

Mapping of Suspect Land Under Cultivation, Cambodia



A Mapping Team member collecting data in the field, May 2007 ©MAG Cambodia 2007

Proposal Submitted to AusAID

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GLOSSARY

AP	Anti Personnel Mines
AT	Anti Tank Mines
CL	Community Liaison
CLM	Community Liaison Manager
CMAA	Cambodian Mine Action Authority
CMAC	Cambodian Mine Action Centre
CPM	Country Programme Manager
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
INGO	International Non Governmental Organisation
L1S	Level One Survey
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MAPUs	Mine Action Planning Units
MAT	Mine Action Team
MDD	Mine Detection Dog
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PMAC	Provincial Mine Action Committees
QA	Quality Assurance
ROC	Remnants of Conflict
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TOM	Technical Operations Manager
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

1.0 GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name	Mapping of Suspect Land Under Cultivation
Agency details	Mines Advisory Group #61, Street 294, Phnom Penh Cambodia +855 (0)23 215 115 pc-pnp@mag.org.kh
Location	Battambang and Kampong Thom Operational Base Areas, Cambodia
Thematic area	Cambodia Country Programme
Program period	13 th August 2007- 31 st July 2008
Funds requested	2007/8: AUD\$ \$163,691.54
DAC codes	DAC15250, DAC15110

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Level One Survey (L1S) of suspected mined areas in Cambodia was undertaken in 2000/1 as a tool to be utilised by government agencies, operators, planners and provincial authorities alike to determine priority areas for clearance in order to work towards compliance with the Ottawa Treaty and the Cambodian government's goal of zero accidents from landmines by 2012. Much of the information declared on the L1S is now outdated - initial data was collated from various sources with varying degrees of accuracy, and internal migration has changed the settlement of land dramatically. The extent of land reclamation changes the status of current suspected mined areas and needs to be recorded, as does land which has been under cultivation for three or more years yet is still listed as suspect. Through investigation by mapping teams, reclaimed land can be taken off the register and the list of sites for clearance, thereby enabling resources to be directed towards the most at-risk communities who continue to suffer from the impact of landmines/ UXO.

With funding from AusAID in 2006/2007, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) deployed three teams to map suspect land under cultivation in provinces where MAG currently works. To date these teams have surveyed 152km² of suspect land which has been under cultivation for three years or more and can now be removed from the register. This proposal seeks to build upon the significant success of this previous project by continuing deployment of the mapping teams and doubling the capacity to six teams.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Much of the national strategy for mine clearance developed by the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) relies on the L1S undertaken in 2000/1 to determine clearance requirements in order to work towards compliance with the Ottawa Treaty. Similarly, the only concrete tool provincial authorities have for determining priorities for mine clearance is the L1S. The National Strategy for example, utilises the national map as the basis for determining what has to be done in terms of clearance and assists the CMAA in undertaking strategic planning for compliance with the Ottawa Treaty and end state targeting.

The Provincial Mine Action Committees (PMACs) and Mine Action Planning Units (MAPUs) are being developed as the provincial Cambodian mine action planning units, and there is much pressure on the developing MAPUs to provide guidance for clearance priorities.

Whilst the L1S was designed to provide a tool for planning for the MAPUs, much of the information declared on it is now outdated. The data was collated from differing sources with varying levels of accuracy. In addition, internal migration and forest loss, particularly in north-western Cambodia, has had a significant impact in changing the settlement and use of land. These factors have all impacted upon the status of current suspected mined areas and need to be recorded.

As a result, land that has been under productive cultivation for a number of years is still being declared as suspect on the L1S. This is land which over the past three or four years has returned to productive use through one form or another of village demining. Villagers may have ploughed fields themselves, may have worked as a community to search for mines or have employed others to undertake informal clearance on their behalf.

The data collected under the L1S needs to be continually updated so that this initiative is not lost and that information remains relevant. The allocation of resources to "village de-mined" land, which no longer poses a threat, prevents resources from being directed towards the most at-risk communities who continue to suffer from the impact of landmines/ UXO.

