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Last update:

2014-04-08

Indigenous peoples land for rubber plantations, Cambodia

▼ Description:

In the North-Eastern province Ratanakiri, the government has allocated land (mainly primary rainforest) to Vietnamese investors to develop rubber plantations. The area is home to Cambodia's indigenous people (IP) who depend on the forest for their livelihood. In many villages the demarcation of the future plantation area covers IPs land. In most of the cases, they have not been consulted nor informed. In some villages, clearing of IPs farmland and forest has started. Multiple forms of resistance has so far been undertaken, some of which has resulted in a temporary stop of the clearing activities.

See more

▼ Basic Data

Name of conflict:

Indigenous peoples land for rubber plantations, Cambodia

Country:

Cambodia (/country/cambodia)

State or province:

Ratanakiri

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▼ Source of Conflict

Type of conflict. 1st level:

Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Management)

Type of conflict. 2nd level:

Land acquisition conflicts
Plantation conflicts (incl. Pulp)

Specific commodities:

Rubber (/commodity/rubber)

▼ Project Details and Actors

Project details

Clearing of indigenous peoples land is currently going on and the area cannot be estimated at the moment.

[See more](#)

Type of population

Rural

Start of the conflict:

2011

Company names or state enterprises:

Krong Buk (/company/krong-buk) from Vietnam (/country-of-company/vietnam)
C.R.D. (/company/crd) from Vietnam (/country-of-company/vietnam)
Heng Brother (/company/heng-brother) from Vietnam (/country-of-company/vietnam)
Hong An Ou Ya Dav (/company/hong-an-ou-ya-dav) from Vietnam (/country-of-company/vietnam)
Makara Paris (/company/makara-paris)
Veasna Investment (/company/veasna-investment)
Cheang Ly (/company/cheang-ly) from Vietnam (/country-of-company/vietnam)

Relevant government actors:

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Environmental justice organizations (and other supporters) and their websites, if available:

Provincial Governor of Ratanak Kiri, District Chiefs of Ta Veng and Anlong Meay District

HCADHO, German Agro Action

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▼ Conflict & Mobilization

Intensity

MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)

Reaction stage

In REACTION to the implementation (during construction or operation)

Groups mobilizing:

Farmers
 Indigenous groups or traditional communities
 International ejos

Forms of mobilization:

Blockades
 Creation of alternative reports/knowledge
 Involvement of national and international NGOs
 Objections to the EIA
 Official complaint letters and petitions
 Sabotage
 Street protest/marches

▼ Impacts

Environmental Impacts

Visible: Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity), Food insecurity (crop damage), Global warming, Loss of landscape/aesthetic degradation, Noise pollution, Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover

Potential: Air pollution, Floods (river, coastal, mudflow), Soil contamination, Soil erosion, Surface water pollution / Decreasing water (physico-chemical, biological) quality, Groundwater pollution or depletion, Large-scale disturbance of hydro and geological systems

Health Impacts

Potential: Malnutrition, Mental problems including stress, depression and suicide, Violence related health impacts (homicides, rape, etc..)

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Socio-economical Impacts

Visible: Increase in Corruption/Co-optation of different actors, Displacement, Loss of livelihood, Loss of traditional knowledge/practices/cultures, Militarization and increased police presence, Specific impacts on women, Violations of human rights, Land dispossession, Loss of landscape/sense of place

Potential: Increase in violence and crime, Social problems (alcoholism, prostitution, etc..)

▼ Outcome

Project Status

Under construction

Conflict outcome / response:

Criminalization of activists

Land demarcation

Strengthening of participation

Application of existing regulations

Development of alternatives:

Some mobilisers argue in favour of communal land titling for indigenous people. However, this procedure takes a long time and is obstructed by local governmental agencies.

Do you consider this an environmental justice success? Was environmental justice served?:

Not Sure

Briefly explain:

In some villages, indigenous people confiscated keys of bulldozers that cleared their land. This has stopped the activities temporarily. No ultimate political solution has been found.

▼ Sources & Materials

Related laws and legislations - Juridical texts related to the conflict

Land Law provides that indigenous people have the right to their land; but this is not applied

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Links to general newspaper articles, blogs or other websites

Full report on the case:

[click to view] (http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/fileadmin/media/pdf/Studien/Cambodia_Increasing_Pressure_final_Nov11.pdf)

▼ Meta information

Contributor:

Andrea B.

Last update

08/04/2014

▼ Comments

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