

‘If a tree falls...’  
Community Monitoring and  
Climate Change  
Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry  
REDD+, Cambodia

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Pact Cambodia

# Introduction



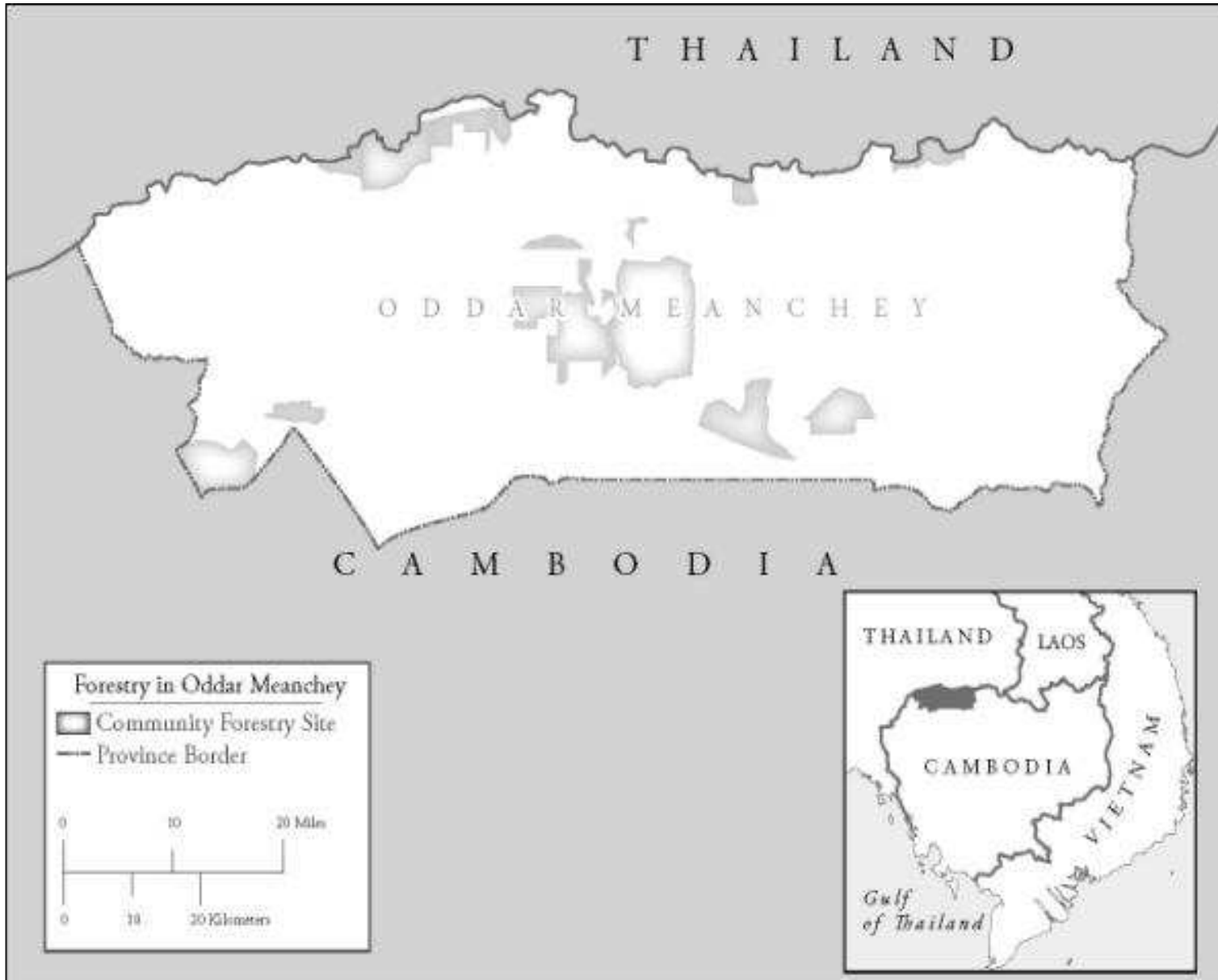
- **Background**
  - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD): a forest carbon finance mechanism
  - Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry REDD+ project, Cambodia
- **Community based monitoring** in OM REDD+
  - Forest patrol monitoring
- **Challenges**
  - Balancing technical requirements with participation
- **Implications / lessons**

# Oddar Meanchey REDD+ Cambodia



- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD): carbon + biodiversity & social (REDD+)
- Climate change mitigation
- Start February 2008; first in Cambodia
- Partners
  - Royal Government of Cambodia, Forestry Administration
  - Technical specialists (Terra Global Capital)
  - NGOs (Pact)
  - Provincial partners (Community Forestry Network)
- Demonstration project; ‘proof of concept...’

# Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia



- 13 CF sites
- 64,318 ha
- 58 villages
- 10,000+ households
- 30% of pop. below poverty line
- 2.1% deforestation 2002 – 2006

# Project goals



- Sequester 8.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (over 30 years)
- Improve local livelihoods
- Protect and enhance forests and biodiversity



*'Our forests are important to the world'*

# Project activities



- Reinforcing land tenure
- Forest / land use planning
- Forest protection: enforcement
- Assisted natural regeneration
- Fuel efficient stoves
- Agricultural intensification
- Natural resource management
- Non-timber forest products



*Sign demarcating community forest area*

# Monitoring requirements



- **Carbon**

- Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) methodology
- GHG accounting: changes in carbon stocks counted in Verified Carbon Units



- **Biodiversity** – Climate, Communities and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA)
- **Social** (CCBA)
- **Institutional** – Pact, donors, CFMCs etc.

# Monitoring OM REDD+

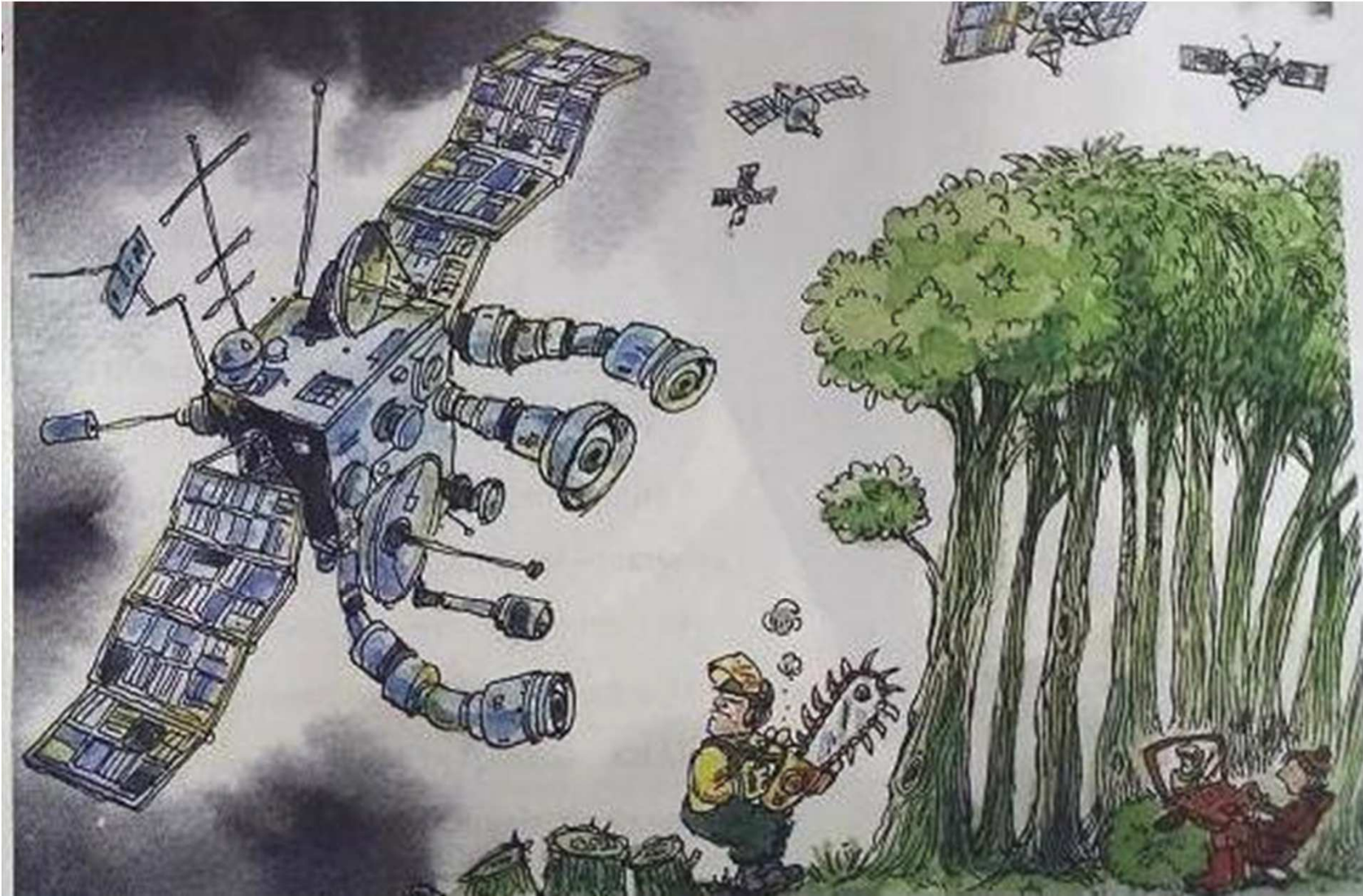


Category	Method	Reporting
Social Assessment	Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Household Survey	VCS, CCBA
Biomass inventory	Forest sample-plot survey	VCS
Land use land class (LULC) change	Remote sensing	VCS
Biodiversity assessment	Field observation	CCB
Project documentation	Activity reporting	VCS, CCBA Pact

# Participatory rural appraisal



# Monitoring REDD+



The Economist. 'Seeing the world for the trees' December 16 ,2010

# Participatory monitoring in Community Forestry REDD+



- Commitment from project partners to community forestry model; devolved management
- Benefits of participatory monitoring: quality, utilisation, ownership, capacity building, efficiency
- Consistent with Pact's approach & development philosophy: 'developing local solutions...'
- Community involvement critical for project success

# Community based monitoring in OM REDD+



- **Design** Project development / consultation (2009/10), capacity assessment (Jan 2011), MERL design workshop (Aug 2011)
- **Data collection.** i.e. forest patrol monitoring, biodiversity assessment, enforcement, PRA, HHS, community monitors etc.
- **Data interpretation & feedback.** CF meetings, workshops, forums.
- **Use.** Reporting, action planning, using results as 'proof of concept...', advocacy, communications etc.

