

## **ECOSORN planning process is participatory and decentralized** **“Commune Action Plan and District Integration Planning Workshop”**

- **Introduction of the concept:** Community Action Plan, the participatory planning process of ECOSORN strategy is to develop Community Action Plan at commune levels. These plans have to be considered as project’s work plan at commune level, agreed and undersigned by all parties (Provincial Department of Planning, District Governor and Commune Council). The Commune Action Plans must be elaborated in coordination with existing plan and with the maximum participation of local stakeholders, using participatory approach.
- **The development of Community Action Plan follows 5 steps, first and 5<sup>th</sup> steps link with the existing decentralized planning process. The process starts with the consultation of existing plans and ends with the introduction of Commune Action Plan in the existing planning process and plans.**

### **Strategy to ensure the maximum participation of the project’s stakeholder beneficiaries**

The whole process allows the involvement of numerous stakeholders at 4 levels:

- Provincial
- District
- Communal
- Village

Community Action Plan integrated the different components to ensure maximization of benefits derived from the different activities and optimum participation of local communities.

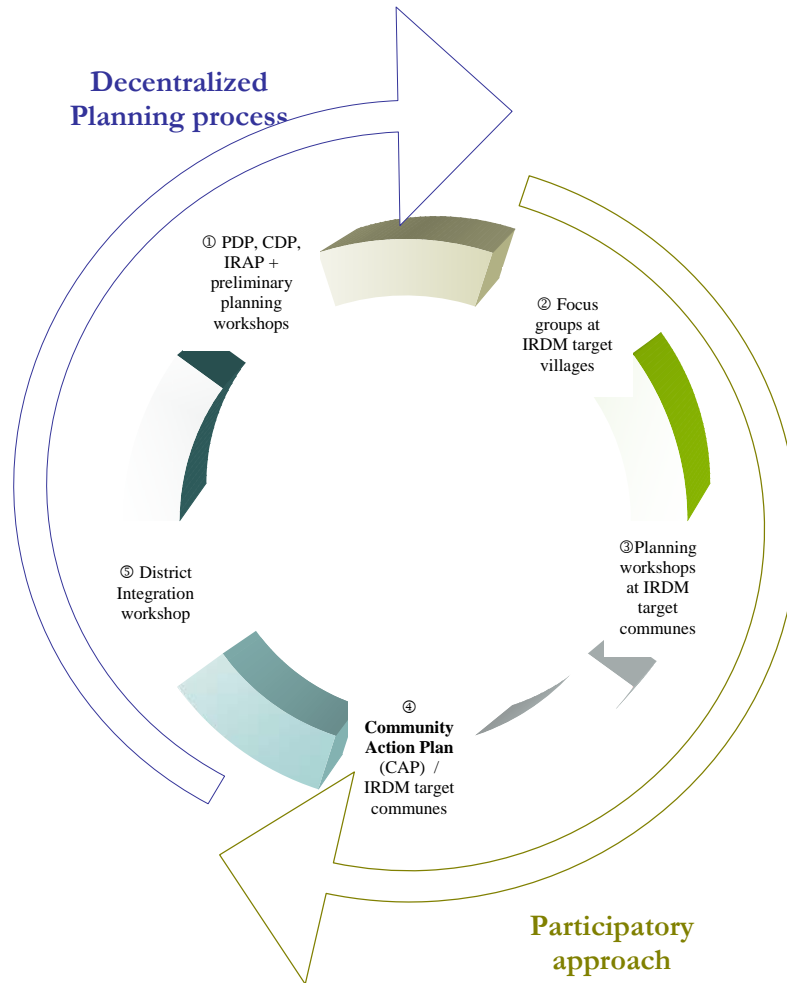
### **The process:**

- Planning workshop (2 x 1 day): 2 strategic planning workshops to develop ECOSORN Overall Work plan and Annual Work plan 1 with regards to national policy and strategy and provincial and district existing development plans.
- Village meeting (1 day)
  - o Participants: Commune chief, Village Chief and various stakeholders in the village;
  - o Location: villager’s house or primary school;
  - o Participatory tools: brainstorming, problems scoring and ranking through election, problem tree analysis, identification of solution, definition of a Village Action Plan (following ECOSORN Logical Framework Matrix), village mapping, village data collection/ review selection criteria;
- Commune consultation (0.5 day)
  - o Participants: District Governor, Commune Councils and all Village Chiefs;
  - o Location: Commune Office;
  - o Methodology: introduction of the VAP, reviewing of existing Commune Development Plan and achievements, decision of priorities for the commune, definition of a Commune Action Plan, commune mapping, commune data collection/ reviewing selection criteria;
  - o Integration of the village and commune action plans into ECOSORN Logical Framework Matrix: Commune Action Plan Matrix;
- Participation to District Integration Workshop
  - o Participants: Provincial Governor, District Governor, Provincial Department Planning officers, different provincial department officers, district office staffs, commune councils, NGOs or donors;
  - o Introduction of the Community Development Plan by the commune councils, including activities planned with ECOSORN;
  - o Signature of a temporary agreement between Provincial Department of Planning, District Governor and Commune Council and ECOSORN;
  - o Synthetic plans forwarded in Khmer and English and provided a summary table of CAP to District Governor and Commune Council and Village Chief;
  - o integration of VAP/ CAP/ ECOSORN/ PDP

