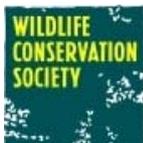


WORKSHOP REPORT

VISION FOR THE SEIMA BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AREA: PROCESS AND RESULTS



WCS – CAMBODIA PROGRAM / FORESTRY ADMINISTRATION
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Introduction

This report presents a summary of the results of the visioning process for the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Project (SCBP) that took place at the Keo Seima Basecamp on 5th, 6th and 7th July 2006.

The Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area (SBCA) was declared in 2002 by decree from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The total area of the SBCA is 3,034km² (303,400 Ha). The core area is 1,550 km² (155,500 Ha) and is entirely within Monduliri province. The combined area of the eastern and western buffer zones is 1,484km² (148,400 Ha) in both Monduliri and Kratie provinces.

The SBCA contains a high diversity of forest types. There are four broad types are generally recognised; evergreen forest, semi-evergreen forest, mixed-deciduous forest and deciduous dipterocarp forest. Other vegetation types that are found in SBCA include dense patches of bamboo, areas of regenerating *chamkar* (shifting cultivation) and the unique grasslands of the Sen Monorom plateau.

This mix of vegetation types probably contributes to the high species richness in the area. To date 326 bird species, nearly 80 mammal species and over 50 reptile and amphibian species have been recorded in SBCA. There are likely to be many more reptiles, amphibians and small mammals that have not yet been recorded. Forty species that are Globally Threatened, near threatened or data deficient have been recorded in SBCA including Tiger, Asian Elephant, Gaur, Banteng, Black-shanked Douc, Yellow-cheeked Crested-gibbon, Giant Ibis and White-winged Duck.

Approximately 10,000 people live in settlements within or bordering the SBCA. Around 70% of this population are from Phnong or Stieng ethnic groups. A large proportion of them are reliant on forest lands which are used for their traditional swidden agricultural system. There is also high dependence on forest products for consumption and sale. Principal among these is the collection of resin from forest trees (mostly from mature *Dipterocarpus alatus*) the sale of which is a vital source of cash income. Other important natural resources include rattan, bamboo, fish and wildlife.

Workshop Goals

The workshop had 3 main goals:

1. To create a vision for the SCBP that was developed and accepted by the main stakeholders in the area.
2. To develop a general conceptual model for the project that is robust enough to provide a clear overview of the project while at the same time not being so complex as to exclude a non-technical audience.
3. To help all the stakeholders involved in the process develop a clearer understanding of the project, what it is aiming to achieve, and how. More specifically it aimed to highlight the links between the wildlife and livelihood components of the project, and how all current activities are linked.

NOTE : This workshop aimed to produce a broad conceptual model of the project. Detailed technical conceptual models for the wildlife and livelihood components of the project will be produced separately at a later date. These more technical models will be part of an internal process to help guide project management.

Process

The process followed was broadly similar to that used in the development of conceptual models in other WCS sites. This was adapted, however, to meet the needs of the workshop and the capacity of the participants. The targets chosen are more general and over-arching than the typical, single species targets used elsewhere. Similarly, threats and interventions have been consolidated into relatively broad categories. These are still appropriate and provide a vision that is easier for a non-technical audience to understand.

Participants in the workshop were drawn from several sectors and were chosen to represent all the important local stakeholders in the project. Participants included:

- SCBP project staff, from the Forestry Administration (FA), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Provincial Department of Agriculture, Provincial Department of Land Management, Provincial Department of Environment, Military Police, Border Patrol
- Local FA employees not working directly with the project.
- District Chiefs
- Commune heads
- Village chiefs
- Village Participatory Land-use Planning (PLUP) committee members
- Other NGOs active in the landscape.

A complete list of participants is provided in appendix II

A conceptual model is a graphic representation of the situation in the site. The model for the SBCP is presented below. This is the ultimate product of the visioning workshop. It contains four elements. Goals, Targets, Threats, and Interventions

Goal. This lies at the top of the model (see below). This is the overall objective of the project, it is designed to be non-specific, but visionary, long-term and inspiring.