# Participatory MRV Design Workshop (Aug 2011)



# *Frontline SMS* for data collection



- Forest patrol monitoring
- Expected benefits of SMS:
  - Efficiency in reporting
  - Real-time monitoring
  - Adaptive management
  - Increased responsiveness
  - Data verification



# Frontline SMS Forms



- Originally trialed in 3 sites: since up-scaled to 13
- Data fields:
  - Patrol log
  - Enforcement
  - Biodiversity
  - Fire
- Form designed / used in Khmer

A screenshot of a mobile phone screen displaying a form in Khmer. The form has several text input fields and checkboxes. At the bottom right, there is a button labeled "Previous" with a back arrow icon.

# *Frontline SMS: findings...*



- **Adoption.** Mixed response to Frontline SMS by community groups
- **Increased efficiency.** Reduced transaction costs collection/reporting over long term
- **Data reliability.** Quality control; double reporting an issue (20% of reports, hard copy)
- **Technical issues.** Submitting forms, phone coverage etc.
- **Capacity building.** Text messaging uncommon. Support and training required

# *Frontline SMS: reflection*



- **Expectations high.** Technology / innovation; a 'silver bullet'?
- **Environmental** factors a major influence on adoption & use; i.e. security concerns, season etc.
- **Payments** can provide a perverse incentive
- **Centralised system.** Server not based in province



Photo: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2076597,00.html>

# Challenges in participatory monitoring



- **Volunteer burnout.** Indirect benefit from participating
- **Local / tacit knowledge** can be a barrier; *‘why document what we already know?’*
- **Ownership** of system/project
- **Reliance** on external / technical partners
- **Gender.** Increasing participation of women
- **Quality assurance** demands high (external audit & verification)
- **Consistency.** Varying conditions, capacity etc.

# Implications



- Although **REDD+** can exclude local stakeholders participation is an inherent part of community forestry
- **Competing** information demands
  - Carbon, social, biodiversity, institutional
  - Precision vs. participation
- **Community based MRV** works as part of a bigger system: support, resources, governance, capacity
- **Ownership.** Potential lies in collecting and using relevant data locally; i.e. developing enforcement forms, developing capacity, basing server in OM



Thank you!