



ACTION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSAL ON GREEN LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Project Title: GREEN LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (GLP)

Project Description:

The project will present Cambodian university graduates between the ages of 20-30 with an opportunity to provide a year of service to their country. Volunteers will be placed in under-served rural and urban communities through a demand-driven process, for a period of one year.

The project will directly benefit the people living in communities surrounding forested areas in three selected districts (Kong Pisey, Odong, and Bor Seth) of Kampong Speu Province, and will directly benefit school teachers and students who will influence their communities to adopt positive attitudes to environmental preservation. The activities which will focus on teachers and students aim to strengthen awareness and knowledge related to natural resource use and the environment by conducting TOT training for one hundred teachers in twenty five selected primary and secondary schools, who will then transfer this knowledge to students. The training will occur one day in a week for one subject and there will be twenty five teachers per cluster. Five Model green schools will also be established as demonstration units of green livelihoods to the communities. Another program of the project will focus on people in the community. The project will provide training to them to understand how to use and manage their own community's natural resources by providing extension-related information including facilitating the establishment of two community forests in the target areas. ARD will involve and collaborate with the Forestry Administration as well as other key stakeholders to assist the community forest committees in registration as Community Forests including conducting forest surveys, establishing agreements, adhering to Regulations and By-Laws, carrying out demarcations, inventories, and developing Management Plans. Moreover in order to improve the livelihoods of the people in the community forests the project will include training in appropriate agricultural techniques to increase farm yields on small land and will establish farm demonstrations as models for the farmers in the community to follow, with a view to reducing further forest land clearing.

The project aims to highlight the importance of natural resource management and the

environment for communities, teachers, and students through a series of trainings. The establishment of community forests and the model green schools will serve as a resource for the community, teachers, and students for exploring viable environmental knowledge and practice. Furthermore the livelihood of villagers residing in the communities adjacent to the forest areas will also improve through the application of appropriate agricultural techniques which will increase farm yield on small-scale farms. The farmer field schools training will include training in integrated agriculture techniques such as family animal raising, rice production, fruit tree and vegetable cultivation. Demonstrations will include Goat raising, pig and chicken raising, Integrated Farming Systems, and Biogas Demonstrations. The criteria and process for villager selection will be based on their participation in/commitment to the project, present farming land, and priority will be shown to poor/vulnerable persons (widows, handicapped people, elderly, many dependents in family).

Applicable MDG Targets:

The project will directly support the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) on ensuring environmental sustainability and addressing extreme poverty and hunger by improving food security. The project is committed to meeting the CMDGs by implementing activities that aim to strengthen the capacity of school teachers, students, and villagers in the community through training, and the establishment of both model green schools and community forests. At least 40% participation from women will be ensured, in the planning process, running activities including community forest committees, model green school leaders and farm demonstrations. Training in agricultural techniques and farm demonstrations will improve the livelihood of the villagers in target areas through increased farm yields. All these activities are to ensure environmental sustainability, eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, promote gender equality and empower women. As a result of the proposed interventions, there will be enhanced awareness of the CMDGs at the local level, and an increase in the direct contribution of volunteers to these goals.

Name of proposing Organization:

Action for Research and Development (ARD)

Project Partners: The project will be implemented with close cooperation from other NGOs and institutions, as follows:

- Technical departments of the government: Agriculture, Forestry Administration, Education, and Environment.
- Southern Tonle Sap Inspectorate of FA (responsibility over CFs)
- Local Authority: Provincial and District Authorities, Commune Council
- Civil society and community organisations and schools.
- NGOs: There will be cooperation with all the NGOs in the target areas through regular meetings and discussions to share experiences with each other, viz., CEPA, CEDAC, CelAgrid, MLUP BAITONG, etc.

Project Duration and Anticipated Starting Date:

The project is planned for a one year period starting from 01 December 2006 to 30

November 2007.

Grant Amount Requested (\$USD)

Grand Total of Budget	\$43,705.00	US dollar Forty Three thousand and seven hundred and five
Funding Request from UNV	\$36,500.00	US dollar Thirty six thousand and five hundred
Fund Contribution from ARD	\$7,205.00	US Dollar Seven thousand and two hundred and five

I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Despite more than 10 years of relative peace and stability in Cambodia, the country still suffers from poverty as its most serious problem. This is especially felt by the people living in the countryside who constitute more than 80% of the total population. The legacy of war, the endemic problem of corruption in the government and in the private sector, and the low level of foreign investment has all contributed to the perpetuation of poverty. With limited livelihood opportunities, the people in the countryside have been forced to rely on the country's land, water and forestry resources as sources of sustenance. Thus, the problem of poverty has put more stress on the country's natural resources. Rebuilding human resource capacity, ensuring sustainable livelihoods, and reversing environmental degradation are a major challenge and but are key to a better future for Cambodia.

