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International Outlook for Privately Protected Areas

Country Profile: CAMBODIA

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Introduction:

This country profile is part of a study by the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) summarizing the **legal, policy, and institutional mechanisms used to establish and incentivize privately protected areas (PPAs) in 30 understudied countries.**

PPAs contribute to the achievement of global conservation goals and biodiversity targets by contributing to landscape-scale conservation, connectivity and ecological-representativeness of protected areas.

For the purposes of this profile, an area is considered a PPA if it conforms to the definition agreed upon by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Generally speaking, a PPA's protection must be recognized and durable (with long term conservation intent); it must be governed by a private or non-governmental entity; and it must be governed and managed to meet the general conservation standards of a protected area (PA) as laid out by the IUCN.^{1,2} **Note: Alongside currently existing mechanisms in these countries, this study also references mechanisms that represent *potential opportunities for the creation of PPAs.***

The data in this profile is based on a 2018 desk review of law and policy documents, government reports, publications by multi-lateral organizations, scholarly literature, and other sources. For 28 of the 30 country profiles, data was reviewed by a volunteer in-country expert. We are grateful to these experts, whose names and the profiles they reviewed are listed in the appendix to the [International Outlook for Privately Protected Areas summary report](#).

Finally, this profile is intended to be a living document, which will be updated periodically as more information is submitted and time and resources allow. If you have a contribution, please contact the authors at landconservation@lincolninst.edu.

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¹ Mitchell, B.A., Stolton, S., Bezaury-Creel, J., Bingham, H.C., Cumming, T.L., Dudley, N., Fitzsimons, J.A., Malleret-King, D., Redford, K.H. and Solano, P. (2018). *Guidelines for privately protected areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xii + 100pp.

² Dudley, N. (ed.) (2008). *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86pp. WITH Stolton, S., Shadie, P. and Dudley, N. (2013). *IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

CAMBODIA (*Kingdom of Cambodia or Kampuchea*)

Outlook for Private Protected Areas

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1. Bou Vorsak, Cambodia Programme Manager, BirdLife International Cambodia Programme

I. Country Overview

Land Area

Cambodia's total land area is 17,652,000 hectares (ha). Of this, 9,584,400 ha (54.29 per cent) is forested and 5,455,000 ha (30.90 per cent) is in agricultural use.³ Seven ecoregions occur completely or partially in Cambodia, and it is considered one of the most forested and biodiverse countries in South Asia; however, its natural areas face some very real threats.⁴

Land Tenure and Ownership

Cambodia's land tenure system has undergone repeated upheavals over the last century, leaving a complex mosaic of policy and practice. Land tenure remains largely a rural issue in Cambodia, given that about 80 per cent of the population are considered peasants and reside outside of urban centers, and approximately half of the national labor force works in agriculture.⁵

The *Land Law of 1992* provides for five types of land ownership. Two are forms of collective ownership: *monastery land*, held by Buddhist temples; and *indigenous community land*, where traditional swidden agriculture is managed customarily.

Two are forms of state land: *state public land*, where land supports infrastructure, public service buildings, or natural resources such as forests and waterways; and *state private land*, or land owned by the state that may permissibly be obtained for private title as well as concession land.

It is important to note that, in the 1990s, the Cambodian government embraced a concessions model for natural resource exploitation, allocating about 40 per cent of the national land area for Economic Land Concessions (ELCs). ELCs of up to 10,000 ha could be leased by Cambodian and foreign nationals for up to 99 years.⁶ Due to civil society protests over ELCs that encroached on community land, illegally extracted

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2014. "Cambodia Country Profile Page." Accessed June 2017. <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=KHM>.

⁴ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2016. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - February 2016. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/kh/kh-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>.

⁵ Diepart, J-C. 2015. The fragmentation of land tenure systems in Cambodia: peasants and the formalization of land rights. P. 3. https://orbi.ulg.ac.be/bitstream/2268/183306/1/DIEPART_2015_Fragmentation-Land-Tenure-Systems-Cambodia.pdf.

