



Lower Mekong Project

Final Workshop - Minutes

Bogor, June 1st - 5th 2009



For further information, please contact Terry Sunderland: t.sunderland@cgiar.org

Agenda

The workshop is primarily to wrap-up the MacArthur Project by:

1. Providing an opportunity to share experiences between the sites and discuss issues of conservation project implementation
2. Giving back and validating results from CIFOR's project
3. Reviewing narratives and planning for a 'Lower Mekong' book

Day 1: Monday

Morning Session: Introductions 0900 – 1200

Introduction and welcome
Presentations from each site

Afternoon Session: Presentations 1300 – 1700

Presentations from each site (continued)

Day 2: Tuesday

Morning Session: CIFOR results validation 0900 – 1200

Presentation by CIFOR Director General Frances Seymour: an introduction to CIFOR
Governance of conservation presentation and group discussion
Threats presentation and discussion

Afternoon to Jakarta; dinner in Jakarta

Day 3: Wednesday

Morning Session: CIFOR results validation 0900 – 1200

Implementation of projects in the field: presentation and group discussion
Group exercise: threats to protected areas

Afternoon Session: Project management 1300 – 1700

Discussion of the book and rotating groups:

1. One-on-one: interviews for narrative summaries
2. Group session: successes and challenges of conservation implementation
3. Group session: techniques for monitoring of biodiversity and livelihoods

Day 4: Thursday

All day field trip to Salak National Park

Day 5: Friday

Morning Session: Lessons learnt 0900 – 1200

Presentation on threats exercise (from Day 3)
Conservation project design: presentation and group discussion
Payments for Environmental Services in Vietnam
STELLA modelling – scenarios for conservation

Afternoon Session: Feedback and evaluation 1300 – 1700

Discussion: Adaptive management
Presentations and plenary: bridging the gap between research and practice
Open discussion and wrap-up

Evening: Closing dinner – poolside

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Workshop Minutes

Day 1: Monday 1st of June

Representatives of each of the 15 sites introduced the protected area landscapes, their environmental, socio-economic and institutional characteristics, went through the threats affecting the areas and gave an overview of the main management activities carried. These presentations can be found at [WEBSITE]. Following are the main discussion points that emerged **after** the presentations. They have been aggregated, as some of them were recurrent themes, that were covered more than once during discussions that day.

- Indirect threats
 - Concession plantations – leakage effect – limits in access and use to formerly available natural resources in the plantations drive local communities to other forested areas.
 - Immigration
 - In/Experience and capacity of community extension workers, is a determining factor for positive development outcomes
 - Short project time frames
 - Hinders follow up on newly introduced activities
 - Budgets are cut short, and activities have to be reduced

- Migration patterns
 - Laos – urban immigration; rural out-migration
 - Cambodia – urban out-migration. Very marked differences across provinces in terms of population density. People move in search for
 - Land opportunities
 - Land speculation
 - NGO projects also attract immigrants – increase standards of living
 - Effects of development on conservation
 - People want to have more and more possessions, but there is little cash to purchase them based on subsistence activities.
 - Creates a reliance on cash income generation through natural resource exploitation
 - When NR/land prices go up, management plans to keep their exploitation sustainable

- Direct threats
 - Mining
 - Fresh water quality degradation
 - human-tiger conflict
 - deforestation from drug cultivation

- Overriding of government development objectives over conservation ones, specially on hydropower and mining
 - Needs for strategies to negotiate with government and businesses

- Importance of having government support
 - Specific example, where local and national government support yielded positive conservation outcomes: Van Ban NR, in Vientnam - expansion
 - Support from provinces
 - Support from MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
 - BUT – different designations get different funding allocations from the government
 - Overcome this through collaborations with other organisations

- Importance of collaborations
 - With other organizations: In sharing real costs of conservation and development activities (III)
 - in creating objectives
 - lack of baseline data can lead to *ad hoc* setting of objectives
 - Awareness raising
 - Important strategy
 - But there are important difficulties in the region for transboundary collaborations
 - When you have to deal with national governments and (slow/bureaucratic) processes

- The focus of organisations is important in how the threats are viewed and targeted
 - Relative importance of wildlife vs. forestry views and issues in the region

- *De facto* and *de jure* roles of National Government Agencies and I/NGOs in managing protected areas in the three countries was also discussed

DAY 2: Tuesday 2nd June

1. Frances Seymour – CIFOR Director General

(10 am)

2. Mai Hoang Yen - Governance of Conservation in Lower Mekong

A presentation of the structure of the Governance paper that will be produced by CIFOR was given. It can be found at: [WEBSITE]. Much discussion was generated, and participants provided clarifications and suggestions to improve the paper. Below are the main points discussed.

Request: Have compassion of our governments.

Main clarifications needed:

- General:
 - The Millennium Development Goals are an important policy driver in each of the countries' development policies and development targets
- On Lao PDR's governance of protected areas
 - Lao PDR does have national policies in place relating to the environment. A different matter is their importance in their implementation when compared to other government policies.
 - Biodiversity Action Plan
 - National Environment Strategy 2020
 - National Protected Areas are managed by government agencies, under an established government budget line
 - Department of Forestry is establishing PA management divisions in the provinces, through MAFF.
 - International NGOs act as technical advisors
 - And this could be seen sometimes as temporary *de facto* PA management
 - It is the relative importance of institutions in charge of conservation and the relative priority given to other policies (especially poverty reduction policies) that are the major hindrance of environmental policy implementation in Laos, and not the capacity of the staff working in those institutions.
 - The process of structuring an organization is not the only thing that is important in conservation.
 - There seems to be a sample bias in the selection of Lao sites
 - Most protected areas in the country get government funds
 - SUGGESTION:
 - Instead of looking at money spent in PAs per country, look at money spent per capita

