

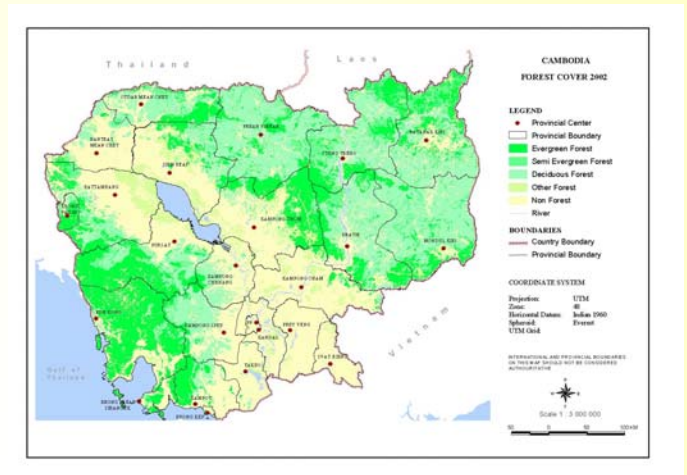


Forest Classification in Cambodia

Master's Thesis by Mak Visal

Introduction

According to the land policy framework of Cambodia, state land management needs further study for transparency and better action plan for future benefits and sustainability. Currently, the land is under control of various departments and ministries. It is not clearly defined which land is under the authority of which ministry. This creates much difficulty for management and optimal use of this land. Conflict arises not only between ministries' departments but also government and civilians. As forest covers more than 50% of the country's surface area, a classification of forest for optimal usage and management is needed, which is connected to the classification of land ownership in Cambodia.



Theory

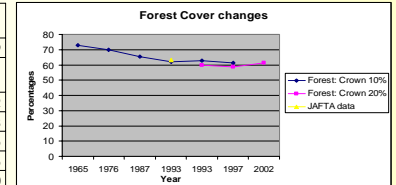
Forest can be classified based on its cover, designation, ownership or characteristics:

FAO Global forest cover	Classification by Designation	Classification of Characteristics
Forest	- Production Forest	- Primary Forests
	- Protective Forest	- Modified Natural Forests
	- Conservation Forest	- Semi-Natural Forests
	- Social Services Forest	- Productive Forest Plantation
	- Multiple Objective Forest	- Protective Forest Plantation
Other Wooded Land	- Protective "Other Wooded Lands"	- Primary "Other Wooded Land"
	- Conservation "Other Wooded lands"	- Modified "Other Wooded Land"
	- Social Service "Other Wooded lands"	- Semi-Natural "Other Wooded land"
	- Multiple Objective "Other Wooded lands"	- Protective "Other Wooded Land" Plantation
Other Land with Tree Cover		
Other Land		
Inland Water bodies		

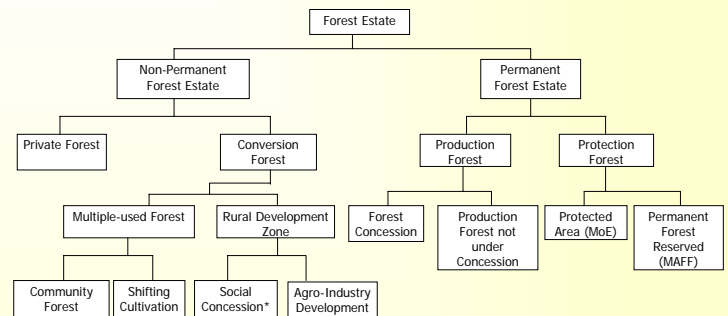
Forest Ownership	Public Ownership
	Private Ownership and Other or Unspecified Ownership
	ITTO Categories
Land Cover Class adopted by UNEP/EAP Asia Pacific	(a) Forests Where Logging Is Not Allowed: - Protection Forests On Fragile Lands - Forests Set Aside For Plant And Animal Species And Ecosystem Preservation
	(b) Production Forest
	(c) Conversion Forest
IUCN Categories of Protected Area	Forest
	Shrub Lands
	Savannas
	Grasslands
	Wetlands
	Cropland
	Snow and Ice
	Barrenlands
	Water Bodies
	No Data Available
Category I:	- Category I (a) Strict nature reserve/wilderness
	- Category I (b) Wilderness area
	Category II: National park
	Category III: Natural monument
	Category IV: Habitat/Species Management Area
	Category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape
Category VI: Managed Resource Protected Area	

Forest Cover/Cover Changes

Forest Types	Area(ha)	Percentages
Evergreen Forest	3 720 493	20.49
Semi Evergreen Forest	1 455 183	8.01
Deciduous Forest	4 833 890	26.62
Other Forest	1 094 728	6.03
TOTAL FOREST AREA	11 104 293	61.15
Non-Forest	7 056 383	38.85
TOTAL AREA	18 160 677	100.00



New Proposed Forest Classification



* Land Allocation for Social and Economical Development

Methodology

The study is based on qualitative research methods. Primary and secondary data are collected and analyzed. Primary data is gathered by semi-structured interviews and questionnaires with various stakeholders concerned with classification of forest and land. By analyzing existing global and national classifications as well as the present situation of classification in Cambodia, an appropriate classification system could be developed.

Recommendations for Next Steps

- Forest Demarcation
- Preliminary Administration Set-up
- Steps for Forest Classification Process:
 - New Definition of Forest Land
 - Identification Criteria for Land Classification
 - Preliminary Forest Land Use Capability Map
 - Identification, Verification and Demarcation of Boundaries