⁶ Ibid., 15, 25.

resources and were in protected areas, Prime Minister Hun Sen issued an indefinite moratorium on granting new ELCs and called for a review of all existing concessions in 2012.^{7,8}

The final category is *private land*, where title guarantees full ownership, and which is available in full only to Cambodian nationals. Article 8 of the *2001 Land Law* stipulates that private property may be held only by Cambodian citizens and legal entities registered in Cambodia.⁹ Private property can now be acquired only through sale or transfer, as the *2001 Land Law* is the first tenure system to prohibit the acquisition of possession rights “by the plow,” recognizing only those possessory rights established before the law’s passage.

Protected Areas

Cambodia recognizes 62 Natural Protected Areas.¹⁰ Twelve of these are *national parks* and are managed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Other recognized protected area types include *Multiple Use Management Areas* (economic development activities allowed alongside natural resource conservation), *Natural Heritage Sites* (areas unique for ecosystem, aesthetic or cultural value), *Protected Landscapes* (scenic view areas), *Ramsar Sites*, *Biosphere Reserves* (area of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development), *Wildlife Sanctuaries* (areas of wildlife protection), and marine parks (important coastal areas).¹¹ In 2016, protected forests were transferred to the control of the MoE by sub-decree and were re-categorized into the Natural Protected Areas types listed above.^{12,13} In total, these 62 Natural Protected Areas cover over 6,200,000 ha.¹⁴ (Note: The World Database on Protected Areas shows 4,750,300 ha of land – 26 per cent of the Country as protected. This differs from the data in the WDPA, as cited above. Differences between statistics may be due to differences in methodologies or out of date reporting).¹⁵

The *2008 Protected Areas Law* provides for four zonal categories, a mix of which comprise each protected area. These are the *core zone* for high-priority habitat that must be totally guarded from human contact; the *conservation zone* for strictly-monitored natural resource extraction; the *sustainable use zone* for limited development and local resource operations; and the *community zone* for agricultural production.¹⁶

In recent years, the national ministries have pursued an ongoing devolution of responsibilities for protected areas to the provincial governments. While this supports local governance objectives, it also

⁷ Thul, Prak Chan. 2012. “Cambodia suspends new land concessions to companies.” *Reuters*, May 7, 2012.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/cambodia-land/cambodia-suspends-new-land-concessions-to-companies-idUSL4E8G79HB20120507>.

⁸ Di Certo, Bridget and Sokchea, Meas. 2012. “PM institutes land concessions moratorium.” *The Phnom Penh Post*, May 8, 2012.

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/pm-institutes-land-concessions-moratorium>.

⁹ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2001. Royal Kram NS/RKM/0801/14 on the promulgation of the Land Law. Article 8. [faolex.fao.org/docs/texts/cam27478.doc](http://www.fao.org/docs/texts/cam27478.doc).

¹⁰ Open Development Cambodia. 2015. “Natural protected areas in Cambodia (1993-2018).” Accessed November 2018.

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/dataset/?id=protectedareas>.

¹¹ Open Development Cambodia. 2016. “Protected areas.” Accessed November 2018.

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/protected-areas/>.

¹² Open Development Cambodia. 2016. “Protected Forest.” Accessed November 2018.

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/protected-forest/#ref-80138-4>.

¹³ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). 2016. Sub-decree on Transfer of the Protected Forest, Forest Conservation and Production Forest Areas, and Economic Land Concessions between MAFF, and MoE.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3kkBprEzhDoa2U5S25zSXJmbEE/view?pli=1>

¹⁴ Open Development Cambodia. 2015. “Natural protected areas in Cambodia (1993-2018).”

¹⁵ UNEP-WCMC. 2018. Protected Area Profile for Cambodia from the World Database of Protected Areas. Accessed November 2018.

<https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/KHM>.

¹⁶ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2008. Royal Kram NS/RKM/0208/007 on promulgation of the Law on Protected Areas.

<http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC081966/>.

means that protected areas are chronically understaffed.¹⁷ Protected areas are also threatened by lack of management plans and funds, as well as illegal logging, hunting, and agricultural expansion.¹⁸

As a form of state public land, protected areas are technically not available for concession or private ownership. However, since 2000, three protected areas have been reclassified as state private land, and thus made available as concessions.

Biodiversity Conservation Corridors

In 2017, Cambodia issued a sub-decree that designates almost 1.5 million ha as *Biodiversity Conservation Corridors*.¹⁹ These corridors connect existing protected areas for species migration in key areas. It is unclear if and how these corridors are integrated into the national natural protected lands network.

