

People protecting their ecosystem in the lower Mekong (PEM)

Progress Updates

Sophoan Phean, Project Manager

2 March 2015



PEM - GOAL

To support, strengthen and inform vulnerable communities in the Lower Mekong who are negatively impacted by extractive resource projects. Ultimately, this project will enable these communities to exercise their rights to the sustainable use of the ecosystem to secure their livelihoods and protect biodiversity

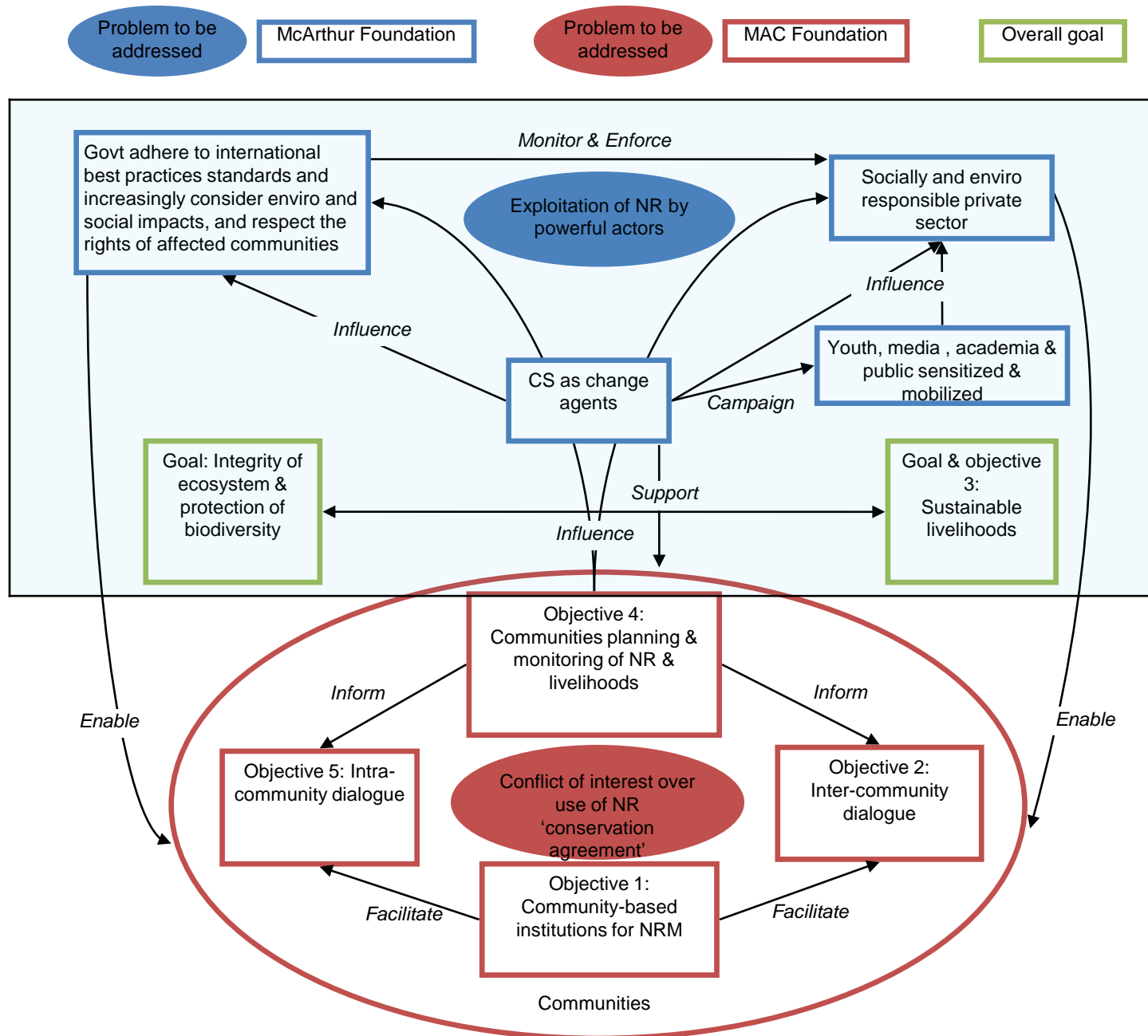


OXFAM

PEM Project

- 3 year project, Jan 2013 – Dec 2015
- Target beneficiaries: vulnerable communities negatively impacted by extractive resource projects – Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos (3S)
- Two work streams
 - Investment at the local and regional level in CBOs
 - Advocacy efforts to strengthen implementation of existing regulations and development of pro-communities policies
- Support of two donors: MacArthur and Margaret A Cargill
- Budget: \$1.4M, plus \$0.5M Oxfam match fund

