

# Forest Conflict in Cambodia: An Overview

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(ABiC) – 24 January 2006

# Presentation Outline

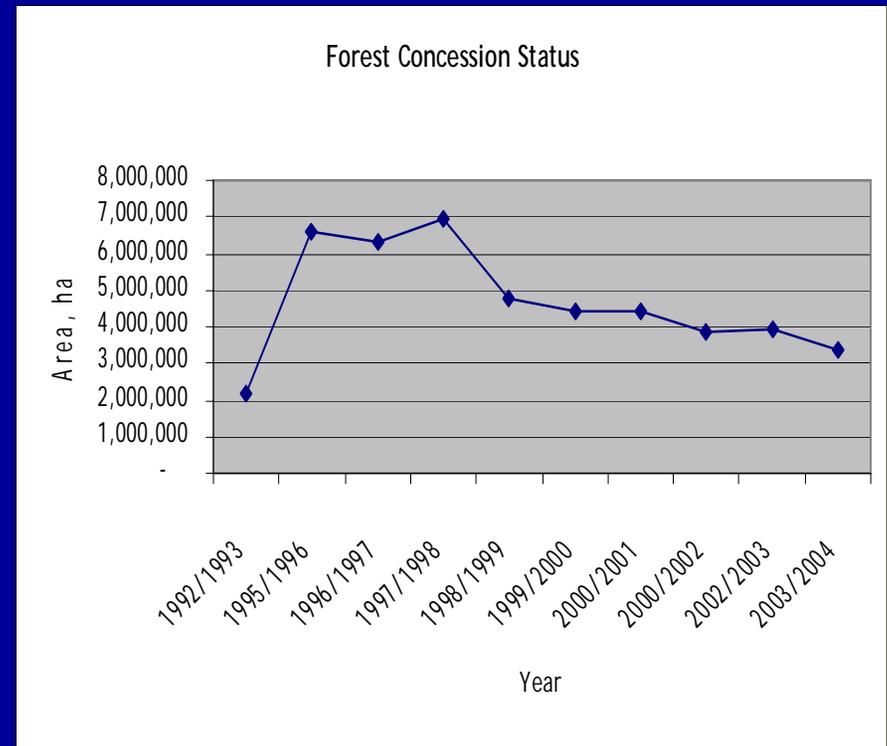
1. About Cambodia
2. Forest Management
3. Conflicts
4. Strategic Consideration

# 1. About Cambodia

- South-East Asia
- 13.81 million people
- Poverty 35%
- Most of the poor are in rural area relying on agriculture and natural resources

# 2. Forest Management – Forest Concessions

- 1994-1997: Forest concessions system introduced and practiced – allocation on map: impacts on ecology and environment, livelihoods, culture and tradition, etc.; 1999 (01 Jan/PM) – ban on collection permits system
- Collection permits system, forest concessions system and illegal logging transport and trucks
- Forestry Law 2002