Community-based Forestry

Since the 1990s, the Cambodian government has pursued strategies of community forest management to resolve the conflict between local demands for land and resource access, concession-based resource extraction for profit, and conservation interests.²⁰ The *2002 Community Forestry Law* catalyzed a process of gazettelement for community forests²¹ and the 2003 Sub-decree on Community Forest Management set out rules for the establishment, management and use of these forests.^{22,23} There are various classifications that allow for various levels of use, which is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Community forests are on state public property and cannot be granted an Economic Land Concession (ELC). Over 300 community forests exist.

In addition, in 2017, the MoE adopted guidelines for establishment and management of *Community Protected Areas* (CPA; established since 1999).²⁴ CPAs can be established in the Sustainable Use Zone or Community Zone of Natural Protected Areas and allow local communities to manage the forest and natural ecosystems within the protected area system. Nearly 40 CPAs have been created, ranging in size from under 10 ha to over 2,000, and protecting over 419,000 ha; however, CPAs do not seem to be integrated into the national protected areas system.²⁵

¹⁷ John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

¹⁸ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2016. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - February 2016.

¹⁹ Sokham, Touch. 2017. "Newly protected areas to span 1.5 m hectares." *Phnom Penh Post*, January 30, 2017. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/newly-protected-areas-span-15m-hectares>.

²⁰ The Center for People and Forests. n.d. "Community Forestry in Cambodia." Accessed July 6, 2017. <https://www.recoftc.org/country/cambodia/basic-page/community-forestry-cambodia>.

²¹ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2002. Royal Kram NS/RKM/0802/016 on the promulgation of the Forestry Law. <http://www.skpcambodia.com/Laws%20&%20Regulations%20of%20the%20Kingdom%20of%20Cambodia/Property%20&%20Land%20Law/LAW-02-Forestry%20Law-E.pdf>.

²² Open Development Cambodia. 2015. "Community forestry." Accessed November 18, 2018. <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/community-forest/>.

²³ Open Development Cambodia. 2015. "Forest Classifications." Accessed November 18, 2018. <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/forest-classifications/>.

²⁴ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2017. Guidelines on the Procedure and Process of Community Protected Area (CPA) Establishment. Ministry of Environment No. 066.

²⁵ Open Development Cambodia. 2018. "Community protected areas (2006-2017)." Accessed November 18, 2018. https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/dataset/?id=community-protected-areas-2006-2017&search_query=P3M9Y29tbXVuaXR5K3Byb3RlY3RlZCthcmVhcw==.

II. Law and Policy for Private Land Conservation

Privately Protected Areas

Privately protected areas are not defined by legislation in Cambodia, nor is there a clear formal mechanism for their creation. In other countries, the concession system for resource governance has proven adaptable to conservation where specific legislation validates conservation as an acceptable land use for concessionaires. Although no such legislation exists in Cambodia, Conservation International has considered the concessions strategy in both the Caradomom Mountains and the Prey Long Area and recognizes its promise as a route for privately-funded land conservation efforts in the future (see case study).²⁶ BirdLife International has also engaged with the concession system for conservation purposes in their work on the Siem Pang Forest.

To the knowledge of this study, no group or organization maintains a systematic list of privately-protected areas in Cambodia.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

The creation of formal privately protected areas is not included as a strategy in Cambodia's most recent NPSAP (2016) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, one of the three strategic objectives includes a call to "strengthen the enabling environment through diversified governance, enhanced participation, increased coordination and cooperation among stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, and enhanced human, institutional, technological and sustainable financial capacities."²⁷

III. Financial Incentives for Privately Protected Areas

The Cambodian government has passed no legislation to directly incentivize the creation of protected areas under private ownership or management. However, Cambodia does participate in major international incentive mechanisms, namely the UN-REDD+ program, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).²⁸ These programs engage foreign governments, private investors, and international carbon markets to incentivize the protection of forested areas.

UN-REDD Program

In 2016, the first carbon credits in Cambodia were sold to support a climate mitigation project, managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, in the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary. Disney purchased USD 2.6 million in carbon credits to avoid the emission of more than 14 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents over ten years.^{29,30} The Wildlife Sanctuary is home to more than 60 species on the IUCN Red List, as well as

²⁶ Conservation International. 2011. "REDD+ in the Prey Long Area: A Feasibility Study." Accessed July 7, 2017. http://prevlang.net/download/reports/REDD-in-Prey-Long_Feasibility-Study_Consevation-International_March_2011.pdf.