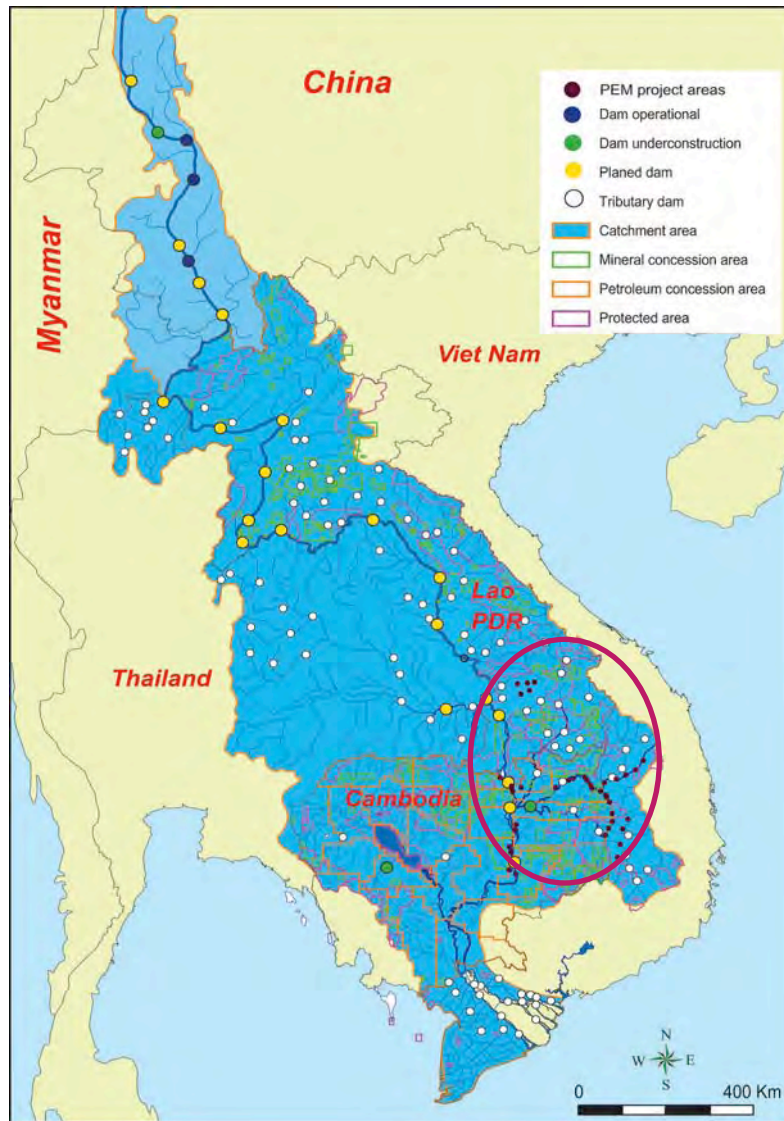
Areas of change sought in the McArthur & Cargill Foundations projects



Project Objectives

- Support communities in target areas who will have developed and implemented **CBNRM plans** and a further seven indigenous communities will have realized their "**legal entity status**".
- Promote regular **inter-community exchanges**, which contribute to stronger networks of community based natural resource management initiatives in priority corridors, including the Lower Mekong and 3S.
- Support families in target areas to identify and better adopt **sustainable alternatives** to traditional livelihoods
- Implement **tools** which improve participatory documentation, monitoring, and assessment of ecosystems in target areas, including impacts of developments such as hydro and mining.
- Support **young people** building capacity and opportunity to participate in community decision-making and management of natural resources.
- Promote Governments, developers, financiers increasing **consideration of environment and social impacts** and respects the rights and livelihood of project affected communities

PEM Project Partnerships



PARTNERSHIPS

CAMBODIA

- Center for Bio-diversity Conservation (CBC)
- Community Legal Educational Center (CLEC)
- Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO)
- Media for Education and Development in Action (Media one)
- North-eastern Rural Development Organization (NRD)
- Save Cambodia's Wildlife (SCW)

LAO PDR

- Global Association for People and Environment (GAPE)
- Lao Bio-diversity Conservation Association (LBA)

VIETNAM

- Center for People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature)
- Center for Social Research and Development (CSR D)
- Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development (WARECOD)



OXFAM

Achievements – Policy and practice

Using tools, standards and principles –

➤ Promoting awareness and use of **Free, Prior and Informed Consent**

- FPIC Community guide and TOT materials provided in national languages
- Mekong regional Training conducted for NGOs and community activists
- Building action plans – collaboration and strategy development with and between communities

Using policy and law review to improve policy and inform practice

➤ Promoting strengthened **EIA and transboundary EIA**.