To create the goal the participants were divided randomly into three groups. These separate groups include representatives of the major categories of participant : project staff, WCS technical advisors, local villagers and local administrators. Each group was tasked with creating a goal that encompassed both the wildlife conservation and livelihood-support aims of the SBCP. To help create a goal, a time frame of 20 years was given. To help in understanding what a goal is, the facilitators asked “what condition would you like the area to be twenty years from now?”. This part of the process proved more time consuming than expected, possibly because of the participants unfamiliarity with the concept of general over arching goals. The participants were given enough time however and all three groups produced suitable goals.

The three goals produced by the groups were compared. They were broadly similar and were consolidated into a single phrase that was effective in English and Khmer. This goal was presented to all the participants who accepted the combined, overall version.

Targets. These are more specific statements describing elements of the landscape that are the focus of project activities. For the SBCP this included both wildlife conservation targets and livelihood targets.

To identify targets the workshop participants were divided into two groups. These were not randomly selected, but chosen to represent the two components of the project. One group consisted of SBCP staff from the law enforcement and biodiversity monitoring teams, this group focused on wildlife conservation targets. The second group consisted of local villagers and other stakeholders, together with SBCP staff from the participatory land-use planning (PLUP) team.

The second team focused on identifying livelihood targets. The latter group concentrated on targets regarding land and natural resource management, which are within the scope and remit of the project.

Each group was asked to identify any targets that they think relevant, and long lists of possible targets were produced. A conceptual model gets unwieldy and difficult to use if it has too many targets. Therefore a process of consolidation followed where the targets were grouped into broader categories. This resulted in two wildlife conservation targets and three livelihood targets.

Threats. In the context of the SBCA these are human activities that impact directly on the targets and result in undesirable changes to them. In the model threats are divided into two types, direct and indirect. Direct threats impact on the target immediately, indirect threats are the causal effects driving the direct threat. These categories are often not clear however and there may be some overlap between direct and indirect. It is important to remember that this is a model, a simplified representation of a complex situation.

The identification of threats followed a very similar process to that used for targets. The same two groups convened to discuss separately the threats to wildlife conservation targets and threats to livelihood targets.

A process of consolidation followed. During this process it became apparent that there was considerable overlap between threats to wildlife and threats to livelihoods. Threats that had been identified by both teams could be grouped. At this consolidation stage threats were classed as either direct, or indirect, and causal chains created linking threats with targets.