²⁷ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2016. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - February 2016. p. 26.

²⁸ The REDD Desk. n.d. "REDD in Cambodia." Accessed July 10, 2017. <http://theredddesk.org/countries/cambodia>.

²⁹ Wildlife Conservation Society. 2016. "Cambodia's Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary Sells First Carbon Credits." *WCS News Release*, July 22, 2016. <https://newsroom.wcs.org/News-Releases/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/9125/Cambodias-Keo-Seima-Wildlife-Sanctuary-Sells-First-Carbon-Credits.aspx>.

³⁰ Seangly, Phak and Kotoski, Kali. 2016. "Disney buys up carbon credits in Mondulkiri." *The Phnom Penh Post*, July 25, 2016. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/disney-buys-carbon-credits-mondulkiri>.

culturally important sites; however, it is threatened by illegal logging and forest clearing for agriculture. Funds from this project will be used to improve management and protection of the sanctuary, as well as will be used for community-chosen development projects for the local communities. The government is looking at this project as an example of how carbon credits can be used to finance protected areas. It is feasible that such a project could one day occur on private land, or land under concession.

Private support for protected areas management

Private organizations are also engaged in establishing long-term funding programs that support management of protected areas. For example, Conservation International is presently establishing a Trust Fund for the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park so that it may be supported in perpetuity (see case study).

IV. Organizations for Private Land Conservation

Government

- The Ministry of Environment (MoE) oversees the management of most protected areas through its General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection.
- Under the 1996 Law on Environmental Protection and Resource Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is responsible for fish sanctuaries through the Ministry's Fishery Administration.³¹ This continues despite adjustments made in 2016 to the role of the MoE.

Non-governmental

- BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, along with its partners active in Lao PDR, and Myanmar, and Viet Nam, works to support protected area management, foster conservation awareness, and network between different parties involved in conservation in the region.³²
- Flora and Fauna International (FFI) is a central participant in diverse conservation initiatives throughout Cambodia.³³ Their present efforts center on the conservation of elephant, crocodile, sea turtles, and other high-profile threatened species, as well as sustainable fishery management and the support of Cambodia's first large-scale Marine Protected Area.
- Conservation International's (CI) Greater Mekong program is based in Pnomh Penh, and supports protected area management, community engagement, and long-term conservation financing throughout the region.
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) provides technical support to government PA management, such as in the Seima Protection Forest.³⁴
- The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) is actively involved in biodiversity conservation in Cambodia, including spearheading an effort to reintroduce tigers to protected areas.³⁵
- The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint international initiative of conservation NGOs, implemented in Indochina by BirdLife. CEPF offers large (approximately 200,000 USD) and small (up to 20,000 USD) grants to conservation initiatives in Cambodia and the wider region.³⁶

³¹ National Biodiversity Steering Committee of Cambodia. 2014. National Protected Area System Strategic Management Framework. p. 1.

³² See their website: <https://www.birdlife.org/asia/partners/cambodia-birdlife-international-cambodia-programme>.

³³ See their website: <http://www.fauna-flora.org/explore/cambodia/>.

³⁴ See their website: <https://cambodia.wcs.org/Saving-Wild-Places/Seima-Forest.aspx>.

³⁵ See their website: http://cambodia.panda.org/projects_and_reports/copy_of_tiger_landscape_22122010_1910/

³⁶ John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

- In 2011, the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD or REDD+) initiated a program involving payments for land conservation and reduced carbon emissions in Cambodia. REDD+ is supporting a project in the Southern Cardamom Mountain range (see case study).
- The Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation has sponsored conservation activities in multiple protected areas on the Cambodia-Thailand border (see case study).

