



CENTRAL CARDAMOM MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY, STORING CARBON, SECURING WATER, SUPPORTING CAMBODIANS

The Cardamom Mountains, which cover one-third of Cambodia, compose one of Southeast Asia's largest remaining intact forests and are home to some of the world's most threatened species.

Forest communities directly depend upon it for their survival. This 2 million-hectare mountain range supports the lives of 3.5 million people, providing water for rice fields and to the Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia's most important fishery. Moreover, the Cardamom Mountains sequester approximately 230 million metric tons of carbon, playing an important global role to combat climate change.

Protected for people and nature

Within this range lies the Central Cardamom Mountains National Park, one of the largest protected forests in Asia and the most well-conserved forest remaining in the area — and possibly all of Cambodia.

The Central Cardamoms provide benefits from nature that are essential to the wellbeing of Cambodians. These include fresh water for local people and downstream agriculture, and sediment flows for fisheries. They are also highly biodiverse, holding some of the last wild populations of numerous endangered and endemic species including the Asian elephant, Siamese crocodile, Asian arowana “dragon fish”, sun bear, gibbon and pangolin.

Recognizing its importance, the Royal Government of Cambodia and Conservation International (CI) created the Central Cardamom Protected Forest in 2002. This was subsequently renamed the ‘Central Cardamom Mountains National Park’ in 2016, as part of Cambodia's landmark move to increase its national parks to cover approximately 40% of the country.

Since its inception, this park has been managed collaboratively by Cambodia's government and CI in close partnership with local communities. Management primarily entails patrolling for illegal logging and poaching, and working with communities both in the core and buffer zones of the park to establish sustainable livelihoods.

These efforts have been successful. A 2012 independent review of the program found the core zone to have the lowest deforestation rate of all of the forests in the area. Camera traps continue to reveal a range of rare wildlife thriving in the forest, including, in 2015, the largest herd of Asian elephants recorded here in over a decade.

As long as demand from international markets for luxury timber and exotic wildlife grows, the pressure on poor communities to participate in lucrative illegal logging and poaching intensifies, increasing the need for active engagement and management in the Central Cardamoms.

ADVANCING PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

Partnering with government

The Central Cardamom Mountain National Park Management Plan was the first of its kind to be approved in Cambodia.

Under this plan, CI is working to increase government capacity to ensure effective long-term protected area management. CI is also supporting the government's law enforcement efforts to deter illegal wildlife poaching and logging activities by providing technical and operational support to the rangers that patrol the area.

Training

Community members have been recruited and paid to work as 'wardens' alongside Forestry Administration rangers, also supported by CI.

CI has trained community wardens and Forestry Administration rangers in the use of "SMART," a law enforcement monitoring system that uses GPS devices in the field to analyze trends of illegal activity. This enables the team to adapt their enforcement approach accordingly to target crime hotspots with regular patrols and checkpoints, discouraging loggers and poachers.

Conservation agreements

CI has conservation agreements with communities to protect natural ecosystems. An agreement amounts to a trade — for example, a halt on illegal forest clearing and wildlife hunting in exchange for provision of technical assistance to develop alternative and more sustainable livelihoods.

CI is helping farmers to establish high-value, forest-friendly crops, and related market linkages; and to build a community based ecotourism business to further supplement incomes.



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IMPACT

15 YEARS OF PROTECTION

CARBON STORAGE CHAMPION



It is estimated that the CCMNP holds around **193.8 metric tons of CO₂**.

SOURCE OF FRESHWATER



The CCMNP directly supports **30,000 people directly downstream**, and **100,000 within 5 km**.

REFUGE FOR RARE SPECIES



The CCMNP is home to **54 IUCN-listed threatened species**, like the clouded leopard and Asian elephant.

BENEFITING COMMUNITIES



More than 2,700 people have directly benefited from CI's community agreements.

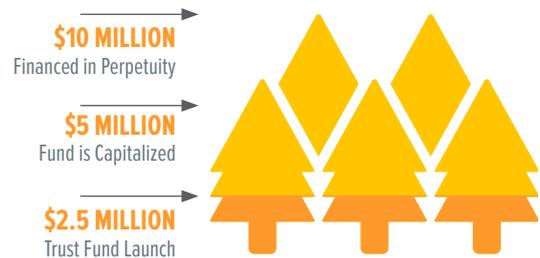
TRUST FUND

Established under the park's former name, **Central Cardamom Mountains Protected Forest (CCPF)**, the **CCPF Trust Fund** represents a significant first for Cambodia, and will provide sustainable financing for this work in perpetuity.

Founded in 2015 with endorsement from the Royal Government of Cambodia, and housed in Singapore, the Trust Fund is managed by a Fund Committee, members of which have been selected from both inside and outside the government.

CI has secured US\$ 2.5 million in contributions to the Trust Fund from the Global Conservation Fund and Daikin Industries, Japan. Once it reaches \$5 million, it will be capitalized.

The Trust Fund is a remarkable and exciting accomplishment that ensures the preservation of this critical forest for the wellbeing of Cambodia's people for generations to come.



To learn more, go to:
CONSERVATION.ORG/CARDAMOMS



Nature is speaking. It's telling us it's time to act.

The actions we take now are critically important. Our success in restoring the health of our planet will determine the quality of our lives and those of our children and grandchildren.

We face global problems that require global solutions—and that's where Conservation International comes in. With more than 25 years of experience and a worldwide network of partners, we are changing the face of conservation, implementing a bold plan to protect natural resources across the planet—not just for today or tomorrow, but for generations to come. Our approach is simple: we innovate, we get results and then we replicate and scale up our efforts for maximum results and reach.

Nature is speaking. Conservation International is listening.

OUR VISION

We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

OUR MISSION

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**



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