- To specific NPAs:
 - Nakai Nam Theun
 - NNT NPA revenues are not NGO revenues, even if brokered by the World Bank
 - The Nakai Plateau was flooded in exchange for the NPA to be saved
 - The business consortium that owns the hydropower dam includes the Lao Government, who owns 30% of the stakes (and revenue generated from selling the electricity to Thailand).
 - USD 1 million of which is redirected towards conservation of NNT NPA.
 - Might want to consider this money as Tax Revenues.
- On Cambodia's governance of protected areas
 - PA management
 - The government agencies make the key decisions
 - Government provides some operational funding
 - NGOs are involved in technical advice
 - And this could be seen sometimes as temporary *de facto* PA management
 - Relationships between the government and the NGOs are very important to achieve conservation
 - But they are very sensitive
 - And sometimes need to acknowledge tradeoffs to maintain them
 - There are two ministries in charge of protected areas
 - MAFF is responsible for designated Protected Forests (PF)
 - MOE is responsible for designated Protected Areas
 - The Seila Programme is not a land Law
 - The data by Global Witness should be considered with caution
 - It is 15 years old
 - Illegal logging is not as ubiquitous anymore
 - Management of specific PAs
 - Virachey NP
 - Has recently undergone major budget cuts, as project has finished.
 - Nevertheless, operations still continue, albeit on a tighter budget
- But there are opportunity costs that the government has to bear – these figures do not absorb these costs, but are part of the implementation of conservation. (debate over

whether this is true – PAs are a necessary step, not to do with ‘opportunity costs’, they just need more funding)

- On Vietnam’s governance of protected areas
 - Vietnamese capacity in conservation and PA management is not so good, and the funding available is still limited
 - There is a tight control on conservation activities by the government
 - This is already changing
 - People committee of Han Xan gazetted a PA, in a co-management agreement
 - Some areas can be rented/leased and managed by NGOs – so not all areas are managed by the government
 - NGOs are now coming in and can now manage PAs.
 - FFI’s perspective – the Vietnamese government needs to change; hence, FFI is trying to implement a ‘model’ of management. Multi-stakeholder management.
 - Management of PAs should be carried in collaboration

- Main causes of deforestation – poverty-deforestation link?
 - Poverty might not be the leading factor
 - For example – Lao PDR is one of the poorest countries in the region, but is the one with most forest left.
 - Main driver of, both, deforestation and wildlife loss is from the demand side, not the supply
 - Principal cause of deforestation is raising wealth in China and Thailand, and the timber demand from Europe, USA and Japan.
 - Main cause of biodiversity loss is increased wealth in China.

General Recommendations

- Use proper terms
 - Find appropriate positions of the government; ask for their collaboration in /review of the paper.
 - Governments could reject your current study if you present it like this

- The Millennium Development Goals should be included as an important policy driver in each of the countries’ development policies and development targets

- The Paper needs a “so what” factor; the stated aims and justification are not clear.

Recommended Reading

- Self assessment report by Lao in collaboration on conservation carried w UN (is it the same as: UNDP, 2007. Lao PDR. Assessment of Development Results. Evaluation of UNDP’s contribution?)

- 2004 Independent Forestry Sector review in Cambodia

3. Luke Preece – Human-environment context of threats

The results of the analysis on the threats affecting the three countries were presented. The presentation is available at: [WEBSITE]. Below are the main points discussed following the presentation.

- Data collection
 - Who did you ask? There could be a bias if you did not interview 30% of the population.
 - For the values of Cambodia – did you consult with the MoE?
- Validation of threats
 - Differences between:
 - whether the threat is happening
 - whether the threat is imminent
 - whether the threat was based on development feasibility studies
 - 2003-2007 – the map presented yesterday of CCPF, which is recognized by FA and CI.
 - Infrastructure – in that period there was no infrastructure development in the area
 - Does the level of “threat” mean that the area will be gone in 10 years?

A “Threat” in this analysis does not refer to the current conservation status but to the level of pressures that are affecting the area

- How were the threats levelled across sites? How did you make sure they were comparable?
- How did you calculate forest quality?

DAY 3: Wednesday 3rd June

Luke Preece – Projects analysis

Questions/Discussion

- There is a confusion on whether the study looks at protected areas or at projects implemented

Comments on slide

- Outcomes
 - Why are conservation outcomes by conservation specialised projects fully realised while development outcomes are not?
 - Outcomes for both are very difficult to measure, so why the difference?
 - only three projects in “specialised conservation” category; these were small

projects, with very clear objectives, reported as achieved

- Cannot understand why projects that integrate both C and D outcomes fare worse
 - Does it depend on whether interviewees are more realistic on their ability to achieve objectives?
 - Or on whether small projects with small and narrow objectives are compared to larger, landscape based and complex projects?
- This doesn't seem a useful comparison:
 - The “specialised conservation” projects seem to have very narrow objectives, and seem to concentrate all their efforts into one small activity, specially when compared to the broader, more complex objectives of projects working at the landscape level of a protected area
 - Might want to add a sixth hypothesis: having narrow goals makes you achieve them better
 - In fact, most donors do not look so much whether you have achieved the set objectives, but to the progress made towards those objectives

→ Even if objectives of integrated conservation and development projects are reported as not being spot on “on target”, they are perceived as making good progress towards those objectives.

