SCOPING REPORT: COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CBNRM)

CASE STUDY INITIATIVE

by

Hou Kalyan, Mr. Toby Carson, 2000

A. BACKGROUND

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Conservation Program in Cambodia implemented this scoping phase over a three-month period from August to November 2000. The work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada. Ms. Hou Kalyan, Project Officer and Mr. Toby Carson, Project Advisor were hired to fulfill the objectives of the scoping phase. This report details the activities and outputs of their work, including field visits, contact with relevant people and organizations, networking, etc. One of the main outputs has been the preparation of a revised project proposal for implementation.

B. OBJECTIVES

The short-term objectives of the scoping phase were

- To collect and review literature and reports from relevant field initiatives;
- To carry out detailed discussions with project staff and others involved in CBNRM activities in Phnom Penh;
- To carry out detailed discussions with representatives of various government departments about the proposed implementation of a case study initiative;
- To identify potential case study sites suitable for participation in the implementation phase of the case study initiative and to reach provisional agreements with teams working in those sites to participate in the documentation of experiences and lessons learned;
- To visit nominated field projects to develop a better understanding of the activities and assess potential to participate in the implementation phase of the case study initiative;
- To analyze information collected and revise proposal for implementation phase;
- To identify potential donors for the implementation phase

C. COMPARISON OF EXPECTED OUTPUTS WITH ACTUAL OUTPUTS

The expected outputs as listed in the original grant document from IDRC include the following:

- List of recommended sites prepared through field visits and contact with relevant people;
- Tentative agreements reached with teams working in those sites for follow-up cooperation;
- People and partners identified to potentially join the next phase of research work;
- Networking with NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations relevant to the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) initiative in Cambodia;
Revised formal proposal prepared and submitted.

All of these expected outputs have been successfully achieved (refer to table comparing actual outputs with expected outputs). The scoping phase was also able to achieve other additional outputs including: preparing initial site profiles, collecting and reviewing literature and reports from relevant field initiatives, as well as preparing draft ToRs for project participants.

**TABLE: COMPARING ACTUAL OUTPUTS WITH EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Outputs</th>
<th>Actual Outputs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of recommended sites prepared through field visits and contact with relevant people</td>
<td>• Potential case study sites identified and visited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tentative agreements reached with teams working in those sites for follow-up cooperation;</td>
<td>• Map of potential case study sites prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People and partners identified to potentially join the next phase of research work</td>
<td>• List of priority sites recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking with NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations relevant to the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) initiative in Cambodia:</td>
<td>• Tentative agreements reached with most teams working in those sites for follow-up cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised formal proposal prepared and submitted</td>
<td>• Project staff and partners identified to potentially join in the next phase of research work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contact list prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tentative agreements reached with most teams working in those sites for follow-up cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Contact list prepared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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D. ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION COLLECTED

**Field Visits and Contact with Relevant People**

A list of recommended sites has been prepared through field visits and contact with relevant people (refer to list of potential sites). Over the period of the scoping phase, we have been able to meet with a number of people and we have visited almost all of the sites in the list of potential sites. People and partners have been identified to potentially join the next phase of research work. Tentative agreements have been reached with most teams working in those sites for follow-up cooperation. We have found that there are more initiatives than expected, thus the number of expected case study sites has increased.

**Tonle Sap Region (Northwest)**

**Participatory Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Region (FAG)**

From September 12-13, we traveled to Siem Reap for a field visit to the FAG project site. We met with FAG staff (Patrick Evans, Felix Martin, and Mr. Chong Tong from the Fisheries Dept.), as well as with staff of the Greater Environment Chong Khneas Office (GECKG). We then traveled to the
field site and floating villages located in the flooded forests at Kampong Pleuk and Sotr Nikum, and met with local fisherman. In the afternoon, we traveled to CF area at Stung village, and met with participants of CF training and training facilitators. We also visited the Community Forest area and discussed issues with Mr. Prak Marina. The next day, there was another field trip to visit the FAG Rural Aquaculture Development (RAD) program. We met with FAG staff and local farmers regarding family fishponds, integrated rice-fish culture and fish seed development. An initial site profile has been prepared but FAG staff have not yet completed their own responses to finish the site profile.

The main resource management issues of this project are concerned with community forestry (flooded forests, mixed dry dipterocarp forest), Small-scale fisheries (rural aquaculture, integrated rice-fish culture, family fish ponds), fisheries concession issues. This is a large and well-established project, in operation since 1995. It involves a variety of key sectors and resource issues. There are many highly trained and interested staff. This area has the potential to be a model-training site. The project has a need for documentation of experience and lessons learned.