- Cambodia's MoE integrated CSO comments submitted during the EIA law consultation and improved their considerations on integrating people participation, transparency and transboundary social and environmental impacts into the draft EIA law.
- Cambodia's MoE has considered the inclusion of FPIC into current draft of EIA guideline for oil and gas, and mining.

Achievements – Policy and practice

Influencing Private Sector operations on the ground and at corporate level:

- Angkor Gold, a junior Canadian mining company, listed in the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and a leading gold exploration company in northeastern part of Cambodia, has expressed its commitment and desire to improve the company's current practices and a willingness to join with CSR Asia and Oxfam to promote CSR more broadly in Cambodia.

Influencing better decisions in river governance

- Influencing and critiquing transboundary 'rules' - MRC PNPCA
- Partners convening sub-national consultations in Cambodia and Vietnam and ensuring national Mekong committees commit to reference in formal process
- Collaborative insider – outsider strategies
- Submission and pushing better 'consultation' - Aligned with CSOs, the Governments of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam all expressed concerns over the potential trans-boundary impacts of the proposed Don Sahong Dam – calling for extension of the
- Prior Consultation process and consideration of other studies

Achievement: community empowerment



- IP Legal Entity Status (in train)



- Community protected Areas – Cfi and community co-management in NP/NR



- Legal capacity building and support with paralegals at community level



Achievements – Livelihoods



Alternative Livelihoods:

As a buffer in hard times from over-exploitation of natural resources

- 1650 families have access to finance and saving through Saving for Change
- 31 families have adopted SRI



Capacity Building

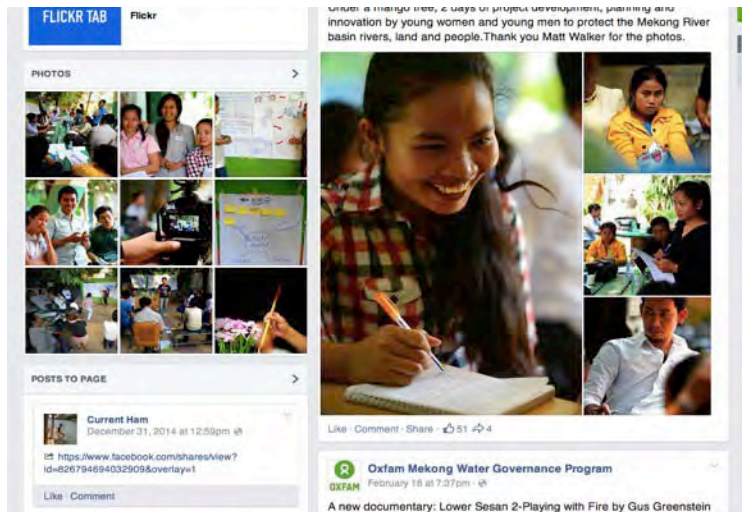


- Trained 56 Paralegals
- 33 ToT on legal frameworks on IP rights, land and NR
- Grassroots training reached 399
- Established 30 listening and dialogue clubs
- FPIC training – advocacy NGOs
- Awareness raising on NRM reached 479 villagers

Capacity Building - youth



- Rolling workshops for and with youth representatives from environmental, social justice and IP groups
- Establishment of PEM youth advisory group
- Social media and actions focus
- Linking and learning across countries



Lessons Learned - Responses

Challenges/Lessons Learned	Responses
PEM is a conservation-development collaborative project, being implemented by development INGO in partnership with development NGO partners – Capacity gaps.	Bring in a biodiversity conservation capacity building initiative for the project staff and NGO partners. (CBC manual)
Policy advocacy to influence for standards adoption is sensitive space ; mobilizing partners and securing their buy-in throughout the stages of the PEM project is quite a challenge - especially the work in Laos and Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Concentrate efforts in Cambodia,ii. emphasize transboundary impactsiii. monitor the political environment / space in Vietnam and Lao PDR

Lessons Learned - Responses

Challenges/Lessons Learned	Responses
<p>Youth need ‘their own’ space to engage and participate. Cultural norms within the communities can hinder their contribution. Gender challenges</p>	<p>Engaged a group of youth representatives from broader Oxfam partners to develop a theory of change for Oxfam to promote youth participation and leadership in extractive industries and water governance issues.</p>
<p>Women’s participation in NRM alone through gender mainstreaming cannot meet the desired outcome for women’s empowerment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 3 partners supported to undertake Gender Action Learning to promote women participation and leadership in CBNRM; ii. Influence practice of private sector and government – eg. GIA in hydro and mining
<p>The linkage between livelihood development activities and protection of ecosystems is necessary to constantly monitor.</p>	<p>Monitor SfC and SRI take up, in addition to the sustainable production of non-timber forest products and Cfi wild fisheries, in the project catchment. Foster exchange with experienced CA focused organisations.</p>

Thank you!