V. Case Studies

Central Cardamom Mountains National Park

The 400,000 – 500,000 ha forested area of the Cardamom Mountains is the largest remaining continuous stretch of the Indochinese Tropical Forest Belt. In addition to supporting numerous species of conservation value, the forested mountains are the basis of the Tonle Sap watershed, which supplies freshwater to more than 30,000 Cambodians.³⁷

In 2002, conservation groups Wildlife Alliance (WA) and Conservation International (CI) were both contracted to assist the Cambodian government in conservation activities in the area. Early on, CI considered acquiring a concession for part of the forest in order to produce a protected area for tigers and forest elephants.³⁸ Since, WA has spearheaded the effort to protect the forest, they have, to date, stopped 37 attempted ELCs in the area, set up patrols to prevent poaching, illegal logging, and fires, and established an ecotourism operation in Chi-Pat village.³⁹

Private conservation actions have been augmented by increasing government support. In 2004, Cambodia declared a Central Cardamom Protected Forest of 401,065 ha, and, in 2016, this was upgraded and renamed the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park.⁴⁰

Funding for the continued stewardship of the area derives from multiple sources. In 2016, CI launched the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park Trust Fund—the first of its kind in Cambodia—to finance the areas management in perpetuity.⁴¹ \$2.5 million USD of the target amount of \$10 million USD has been raised as of 2017. Additional funds from the UN-REDD+ program will support the conservation activities in the newly established park, in return for an estimated 46,500,000 tons of carbon emissions from deforestation avoided over 20 years.⁴²

Western Siam Pang Forest

The Western Siam Pang is situated in Northeastern Cambodia, on the Laotian and Vietnamese borders. Part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, the area supports a range of important habitats and species, including the critically-endangered white-shouldered ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*). The area is comprised of

See the “Where We Work – Indo-Burma” page on the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund website online at http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/asia_pacific/indo_burma/Pages/default.aspx.

³⁷ Conservation International. n.d. “Cambodia’s Central Cardamom Protected Forest.” Accessed June 6, 2016. <http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/cambodia-central-Cardamom-protected-forest.aspx>.

³⁸ Rice, Richard. 2002. Conservation Concessions - Concept Description. <https://www.cbd.int/financial/interdevinno/g-interdevconcession.pdf>.

³⁹ Butler, Rhett A. 2016. “Could REDD help save an embattled forest in Cambodia?” *Mongabay News*, October 26, 2016. <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/10/could-redd-help-save-an-embattled-forest-in-cambodia/>.

⁴⁰ UNEP-WCMC, World Database on Protected Areas. 2017. “Central Cardamom Mountains Protected Forest.” Accessed July 2017. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/central-cardamom-mountains-protected-forest>.

⁴¹ Conservation International. n.d. “Cambodia’s Central Cardamom Mountains National Park.” Accessed July 2017. <http://www.conservation.org/projects/pages/cambodia-central-cardamom-protected-forest.aspx>.

⁴² Butler, Rhett A. 2016.

former economic land concessions and is at high risk for deforestation.⁴³ In 2012, BirdLife initiated the pursuit of some form of protected status for the forest, either under BirdLife’s management or under a joint-management plan with the government, through the BirdLife Forests of Hope program.

Initially, BirdLife in Cambodia pursued a conservation concession approach, registering a private company in Cambodia for the purpose of holding the concession, and receiving a quote of about 10 million USD for the concession.⁴⁴ However, the Cambodian government then moved to bring the area under government protection. The area was protected in two phases, beginning with the establishment of the 65,000 ha Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary through *Sub-decree No. 86*,⁴⁵ followed by the gazettelement of an additional 66,932 ha area as the Siem Pang Kang Lech Wildlife Sanctuary in 2016.⁴⁶ The protected area joins a 700,000 ha transboundary PA corridor stretching into Lao PDR and Vietnam.

Though not technically a privately protected area, the protected areas in the Western Siem Pang were initiated by BirdLife in Cambodia and continue to rely on that organization for support. Furthermore, the conservation concession approach may have worked in the event that the government did not pursue the creation of wildlife sanctuaries.⁴⁷

Preah Monivong (Bokor) National Park

Preah Monivong National Park, also called Bokor National Park, covers 142,317 ha in the Southern Cardamom Mountains of Kampot Province. It was one of a series of parks gazetted in 1993 and is one of two Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heritage Parks in Cambodia.

The protected area is, for the most part, government-owned and -managed. However, in 2008 a portion of it was leased to the Sokimex company of Cambodia on a 99-year agreement.⁴⁸ Their lease includes the Bokor Hill Station, a collection of largely-decaying buildings of cultural value at the top of Bokor Mountain at the gateway to the National Park. Sokimex’s subsidiary, Sokha Hotels and Resorts, is a tourism and hospitality company that runs the largest chain of hotels in Cambodia.⁴⁹ In 2012, Sokha opened the Thansur Bokor Highland Resort at Bokor Hill Station, including a hotel and casino.