In the afternoon of September 13, we met with staff of UNV/ABDO at the office in Siem Reap town. However, we were not able to meet with the people directly responsible for the environment maintenance and resource component (including community forestry) because they were busy in the field at that time.

The main resource management issues are related to community forestry in Angkor protected area. The project is currently undergoing a transition from UNV organization to local NGO. This is a smaller program with few staff, and the learning processes have not yet been documented. Through the cultural extension component, the project tries to get the elder people to be involved in promotion of handicraft and traditional music. Under the human resource component, the project also tries to train the staff in proposal writing to get support from other NGOs. They also provide credit program for local people through the income generation component.

**Community Forestry (PED/Carere)**

On September 14, we met with Mr. Ros Thouen, Deputy Director of Battambang PED and Mr. Chort Khemarith, Technical Official (both are responsible for Community Forestry Facilitation). We discuss about the activity of the project and other related activities in the province. On September 15, we visit the Community Forestry in Kiri Selakev and Pekdey villages (two of the three villages that have been involved with CF). We discussed with local villagers about their feelings and ideas regarding changes in forest management practices. They have set up their own rules for the forest management, which have been approved by the Provincial Governor and District authorities. In the past, there was good forest cover in the area, then with logging it decreased. Finally with the recent management changes, villagers claimed that the forest cover and wildlife has begun to return. However, it was unclear what impact new villagers would have as they expand to this area.

This initiative is located in upland forest areas of Battambang. An interesting point about this initiative is that it is undergoing a transition from PED/Carere initiative to local communities taking over process. The issues & lessons learned are not yet documented.

**Community Forestry and People Empowerment (BFD)**

On September 14, we met with Mr. Noup Pol, in charge of environmental education and a senior Monk representing the BFD organization. We discussed about the project activities, including the environmental component and education. The environment component includes a nursery, tree planting, and education to use compost instead of chemical fertilizer. They encourage the planting of trees that produce natural fertilizer (nitrogen fixing) such as Neem trees. They emphasize the importance of quality, not only quantity. They provide and sell seedlings for people to plant trees on the rice field bunds and embankments, as well as in the Pagoda and on public lands. The BFD
organization also works in the area of advocacy, cooperating with four other organizations and groups, to support local fishermen in conflict with fisheries concessions. BFD also cooperate with ETAP to develop educational materials for the Monks.

An important aspect of this program is that it is implemented by a local Buddhist NGO. The organization seems to very well organized, involved in a variety of field activities and advocacy work. They are involved in tree planting, natural resource issues and advocacy to address fisheries concession issues. There is not yet much documentation about their activities.

**Community Forestry Programme (Concern)**

On August 30 we met with Mr. Pel Pisith, Program Manager and Mr. Chean Thayouth, Policy Officer. Mr. Piseth described about the project activities located in 5 provinces of Cambodia. The project has 3 components: Support to local communities for community forestry activities, Training in Community Forestry and Support to policy development for Community Forestry. They also build capacity for rural people and provide rural credit. This project also cooperates with Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry and Royal University of Agriculture to build capacity to National, provincial and NGOs staff on concept and method of participatory forest management. During this meeting, we prepared the site profile and we plan to follow up with visit to the project site in Pusatand Kampong Chhnang.

This is a well-established, long-running CF program, located in Pursat and Kompong Chhnang. There is some trained staff, with a combination of field activities and policy development. Their program concentrates on community forestry field activities, training & policy development. Some case study documentation is available already.

**Mekong and Lowlands (Central and North)**

**Community Co-Management of Fisheries (CAA and CEPA)**

This community fisheries project in Stung Treng is one of the only known community fisheries initiatives in the country.

**Community Forestry Project (MCC)**

This is community forestry project is located in severely degraded land areas of Takeo Province. This is one of the first community forestry initiatives established in Cambodia.

**Multi-Sectoral Approach to CBNRM (Mlup Baitong)**

On September 28, we met with Mrs. Cheng Chan Thol and Ms. Amanda Bradley, Advisor at Mlup Baitong Office. We discussed about the activities of the project that worked in two main areas of Kampong Speu province. The project focuses on Environment Education to local people, police, military, monks and women's groups living near by Kirirom national park. Their strategy is train groups of people to help train others.

This initiative focuses on protected area/buffer zone management and general natural resource management Border area of Kirirom National Park, Kampong Speu. Their work with CBNRM is relatively new.