- Integration of CAP in ECOSORN M&E system;

### The planning Cycle

**Details of the different steps: Community Action Plan development cycle, in line with existing planning processes and emphasis on participatory approach.**



PDP: Provincial Development Plan  
CDP: Commune Development Plan  
IRAP / accessibility Action Plan per District  
IRDM: Integrated Rural Development Module

### Community Action Plan in Siem Reap Province:

After selecting target villages for Annual Work Plan 1, from July to August 2006 ECOSORN Community Development Planner organized consultation meetings in 12 villages, 10 communes, 5 districts to develop Village Action Plan and Commune Action Plan.

ECOSORN Community Development Planner had adopted participatory and decentralized planning process by involving their beneficiaries in all steps of planning process. The followings are key planning steps conducted at village, commune and district level:

1. Village Action Planning (VAP)
2. Commune Action Plan (CAP)

### 3. District Integration Workshop (DIW)

#### Village Action Plan meeting:

The meetings were organized by ECOSORN's Community Development Planner (CDP) at village level with support from and participation of Village Chief, Commune Chief and various stakeholders in the village such as Paddy farmers, vegetable growers, Extension Workers, Community Health Workers, teachers, credit agent, vice village chief, village development committees. (60 % were women involved in the meeting).



The meeting was chaired by Commune Chief with participation from ECOSORN's project staff (Provincial Coordinator, Community Development Planner and Local and International Technical Assistants). The Commune Chief opened the meeting, Provincial Coordinator briefed about ECOSORN project and Community Development Planner explained the process in conducting Village Action Planning.



Community Development Planner used brainstorming method to get farmer's opinions about their community problems. Some farmers find difficult to express their opinion, however with the skills in motivating men and women in the discussion and active orientation by different members of ECOSORN team: 20 – 25 list of problems were identified.



In prioritizing those problems, Community Development Planner facilitated the selection of problems by villagers. The ECOSORN teams distributed the **RED bean seeds to MEN** and the **WHITE bean seeds** to WOMEN to elect the problems they individually thought was their priority.

- The results of problem scoring and ranking through election by **women** were the lack of food, lack of capital, lack of clean water, many people were sick, lack of animal breeds and animal sickness.
- The problems ranking by the **men** concentrated on infrastructure, road damage, lack of system irrigations, dam canal or water gate, low rice yield, lack of job, lack of rice and vegetable growing technique.

To deeply understand those priority problems, villagers were chosen to vote for 3 – 4 priority problems for analysis using problem tree. Villagers discussed the root causes of those problems and its effect and discussed to find appropriate solutions. Those solutions were included into the draft of Village Action Plan. Village Chief took a leading role in drawing village map.

The followings are results of Village Action Plan, which has 25 - 30 activities and are categorized according to the five ECOSORN Components / Groups.

***Component 1: Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries***

Those activities included: Training on rice intensification, fertilizer use, the use of insecticide, vegetable growing and secondary crop production, fruit trees planting, animal raising, fish raising, animal vaccination and provided agricultural inputs to pilot farmers (rice seeds, plants and vegetable seeds, animal breeds, fish ponds, fingerlings and fertilizers). Trainings are provided to direct beneficiaries.

***Component 2: Economic and Employment Opportunities***

Those activities included: vocational training such as training on sewing, motorbike repairing, radio or TV repairing, hair cutting, training on make-up & hair dressing, stone carving, wood carving and training on construction.

***Component 3: Empowerment of Local Communities***

Those activities included: Training on gender, training on women trafficking law, family planning, sanitation, primary health care, epidemic disease and establishment of literacy class.

***Component 4: Improved Access to Social Amenities***

Those activities included: Water well & latrine construction, road construction, provided credit through MFIs.

***Component 5: Safer and Permanent Access to Arable Land and Social Infrastructures***

Those activities included: Training on land law, access to land title.

In general, the Village Action Plan meeting take 1 full day to complete and the input were taken from all stakeholder involved in the process.

