

# Land Use Planning Contribution Towards Management of Encroached Forest Land in Kompong Thom, Cambodia

Master's Thesis by BUNNA LIM (Cambodia)

## Research Background

Cambodia is one of the South-East Asian Countries, which inherits many natural resources, especially forests and based on the inventory, the forest land covered a large portion of land around 73 percent between 1950s and 1970s and 61 percent in 2002. The figure proved that it has been declined because of land use and forestland cover change patterns associated with demographic growth and economic development (FA, 2002-2003).

As it is generally known, forest areas provide millions of people with opportunities to get environmental benefits such as fresh air, landscape beauty, cultivation activities, home to wildlife and the peaceful and quiet place to live. During the recent decades, forest logging and forestland encroachment are serious issues in Cambodian society. Many parts of forestland have been destroyed and occupied for land speculation. Attempting to illegally occupy forestland is high impression of national and international watchers. Land management encompasses all activities associated with the management of land and natural resources that are required to achieve sustainable development (Enemark, 2005).

## Problem Statement

- ▣ Disadvantages of forest loss
- ▣ Impact on local people's living condition
- ▣ Local ecosystem destruction
- ▣ Need of forestland-use planning

## Research Objectives

- ▣ To identify some triggers of forestland encroachment
- ▣ To study the impacts of the encroachment of forestland on rural people's living
- ▣ To integrate potential Forestland Use Planning into encroached forestland

## Hypothesis

Forestland has been encroached by some high-class group, especially the rich people, few number of military officials and high ranking government officials' relatives because of lack of law enforcement and the activity negatively impacts the living conditions of local people who are living near forest areas. To cope with the encroached forestland, the proposed FUP is required to improve the forestland in order to restore ecosystem and without proper FUP, land will gradually lose its natural value.

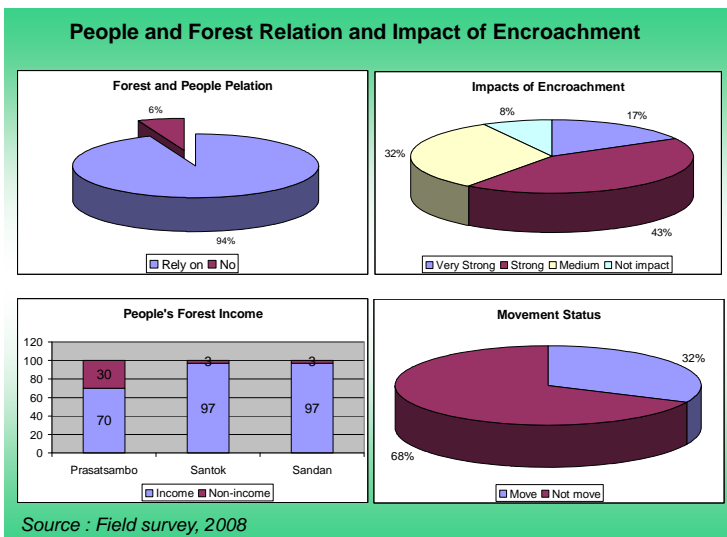
## Research Methodology

- ▣ Qualitative and quantitative research methodology
- ▣ Three districts selected for field research (100 households were interviewed)

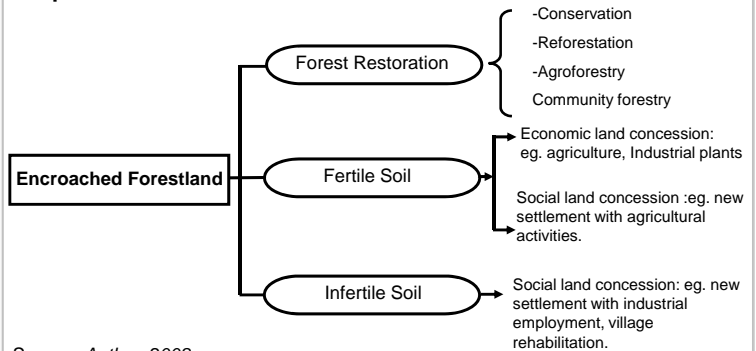
Interviewees	Three Districts in Research Areas		
	Sontok	Prasatsambo	Sandan
Households	33	33	34
Local Gov't Officials	3	3	3

Source : Author, 2008

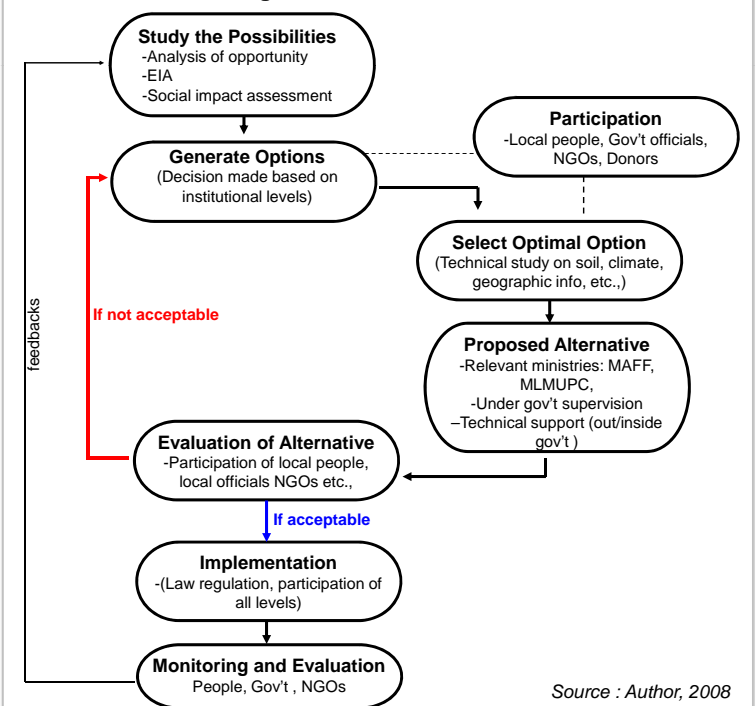
## Research Findings



## Proposed Forestland-Use Alternatives



## Forestland-Use Planning Process



## Conclusion

The research study results proves that the hypothesis is accepted because most of local people who are relying forests for their livings are affected by the encroachment which is masterminded by some high-class groups in Cambodia, aimed at speculating on increase of land value in future. To recover the impacts, forestland use planning is the important remedy to solve the problem.

## Recommendations

- Improvement of education and public awareness
- Creating job opportunities
- Strengthening the capacity building of Gov't staffs
- Strengthening law enforcement and confidence in court