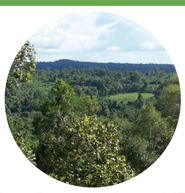
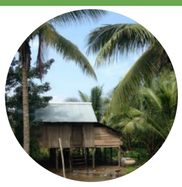
ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN ACTION

A STORY OF CHANGE IN CHIORK BOEUNGPREY, CAMBODIA



Chiork Boeungprey is one of 27 Community Protected Areas (CPA) located within the Boeugper Wildlife Sanctuary, in the northern plains of Cambodia. There are wild cattle, large water birds and rare fish species in the 242,500 ha sanctuary.



The villagers plant rice and fruit trees, raise their livestock, collect resin and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) within the Boeugper Wildlife Sanctuary. They have long lived harmoniously alongside the forest ecosystems.

Climate change is seriously affecting the people in Chiork Boeungprey. They experience periods of flooding and drought. Their crop yields are reduced, and they are forced to deplete the forests to provide for their families.

To assist communities to adapt, UNEP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment began the project 'Enhancing the climate resilience of rural communities living in protected areas of Cambodia', supported by the Adaptation Fund. The project runs from 2013 to 2017.

"Climate change is a hard burden for the community of Chiork Boeungprey. Storms bring down the trees, drought causes crop failure, animal die, and floods destroy our rice crops. These climate problems are the main cause of our poverty."

Mr. Chhiv Chhorn, Head of CPA Management Committee

"The seasonal rainfalls have changed and heat waves have become hotter. When there is extreme heat I can't work."

Mrs. Sieng Houy, Farmer Chiork Boeungprey

"Drought causes a hard life for both human and animal...

Where there is a climate problem, there will be lot more problems, including loss of jobs, loss of income and even loss of lives."

Mr. Khorn Pich, Head of Nursery, Chiork Boeungprey

UNEP's WORK WITH CHIORK BOEUNGPREY COMMUNITY

Enabling farmers to diversify their agricultural production and supporting local communities to protect the forests in the face of climate change.

Strengthening systems for patrolling CPA forests to prevent illegal logging and land clearing.

Developing climate smart agricultural production by:

- Planting on the borders of rice paddies
- Improving farming techniques for conservation
- Trialling drought-tolerant rice varieties
- Implementing adaptation activities to complement improved farming techniques

Consulting the people living in CPAs to gather knowledge about the climate change challenges and the agreed adaptation approaches.

Replanting deforested areas using plant species that provide benefits to local communities, by providing alternative livelihoods from NTFPs or helping to conserve soil.

THE COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREA NURSERY IN CHIORK BOEUNGPREY

A plant nursery has been set up in Chiork Boeungprey, to generate seedlings of indigenous trees for replanting and regrowing the forest areas.

The nursery has become a centre of learning and regeneration. Villagers come to learn about adaptation and how to develop more resilience to climate change.

The plant nurseries grow climate adapted species of fruit trees for local village families. Equipment and seedlings are distributed and training provided in establishing home gardens, agro-forestry and family livestock farming.

Water resource infrastructure and tube wells have been developed and training given to support villages in managing water resources.

"The nursery is our hope to face the challenges of climate change. It is helping us to regrow forests and provide food and income through the home gardens." Mrs. Hang Bo, Farmer, Nursery Assistant Chiork Boeungprey

MR. SVAY KHIN'S STORY

"My name is Mr. Svay Khin, I am 71 years old. I have lived in Chiork Boeungprey for 15 years with my wife and two teenage boys. I'm a member of the CPA Management Committee, with responsibility for awareness raising. I've been involved in the nursery in Chiork Boeungprey since the start. The nursery has provided seedlings to reforest our environment and fruit trees to my family and my neighbours. We've also received tube wells to support our home garden and family livestock farming, which guarantee water usage for both household and agriculture. I've attended training in climate change adaptation techniques, nursery management, seedling propagation, and family livestock farming, amongst other aspects.

The nursery activities give hope to enrich the forest, whilst the fruit trees and vegetables from my home garden give us daily food and nutrients. I am now successfully raising poultry, which has given my family financial security.

I am thankful to the nursery and the Adaptation Fund project which have supported my family. The nursery brings hope to my community, but still it's not enough because the climate change impacts are many, while the reforestation and regeneration impacts are still small and take time to flourish.I would like to see the activities scale up to help others who have not yet received support."

"The nursery brings hope to my community, but still it's not enough because the climate change impacts are many... I would like to see help for others."

REFORESTATION, REGENERATION, RENEWAL

252,914

indigenous trees replanted in deforested areas

4,300

community members trained at the Nursery Training Center and elsewhere, to support them to develop climate resilience.

1,891

families have received fruit trees for planting around their homesteads

300+

households with improved access to water as a result of water resource infrastructure development

MoE

ADAPTATION FUND

UNEP