

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF
THE COASTAL ZONE – CAMBODIA, PHASE 2

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The project started in March 2000 with the development objective to improve living conditions for the coastal population through sustainable use and development of the coastal zone. The immediate objectives are pursued through three components: (1) the policy, legal and institutional component provides the foundation for the CZM framework in line with the social, economic and political realities of the country. The process is designed to assist the Government of Cambodia to implement existing policy elements and to develop new policies that are directed specifically at sustainable development of the coastal zone. The policy, legal and institutional analyses help address gaps and overlaps in the existing arrangements regarding the social, economic and environmental dimensions of management and planning, (2) the participatory framework for planning and environmental management has been established and used to develop Physical Framework Plans (PFPs) and identify specific Coastal Zone Action Plans for each Province/Municipality. The PFP are broad guides for the physical development of a defined area. They consist of maps and a written statement, which, together set out recommendation for policy decisions and action dealing with land and marine use, location of investment projects, and other issues relating to physical development. The identification of Action Plans will be largely based on the information obtained from the PFP, together with other data collected under the Project. The Action Plans are scheduled for preparation and implementation after Year 2. They will include zoning where possible and management guidelines based on assessments of the capacity of coastal ecosystems to sustain current and future uses. Links with Project Component 1 will help establish the mechanisms through which the Action Plans can be launched, (3) this component focuses on providing some alternatives to ensure more sustainable use of the marine and coastal resources. It addresses the issues of habitat destruction, and lack of food and money on a pilot area scale only, and does not deal with the entire coast. Destruction of fisheries habitats and reduction in resource availability is a critical and increasing problem identified by both provincial government and villagers. Thus, the proposed output adopts a two-pronged approach to the problem. First, it focuses on reducing the pressure on the resource by examining alternative livelihoods. This involves community-based, small-scale alternatives. Second, it examines creative and effective ways of improving compliance to existing regulations. An additional requirement during Phase 2 is to produce recommendations for Phase 3 of the project that will continue and build upon several aspects of Phase 2, allowing these to be processed in time for Phase 3 to be implemented in early 2002.