

Q1 2020

Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project
Impact Report

**EVER
LAND**



WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

Direct Protection to Forests & Wildlife

Q1 2020 Summary

During the first quarter of 2020, before the arrival of Covid-19, 16 local communities directly benefitted from the economic alternatives supported by the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project.

Investment from carbon finance helped the projects' successful Community Based Eco-tourism initiatives gear up for over 4,000 international and national tourists who came to visit and trek the amazing wilderness of the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape.

In Chi Phat, four villages offered a 3-day rainforest trekking package to European, Australian and South American vacationers and in Chhay Areng, eight villages welcomed visitors for mountain camping.

Meanwhile, the project's effective boots-on-the-ground law enforcement rangers protected the invaluable forest, its wildlife, and carbon stocks by implementing the Wildlife Alliance Forest Protection Model, countering the biggest current driver of deforestation — forest clearing for land grabbing and land speculation. Rangers successfully seized and impounded:

5 excavators, bulldozers and tractors being used to clear the forest **473** chainsaws used for illegal logging

6,089 wildlife snares and **3,321** m of net snares used for poaching

They accomplished this by conducting:

1,170 patrols and **197** night ambushes from nine ranger stations, and by patrolling **45,435** km by foot, motorbike, pick-up truck and boat





Effective biodiversity protection continues unabated

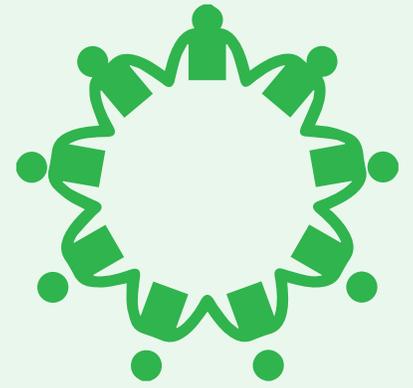
The Southern Cardamoms are a critically invaluable biodiversity hotspot and a high priority conservation site. Protection of this region is especially important as the Southeast Asian rainforest and its wildlife are among the fastest-disappearing in the world.

While the project defends the integrity of the forest as a whole, it also cares for the wildlife – animal by animal. On March 5, 2020, a family of Critically Endangered Sunda Pangolins were rescued by the Southern Cardamom Forest Protection rangers.

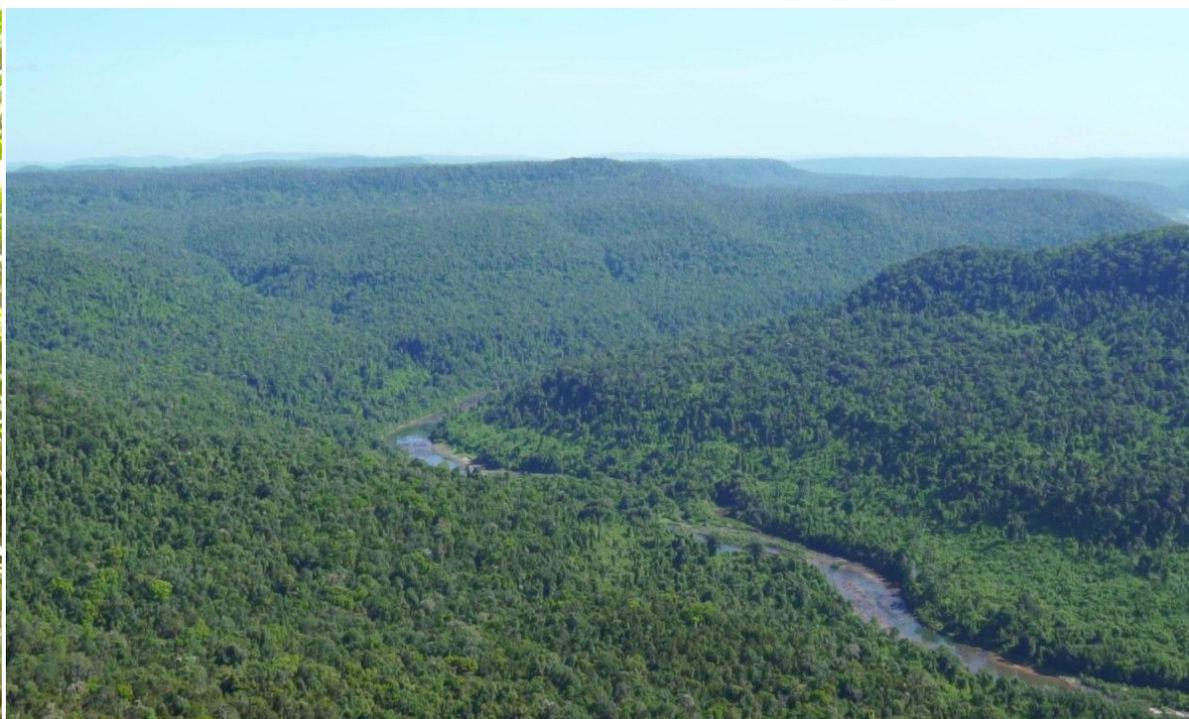
Through a night ambush, the team successfully stopped poachers from smuggling the animals out of the forest and they were released back into the wild the next day, saved from certain death.