- Hypotheses

- General comments
 - They are too prescriptive and presented as recommendations
 - Participants strongly suggested a change in wording
 - Include “perhaps”
- Hypothesis 3, on dis-integration
 - What are the criteria and indicators for this statement?
 - In real life scenarios, these are intrinsically linked
 - Development activities are used to
 - build relationships
 - to get peoples' interest
 - to provide for peoples' needs so they listen to you
 - “you need to be there and be seen to be helping”
 - to please donors
 - However, there is a misconception that reducing poverty will directly help conservation

- This has been promoted by donors for over 20 years, and has not worked
 - Links between poverty and conservation
 - Resumed debate held previous day (see Discussions held on Day 2, after the Governance paper presentation, on poverty and deforestation links)
 - In Laos, the local poor have the least impact on the forest and its biodiversity
 - They don't have the guns to hunt
 - Carry the least shifting cultivation
 - The more you increase livelihood standards, the greater the need for cash, and the more the pressures on the environment increase
 - Wealthy and influential outsiders are the main cause of biodiversity loss
 - By alleviating poverty, you are only targeting part of the problem, and often not the most important
 - Culture is a more important driver of biodiversity loss, but no one has looked into it because it's not politically correct
 - Chinese "trend" on wildlife – "the age of wild flavour"
- Donors did not invent the relationship between reducing poverty for conservation benefits; they based their recommendations on theoretical basis that were presented at the 4th World Park Congress in Caracas, in 1992. This theory is what promoted the creation of the ICDP concept.
- Poverty may or may not be directly linked to the threats to the environment; the problem is that we don't have the "without ICD intervention" proof, so we look at what areas and interventions in place do have in common
- The planning of development and conservations tradeoffs can be done in big enough landscapes, what is more complicated are the negotiation process that get
- Strategies
 - Law enforcement can never be stopped, and will always need to be sustained
 - Pressures will keep coming, although they do depend on the context (local or external)
 - i.e. NNT – will always be threatened by Chinese trade
 - What we really meant was: Law enforcement cannot be the only solution
 - Indeed, enforcement is needed for the long term. What needs to be developed are new paradigms to ensure its sustainability

- Negotiations
 - Negotiations are important, but
 - One rarely starts negotiations with an open set of options, as different stakeholders already come with a series of set priorities (and “done deals”)

- **In big landscapes tradeoffs can work but the question is how to manage them**

- Statistical concerns:
 - Do you want to look at the totality of organisations at each site – instead of individual organizations? Suggest combining organisations.
 - 45 organisations at 15 sites, only
 - If two organisations are collaborating, they cannot be considered as two independent data points; projects are designed to be complementary
 - There are too few projects being looked at in the “conservation specialist” category. Their objectives are too narrow, when compared to larger landscape projects. Are these comparable?

- Suggestions
 - Explain why collaborations and institutional building outcomes are linked
 - You should address why sometimes a certain activity works and sometimes it doesn't
 - Goals of biodiversity conservation should not be linked to ‘development’ but as part of the negotiation strategy.

Group exercise: Threats and the interventions to manage them

- i. Brainstorming: what are the main direct threats to you respective areas?
There was some difficulty in differentiating what constitutes exactly as a direct or indirect threat, as some activities can be both (eg. Mining)
- ii. Grouped these threats into eight categories.
Was not done in a participatory way as initially planned due to time constraints
- iii. For each site, threats were ranked and the specific interventions to target these threats were listed.
- iv. this was analysed using PCA, and the results were presented on the last day of the workshop (Friday 5th June). See below for an explanation of the results.

Some discussion followed on the use of this type of exercise

In an ideal world for this research, it would be nice to have a comparison with a control area: what would happen if nobody was present, if there was no organisation implementing activities? However, this does not happen in the real world.

The only thing we can look at, therefore, are the perceptions or the people in the areas, and how these perceptions change.

We want to triangulate our results. If the results here are consistent with the results we have achieved through other forms of analysis, and what we know from the ground, this can show us we are on the right track.

From this exercise we want to answer a major questions: do the results here, you're your perceptions, explain the situation on the ground?

Small-group discussions

During the second part of the morning, participants were split into two groups to carry to smaller group discussions on, on one side, monitoring and evaluation perspectives, and, on the other, success and challenges in conservation experience. Below we summarise some of the main comments.

◦ Monitoring and evaluation

- more challenging than originally thought
- not so many linkages between indicators and goals
- important to achieve projects
- small projects not very meaningful – monitoring strategy is better for a long-term performance
- Indicators that work?
 - Create a series of community associations and the outcome is the number of formal associations
- Biodiversity monitoring is costly but necessary.

◦ **Conservation successes and challenges**

Representatives of five protected areas (Nakai Nam Theun [NNT], Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative [BCI], Virachey National Park [VNP], Van Ban Nature Reserve [VBNR] and Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary [PSWS]) participated in this small-group discussion on conservation successes and challenges. Each representatives took turns in describing their success and challenges.

Common successes across the sites include an improved planning and formalisation of management of the protected areas, increased local involvement and achieving some degree of reduction of pressures and damage control, especially from fire and hunting. A major common challenge for all has been to receive sustained funding to follow up activities in the mid-to-long term.