Recent initiatives by the Government of Cambodia to address this issue have resulted in a strategy formulated by the CMAA in June 2006. This policy recognises the phenomenon of village cleared land and states that land that has been three years under cultivation with no accidents, may be taken off the L1S following verification by an accredited Mine Action operator.

MAG feels that this is an extremely important step in redrawing the atlas of mine contamination in Cambodia so that a more realistic picture of the mine contamination situation in the country is gained. From the redrawing of the national atlas of mine contamination, better allocation of resources will be possible and more realistic targets drafted in terms of clearance objectives for the Cambodian government. This in turn will assist the Government of Cambodia's ability to strategise and define the "end state" of clearance activities in Cambodia and work towards realistic definitions of achievements under the Cambodian Governments commitments under the Ottawa Treaty.

MAG has participated fully with the CMAA in helping define policy and has been instrumental in developing the policy in close conjunction with the CMAA, Halo Trust, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and interested donors.

Additionally, MAG believes that a continually updated national map will provide a relevant and manageable tool for provincial authorities (PMACs, MAPUs) to undertake provincial and district level planning of mine action resources. This will directly support the ability of MAPUs to effectively prioritise resources and is in line with national policy on mine action planning at a provincial level.

With AusAID support, MAG has already achieved a considerable amount towards addressing these needs. In July 2006, MAG began mapping operations to update the information in the L1S, deploying three teams to Battambang and Preah Vihear provinces. Between 1 August 2006 and 30 April 2007 the activities of these teams have resulted in the reclassification of 152km² of suspect land as reclaimed land.

4.0 PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of this program is to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability of the poor in Cambodia by reducing the impact of landmines and UXOs through facilitating improved Humanitarian Mine Action resource allocation and policy making. This will result from contributing to the updating of the L1S atlas of mine contamination.

4.1 Program Objectives

To provide verified field data on cultivated land currently identified as suspect under the Level One Survey in order that the CMAA may update mapping in accordance with Government policy on cultivated land.

4.2 Program Outputs

Collected data is used to eliminate previously suspect areas as reclaimed land.¹ An average of 33km² per month is surveyed by teams and reclassified as reclaimed.

There is a (perceived) reduction in total land classified as suspect through the updating of the L1S atlas of mine contamination by the CMAA.

4.3 Program Activities

Six field-based teams map and collate data on L1S suspect areas which directly feeds into MAG database and CMAA mapping facility.

MAG is proposing to compose six small and dedicated teams to start mapping village demined land in order to reclassify low threat and cultivated land in order to eliminate these areas from the L1S. These teams would be small mobile teams comprising of two staff each with mapping abilities that would travel in MAG's operational areas (Battambang, Pailin, Pursat, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom provinces) to collate information in order to assist the CMAA in reclassifying land demarcated as suspect under the L1S.

¹ Land eligible to be declassified from the L1S is defined by the CMAA as land that has been cultivated for three consecutive years with no accidents reported.

Additionally, they may also identify land that is *suspect* and not included in the current L1S. Both activities would be contributing to the updating of the national map.

Teams would collate data on Level One suspect areas which would feed directly into MAG's operational database and CMAA's mapping facility in order to facilitate the reclassification of land that is under cultivation and has had no mine incidents over a three year period.

MAG will utilise this data for MAG's own records and will systematically forward this data to the CMAA mapping unit for processing and dissemination to other stakeholders. The updating of the maps is a role that the CMAA is responsible for.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

At present, teams report progress on a daily and weekly basis to the area Community Liaison Officer. Spot checks on the teams are also carried out at random by a Standards and Training Officer. Progress is then reported to the Information Cell at MAG HQ in Cambodia, where data is inputted into the MAG database and processed to send to CMAA. Data is also forwarded to the Grants and Partnerships Office at MAG HQ in Cambodia, who provides monthly updates on progress (including MAG generated maps) to the donor (AusAID). The project is monitored by the Regional Desk Officer for Cambodia in the UK and through programme monitoring activities undertaken by the International Development and Evaluation Team (IDET).