**Highland Areas (Northeast)**

**Community-Based Natural Resource Management project (Carere/IDRC)**

On September 22, we met with CBNRM staff discussed about the project activities. During the
discussion, the staff were divided into two groups and asked to identify the strengths and the weakness of the project. After the discussion, they come up with the result. ...The project staff explained that, they tried to work closely with different Government department, but some of the Government department (Department of Forestry, Land title Department) did not really want to participate.

This project works on a number of resource management issues in Ratanakiri. They are a well-organized and established CBNRM project, working with hill tribe peoples. There is a fair amount of experience in case study writing.

**Non-Timber Forest Products project (NTFP)**

On September 22, we met with Mr. Gordon Patterson and Mr. Chea Phalla, NTFP staff to review the project activities and make arrangement to visit the project site. On September 25, we went to visit two villages among six villages of Ya Pay common that came to the NTFP asking to help to protect the forest from the logging. During the visit, we asked the villagers about their feelings regarding the benefit of having community forestry management in the village. The villagers come up with a good feeling to the project, because the project has helped them to protect the land, the natural resources as well as their culture.

This initiative deals with issues of community forestry, land speculation and forestry concessions, as well as rights of local indigenous populations. The work is long-running and ground-breaking. It can be characterized as a locally-based initiative focusing on community land used planning activities and working with hill tribe peoples. Some case study documentation is already available.

**Community Fisheries Project (Provincial Department of Fisheries)**

On September 25, we met with Mr. Gnoung Sokun, Acting Director of Provincial Department of Fisheries, as well as Mr. Pen Chumdy, and Mr. Phat Banha (both are Technical Officers). They mentioned about some activities related to fish management, that the office staff involved with research done by the department of fisheries department in Phnom Penh and advise by Mr. Ian Baird. With experience from this research activity and also under the support from Sela program/CARERE, the department selected two target areas to promote the fish conservation in natural areas and family fishponds. They also complain about the lack of staff, skills and financial support to the department.

This is a small and relatively new project working Ratanakiri Province

**Coastal Zone (South and Southeast)**

**Participatory Management of Mangrove Resources (PMMR -MoE/IDR**

On August 31, we tried to travel to Koh Kong but the flight had to return because of bad weather. We met with Kim Nong, Nin Vanntha, and Melissa Marschke at their office in the MoE and a profile was prepared. We plan to travel to Koh kong from November 22 to 24.

The project focuses on resource management issues related to mangroves, fisheries, sustainable livelihoods, community participation in protected area planning and management Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary, Koh Kong. The project has a few trained and experienced staff, although quite busy. Some case study work already done.

**Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Project (AFSC)**

On October 10, we traveled to Sre Ambel to visit the AFSC project. We met with Barbara Johnson, Pheng Reth and Hak Sarom to review AFSC activities and prepare a site profile. On October 11, we went on a field visit to Phum Cran Cheik village and surrounding areas of the AFSC project site to
interview with local villagers.

October 12, we attended Regional Fisheries Workshop in Kampong Som on problems in Kompong Som Bay, and we listened to representative of the Fisheries Department explain about the Fisheries laws. Other NGOs recommended that research should be done, and there should be feedback from local people and organizations before the law is prepared. There should also be a public awareness campaign so that people can understand about the law.

This project works in Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong on community forestry, mangroves, fisheries, and forest concession issues. It is a medium sized initiative, working on a variety of relevant natural resource management issues. There is some trained staff.

**Community Co-Management of Fisheries in Ream** (Wetlands International, MoE, ADB, and ETAP/UNDP)

On November 22, we travel to Preah Sihanoukville to visited with Community Forestry and Community fisheries in Ream National Park. We met with Mr. Suu Thea, Project coordinator; Mr. Man Dort and Mr. Kheiv Sun Ho, both are Facilitator of Community Fisheries and Community Forestry in the village. During the meeting we discuss about the process, issues and strong of the project as well as about the potential topic for the case study. Responded to this, Mr. Suy Thea has suggested two topics for the case study, first was about the Management of Forestry and Fisheries resources, and second was about the study on Fisheries resources in the Ream National park. During the meeting we also met with 3 representative of Committee members Mr. Phan Gneun, Chief of Committee, Mr. San Sen, representative from community forestry Sre Knong Village, Mr. Oun Chan, Committee member from South Koki Village. They were complain about the local right of community forestry land, it is not clear in term of boundary, they got a news that one people from Phnom Penh Mr Chea Sean come to Chief of Ouknga Heng asked to remark for their own land. The community member was upset, because they was tried to protect the forest since 1998, but until now the regulation of the community forestry still not yet recognized informal. They were suggested the topic of the case study could be about the land security for the Community Forestry. They were raising about the overlap role with different stakeholder make difficult for patrol the illegal activities in the Community Fisheries.

