



HAFL Master's Thesis Abstract

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Original Title: **Community Engagement in the Governance of Cambodian Recreation Forests**

Summary in original language: This study explores the governance and management of recreation forests in Cambodia, focusing on the communities of Ou Khladek, Prey Kbal Bey and Changkran Roy. The research identifies key factors influencing community engagement and sustainable forest management through a mixed-methods approach, including key informant interviews, focus group discussions and quantitative surveys.

The analysis reveals that institutional effectiveness and community education play critical roles in forest governance. Ou Khladek faces challenges with policy implementation, while Prey Kbal Bey benefits from collaborations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Changkran Roy demonstrates effective management but struggles with community involvement. Agriculture, essential to local livelihoods, contributes to deforestation and underscores the need for integrating sustainable farming practices.

Strengthening institutional frameworks and enhancing community education are vital for improving forest management. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroforestry, should be adopted to mitigate environmental impacts. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial for balancing conservation goals with economic needs. Future research should assess the long-term effects of these strategies on forest sustainability and community well-being.

Keywords: Forest Management, Community Engagement, Agricultural Impact, Cambodia, Sustainable Practices.

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