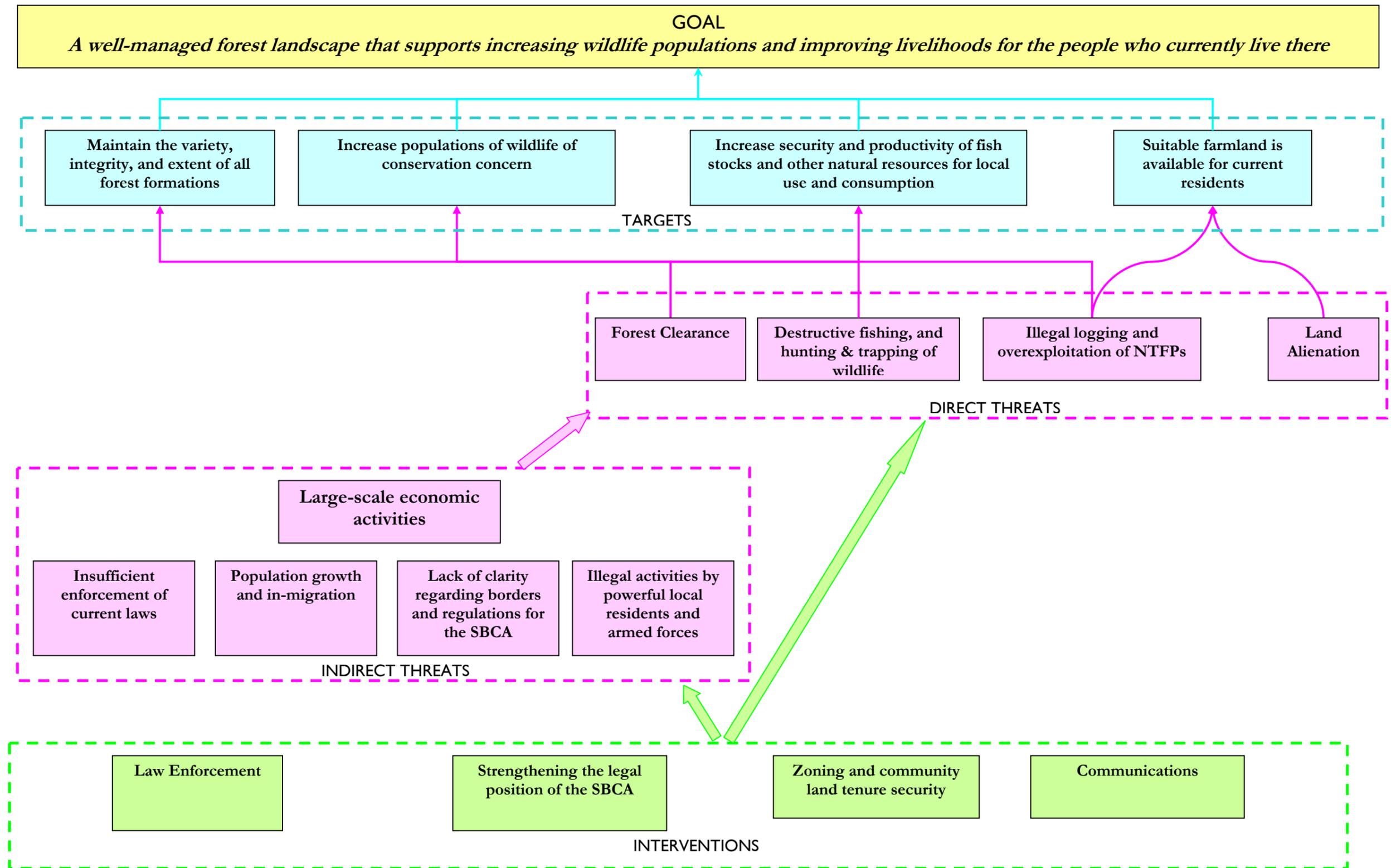
Interventions. These are actions carried out by the project to stop or reduce threats. As with targets and threats in this model, the interventions proposed are general and represent a suite of different activities that address one or all of the threats.

All workshop participants worked as a single group to discuss potential strategies. Activities that are currently being carried out by the SBCP were described and links to threats were highlighted. The participants then discussed these activities and proposed additional ones that they thought were needed.

Result

Presented below is the generalised conceptual model for the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Project. The diagram shows the goal, targets, threats and interventions. The notes following it provide more detailed descriptions of each item.

Seima Biodiversity Conservation Project Conceptual Model



Goal

A well-managed forest landscape that supports increasing wildlife populations and improving livelihoods for the people who currently live there.

Targets

Maintain the variety, integrity, and extent of all forest formations

This includes the four major forest types: evergreen forest, semi-evergreen forest, mixed deciduous forest, and deciduous dipterocarp forest. The conservation of representative areas of these is fundamental to maintaining the forest landscape and wildlife species. Implicit in this target is the conservation of important water catchment areas. This target also includes areas of bamboo and rattan, that are important food resources, open grasslands (*veal*), pools (*trapeang*), mineral licks, and permanent water sources.

Increase in populations of wildlife of conservation concern

Species of conservation concern include all Globally Threatened species. The SBCA is of particular importance for the conservation of the following species:

Species	IUCN Category	SBCA Importance
Black-shanked Douc	Endangered	Global
Germain's Silvered Langur	Data Deficient	Probably Global
Yellow-cheeked Crested Gibbon	Vulnerable	Global
Dhole	Endangered	Probably Regional
Tiger	Endangered	Regional, potential for Global
Asian Elephant	Endangered	Regional
Eld's Deer	Vulnerable	Possibly Global
Banteng	Endangered	Global
Orange-necked Partridge	Endangered	Possibly Global
Green Peafowl	Vulnerable	Global
Germain's Peacock-pheasant	Low Risk / nt	Global
White-rumped Vulture	Critically Endangered	Probably Global
Giant Ibis	Critically Endangered	Global
White-winged Duck	Endangered	Probably Regional
Yellow-headed Temple Turtle	Endangered	Unknown
Elongated Turtle	Endangered	Unknown

This target also includes the conservation of important prey species for large carnivores, specifically Sambar, Red Muntjac, Wild Pig, Gaur and Banteng

Suitable farmland is available for current residents

There is sufficient land available for current residents to continue with paddy, swidden and permanent agriculture.