• Conservation successes by site

- NNT (Project underway). Recently established, activities reported – successes possibly come from actually implementing activities, and not yet from tangible outcomes.
 - MAIN conservation success: closed down gold mine (required World Bank intervention)
 - Improvements in enforcement → has reduced threats
 - Land allocation → has reduced forest conversion
 - Boundary demarcation to reduce forest disturbance
 - Initiated partnerships between the dam and the NPA
 - Conservation awareness to reduce hunting
- BCI (Project underway). It is moving towards some success
 - district spatial planning → bring people to discuss together → planning to expand this and upscale to other villages
 - LUP for corridor boundaries and villages
 - NTFP guides and implementation → better prices → increase in income for local people
 - Restoration of forest – 600 ha identified → reduction of encroachment
 - Corridor purpose – better understood
- VNP (Project completed)
 - Management plan → components and strategies are clear → uptake to other Cambodia PAs. (In comparison to Laos: Xe Pian also starting; NNT has a SEMFOP)
 - Officially established 5 Community protected areas (CPAs) in 2006
 - Dragon's tail prosecution case → many people
 - Law enforcement improvement
 - Infrastructure for Park
 - Sub-committee → resolve issues at the province level → park director and governor are part of the committee
 - Ministerial visit demonstrating political will (In comparison to NNT – President of the world-bank visited the site)

- VBNR (Project completed) - FFI
 - Established 2 nature reserves → impact on conservation → official PA
 - Collaborative planning and design → Land Use Planning & committee meeting → Management board consults with locals
 - Village regulation for hunting and NTFP collection – cardamom
 - Community patrol groups → reduce threats from fire, hunting and monitor the forest
 - Gun collection
 - Feedback for changing government understanding of the importance of VB – Hanoi policy changes and legal process
 - Awareness of authorities and local communities is increasing
- PSWS (Project completed) – FFI – new information and data
 - Know new species
 - Community involvement in process of management – CPA established
 - Community patrols – monitoring of threat activities
 - Draft of PA management plan
 - Involvement of local authorities
- Conservation challenges by site
 - NNT
 - controlling illegal logging → powerful people in the communities
 - developing clear rules and national legislation; zonation
 - Funding and performance are not linked
 - No outcome from trans-boundary activities – get the national PA management system working first then trans-boundary cooperation
 - BCI
 - Survey for bauxite mining completed and now they are requesting approval
 - Upgrading road → improved access into the area
 - Both of these issues are a symptom of a larger issue – higher level and ADB project vision was not shared by government. It is top-down and donor-driven. As a ‘donor-down’ project, the ‘identity’ came from the donor. Also, the project is now more development than conservation.
 - No government unit in charge of the area
 - VNP
 - (same as above)
 - Trans-boundary cooperation difficult
 - VBNR
 - without funds, PA will lose interest in keeping consultation with locals
 - Payment for rangers → project was higher

- Losing enthusiasm
- Population of gibbons increasing (why? Wrong season or not detailed study?)
- Culture of ‘hunting status’
- Model → long way to work and make results → law changes take 20 years
- PSWS
 - Uncertainty of conservation status → strict or integrated?
 - Outside factors → dam coming
 - Lack of clear vision amongst government ministries
 - No project support from donor
 - Difficulty in sustaining activities
 - No system for improving livelihood strategies
 - No budget for management plan
 - Capacity limited → management
 - Gap of coordination between conservation and development project
- Some key challenges identified
 - Trans-boundary issues
 - Top-down establishment and management
 - Inter-ministerial cooperation

DAY 5: Friday 5th June

1. Manuel Ruiz-Perez and Ramadhani Achdiawan (Dani) – Analysis of the “Threats and the interventions to manage them” exercise from Day 3

The results of the group exercise from Day 3 were presented by Manuel Ruiz Perez. Please find the slides with results in **Appendix 1** at the end of this document.

The first slide presented, (**Figure 1**) a PCA scatter plot that represents the relation of threats and the type of interventions implemented. We used correspondence analysis, which is a multivariate analysis that presents the relationships of 2 multi-nominal variables (in this case these are the threats, on one side, and the interventions, on the other). These were recorded as present or absent. Slides 2 and 3 show, respectively, the compiled reported frequency of each threat and each intervention.

Initiatives that reported interventions dealing with management, lobbying and government institutions were associated with road and dams threats. Research and monitoring interventions were associated with fire threat. Presence of village regulations was strongly associated with a hunting threat, and NTFP extraction threat was strongly associated with Development-type intervention.

Questions/comments/Discussion

- Frequency of interventions
 - Interestingly, the frequencies of threats reported here are very similar to those reported by Luke in a previous presentation.
 - Reduce drivers? Why not important?
 - Difference in scale – what project does at site, and what mother institution might do at different scale?
 - What does “drivers” mean?
 - Ie – roads – drivers for hunting
 - What are direct and indirect threats?
 - Seima reported the drivers – many organisations are trying to tackle the drivers but few have reported it.
 - Fire – why so far removed?
 - Linked to NTFPs
 - not frequently reported
 - don’t know enough about good/bad fire.
 - Research is an important intervention
 - Surprised that doesn’t have more importance
 - Research – need more for this because it is necessary for understanding and funding.
 - Are you looking at non-direct threats in the analysis?

- Do we include unsustainable financing source of conservation as a threat?
- Global trends?
- Government's support?
- Threats have different scales

2. Betsy Hill - Best Practice in project design

Betsy Hill presented the results of her Master's Thesis on ICDP Best Practice based on a literature review of projects implemented in the Lower Mekong, being implemented between 1995 and 2006. Her presentation can be found at GGGGGGG. The discussion that followed her presentation is outlined below.

- Why is considered best practice?
 - Landscape level projects: some participants were unsure that these had been implemented long enough to know
 - Planning: it was mentioned that planning sometimes was not considered "good practice" as in the limited time frames that projects usually work with too much "planning" could eat up resources essential for actual project implementation, and could also lead to too much rigidity. Ie. Have a very good plan, only for the circumstances to change and leave the plan obsolete.
 - It was agreed that what was important was the time spent understanding the area, and a change of variable name was proposed to avoid confusion.
 - Noted: The variables were chosen through a literature review on project design best practices
- Why did the variable score weakly?
 - Involvement of communities
 - Communities were generally not involved during the planning phases of the projects
 - In projects that dealt with national scale negotiations, communities were not involved either
 - Adaptive management scored very low
 - Which might be due to top-down design by donor and then projects that are government lead
 - Trade-offs are very rarely mentioned in project documents
 - To achieve tradeoffs, projects need to engage in negotiations with governments, which take time. Projects might not want to acknowledge this to donors.
- Examples from the field, relating to:
 - Ownership of the project
 - It is important to involve properly all the stakeholders
 - Involving the communities is important, but properly involving governments is important too if the projects are to be successful.
 - Politics are an important part of success

- Eg. In one case, a project involved the communities in creating Community Protected Areas, only for the government not to agree with it.