This project works in Preah Sihanouk (Ream) National Park, Kompong Som on issues of mangrove management, fisheries (inshore and marine), protected area management, and jurisdictions between MoE and Dept of Fisheries. This is one of the few initiatives working on community fisheries issues in Cambodia.

**Meetings/Networking with Relevant Organizations and Other Research Projects**

During the scoping phase, we have spent a lot of time networking with NGOs, government agencies, international organizations and other projects relevant to the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) initiative in Cambodia.

**Community Forestry Network Meeting**

On September 1, Kalyan and Toby attended the Community Forestry Network meeting held at the offices of AFSC. The meeting agenda included presentations and discussion by Mr. Kim Sarin (CFRP-IDRC project), Mr. Jurgen Fichteneau (GTZ/DFW forest extension issue), Mr. Kengo Yoshida (JICA/DFW forest rehabilitation), Ms. Y Lavy (Oxfam-GB Forest and Landlessness case study), Mr. Chean Thayuth of Concern (CF guidelines update), and Ms. Mariam Rondet (WENETCAM/CFSP training on improved cook stove selection and dissemination).

At the end of the meeting, we were given an opportunity to present a brief overview of the objectives of our case study initiative to the participants. In summary, this meeting was a good opportunity to network, share the objectives of our work and learn about what other organizations were involved
with. We also agreed to present the results of our scoping phase at the next network meeting to be held on December 1, 2000.

The main Objective of the Community Forestry Network Meeting (CFNM) is to share information and experience among Community Forestry agencies, the Community Forestry Units of Ministry of Environment (MoE), Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DoFW), and NGOs regarding Community Forestry in Cambodia. The CFNM was established in 1999 by the Cambodia Environment Management Project (CEMP). When CEMP was closed in 1997, the MoE, DoFW and CONCERN Worldwide continued to support and facilitate the CFNM.

The CFNM will be helping every 3 months and the schedule in the year 2000 is 9 June, 1 September, and 1 December.

**Community Forest Research Project in Cambodia (CFRP), IDRC and RECOFTC**

We have met a few times with Mr. Sy Ramony and other staff of the CFRP project. Among other things we discussed various roles in related projects (CBNRM, CAMCOFTT, EEPSEA, and the Community Forestry Research Project). We also determined the need to prepare complementary work-plans so as to reduce overlap and avoid conflict.

The general objective of CFRP is to build human resource capacity in community-based forest management and to enhance security and livelihood opportunities of rural communities through more efficient, sustainable and equitable management of forest and other resources. The CFRP was supported by IDRC and RECOFTC, which is implement by Department of Nature conservation and protection of Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DoFW) and Royal University of Agriculture (RUA).

The major project steps of CFRP are: 1) site characterization, 2) Design CF interventions, 3) Implementing CF intervention, 4) Policy and advocacy, and 5) Participatory monitoring and evaluation.

**Environment Working Group NGO Forum on Cambodia**

The Environment Working Group holds monthly meetings at the NGO Forum on Cambodia. On October 9, we attended a group discussion at the NGO Forum on Cambodia related to environmental concerns on the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) of the government.

On Friday November 17, we participated in an Environment Working Group meeting at the CCC meeting room. Presentations were given by: Mr. Nhim Phan BPS (regarding the cutting of resin trees); Mr. Andrew Cock, NGO Forum, and Peter Swift (on the conflict between communities and concession companies over forest resources in Kompong Thorn Province); and by Mr. Sim Bunthoeun, Luecaena BTB (regarding the results of meeting between NGOs and fishermen in Battambang Province).

**The Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP, GTZ/MRC)**

The Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP) of GTZ/MRC supports partners in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam to develop, promote and implement strategies in participatory natural resource management. The focus is on the generation, exchange and dissemination of information and experiences about: i) land use planning and allocation; and ii) forest management systems, in upland watersheds and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities.

The SMRP project has supported the process of defining suitable approaches in participatory land
use planning (PLUP) for Cambodia since September 1999. A series of workshops have been held so that practitioners and institutions concerned with natural resources management in Cambodia could exchange experiences and contribute to strengthening the PLUP framework in Cambodia.