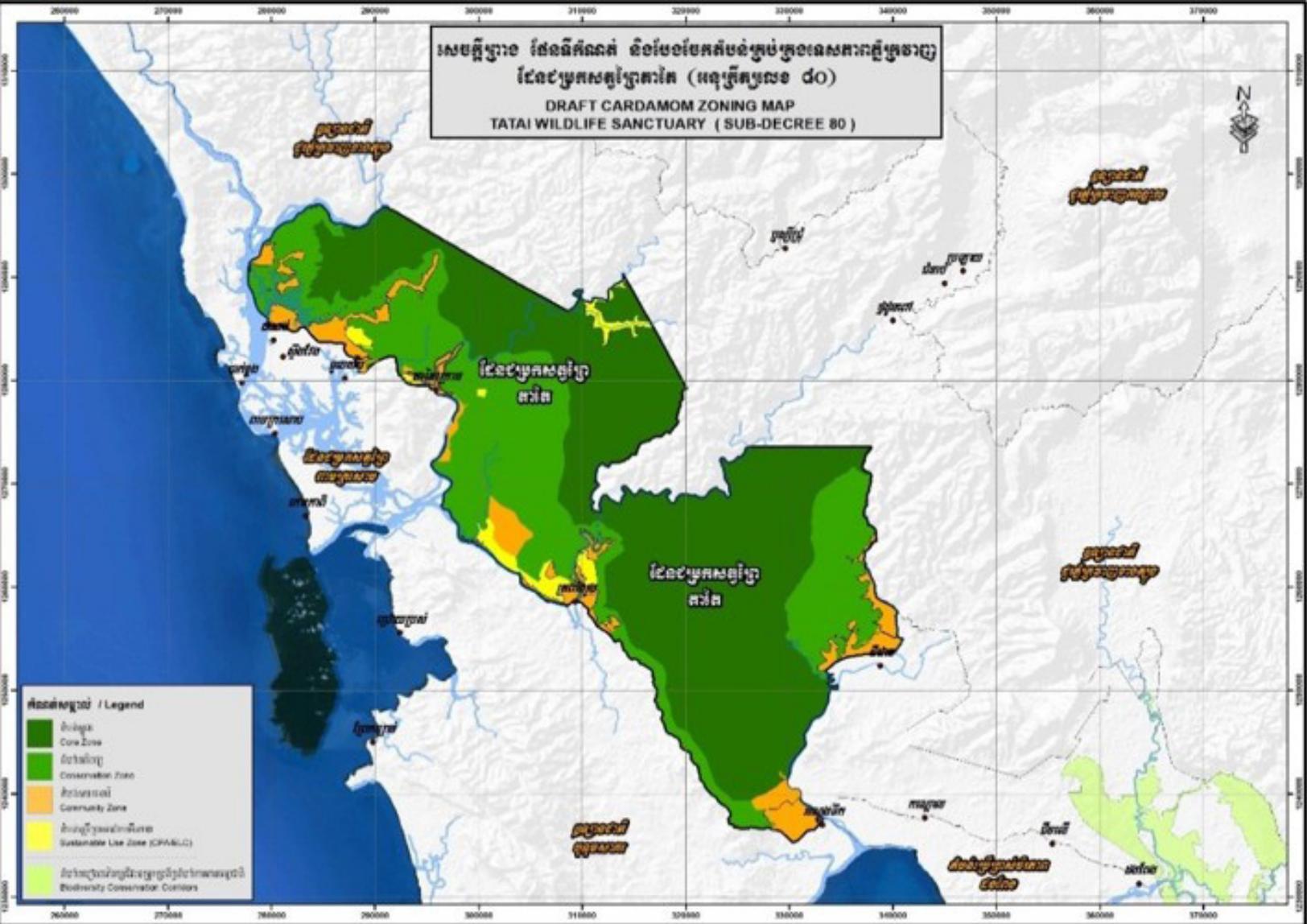
Chinese black markets are causing the extinction of Pangolins, the most trafficked mammals in the world. These last remaining individuals are poached for their scales as “traditional medicine” and sold alive in China’s wet markets, such as the one in Wuhan, as their meat is considered a delicacy, given their extreme rarity today.