3. Bruce Campbell – Payments for Environmental Services in Vietnam

Bruce Campbell gave a presentation on the theoretical background of Payments for Environmental Services (PES), and gave an insight into the emerging PES situation in Vietnam, both nationally and in one protected area, Cat Tien National Park, based on the research of Sven Wunder, Pham Thu Thuy, Lisa Petheram. This presentation can be found at KKKKKKK. Below can be found the discussions on PES that followed the presentation.

- “No PES for nothing” is hard to achieve
- Discussions on the conditionality aspect of PES
 - The conditionality requirement could be reversed by taking PES schemes as any other employment:
 - Providers could only provide an ES if, and only if, they get paid
- Can non-monetary rewards be considered PES?
 - Maybe only PES-like schemes, as:
 - It is difficult to maintain the conditionality of payments if, for example, a hospital is provided
 - And providing a hospital as an incentive could not be the most effective way to ensure providers secure an environmental service.
- How can PES work in a country (eg. Laos) that is not in the ‘buyers’ radar if kept voluntary?
 - Vietnam has gone around this problem by introducing a PES law.
- PES, PES-like and other payments stories from the field
 - Are these systems applicable to industrial mitigation?
NNT NPA (Laos) – receives USD 1 million/year, for 30 years, to manage the area, from the benefits of a hydropower dam that flooded the Nakai Plateau, downstream from the NPA. Could be considered as a form of watershed protection payment.
 - It’s non-voluntary. Deal brokered by the WB, and part of the requirements for the WB’s payment to build the dam.
 - More like a business fee/tax for a specific purpose?
 - There is no conditionality – the money will come every year, no matter how the management of the park fares
 - Within the management of the area, PES and PES-like things are being trialed:
 - Paying villagers when a Saola is caught on camera
 - Paying villagers for removing wire-snares from the forest:

- They are paid less than what the wire costs at the local market
- Villagers were promised to get agricultural extension and help if the respected LUP
- Mondulkiri PF (Cambodia)
 - Villagers are paid for finding and reporting bird nests (sp?) with chicks, and are paid again if they monitor the nest, and the chicks successfully fledge.
 - They are paid more than what they would get or selling the nests/eggs/chicks
 - It is illegal to collect them anyway, but this way everybody is happy – the conservationist, the local communities, etc...

BREAK

4. Luke Preece - STELLA modelling in Cat Tien NP

Luke Preece presented the results of another component of his PhD, on participatory modelling of conservation and/or development scenarios that were built based on workshops with Cat Tien National Park stakeholders. His presentation can be found at FFFFFF. Below follows the discussion and clarifications that followed Luke's presentation.

General Comments

- This scenario
 - Good one to show to the politicians
 - But – this scenario does not considers conservation
 - What about integration?
 - These types of scenarios can be used as a tool to catalyse discussions, and as scoping exercises. They are not used to predict
 - There are 100 variables
 - Each one can change in the next 20y
 - All models are wrong, but some are useful
 - Models are confusing, but good framework for telling a story
- Different time horizons
 - The longer the time, the more sensitive it is to changes
 - Hypotheses – longer time frames may change the environmental results
 - Can include things such as the Kuznets curve
 - Consider the time lag between cons and dev decisions
 - If this is done, model will become too complicated
 - Opportunity costs considered: locals and environment and materials

- Why in the development scenario the number of tourists would only reach 20000, and w ICDP/.cons would be much more?
 - One should vary the tourism numbers to see how that affects the CZ forest cover
- Are non-market values a big part of the economic calculations?
 - About 1/3
 - A lot of use values
 - 2 sections are modelling non-use values
 - Water related – sedimentation
 - Biodiversity – used the constanza value (18\$ per ha)
- Why do carbon stocks increase in the BAU scenario?
 - BAU – baseline for REDD
 - In Vietnam the forest cover is increasing, and so are the carbon stocks
 - In a REDD scenario, they would have to go above the current increase in carbon stocks in order to be paid
- Incomes to the park
 - BAU and Dev – park funding stays the same
 - Why is there no tourism increase in the Development Scenario (2)?
- Recommendations
 - Look for an article by Bamford in *Science* on the total value of keeping certain vegetation types
 - For scenarios 3 and 4 will have to find win-win situations to increase incomes, because the development scenario will be very attractive to policy makers
 - Big challenge for conservations
 - Policy makers will invariably take the development option
 - If we really want to get up to this line, we need XXX million a year to achieve a win-win situation

5. Terry Sunderland - Land cover change in Virachey

Terry Sunderland quickly presented the preliminary results of a remote sensing study looking at forest cover change in the 15 protected areas of this study. The presentation can be found at [WEBSITE].

The figures and imagery presented were validated by the Virachey NP representative, explaining that for the time period studied, law enforcement had been strongly implemented, and shifting cultivation was not allowed. However, funding had dried, and the project is not supported by external funding anymore. Although they will try to keep working there, they have had to cut down activities, mainly patrolling. The impact that this has on forest cover will need to be monitored further.

- Why was clearance high during the first decade? What happened outside the park before 2000
 - there were concessions, that the government banned after that year
 - WB reviewed
 - Government took a loan to invest in that area
 - In the dragon tail (Northeast corner of the park) deforestation continued because there is good access to the area from Vietnam, and very difficult from the Cambodian side, so the Vietnamese can easily carry illegal activities there.
 - regulations that restricted shifting cultivation to specific areas where put in place in 2006, so this type of activity did not expand

- “The low rates of deforestation seen in the area are not good to get into the REDD bandwagon!”