Sokha has contributed to conservation objectives by restoring trails, dams, and reservoir features. Sokha has also established effective patrols on the 30 km roadway from the coastal highway to the plateau on which the park is situated, and in so doing has effectively alleviated encroachment pressures otherwise handled by government rangers.⁵⁰ Such pressures are one of two major obstacles faced by protected areas throughout the region. In this case, since the 1990s, at least 350 families have settled within Bokor’s

⁴³ BirdLife International. n.d. “Forests of Hope site - Western Siem Pang Forest, Cambodia.” Accessed July 2017. <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/projects/forests-hope-site-western-siem-pang-forest-cambodia>.

⁴⁴ John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

⁴⁵ Kingdom of Cambodia. 2014. Sub-decree No.86 on Establishment of Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. https://data.opendevlopmentmekong.net/en/laws_record/subdecree_no86_on_establishment_of_siem_pang_wildlife_sanctuary.

⁴⁶ Pye, Daniel. 2016. “New Cambodian protected forest offers hope for endangered wildlife”. *Mongabay News*, May 27, 2016. <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/05/new-cambodian-protected-forest-offers-hope-endangered-wildlife/>.

⁴⁷ John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

⁴⁸ Harvey, Ian. 2014. “Bokor Hill Station sits eerily abandoned in Southern Cambodia.” *Vintage News*, December 14, 2014.. <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/12/14/bokor-hill-station-sits-eerily-abandoned-in-southern-cambodia/>.

⁴⁹ See the Sokha Hotels and Resorts website: <http://www.sokhahotels.com/corporate-office/about-us>.

⁵⁰ John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

boundaries. The other major obstacle is the granting of economic land concessions in protected areas; a number of agricultural concessions were made in Bokor National Park in the early 2000s.⁵¹

Sokha's lease and project in Bokor may serve as a precedent for a private, for-profit protected area management strategy that incorporates ecotourism into conservation.⁵² As early as 2000, approximately USD 700,000 of income was generated annually for government and private companies involved in the park through ecotourism.⁵³ As Sokha has since expanded tourism opportunities significantly, this income has likely increased.

The Maddox Jolie-Pitt Project

In 2003, American film celebrity Angelina Jolie purchased a house on about 50 ha of land in western Cambodia. Later that year, Jolie entered an agreement with the government to support a financially-struggling protected area adjacent to the property. The Samlaut Protected Area covers 60,000 ha on the western border of Cambodia and was gazetted for protection in 1993 alongside many of Cambodia's protected areas.

Jolie committed USD 1.3 million in the first five years, through a US-registered foundation named for her son, called the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation (MJP). These funds employed 30 rangers, provided for surveys of wildlife in the area, and supported other conservation aims. In 2007, the project expanded to include economic development for local communities. MJP has since funded road-building and multiple schools in the area. Since 2009, MJP has supported the creation and management of a transboundary peace park, connecting Samlaut to two Thai PAs and another nearby Cambodian PA, protecting a combined 436,996 ha of land.⁵⁴ MJP has also had to overcome chronic challenges to protected areas in Cambodia, including the illegal sale of land within the protected area by local leaders and government conservation authorities.⁵⁵

⁵¹ ICEM, 2003. Cambodia National Report on Protected Areas and Development. Review of Protected Areas and Development in the Lower Mekong River Region, Indooroopilly, Queensland, Australia. 148 pp. http://www.mekong-protected-areas.org/cambodia/docs/Cambodia_nr.pdf.

⁵² John Charles Eames OBE, BirdLife Indochina, Executive Director. Personal Communication. July 12, 2017.

⁵³ ICEM, 2003.

⁵⁴ UNEP-WCMC, World Database on Protected Areas. 2017. "Samlaut in Cambodia". Accessed June 2017. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/samlaut-multiple-use-management-area>.

⁵⁵ Seangly, Phak. 2017. "Court questions officials over sale of Jolie-Pitt land." *Phnom Penh Post*, May 9, 2017. <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/court-questions-officials-over-sale-jolie-pitt-land>.