Pangolins are one of the possible sources from which COVID-19 jumped into the human population, highlighting how crucial biodiversity conservation is to human health and well-being.



Highlights





Victory in protecting Southern Cardamom REDD+ through zoning

Wildlife Alliance’s zoning and GIS mapping team were instrumental in providing technical support to the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia, ensuring that the Southern Cardamom forest was preserved.

The difficult zoning negotiations to finalize the various land-use zones of Tatai Wildlife Sanctuary were finally concluded in March 2020. This victory preserved 106,147 hectares of Core Zone and 22,951 hectares Conservation Zone.

Community zones remained the same as before, which were successfully zoned in 2003-2015, with 11 communes having mapped and signed their community land boundaries. Only 1,876 hectares were added for local investment projects.



Land grabbing

The biggest challenge of the past quarter remains attempts to clear the rainforest inside and around the Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project to sell illegally to outside investors.

The project's Rangers have successfully stopped 28 land grabbing attempts on the forest in Q1 2020, where a few hectares had been cleared, but were able to immediately stop heavy machinery from doing any further damage. 35 offenders were taken to court in this instance.

The Wildlife Alliance plays a very important role in these cases as high-level individuals are often involved and rangers do not dare oppose them. Wildlife Alliance staff stay at the forefront, supporting the rangers, and help uphold the law by interfacing with all levels of local authorities and the court systems.