LUNCH

Lucy Rist - Adaptive Management

Lucy Rist, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, collaborating with CIFOR, gave an informal presentation on her interests in adaptive management. She asked the workshop participants their perspectives on adaptive management and led an open discussion as to the extent to which interest for this concept in the academic literature is reflecting in the field. Because accounts of implementation are limited in the tropic resource management context, she asked for the participants' inputs. If anyone would like to contact Lucy to further discuss these ideas, please contact her at lucy.rist@env.ethz.ch. The paper to which this discussion will contribute will be distributed to all participants in due course.

- The interpretation of adaptive management is different for everybody
 - Flexible muddling through

- There has to be a very rigorous process to carry the model
- Form of experiment
- If it works you leave it alone, if not you change it
- The term is used a lot

- Use of the concept in the field
 - Is it a question of the degree to which the model is necessary?
 - If it working, carry on...
 - Are management experiences experimental?
 - You do try things out, but not an experiment in the traditional sense of the word, as it cannot be tested
 - Data is very expensive to generate, and most management decisions have to be done with limited data
 - Have to deal more with qualitative models of how threats evolve over time, and cannot rely so much on more quantitative data.
 - Sometimes it's not flexible
 - Depends on the implementation of each project
 - Projects need to change – but guidelines and agreement constrict this, specially due to budget obligations
 - Unless working w ADB, all management is adaptive

- WCS Lao programme – follow adaptive management model described by Salafsky and Margoluis
 - Implement it in project cycles and annual meetings
 - Adapt projects
 - But it is not documented as such
 - Donors are very responsive to adaptive management
 - If it can be justified, and documented
 - Donors are supportive

 - In a larger project – 6 years gestation period before the plan was implemented
 - A lot changed
 - Donors were receptive
 - But there was a lack of time to document the process better, as it is a lesser priority

- Could reconstruct adaptive management history by looking at exchanges w different stakeholders in consecutive years, but this can be done retrospectively

- Is there a mismatch between real life and the literature on adaptive management, are people already doing it? Is it used too freely, or just because it sounds good? Is it

something that is really needed? What are the parameters to define adaptive management?

- Sometimes used as an excuse for poor threat identification
 - Try something, without analysis of what went before?
 - Being sloppy?
- Adapt – in a project scale
 - Adapt government sides in the government – very difficult
 - In order to meet targets – project
- 3m dollar – to Virachey NP
 - Has not adapted in terms of transfer from the project to the government.

Patricia Shanley - Knowledge sharing

Patricia Shanley gave a presentation on the current challenges and opportunities of scientific information sharing beyond the scientific community. Her presentation can be found at [WEBSITE].

Linking research and local people, but forget the gate between the two

- Journalists have no background in cons or environment sector
- Gap knowledge – the media
- International journalists coming in and writing about national issues, with no geog and content knowledge
 - Training of journalists
- How to link on the action and promote best practice is not translated into local languages
 - Some of the work is in websites – but how can local people have access to that either?

Lao experiences

- Effective communication is very important
- Need to recognize that strong communities contribute to conserve and protect natural resources
- In Laos, laws are very well written, but not for villagers – they find them boring
 - Trying to make it simple so that villagers can understand
 - However, the government does not want to change the format from a “lawyers’ language” to a more accessible language. The government is afraid that by doing so, the meaning of the law would be changed
 - Creates a big problem of communication
- Health professionals – are 20-30 years ahead of conservationists in communication strategies

- Practitioners do not have time to read scientific papers, but have available the digested information
- And most scientific paper don't change practitioner's ways
 - They talk about a generic cases that do not relate to real life examples, making them generalizations that cannot be trusted.
- Something in between is missing – summaries!
- In environmental sciences we may need review articles too – in magazine format, that are:
 - Easy to read

- Working across sectors helped in transferring knowledge
 - Especially with the Health and cultural ministries.
 - The link of the cultural/social movement to the environmental movement has created synergies

- In Lao – WCS has used PRIDE campaign methodologies
 - Multimedia
 - Entertaining
 - Has really helped to do other things that conservation projects have to do that are less pleasant, such as
 - Use campaigns to teach laws and basic ecological concepts to the local communities
 - Follow up w enforcement
 - WCS wholly endorses that type of methodology

- Is there a trend in the evaluation of science/scientists in this neo-classical approach of analyzing impact in science?
 - Some are more rigid – catching up w the neoclassical
 - Some in Australia, are moving the other way
 - One of the ways – link to impact in journals themselves

Terry Sunderland - Bridging the gap between scientists and practitioners

Terry Sunderland gave a presentation on the gap that exists between field practitioners and conservation biology scholars, and how this is reflected in conservation scientific publications. His presentation can be found at: [WEBSITE]

- The weakness from natural resources conservation and management is that donors provide scholarships but don't have contracts that make the people [from developing countries] go back to their places of origin

- Strategic planning
 - The goals of donors are not meant to be applied to reality or communities. They normally demand that

- Facilitators/actors try to achieve the goals stated in project documents
 - But achievements can vary overtime
- Some scientists/researchers/advisors produce very good management plans, but their experience comes normally from other countries, and doesn't apply to Cambodia, for example.
- Wouldn't CIFOR lead by example?
 - Why isn't the gap bridged in CIFOR?
 - Lower Mekong project is a step towards bridging that gap
 - Betsy talking about the design process, not outcomes
 - The present workshop
 - CIFOR is doing a long-term analysis of failures of ICDPS, but there is no definitive study/paper saying whether these types of projects should or should not be implemented.
 - Develop the paradigm shift to get better results from the integration of conservation and development.
 - Use development as a point of entry
 - Conservation by distraction?
- It is amazing how difficult, arduous and painful it is to get an article in a peer reviewed article
 - Ridiculous to think that gap can be closed
 - Do it through the grey literature
 - Bringing capacity – within country in BA programmes