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk to the program objective in that any data management and transfer issues between MAG and CMAA have the potential to impact upon the production of the updated national map. No problems have been encountered to date but MAG Information Cell will work closely with the CMAA to minimise any risk of this occurring.

Program outputs could be affected by problems with access to some areas in the rainy season when some roads become flooded. MAG has, for some time now, adopted wet and dry season planning strategies in all program activities to minimise this risk.

All activities are reliant on the security situation in-country remaining stable. MAG closely monitors security in its target areas, and at a national level through police, local authority and UN networks.

MAG relies on continued core funding from other donors to ensure support to program activities, and to cover many of the administrative support costs which will be necessary during this project. MAG is confident of the support of these bodies well into 2007/2008.

7.0 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

MAG's mine action programmes in Cambodia currently operate alongside and in conjunction with those of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre and Halo Trust as well as smaller operators conducting non-clearance activities such as mine risk education and victim assistance.

Coordination is vital to ensure consensus amongst field operators. In working in villages where there is more than one operator, it is vital to coordinate closely with other operators to ensure agreement on land deemed as under the L1S and also under three years or more of cultivation. This will require close collaboration not only with operators (CMAC, Halo Trust) but with provincial authorities (PMAC and MAPU) to ensure good understanding of practice and cooperation. This will be coordinated by a project leader who will ensure field coordination, data transfer and follow-up on processing of data.

It will be the role of the CMAA as the coordinating body to ensure that information once collected by teams and fed into the national database is distributed for use by provincial authorities. MAG will work closely with the CMAA (through MAG's information unit) to ensure smooth input of data and to work as much as possible for the regular updating and distribution of the new national map.

8.0 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

8.1 Gender

MAG Cambodia is proactive in promoting gender equity - of 449 staff in Cambodia, 35% are female. At present, one-third of the current mapping team members are female staff.

This project has an indirect impact upon communities; therefore neither gender will stand to gain particular benefit.

8.2 Environment

The team activities are highly unlikely to have any impact on the environment. Small teams using manual search techniques will leave a negligible environmental footprint in the operating areas. In addition, the mapping activities will lead to decreased demining activity in farmed areas and will therefore have a positive economic impact. An Environmental Management Plan is not therefore required. Further information on environmental impact can be provided if required.

8.3 Partnerships

This project will be undertaken in close cooperation with all relevant partners. In order to ensure consensus of agreement on declassified land it will be essential that coordination and collaboration is undertaken with other mine operators and the provincial authorities. See 7.0.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY

MAG will carefully monitor the rate at which mapping is being undertaken. Following the deployment of these dedicated teams to “catch up” on all of the land under cultivation, MAG will look towards integrating this activity into the regular activities of its Community Liaison (CL) teams over the long term. However, this depends on how quickly the teams might cover ground, how rapidly land is being returned to productive use through village demining and the current “backlog” of mapping.

10.0 PROMOTING AUSTRALIAN IDENTITY

MAG will actively promote the Australian identity of this project through badging on team member uniforms and on equipment and in any associated documentation or media produced relating to this project.

ANNEXES

A. Budget

PROJECT BUDGET

Project	Mapping Suspect Land Under Cultivation
Country	Cambodia
Location	n/a
Start date	13 Aug 2007
End date	31 July 2008
Currency	USD/ AUS\$

Description	USD	AUS\$*
Capital Equipment	13,669	16,576
International Staff	13,474	16,340
National Staff	59,160	71,743
Training	300	364
HMA Equipment	10,269	12,453
HMA Expendable Stores	1,408	1,707
Travel	16,458	19,959
Running Costs	3,659	4,437
Insurance	4,535	5,500
Post Clearance Development Costs		
Visibility		
Monitoring and Evaluation	3,237	3,925
Organisational Support Charges	8,831	10,709
Contingency		
Total	135,000	163,713

*Using exchange rate of 1.2127 AUS\$ to 1 USD.