Today many hundreds of highly motivated, eager and intelligent Cambodian youth graduate from universities with little prospect of employment. Frustrated and bitter over the limited options for employment and the slow pace of reform and development, Cambodian youth are increasingly marginalized, and in some cases are turning to violence, drugs and crime, as evidenced in recent statistics. This situation if not addressed poses a serious threat to Cambodian stability and efforts to develop the country. But even more importantly it is a lost opportunity to take advantage of a valuable national resource. ARD aims to harness and channel the energies and resources of Cambodia's youth in support of environmental awareness and sustainable development, and to build a network of principled and aware young leaders and citizens who will be agents of transformation committed to building a better future for all Cambodians.

The proposed target areas are Kong Pisey, Odong, and Bor Seth districts in Kampong Speu province, located in the western part of Cambodia. This area is rich in natural resources serving the livelihoods of the communities, such as forests, rivers, and wild animals. All are valuable in supporting the people's daily lives. But in the target areas, overexploitation of timber for fuel and clearing of forestlands has rapidly lead to deforestation encroachment on wildlife sanctuaries, and the loss of biodiversity. Moreover, villagers in these areas have been unable to produce enough rice and suffer from food insecurity because of poor soil, low rainfall, and lack of irrigation. ARD will work in these three target districts in Kampong Speu by aiming to improve sustainable natural resource management both within the school and community by providing training, model green schools, community forests, and by helping to improve the livelihoods of the community through training in agricultural techniques and farm demonstrations.

ARD is well positioned to make a unique contribution to the achievement of CMDGs as we are already working in remote and under-served rural communities.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal's objective is very closely aligned with CMDGs and the objective of the UNV small grants program: it will expand awareness of the CMDGs in civil society, particularly amongst the youth and rural communities, it will engage volunteers in the promotion of MDG-related activities, and will provide an avenue for the contribution of volunteers towards MDGs.

The objective of the project is to build and strengthen knowledge and awareness of natural resource and environmental management within schools and communities in order to improve livelihoods through sustainable natural resource use and environmental protection.

ARD views teachers and students as central to tackling environmental problems and finding solutions because they can be catalysts that encourage the community to learn and change habits toward greener livelihoods. For this reason, ARD's projects will use a holistic approach, aiming to address issues in a comprehensive and integrated way by involving the education sector. The following are the proposed outputs of the project:

Output 1: Improve awareness of natural resource management and environmental protection among teachers and students

Objective: To build and strengthen knowledge and awareness of sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection through conducting special events/workshops and TOT training to Teachers, so that those teachers can educate their students in class or on study tours.

Output 2: Establish Model Green Schools

Objective: To show case best practice regarding sustainable natural resource use through establishment of five model green schools for the community to follow. These schools will run important activities such as establishing tree nurseries and tree planting (only tree species that are indigenous to the forests), establishing libraries focused on natural resource and environmental protection, use of recycled materials for educational purposes/decorating etc. and also organizing Environment Day, Forest Day, Wild Animal Day etc.

Output 3: Establish Community Forests

Objective: Two community forests will be established and registered by the Provincial Forestry Administration in the selected villages of the target districts. The Government requires certain procedures to be followed for successful registration of community forests so ARD will help communities in the target areas that wish to register community forests to do so.

The training course will provide enough knowledge within communities that they become

decreasingly dependent on outside help to manage forests. The training courses will also include details on the daily running of community forests, such as how to organize structure, small working groups, mapping, conducting forest resource inventories, the standard format of community forests management plans, agreements, community forest policy and laws, and sub-decrees.

Output 4: Conduct small farm demonstrations for the community so that they are able to apply appropriate agricultural techniques and earn additional income for their families.

Objective: To improve livelihood of the villagers residing in the communities adjacent to the forests through providing appropriate training in agricultural techniques to increase farm yield on small land parcels, and establishing farm demonstrations as models for the farmers in the community to follow. The majority of the beneficiaries will be small/marginal farmers who depend on the forest and farming for their livelihood. ARD will support appropriate alternative agricultural techniques training which the community forest members will identify themselves, increasing farm yields and improving food security.

Output 5: Implementation Support and Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: To build and strengthen the knowledge and experience of ARD volunteers in project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation effectively.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

The project focuses on developing **human capital, community natural resources and environmental development** which is an important basis for the sustainability of the project.