One NGO in Cambodia – building Cambodia research; not a professional one

- In partnership with the community
 - Compiled a book, not academic; trying to peer review it
 - Called a national workshop, and regional workshop to refine concepts
 - Build capacity of participants
 - Improved research capacity

Difficulties in sharing knowledge

- Time line of development projects is an obstacle to the proper transfer of knowledge
 - Implementation is the responsibility of the project, and they report to funders
 - Nobody knows about project results because funders are foreigners that go away, and no knowledge stays at the local level
- In Cat Tien, 2 projects
 - A project from the WB
 - There was no official project website, even for a big project like that

- Produced annual reports, but the real lessons learned, and what they did in reality, were not reported properly
- WWF project - 6mUSD
 - Nothing was reported on websites

General Suggestions on the Lower Mekong Project

How can we do things better?

- Secure funds for a 10 year follow up to see how things are doing?
- Will we see data again before it goes to press? Narratives and data?
 - Yes!
 - But there won't be more opportunities to meet again
- Send electronic copies of the draft papers
- Translate into Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese
 - For the benefit of local stakeholders

Appendix 1

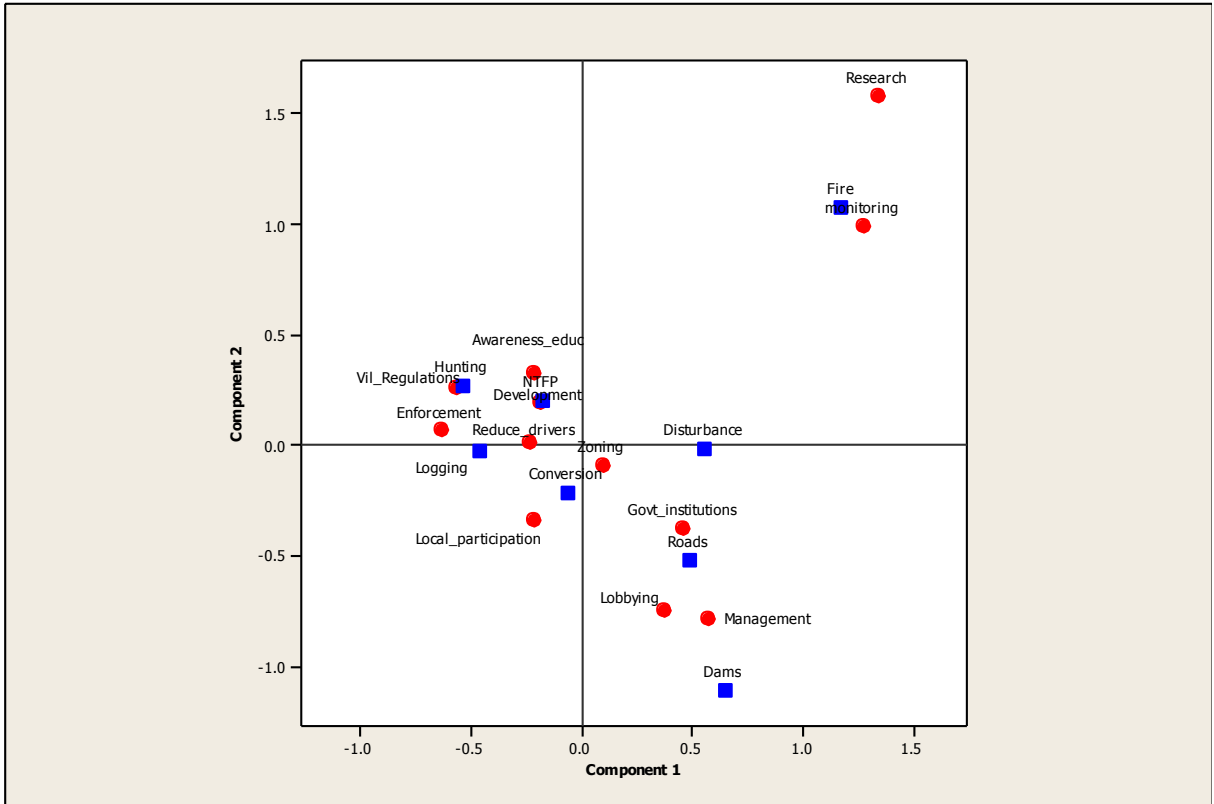


Figure 1 Correspondence Analysis of Interventions and Threats

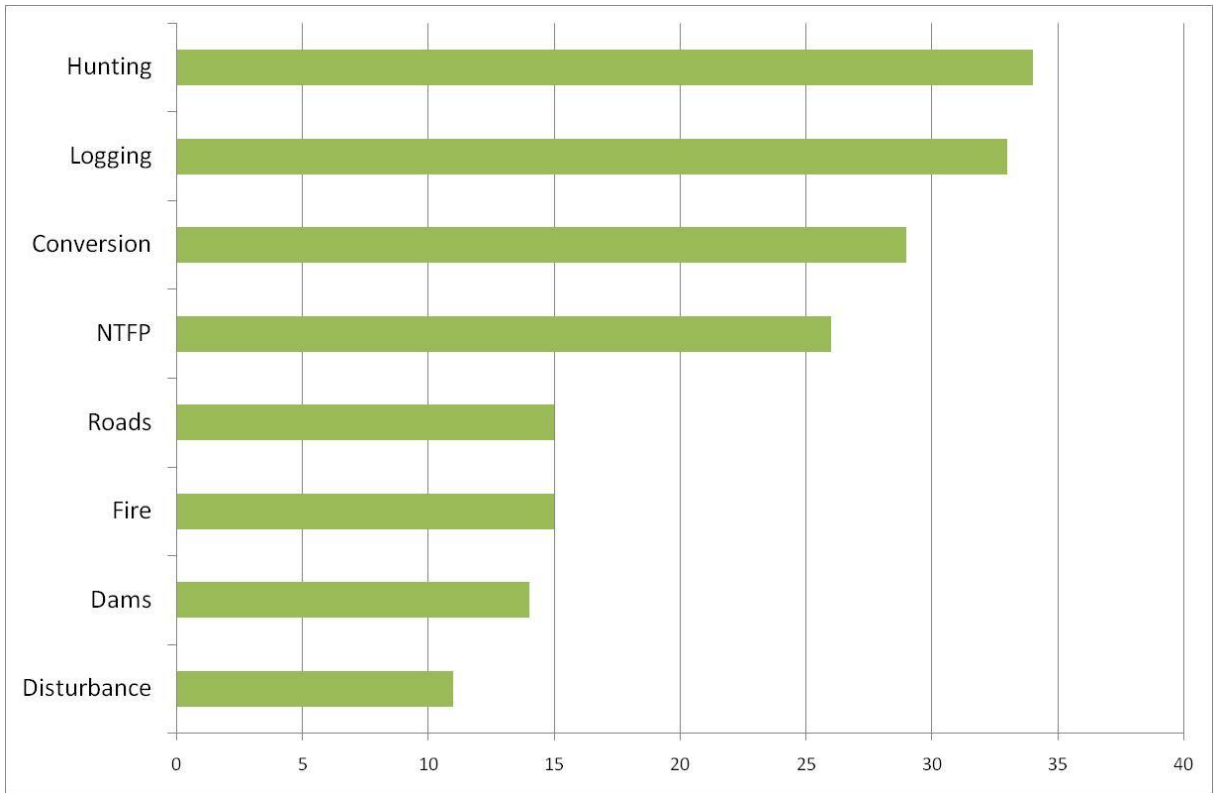


Figure 2 Aggregated frequency of threats at all landscapes, as reported by participants during the group exercise on Day 3.

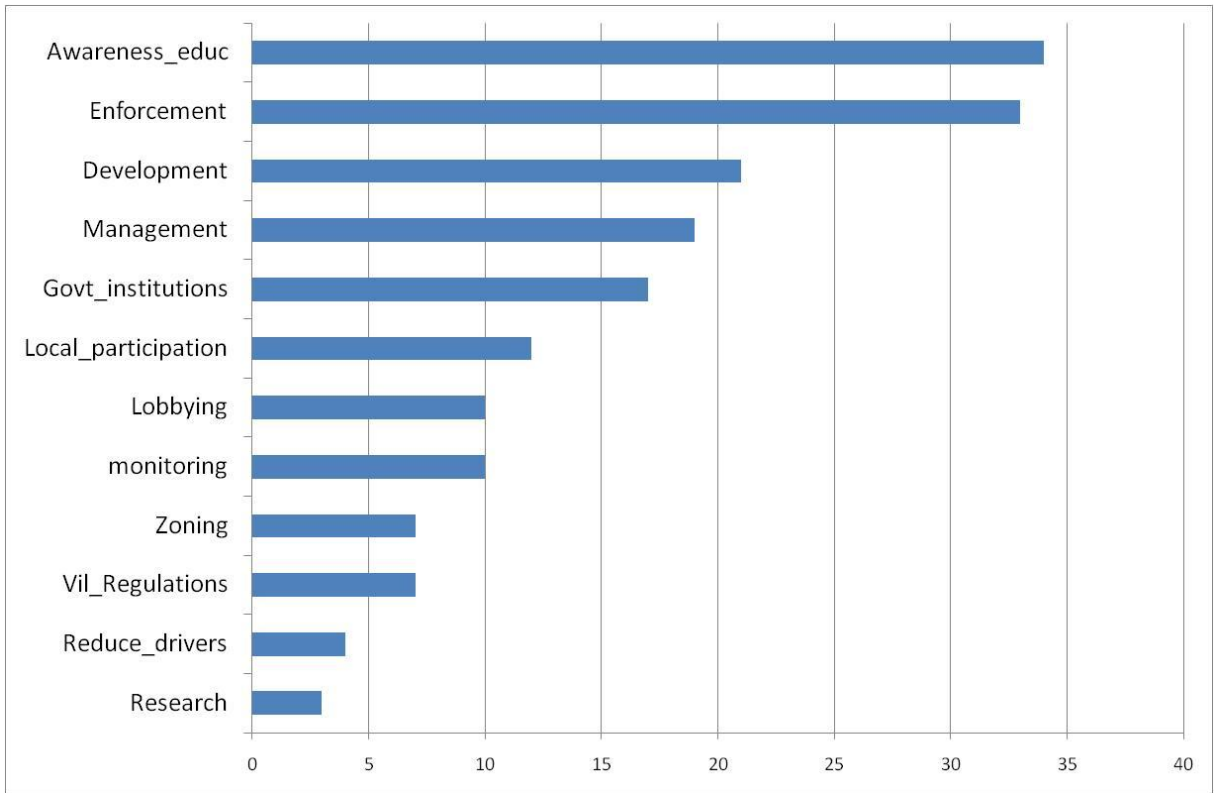


Figure 3 Aggregated frequency of activities carried by the interventions at each landscape, as reported by participants during the group exercise on Day 3.