SC1

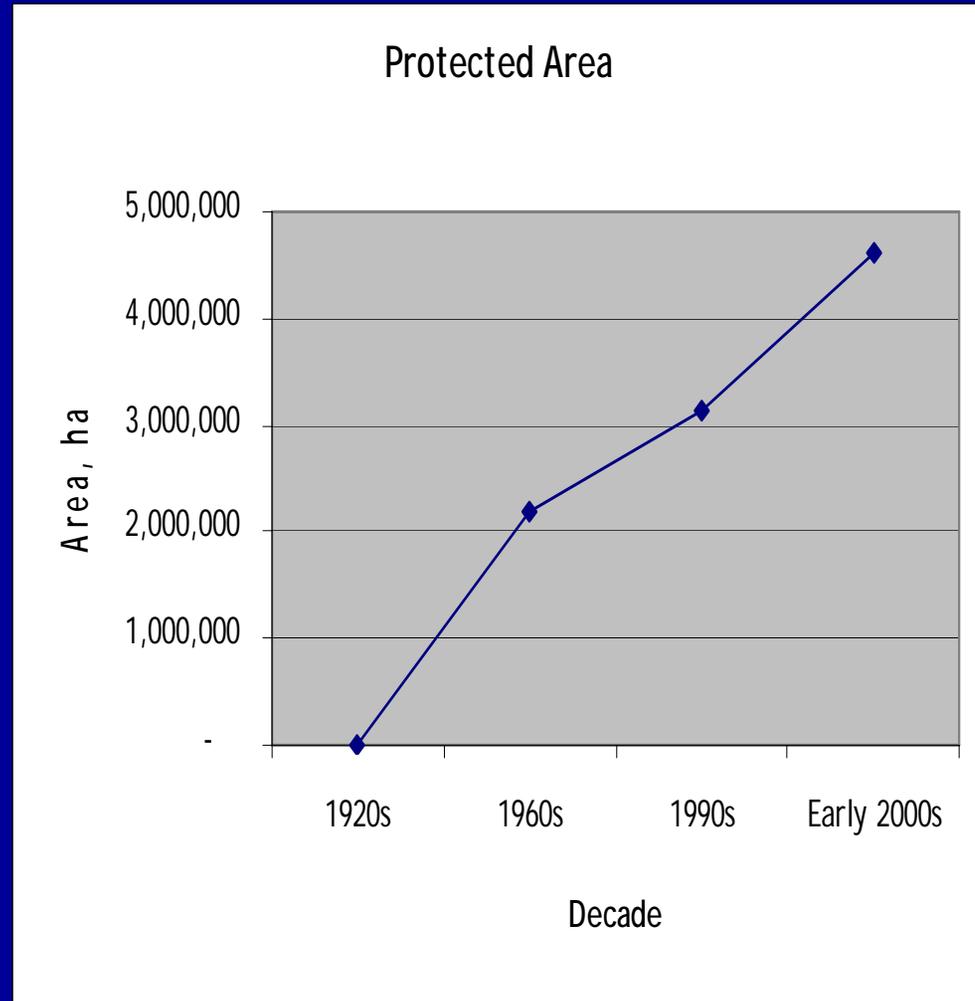
**SC1** 1997: 3.2-4.3 million cubic meters - logs - of which 6-8% legal (WB/CDRI - ADB)  
Srey Chanthly, 9/6/2005