Increase security and productivity of fish stocks and other natural resources for local use and consumption

There is continued access to plant-based non-timber forest products (NTFP), including resin, bamboo, rattan, forest fruits and other foods, and medicinal plants. The quantity and quality of these NTFPs will be maintained or enhanced in the next 20 years.

There is also continued access to fish and game. These are for domestic consumption only and are not for sale.

Threats

Direct Threats

Land Alienation – the loss of farm land (including fallowed swidden areas) that is taken away from local residents. This occurs due to economic concessions and illegal private land sales on communal lands.

Destructive fishing, and hunting & trapping of wildlife – including unsustainable and destructive fishing methods, and all hunting and trapping of wildlife in the forest.

Illegal logging and overexploitation of NTFPs – including felling trees to sell wood, typically from luxury timber trees, the felling of resin trees, and the unsustainable over-collection of plant based non-timber forest resources such as bamboo, rattan, and forest fruits.

Forest Clearance – including both by outside companies and by local residents and in-migrants. This includes areas cleared for new settlements, new roads, mining, farming and plantations, and damage caused by large-scale forest fires.

Indirect Threats

Insufficient enforcement of current laws – current law enforcement activities are not preventing a sufficient proportion of illegal activities.

Illegal activities by powerful local / provincial residents and armed forces – Powerful actors at the local and Provincial level who are funding, supporting or taking part in illegal or damaging activities.

In-migration and population growth – In-migration for economic reasons by people from other districts and provinces and natural population growth by current residents.

Lack of clarity regarding borders and regulations for the SBCA – low awareness by local residents as to the actual location and borders of the SBCA, and what activities are permitted within the conservation area.

Large-scale economic activities – e.g. including economic concessions, large-scale conversion to cashew, rubber or cassava plantations, large-scale mining operations. These are typically proposed by non-local or foreign actors, often with significant political connections and little local consultation. This was considered to be a larger threat than the others, which has the potential to totally transform the area.

Interventions

Zoning and community land tenure security – continuation of the Participatory Land Use Planning program to strengthen local land use planning, land titling and the communities' ability to prevent land grabbing by in-migrants. The process is also being used to help outline rules for natural resource utilisation. The development of zoning for the SBCA outlining what activities are allowed in different areas.

Law enforcement – continuation of law enforcement activities to control illegal clearance, logging, hunting and trapping, and the over-collection of NTFPs. This also includes work carried out to prevent the establishment of large-scale economic concessions.

Strengthening the legal position of the SBCA – including on going work to prevent the establishment of large-scale economic concessions, clarifying the status of the land, reclassification of portions of the SBCA to Protection Forest, and a ministerial Sub-decree for the project.

Communications – this is the only intervention that is currently not being carried out formally by the SBCP. It includes activities to improve the capacity of local institutions to enforce the law, and manage their natural resources, basic environmental education and programs to improve the awareness of local residents about the SCBP, including project location and borders, allowable activities, forest law and SCBP activities. It also includes activities to collect the opinions and suggestions of local people to feed back to the management authorities.