The Cambodia Community Forestry Working Group (CCFWG) was established in late 1998. The group aims to improve the understanding of community forestry, as well as promoting information gathering and sharing, as well as collaboration among organizations working in the sector. In late 1999, the CCFWG commissioned the Cambodia Community Forestry Best Practices.

Study, with the support of the MRC/GTZ-Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP). The study examines various processes of establishing and managing a community forest, the involvement of local people, as well as their understanding and support for the concept. Study sites were selected in five provinces (Siem reap, Ratanakiri, Kompong Chhnang, Svay Rieng and Koh Kong) to represent different management situations, forest conditions and geographical environments.

On October 27, we met with Lun Kim Hy, Team Leader of the Best Practices study. During the meeting we reviewed each other's progress and discussed potential linkages between the projects. Finally, we proposed to set up a follow-up meeting with the participants of the relevant research projects. We also plan to meet with other members of the SMRP project, including Dr. Hans Helmrich. Study of Inland Aquatic Resources and Livelihoods in Cambodia Oxfam GB)

On a few occasions in early September, meetings were held with Wayne Gum to discuss the draft document that he wrote on Inland Aquatic Resources and Livelihoods in Cambodia, commissioned by Oxfam GB.

The main elements of the Aquatic Resources and Livelihoods report are: an overview of current issues related to access to aquatic resources, the management and legal framework for these resources, current and planned initiatives related to these resources and recommendations to Oxfam and partners on strategies to improve access to these resources as a means to improve rural livelihoods. One of the main recommendations of the draft report is the need to explore the principle of Community Co-Management of fisheries within existing management systems as well as the need to enact appropriate legislation supportive of this principle. However, it is recognized that the management of productive fishing areas will likely be contested by authorities who are currently benefiting from current management arrangements.

Meetings with Government Agencies and Representatives

Departments of Forestry
On October 9, we met with Mr. Chea Sam Ang at the Department of Forestry in the morning. The purpose of the meeting was to review WWF work in Cambodia as well as to brief about the CBNRM scoping phase and the proposal for the implementation phase. Mr. Chea Sam Ang has agreed to provide a few staff to interview for implementation phase.

Department of Fisheries
On October 9, we met with officials at the Department of Fisheries in the afternoon. During the meeting H.E. Ly Kimhan suggested that all the implementation of the research activities should follow fisheries law. He also suggested that the project should support to government staff to get them work effectively.

Department of Nature Conservation and Protection
On November 20, we met with Mr. Chay Samith, Director of the Department of Nature Conservation and Protection at the Ministry of Environment. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the CBNRM scoping phase and the proposal for the implementation phase, as well as to review
the project concept for the Community Resource Use Assessments and Mapping in Mondulkiri.

Mr. Chay Samith agreed to review and give comments on the CBNRM scoping phase report when it is finished. He expressed interest in the proposed case study sites, particularly those related to protected areas. He added that the proposal for the implementation phase is a good idea and agreed to assist with selecting researchers from his Department to join the team.

**Royal University of Agriculture**

A meeting with representatives of the Royal University of Agriculture was scheduled for October 9, but was cancelled because of busy schedules during exam time at the University. However, meetings were held with Mr. Von Monin, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry Science, during the trip to China to participate in the CBNRM workshop.

Mr. Monin was briefed on the project proposal and provided with background materials to pass on to other Deans at the University. He was generally very supportive of the project concept, however he expressed concern over the limited number of capable staff who might not be able to join the project on a full-time basis due to other commitments. He suggested part-time research positions so that participants from the University could continue with their other responsibilities, such as teaching.

**Potential Funding Partners**

**WWF Conservation Program in Cambodia**

WWF’s Conservation Program in Cambodia includes the following main areas of focus: Protected Area Management; Biological Survey Training and Wildlife Trade Control; and Community Resource Use.

WWF has been active in Cambodia since 1993, initially supporting biological surveys to identify priority conservation sites within the country. WWF also sponsored training courses and study tours for government officials on the topics of protected area management, tiger conservation, and transboundary cooperation in natural resource management.

Since January 1998, WWF has worked with the Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (Department B), the Protected Areas Office (PAO) and the Community Forestry and Bufferzone Management Unit (CFBZMU) at the MoE, the Wildlife Protection Office (WPO) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (MAFF, and provincial government agencies and NGOs in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng Provinces to develop an appropriate protected area management strategy for Virachey National Park.