## 2. Forest Management – Community Forest

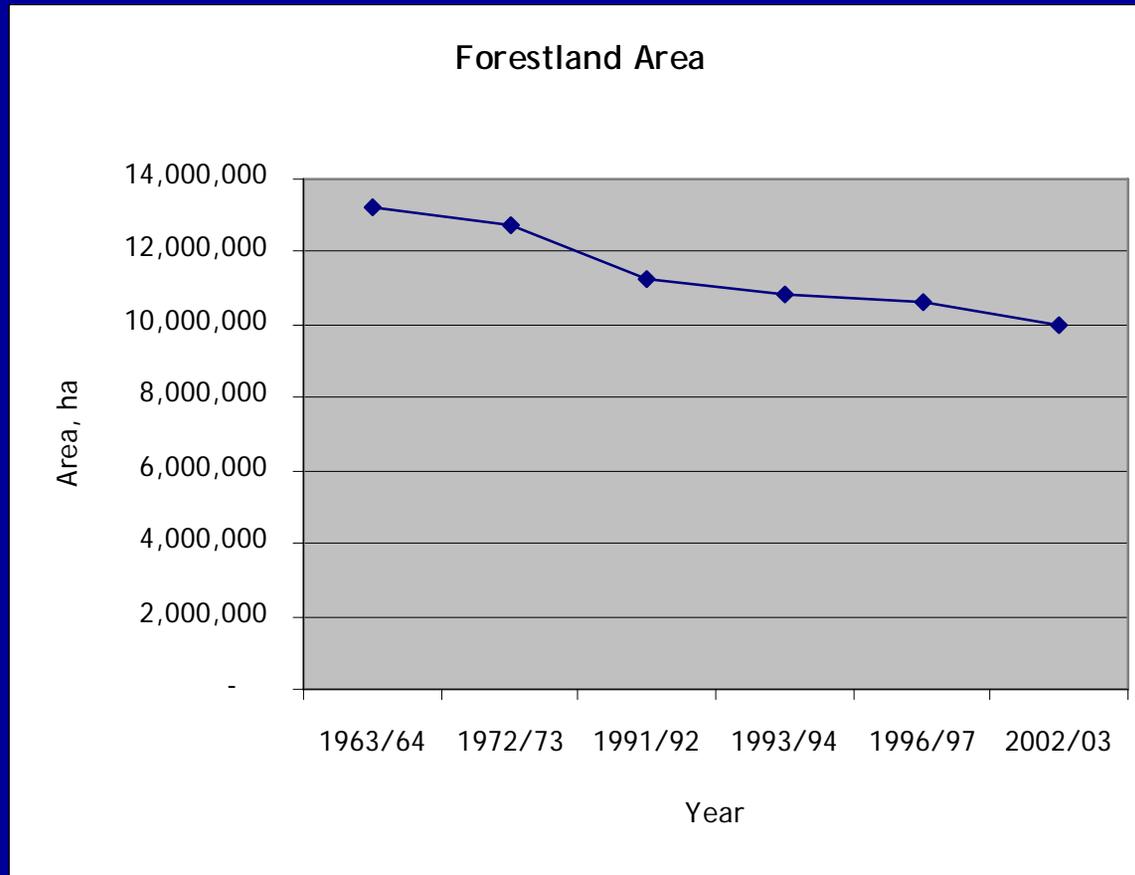
- Traditional – locally managed
- 1990: NGOs and RGC started to formalize
- Regulation – Forestry Law and Sub-decree on CF
- 274 CFs (55,568 ha (2002) / 218,687 ha (2004))

# 2. Forest Management – Protected Areas

- 1920s: 10,800 ha
- 1960s: 2.2 mil ha
- 1990s: 3.3 mil ha
- 2000s: 4.6 mil ha



# 2. Forest Management – Forest Cover



# 4. Conflicts – Enabling Factors

- Timber – valuable and relatively easily harvested and sold
- Competing use of land
- Limited respect for laws
- Landlessness and poverty
- Minority voice and power of forest-dependent communities

# 4. Conflicts – Direct Causes of Conflict

- Land grabbing
- Encroachment by agricultural settlers
- Land Concessions
- Management vacuum in suspended forest concessions
- Illegal timber harvesting
- Forest use restrictions in protected area and forest

# 4. Conflicts – Underlying Causes of Conflict

- **Weak governance:**
  - **Forest communities** – lack of understanding of their rights and tenure denial.
  - **Absence of forest use classification and comprehensive land use planning**
  - **Economic incentives** – illegal harvest of timber and forestland grab, absence of law enforcement.
- **A growing population of young, landless people**
- **Improved access to forest access** by the extension and upgrading of the nation's road network

# 4. Conflicts – Impacts

- Livelihoods of local communities, including indigenous peoples
  - 0.15 million affected directly by land conflicts
  - 0.7 million affected indirectly by forest conflicts
  - 1.7 million affected directly and indirectly by both land and forest conflicts through loss of livelihoods
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Threat to and loss of habitats for wildlife (including rare and endangered species, which are globally threatened)
- Climate change

# 5. Strategic Consideration

- Finalize the national **legal and spatial planning framework** for allocating forest resource and land use/tenure rights.
- Instill **respect for the rule of law** regarding forest and land allocation, tenure, and use. (Accelerate political reform to reduce corruption and political interference)
- Develop the **capacity of forest communities** to effectively demand their rights.
- Implement **mechanisms and procedures** for conferring tenure and use rights through community land titles combined with community forestry agreements.
- Improve **natural resource governance** at the province, district, and commune levels including use of the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) methodology
- **Provide alternative livelihoods** for potential or actual land encroachers.
- **Monitor and report forest crimes** and community-level conflict.
- **Penalize** forest crimes

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ATTENTION**