Appendices

i Agenda

Wednesday July 5th - Introduction, goals, method, vision

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:30 – 8:40	Welcome speech	Peter Clyne – WCS Assistant Director, Asia
8:40 – 9:00	Welcome	Governor of Mondulkiri Province
9:00 – 9:20	Introduction to SBCP	Men Soriyun – Project Manager
9:20 – 9:40	Wildlife of SBCA	Edward Pollard – Technical Advisor
9:40 – 10:00	Livelihoods in SBCA	Pet Pheaktra – Deputy Project Manager
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:00	Visioning goals and process	Peter Clyne / Men Soriyun
11:00 – 11:10	Questions	Peter Clyne/ Men Soriyun
11:10– 12:00	Group sessions for SBCP vision	3 groups
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH – film show	
13:30 – 15:00	Group sessions for SBCP vision	3 groups
15:00 – 15:15	BREAK	
15:15 – 16:30	Consolidation of Vision	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
16:30 – 17:00	Review Vision	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun

Thursday July 6th – Targets, threats, interventions

Time	Activity	Facilitator
7:30 - 7:45	Review of progress	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
7:45 – 8:00	Introduction to targets	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
8:00 – 10:00	Group session on targets	1 livelihoods & 1 wildlife group
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 12:00	Consolidation of targets	Peter Clyne/ Men Soriyun
12:00 – 14:00	LUNCH – film show	
14:00 – 14:10	Introduction to threats	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
14:10 – 15:30	Group session on threats	1 livelihoods & 1 wildlife group
15:30– 15:45	BREAK	
15:45 – 17:15	Interventions	Peter Clyne / Pet Pheaktra

Friday July 7th – Summary : Vision for the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Project

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:30 – 9:15	Review of progress and model	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
9:00 – 10:00	Review and consolidate model	Peter Clyne/Men Soriyun
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:00	Final review of vision and goals of SBCP	Joe Walston – Director, WCS Cambodia Program
11:00 – 12:00	Closing address	Governor of Mondulkiri Province
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH	

ii Attendees

Name	Position	Institution
Men Soriyun	Project Manager	Forestry Administration – SBCP
Pet Pheaktra	Deputy Project Manager	Forestry Administration – SBCP
Joe Walston	Country Director	WCS – Cambodia
Peter Clyne	Assistant Director	WCS – Asia
Tom Evans	Technical Advisor	WCS – Cambodia
Edward Pollard	Technical Advisor	WCS – Cambodia
Sorn Pheakdey	Database officer	WCS – Cambodia
Seung Pisot	Project Trainee	CRDT
Eun Somol	Staff	DPA
Sok Ko	Biodiversity Coordinator	Forestry Administration – SBCP
Nut Meng Hor	Staff	Forestry Administration – SBCP
On Somaat	Staff	WCS – SBCP
Ti Ratana	Staff	CRDT
Cheu Chhen	Camp Coordinator	WCS – SBCP
Srong Cheak	Village Chief	O Rona
Pruit Pil	Villager	Pu Kong
Chen Sopeak	Villager	Sre Chuk
Muk Bora	Staff	AbiC
Sok Heng	Village Chief	O Am
Nuon Somphorn	Deputy Governor	Keo Seima District
Lun Bunya	Staff	Forestry Administration – SBCP
Pet Villa	Staff	Forestry Administration – SBCP
Kem Sawuon	Staff	SBCP
Jua Laen	Village Chief	Pu Chiem
Sream Kaim	Deputy Governor	O Reang District
Tu Chandi	Staff	MoE, Snoul WS
Om Sawuth	Patrol Staff	Military Police
Pech Nerong	Staff	Forestry Administration – Keo Seima
Pen Peun	Staff	Forestry Administration - SCBP
Maub Nora	Assistant	SSP
Rithy Reacheasei	Patrol Staff	SCBP
Hang Mary	Facilitator	District Department of Agriculture – SBCP
Meas Polet	Staff	Forestry Administration – Sre Preah
Khot Kei	Village Chief	Pu Char
Peut Pei	Commune Chief	Sre Preah
Tut Someun	Village Chief	Sre Preah
So Chamreun	Deputy Army Commander	Army
Hing Mesa	Community Forester	Forestry Administration - TFT
Ly Sophea	Student	Royal University of Agriculture
Kam Keun	Commune Councillor	Sen Monorom
Pol Gnork	Village Chief	Andong Krulong
Kom Peak	Village Chief	Gati
Kal Nut	Commune Chief	Sre Chuk
Seam Sombong	Commune Councillor	Sre Chuk

WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society

SBCP – Seima Biodiversity Conservation Project

CRDT – Cambodia Rural Development Team

TFT – Tropical Forest Trust