To ensure the successful implementation of the project, a total of fifteen volunteers supervised by the Executive Director of ARD will be involved directly in the implementation process. The qualified volunteers from universities specialising in Agriculture, Community Development, Natural Resource Management and the Environment are recruited through transparent selection procedures. The procedure includes public announcement for volunteers needed, submission of C.V. and Letter of Interests, shortlist and interview by the management team of ARD who includes Founders. An orientation to the job and the project at the beginning of the operation as well as training at regular intervals will be provided at least every quarter focussing on self development, Community Forestry Sub-Decrees, Community Forestry Guidelines Prakas, organisational skills (management plan development of CFs, demarcation etc.), national development goals as embodied in the CMDGs & NSDP, technical skills related to their sectors of service, and exposure through field visits, to innovative development practices and tools. Opportunities for volunteers to share their experiences will be organised at quarterly intervals during the year of project implementation.

Output 1: Improve awareness of natural resource management and environmental protection among teachers and students

Two ARD volunteers will be deployed to be responsible for implementing the activities associated with this output. 100 teachers (at least 40% female) will be invited to attend

the TOT training by dividing into five separate clusters¹ and focusing on natural resource management and environmental protection. The schools which located in medium point of each cluster will be select for the training place for their cluster. The training will take place one day (4 hours) a month and there will be 20 teachers from each cluster and training as a total of 5² clusters is expected. In such strategy ARD volunteers will have enough time to prepare and develop handouts, lesson plan, methodology, and materials for the training. The total period of the training is 10 month and there are 10 necessary topics will be selected for the training (one topics for one day training). After getting training directly from ARD volunteers, all teachers will continue to provide the training to at least 2500 students in twenty five selected primary and secondary schools with following up and monitoring from ARD volunteers.

Output 2: Establish Model Green Schools

Cooperating closely with the volunteers in charge of implementing the activities in output 1, there will be two more volunteers responsible for helping establish the model green schools. Reforestation is also a priority of the schools and thus tree planting activities will be conducted. Only tree species that are indigenous to the local forests will be planted in the nurseries and in the school compound, furthermore the model green school will also encourage the use of recycled materials. A library will be established in each model school and the efficient use of resources will be promoted among students. During the period, five model green schools will be established with the participation of ARD's volunteers, local authorities and the education department/office. The local authorities and officials from the education department/office will assist in the main activities to ensure that good practice in the model schools is sustained.

Output 3: Establish Community Forests

Four volunteers will be responsible for running the Community Forests in the target districts. Two community forests will be established with the voluntary participation of people in the targeted communities and with the approval of the local authorities and relevant government departments. At least 500 villagers residing in the communities adjacent to the forest areas will actively participate with selected community committee members to protect the forests from illegal deforestation and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in the community. Community leaders will gain skills in negotiation, conflict management, and facilitation through meetings and extension. The dissemination of information on topics related to the principle of establishment of community forests, rights and advantages of organised communities through posters, video and sports in 6 villages will be conducted for the local communities so that they are able to understand about the advantages of community forests and their right to participate in forestry and environmental protection in their own communities. Illegal logging inside community forests will be reduced. Women will be promoted to participate in the management of forest resources and will be encouraged to take on leadership roles.

¹ To improve the effectiveness of the training, 100 teachers from 25 schools will be selected for training. Five schools will form as one cluster, i.e 25 schools comprise of 5 clusters.

² In one month, 20 participants from each cluster school will be invited for one-day training course, i.e. cluster one in week one, cluster two in week two and other in the following week. (Only one day training in a month for each cluster).

Output 4: Conduct small farm demonstrations for the community members so that they are able to apply appropriate agricultural techniques and earn additional income for their families.

Seven volunteers specialised in agriculture will implement the activities to achieve output 4. The target communities are mostly living depending on cultivation therefore the project will improve livelihoods by providing training in appropriate agricultural techniques to increase small farm yields. One hundred villagers residing in the communities adjacent to the forest areas will be selected to attend in 5 farmer field school trainings focused on agricultural techniques. Fifty farm demonstrations will be conducted to contribute to livelihood improvement. The criteria and process for villager selection will be based on their participation in/commitment to the project, present farming land, and prioritise the most poor/vulnerable people (widows, handicapped people, elderly, those with many dependents in the family).

IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ARD is governed by an Executive Committee which includes six respected and highly committed members, who have a decision-making role in policy and ensure programme and financial oversight. Furthermore, ARD also have strong support from the Advisory Board Council and Founder Council, which have an advisory role to help the Executive Committee to manage and implement the programme effectively.

ARD will contribute management expertise and time, materials and partial funding through in kind donations necessary to place volunteers in the field. Volunteers will contribute one year of their own time to serving rural communities, with small monthly living allowance.

In order to be selected as a suitable volunteer placement community, communities must make their own contributions to ensure the success and sustainability of the volunteer's work. Communities and schools must demonstrate that they require a volunteer by agreeing to clear terms of reference for his/her work and having mutual, realistic expectations.

