

**An evaluation of community mapping activities in
Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia –**

**How are maps being used for establishing resource tenure,
planning sustainable land use and securing economic benefits?**

**Mapping Research Proposal,
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In Ratanakiri Province Cambodia there has been steady increase in community mapping and land use planning activities over the past 7 years. At present there are 3 NGOs and a Cambodian Government/UNDP (Seila/PLG (Partnerships for Local Governance)) partnership project conducting community land use planning/mapping in the Province. With the rapid land use changes in the Province in the past few years the ambitious intention is to try and cover all 49 communes in the Province with some kind of a land use plan and map by the year 2005.

This research will attempt to evaluate this community mapping work and suggest ways that improvements could be made to assist the expansion of this work. The process of this review will be as follows;

1. Select 3 NTFP Project target villages that have undergone mapping/land use planning activities. Villager understanding and the effectiveness of mapping activities and training will be assessed in these villages. NTFP field facilitation staff will also be interviewed to find out their level of understanding of mapping and their assessment of the effectiveness of community mapping activities. As NTFP have used both sketch and scale maps for advocating community land and forest rights an attempt will be made to assess the appropriateness of sketch and scale mapping methods for use by both local villagers' and NTFP. This part of the research will be carried out by Mr. Prom Meta – Mapping facilitator for NTFP Project.
2. Select 3 Seila/PLG target villages that have also undergone mapping/land use planning activities. Villager understanding and expectations of mapping activities and training will also be assessed in these villages. Villagers' assessment of these mapping activities will also be compared with assessments by Seila/PLG (Government) field staff who facilitated this community mapping. This part of the research will be carried out by Mr. Klot Sarem – GIS operator and mapping training facilitator for Seila/PLG Project.
3. There will also be a brief assessment of community mapping activities being conducted by other organisations including; (Cooperation Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE) and International Cooperation for Cambodia (ICC)), and a Cambodian Government/World Bank project establishing the 337,000ha Virachey National Park (VNP).
4. Conduct workshop to present results of NTFP and PLG/Seila mapping research and discuss main issues with mapping staff and NRM committee members from ICC, CIDSE and VNP target villages. This assessment will compare mapping processes with NTFP and Seila/PLG and try to draw conclusions for ways that Government and NGO/IO staff could improve villager understanding of mapping.
5. The focus of this overview will be an assessment of the different ways that the maps that have now been produced in several communities have been/are being used. In particular this research will look at if and how community maps are actually being used for establishing resource tenure, for planning sustainable land use and for securing economic benefits.

Special significance will be given to 2 villages (1 CIDSE and 1 Seila/PLG), which have been selected for pilot communal land titling by the Ministry of Land Management and Urban Planning in the coming months. Some of this research into mapping for communal land titling will be done by the concerned organizations.

Mapping Research Question

In what ways are community maps being used in Ratanakiri Province for establishing resource tenure, for planning sustainable land use and for securing economic benefits for local communities.

Research Sub questions

1. What were the original expectations of villagers when they began community mapping, and to what extent have these been fulfilled?
2. What has been the impact of NGO/IO mapping activities in Ratanakiri where there are several policy, planning, regulatory, and technical vacuums within the Government system. Have mapping activities had any impact in improving Government policy and planning processes?
3. How are existing community mapping procedures being adapted for communal land titling? How are crucial issues being dealt with such as;
 - How in swidden farming systems will agricultural land be distinguished from non-agricultural uses, i.e. how will a forest fallow be defined?
 - Are traditional criteria for classifying forest types, spiritual or ecological?
 - What ground truthing processes will be needed to distinguish between agricultural and non-agricultural types?
 - Who should be involved in mapping and boundary delineation discussions?
 - What impact on traditional management and on inter village dynamics does boundary delineation cause?
 - Which land boundaries will be used for delineation - community user/traditional or Government administrative boundaries?
 - Does mapping and land titling make communal management more or less possible?
 - Who owns the maps and associated spatial information produced during this land titling process?
4. In what ways are maps being used by local communities and development organizations to establish resource tenure, plan for sustainable land use and to secure economic benefits by and for local people?

