so additional forms were developed.

Activity	Timetable Year 1				Project Progress
	1	2	3	4	
1.5 Regular meeting among MOMS team to share learning (6-monthly meetings)					The MOMS team had just had a meeting in February. The next meeting will be in the next quarter
1.6 Update information in all the 3D model maps produced in previous project					Four 3D models maps in four communes have been updated to include the current changes in the land uses (i.e. new rubber plantations and expansion farms); two communes recently completed their commune land use plan but the planning was done only by the commune council members ¹ . Since most of the villagers are now aware of the new land use plan, the 3D model updating workshop was used to inform and get feedback from the communities of the proposed land uses in their villages.
1.7 Train Eastern Plains Landscape GIS staff on digitizing information from the 3D model maps					The WWF GIS manager provided training to the CET members on GIS and he also trained the Provincial Data Management staff on how to digitize the information from 3D model maps.
1.8 Train CBO members on community GIS					Plan for next quarter
1.9 Digitize baseline and updated information from the 3D model maps					On going
1.10 Develop a mechanism for regular feedback and processing of the monitoring results, and encourage integration into commune development planning processes (6-monthly meetings)					A draft mechanism for monitoring of tourism impact and customer satisfaction has been developed
2.1 Develop and implement a monthly environmental education programme of activities (including maintenance of environmental information centres) for the eco clubs and schools					The eco club teachers have their five months work plan, from August to December. There is an on going discussion with the teachers on allocating rooms for environmental centres. One problem is the limited rooms in pilot schools and limited space.
2.2 Facilitate the development of environmental education work plans of the extension committees of the various CBOs/associations (Every 3 months)					In a series of meetings that the Environmental Education Team Leader with the extension committee officers of the various CBOs, it was found out that most are not active in doing environmental education because they still lack the confidence of doing it. The team is currently doing skills assessment as input in developing training program for them.
2.3 Monitoring of the action plans developed after environmental education activities					Planned towards last quarter of year 1

¹ The planning process was initiated by the provincial government as part of the piloting of the new commune land use planning guideline. The new tool, however, has limited participation from community members.

Activity	Timetable Year 1				Project Progress
	1	2	3	4	
2.4 Continue coaching and mentoring local community educators and teachers on facilitation and training skills					Three teachers were sent to one week training on facilitation skills.
2.5 Provide support to and further expand the Eco-club network (Quarterly)					Based on the lessons learned from implementing the first three pilot eco clubs, the team agreed to have a formal agreement with the Department of Education through MOU to get more support the agency in implementing eco-clubs in various schools and the formation of eco club network in the province. At present the team already received several requests from other schools to established eco clubs.
3.1 Assess the training needs and capacity of the project staff in training skills					Move to next quarter
3.2 Develop and implement training skills programme for project staff					Planned for next quarter
3.3 Organize training workshops for local community educators and CBO officers					Planned for next quarter
4.1 Training on community tourism management for commune council and community-based organizations (CBOs)					Planned for next quarter
4.2 Financial management training					Started as part of the business plan training
4.3 Facilitate set up of tourism initiatives					Tourism guidelines for the community have been developed and recently discussed with community, local government and FA and DoT representatives. Business training been conducted to the Dei Ey community to encourage setting up of tourism initiatives
4.4 Develop benefit sharing mechanism for community-based ecotourism initiatives in Dei Ey and Krang The communes					A benefit sharing mechanism for Dei Ey with homestay has been developed and is now for revision with FA. Implementation of this mechanism not yet done as waiting for approval from FA.
4.5 Conduct guide training					5 guides received successful follow up guide training in Dei Ey where community homestay is established. First by a visit to another Phnong village in the province that receives many tourists and later by improving the skills and knowledge of the guides on how to guide tourists in the forest.
4.6 Conduct training in hospitality,					12 guides already trained from other fund,

Activity	Timetable Year 1				Project Progress
	1	2	3	4	
catering, hygiene					but next year will be more guides and cooks will be trained for PPWS
5.1 Training on (Provincial) tourism planning for WEMB members (incl. tourism impact monitoring)					8 Provincial government officers from 6 provincial departments have been trained in provincial tourism planning and marketing. This training is coordinated by CCBEN and DoT.
5.2 Develop expanded ecotourism plan for Mondulkiri as part of Eastern Plains landscape					Planned for next quarter
5.3 Support operation of WEMB					Monthly meetings with FA and DoT and submission of quarterly reports.
5.4 Set up tourism infrastructure for PPWS					Planned for last 2 quarters of year 1
5.5 Study tour to successful ecotourism project in the region to exchange best practices and lessons learned					Study tour for ecotourism group already conducted. For next quarter one planned for Government officials.
5.6 Attend network meetings and workshops in the region to increase knowledge and skills on ecotourism					Participation in a National Forum on tourism and another Forum on Community based tourism, where the staff and representatives from the community displayed handicrafts and promotion material.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The approval of documents, such as benefit sharing mechanism and revision of ToR of WEMB, by the FA (Provincial Government) takes a very long time. One of the reasons is that the National FA does not have the guidelines yet for tourism in the protected area managed by FA. This might cause a delay in the timetable of the operation of the WEMB and a smooth operation of the distribution of ecotourism revenues from the homestay and activities.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Photo Documentation



Left: Community representative from the Ecotourism group joined the National Community -based Tourism Forum to promote the Ecotourism project in Mondulkiri; Right: Members of Ecotourism group cleaning the surrounding of the homestay.



Study tour for Eco tourism Group members



Hospitality training for Ecotourism Group members



Students from Laoka Primary School were introduced to environment related activities like identifying animal tracks and making tracks out of clay. Laoka School is the target for Eco club expansion this year.