Challenges



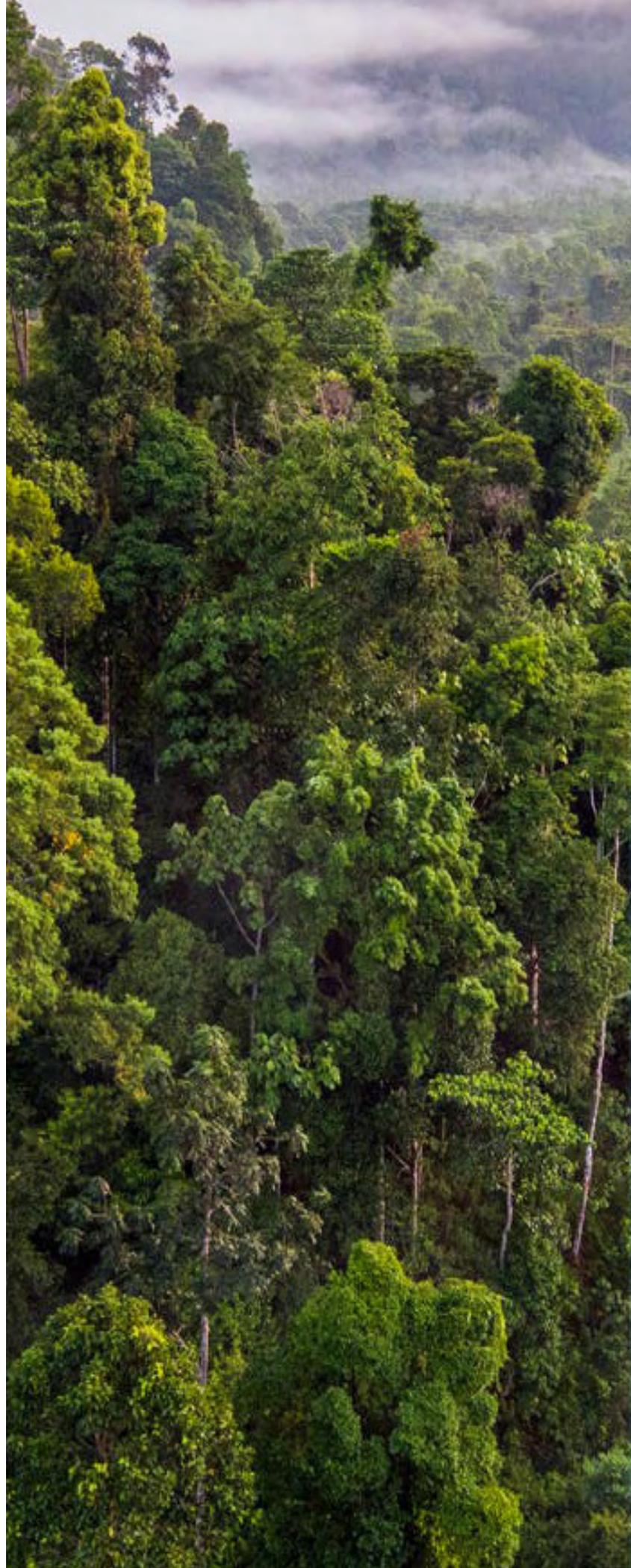
V _____ Forest Impacts



3,562
land encroachment
cases brought

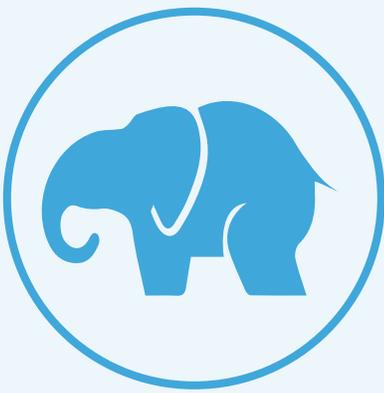
3,083 chainsaws
confiscated

Annual deforestation
rate reduced to **<0.3%**
(vs. nat average **~4%**)



Impact Over Time

Wildlife Impacts

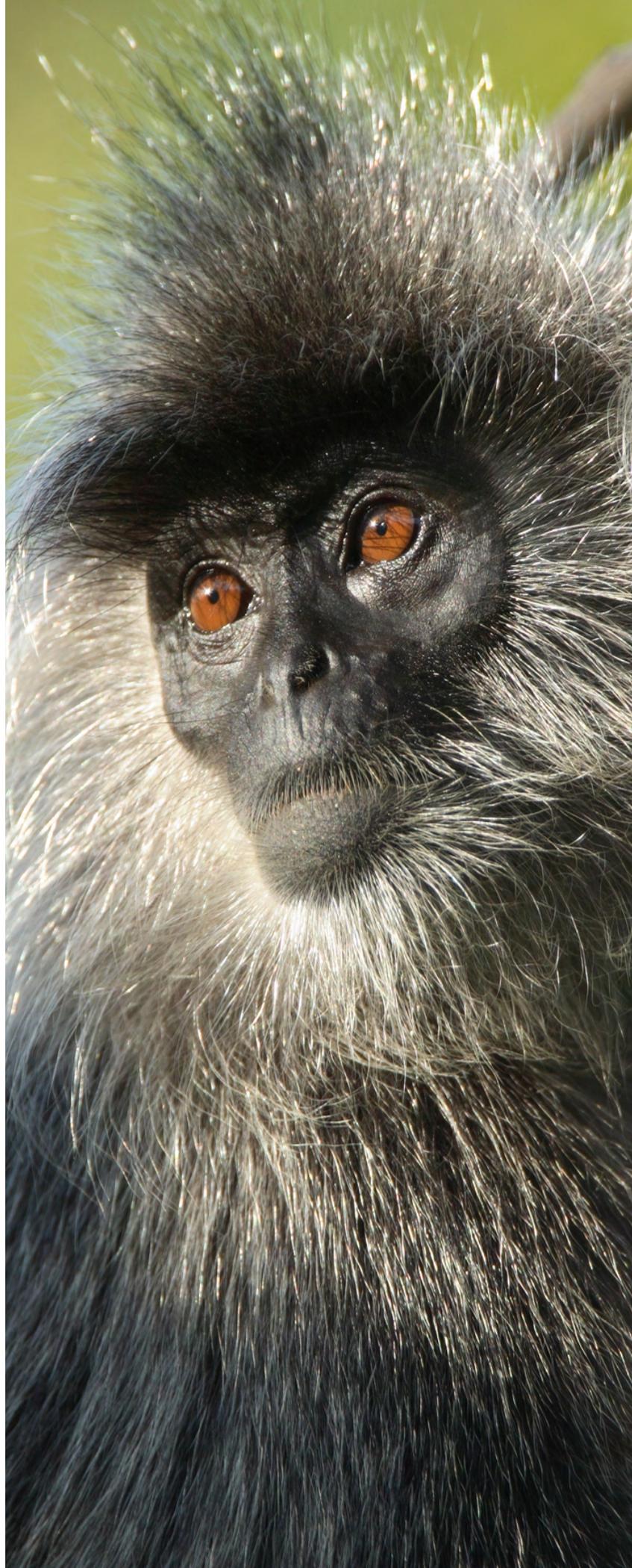


227,726 wildlife snares
removed

5,031
illegal hunting
camps dismantled

6,171
live wildlife rescued

Zero poaching of Asian
elephants (2006-)



Impact Over Time

Community Impacts



\$428,628

annual income to 15 villages as a direct result of Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) - 2008

515 families

in 12 villages fully or partially supported by CBET in Chi Phat and Chay Areng

63% of community

management positions in CBET / CADP held by women



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One forest at a time

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