**Commune Action Plan meeting:**

After completion of the Village Action Plan, ECOSORN team organized Commune Action Plan meeting the next day at Commune Office with participation from all commune council members. There were 25 - 30 participants attended: Deputy District Governor, District Agriculture Chief, Agriculture Extension Worker, Commune Chief and 07 – 10 Commune Council members and all village chiefs.

The meeting was chaired by District Governor with participation from ECOSORN's project staff (Provincial Coordinator, Community Development Planner and Local and International Technical Assistants). The District Governor opened the meeting, Provincial Coordinator briefed about ECOSORN project and Community Development Planner explained the process in conducting Commune Action Planning.



Village Chief presented the results of Village Action Plan form their villages. Community Development Planner reviewed the existing Commune Action Plan Matrix 2006 to the participants, and let them look for the prioritized activities that were not yet implemented or accomplished last year, and if they wanted to include into ECOSORN Commune Action Plan under 5 components of the project.

The existing of Commune Action Plan was mainly concentrated on infrastructure development. The ECOSORN Community Action Plan are integrated and diversified according to the ECOSORN 5 components.



After the discussion with all participants, more activities (in addition to Village Action Plan) were identified and included into Commune Action Plan. Those activities are:

**Component 1:** Rice trial, exposure trip, IPM training, training to village veterinary workers, water management committees

**Component 2:** Established vegetable producers' association, vegetable marketing and some vocational trainings

**Component 3:** Training on administration law, planning, monitoring and evaluation for commune councils

**Component 4:** Road construction, latrine and water well construction for Commune Office

**Component 5:** Training on Land Law for commune council and dissemination, awareness campaign for mines and UXOs, support to victims of land mines and UXOs in target area.

The Commune Action Plan meetings took a half day to complete. Community Planner explained Commune Council members how to consolidate Village Action Plan into Commune Action Plan, how to review it and incorporate it into the District Integration Planning Workshop. The Commune Chief took a leading role in drawing commune map.

Finally, Representative or District Governor closed the meeting and thanked all participants especially ECOSORN teams and reminded the Commune Council and all chiefs of villages that they had to concentrate and strongly supported ECOSORN Project in order to contribute in poverty reduction and improved people livelihood in the rural area, the meeting finished with pleasure and was fruitful.

### **District Integration Planning Workshop:**

ECOSORN Team participated in District Integration Planning Workshop in the project's 5 selected target districts: Chikreng, Souttr Nikum, Srei Snam, Kralanh and Angkor Thum districts (16 - 30 November 2006). The workshop was held at District Governor Office.

The meeting was generally chaired by District Governor and with honorable presence by a representative of Provincial Governor. The participants of the meeting were Provincial Department officers, district office staff, all Commune Council members, NGOs and IOs.

The meeting was started by Deputy District Governor, speech by Deputy Provincial Governor and explanation of the process by provincial department of planning.

Chief of Commune presented their commune development plans for 2007. Participants, especially donor or relevant departments were allowed to read and discuss the commune development plan carefully during break and make linkage with their development plan in the commune.



For ECOSORN Project, the commune councils integrated Commune Action Plan into their matrix of Commune Development Plans. Then, Temporary Agreements for Commune Development Plan 2007 were signed between ECOSORN and Commune Councils witnessed by District Chief, Provincial Department of Planning and Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Below is Temporary Agreement of ECOSORN with **Chansar** Commune Council, which states only main activities related to the 5 components of ECOSORN project. The details of activities will be provided separately as CAP documents to Commune Councils and District Governor. ECOSORN will inform Commune Councils all project activities to implement and accomplish.

**Temporary Agreement with Commune Council:**

1. Training on agriculture techniques, animal raising and fish raising fro pilot farmers.
2. Provision of production inputs to pilot farmers.
3. Training of direct beneficiaries.
4. Implementing an IPM on rice in target commune
5. Development of fruit nurseries in target commune.
6. Training to village veterinary.
7. Providing vocational training at commune level
8. Capacity building of commune councils.
9. Providing training on health care to community and literacy class.
10. Training on land law to commune councils.

Commune councils reported the numbers of Temporary Agreement of commune development plans 2006 had been accomplished and the numbers of Temporary Agreement of commune development plans 2006 which had not been accomplished by commune councils fund, Government Organizations or NGOs.

Commune councils presented the priorities commune development plans 2007, especially infrastructure with the commune maps.

Provincial department planning officers invited some government organizations and NGOs to present briefly their projects and their commune action plans 2007 supports. As a new project working in the District, ECOSORN were invited to brief our project and activities to the participants and their Commune Action Plans 2007.

Provincial department planning officers reported the total numbers of Temporary Agreement commune development plans 2007 of district that were supported by government organizations and NGOs.

At the end of the meeting, District Governor closed the district integration planning workshop and thanked all participants coming and sharing.