

GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR NATURAL  
CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION (GDANCP), MOE

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY: Understanding Coastal Community Resilience in Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary, Koh Kong Cambodia.

## Context and objectives

For people living in the coastal protected area of Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary (PKWS), the current impacts of climate change on natural resources coupled with an ambiguous and complicated protected areas management and land tenure policy environment makes for uncertain livelihoods and food insecurity. Community resilience is potentially undermined by entrenched conflicts and uncertainty around access to natural resources, land tenure and other rights issues stemming from this weak governance environment. This adaptive research project will contribute to thoroughly understand the complex relationships between Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) policy process, content and implementation and the local capacity for collective action to address often synergistic impacts of climate change and food insecurity.

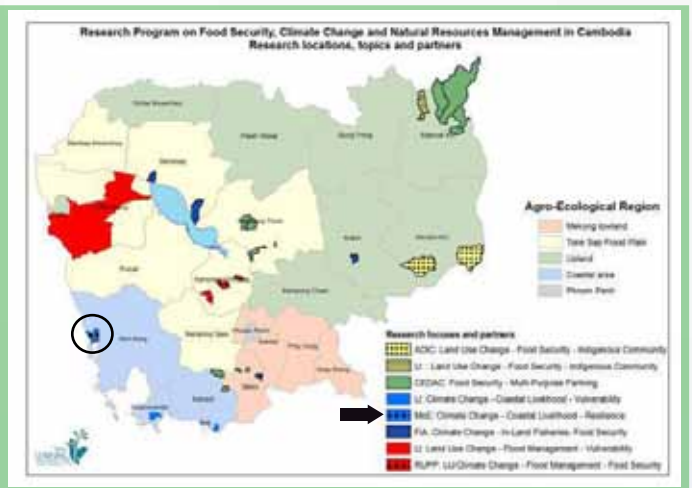
This research is mainly focused on understanding local perceptions of climate change in PKWS communities and

document how these perceptions are transferred to specific adaptive actions to increase community resilience to climate change. In addition, it tries to assess the current RGC policy processes and outcomes in supporting the development of adaptive livelihoods and resource management for coastal communities.

## Methodology

The conceptual framework explores the links between the food security and climate change through the impacts on fisheries resource change, mangrove production, land use systems and irrigation system. It also looks at the community and household adaptive strategies for coping with all stress and shock on food security and livelihoods of people in Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary.

PKWS is one of six coastal protected areas that is likely to suffer from severe climate impacts including increased intensity of coastal storms, irregular rains, an increase in



water temperature (which affects fish stocks), salt water intrusion (which affects agriculture), droughts, and possible floods. Three communes within PKWS that are dependent on a mix of agriculture and fishing activities will be selected (Toul Kaki, Koh Kapic, Peam Krasaop).

They have limited control over natural systems, but can control decisions regarding the use of political and self-will. Human society affects and is affected by changes in environmental systems, especially the linked climate-hydrological cycle.

This research project is important for villagers living in protected areas for several reasons. Initially, it will provide very useful local knowledge and information on adaptive action to climate change. Secondly, building the community's capacity and fostering resilience to climate change will contribute to the overall sustainable management of natural resources in PKWS. Enhanced livelihoods and skills gained from this action research project will enable the communities to work together to find innovative ways to reduce pressures on natural resources and to better cope with natural disasters. Third, capacity building for the research team will be of great benefit for the RGC General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), which is in dire need of qualified research and policy personnel.

This project will focus on a Learning Communities approach, working with place-based resource dependent groups that have developed, shared values, and effective problem solving techniques through iterative, practice-based learning. This type of process is comprised of experimentation and innovation, adaptive governance which conveys a multi-objective reality of conflict resolution, multi-stakeholder participatory processes. An adaptive or learning approach situates all social problems within the ecological context.

Primary methods include a range of PRA/RRA tools included 10 seed technique, community assets and resource

mapping. Additional methods will include focus group meetings, workshops, and community resource mapping and wealth ranking exercises with an appropriate mix of participants. An open ended questionnaire survey will be used to follow-up focusing on the current possible adaptation strategies and necessary policy changes.

## Contribution to the program

This research will focus on how people living within Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary (PKWS) are adapting, or can potentially adapt, to climate change vis-à-vis fisheries declines, water shortages and shifting agricultural seasons. As the cumulative impacts of climate change effect key sectors and livelihoods in coastal communities, there is a need to begin to go beyond adaptation (reactive) into building resilient communities in which a key focus on learning by doing creates research and development capacity which is more anticipatory in the light of increasing uncertainty and possible risks of climate induced changes.

Reformed governance systems must include greater participation of not only key stakeholders in policy formation and implementation, but also an informed and engaged citizenry, transcending politics, religion and geography. There must be clear articulation of management needs and priorities with respect to required information. Reforming linking processes of sustainable governance across vertical and horizontal scales requires a commitment by all participants to an enhanced relevant qualitative and quantitative flow of information for the greater understanding of livelihood-resource dependencies.

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