The project has been designed in close collaboration with key actors and policies and is designed to support the CMDGs. Extensive consultations have been undertaken with local communities, Government departments, NGOs and donors.

The focus of the project on improving agricultural production is closely linked with the government policy as stipulated in the **rectangular strategy**. The project will be implemented by ARD volunteers who will work closely with the Government Departments such as Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Education and Environment and with involved NGOs. The project aims to encourage officials from the government departments to be involved in project monitoring and capitalization of the project experiences in addition to attending the different seminars and workshops organised by the project. The main responsibility of ARD volunteers is to identify the problems and needs of the target people through village surveys and meetings, to select the target group, to build capacity of the target people, assist in the establishment of sustainable Community Forest sites (2) and to regularly follow up and monitor the project activities.

Gender mainstreaming will be developed and integrated in the project, whereby farmers, teachers, and students will continually discuss gender and environment concepts and will be encouraged to draw up a gender policy for the project work. Gender roles will be analysed and results will be shared among stakeholders to foster attention to gender roles and capacities not only in the project but also in the community and in livelihood development. The aim will be for village women and school girls to play an active role in decision making related to the activities with a view to increasing their participation in school and community development.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS AND INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Main outputs and indicators will be the number of teachers and students in selected primary and secondary schools in target districts who received training on natural resource management and environment, the number of model green schools and community forests established, the number of farmers who have adopted new farming practices, number of women participants in Community Forests, the number of sustainable supportive livelihoods established, positive changes in the forest cover in the target area and the number of commune councils in target communes who participated in/ benefited from programmes. The addition output is the number of young women and men who will have effectively completed their one year of service as volunteers in rural communities and both volunteers and community members will be satisfied with the results of the partnership and will be able to identify concrete improvements in the lives of their target groups, and in the networks and cooperation established within the community. Furthermore, they will be able to link these improvements to the CMDGs.

(See annex 3 for a complete list of project objective, outputs, and indicators of success)

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project volunteers will follow up the impact of the activities in target schools and communities by using a monitoring format that includes the list of the impacts presented in a log frame matrix. Attendance lists will be collected at each meeting. Trainings and events, and minutes of related meetings at community level will be documented in the Khmer language.

A clear volunteer structure was set up within ARD to ensure the smooth and effective work of the volunteers in project implementation. Three volunteers will be nominated as Volunteer Officers (VOs), one in charge of project output 1 and output 2, one in charge of project output 3, and another one in charge of project output 4.

The VOs will represent the other volunteers, facilitate, and lead in their group while there is one more volunteer nominated as Volunteer Coordinator (VC) to be responsible for coordination of all the activities of the project.

The VOs will prepare monthly reports of activities and achievements in English and submit to the Executive Director (ED) through the VC. The VC will prepare quarterly reports of achievements both in Khmer and English for the local authorities and relevant stakeholders.

The Executive Director will supervise the implementation activities through the log-frame, periodic reports from project volunteers and field visits. The ED will also prepare quarterly progress updates for the Advisory Board Council and will also prepare reports according to Donor requirements.

At the beginning and end of the project, ARD will also conduct a participatory survey/assessment and workshops to identify the problems and strategies to preserve the natural resources and environment and to provide a baseline for measuring the impact of the project. All ARD volunteers, as well as selected teachers, students and representatives from the local authorities and technical departments will participate. In addition, the volunteers will also be required to gather information for planning from the field level in preparation for these meetings. The VOs are responsible for managing the project output under the supervision of the VC, and with final approval by the Executive Director. Budget projections are also part of the planning process.

Follow up and monitoring the project activity in the field will take place on a monthly basis by the top level of organisation structure (the Executive Director) with report preparation. An Internal Assessment will be conducted at the end of the project period when the volunteers have completed the project activities. Donors and partners will be invited to give input to the terms of reference for the Internal Assessment.

As the lead agency, ARD will be officially responsible to the Donors for contractual management; and will directly report to the Donors in respect of official deadlines.

To ensure the transparency in management and control of finances, ARD will set up an account in ACLEDA BANK Head Office (Phnom Penh, Cambodia). An independent auditor will be appointed at the end the year by the Executive Committee with advice from the Advisory Board Council and Donors, and the audit report will be made available to all donors to the competent authorities of Royal Government of Cambodia.

VII. WORK PLAN AND PROJECT BUDGET

Please see more detail in:

- Annex 1: Project Budget Plan
- Annex 2: Implementation Plan
- Annex 3: Project Logical Framework
- Annex 4: ARD Background and Achievement
- Annex 5: Abbreviation