This case study initiative emphasizes WWF’s emerging interest in community resource use issues throughout the country and in the region.

**Resource Management (CBNRM) Program**

IDRC’s Natural Resource Management program in Southeast Asia deals with resource degradation and rural poverty by promoting research for developing innovations to improve the productivity and sustainability of local resource use. These innovations may be technical, institutional, or policy focused. The program intends to build multidisciplinary research skills combining socio-economic and biophysical analysis of issues such as coastal resource management, watershed management, sharing access and benefits of genetic diversity and resource conflict resolution. The CBNRM program addresses the interactions among the factors that influence natural resource access, use and management patterns.

IDRC has been active in Cambodia since 1994, focusing on rebuilding institutional capacity for good governance and sustainable development as well as developing environmental management policies.
Since 1995, IDRC has supported the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) project in Ratanakiri Province in cooperation with UNDP/CARERE. IDRC has also cooperates with RECOFTT, the Community Forestry Units in the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Forestry as well as the Royal University of Agriculture on the Community Forestry Research Project (CFRP). The PMMR project is another IDRC supported initiative implemented through the Ministry of Environment that promotes participatory management and conservation of coastal wetlands and mangrove forests in the Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary and Koh Kapic Ramsar site of Koh Kong Province. IDRC also supports regional CBNRM initiatives such as the Coastal Resources Research Network (CoRR).

This case study initiative emphasizes IDRC's interest in developing capacity for research and analysis of community resource use issues, building networks and institutional linkages, and supporting policy development.

**Oxfam Mekong Initiative**

The Oxfam Mekong Initiative is a joint undertaking of seven Oxfam organizations: Community Aid Abroad (Oxfam in Australia), Novib (Oxfam in the Netherlands), Oxfam America, Oxfam Great Britain, Oxfam Hong Kong, Oxfam Quebec, and Oxfam Solidarity (Oxfam in Belgium). This initiative intends to promote the interests of the poor throughout the Mekong region through a combination of support for long-term development activities and advocacy.

Oxfam America has expressed keen interest in supporting this case study initiative because it focuses on capacity building for CBRM, networking among organizations as well as advocacy to link programming issues with the policy level.

Some of the potential case study sites are funded by Oxfam partners, including the NTFP project in Ratanakiri (Novib), the community fisheries project in Stung Treng (CM), and the Multi-Sectoral Approach to CBRM (Oxfam America). Oxfam also supports regional projects such as the Mekong Learning Initiative in partnership with Can Tho University in Vietnam, Pakse Southern Agricultural College in Laos, IIRR in the Philippines, and ICLARM World Fish Center in Malaysia.

**Other Potential Funding Partners**

Danida, DFID

**Analysis of Issues**

**Selection of Researchers**

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<tr>
<th>Issues and Risks</th>
<th>Possible Options &amp; Recommended Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How can the selection of researchers help to strive for the objective of building institutional linkages and supporting policy development</td>
<td>• Select two national level researchers from each relevant government departments (Fisheries, Forestry, Environment, RUA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The focus is on capacity building, requires at least a core group (3-4) of fairly experienced &amp; capable staff that can pass skills onto others.</td>
<td>• Select mixture of those with skills and experience as well as those that might not have so much experience but who are capable and willing to learn</td>
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<td>3. Almost all of the trained and experienced staff are busy with other projects; we don't want to steal people away from other projects. It is difficult to find people who can or are willing to commit on a full-time</td>
<td>• Emphasize training and capacity building components of the project</td>
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<td>• Mixture of part-time coordinator researchers</td>
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basis because of their other commitments and full-time field researchers

4. There is a need for clear terms of reference for the researchers

5. There is the risk of having departments appoint inappropriate staff to join the project.

### Using a combination of media outputs and tools to reach various audiences

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<th>Key Questions Issues &amp; Risks</th>
<th>Possible Options &amp; Recommended Strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Is it possible to attach an audio-visual component to work in parallel with the case studies, as well as to record some of the &quot;stories&quot; that come out of the case studies?</td>
<td>• Include both a combination of using multimedia (eg. video) as part of the research in the case studies as well as using multimedia to present the findings (eg. on CO-Rom). The outcome will be presented on CO-Rom in a combination of paper and disk.</td>
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<td>2. What level of quality is needed for the outputs?</td>
<td>• The research approach will have to be revised to functionally incorporate audio-visual techniques as research tools.</td>
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<td>• The level of quality should be such that the products can be developed and are understandable at the local level, while being able to influence national level policy and decision-making.</td>
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