B. Program Log frame

<u>Objectives, outputs and activities</u>	<u>Target Indicators</u>	<u>Means of Verification</u>	<u>Monitoring and evaluation</u>	
			<u>Who analyses when?</u>	<u>Resulting report</u>
<p>Program Goal To contribute to the reduction of vulnerability of the poor in Cambodia by reducing the impact of landmines and UXOs through facilitating improved Humanitarian Mine Action resource allocation and policy making.</p>				
<p>Objective To provide verified field data on cultivated land currently identified as suspect under the Level One Survey in order that the CMAA may update mapping in accordance with Government policy on cultivated land.</p>	Information is included in mine action strategies of national and local government	Maps and reports produced by CMAA incorporate information produced by project	CMAA (timescale tbc)	Updated atlas of mine contamination in Cambodia is produced by CMAA
<p>Outputs Collected data used to eliminate previously suspect areas as reclaimed land.² There is a (perceived) reduction in total land classified as suspect through the updating of the L1S atlas of mine contamination by the CMAA.</p>	An average 33km ² per month is reclassified as reclaimed land following MAG mapping activities	<p>The production of reclaimed land reports, submitted to the CMAA</p> <p>The production of maps (in conjunction with the CMAA)</p> <p>Monthly progress updates and regular map updates submitted to donor</p>	<p>CMAA (timescale tbc)</p> <p>CMAA (timescale tbc)</p> <p>Donor - monthly</p>	<p>Reclaimed land reports submitted to CMAA</p> <p>Maps produced in conjunction with CMAA</p> <p>Monthly progress report to donor</p> <p>Regular updated MAG-generated maps submitted to donor</p>
<p>Activity Six field-based teams map and collate data on L1S suspect areas which directly feeds into MAG database and CMAA mapping facility.</p>	Existing capacity is doubled by recruiting 3 additional teams and equipment and deploying to the field to map and collate data	Activities undertaken in line with work plan for project period (Annex E)	MAG Community Liaison Officer receives daily reports and weekly summary from teams. Standards and Training Officer performs spot checks on teams	Report to Information Cell MAG Cambodia

² Land eligible to be declassified from the L1S is defined by the CMAA as land that has been cultivated for three consecutive years with no accidents reported.

C. Risk Management Matrix

Key

L = Likelihood	5 = almost certain	4 = likely	3 = possible	2 = unlikely	1 = rare
C = Consequence	5 = severe	4 = major	3 = moderate	2 = minor	1 = negligible
R = Risk level		4 = extreme	3 = high	2 = medium	1 = low

Sources of risk (how?)	Risk event (what?)	Potential impact on project (why?)	L	C	R	Risk treatment /management	Responsibility
Objective It will be the role of the CMAA as the coordinating body to ensure that information once collected by teams and fed into the national database is distributed for use by provincial authorities to achieve project goal. Possibility of data management issues arising with CMAA	Issues impact upon the production of the updated national map.	Use of data collected by project will fail to have an impact on national policy-making	2	4	1	MAG will work closely with the CMAA (through MAG's information unit) to ensure smooth input of data and to work as much as possible for the regular updating and distribution of the new national map.	MAG/CMAA
Outputs Poor road conditions and flooding in wet season MAG Cambodia is funded by various organizations including significant support from the UK and Japanese governments. This funding provides MAG Cambodia with ongoing support and covers many of the administrative support costs which will be necessary during this project.	Restricted access to project areas Non-continuance of funding of other core activities by other donors	Amount of land mapped is reduced as a result of limited access Reduced support costs limit MAG's ability to maintain support operations necessary for project.	3	3	2	MAG has developed a strategy of wet season tasks and dry season tasks and will locate teams appropriately in order to minimize the amount of down-time as a result of climatic conditions. MAG is confident of the ongoing support of these bodies well into 2007/8.	MAG
Security situation ceases to remain stable	Restrictions on movement and operations	Reduced amount of land mapped (amount dependent on level of insecurity).	3	4	1	MAG maintains a close watch on the security situation in all its target areas and at a national level through police, local authority and UN networks.	MAG

D. Map of MAG Cambodia Operational Areas

